



New Year Newsletter - 2018

(www.lbdahs.org.uk)

About six years ago someone in the Society had a bright idea that we should research and write books about the history of our two towns in the two world wars.

The first meeting to discuss the idea was so packed that we could hardly fit everyone in and the late John Vickers brought tears to our eyes describing his experience as a telegram boy in WW2.

None of us could have predicted the extraordinary success of that book on WW2, *Q Central*, and now the second *Sand, Planes and Submarines* is selling well, having come out on Armistice Day 2017. The Society has already sold more than 300 copies and it is selling well elsewhere.

Fortunately there are no more world wars to write about but there are plenty of other projects on the go. *Leighton Buzzard's Tudor House, the story of 17 to 21a Hockliffe Street* has just been printed and will have a formal launch in February. This will be at Number 17, the TACTIC Centre, where the Society will put on an exhibition. The Town Council, which gave us a £1,000 grant towards the project, will be invited along with any members that would like to attend. Details will be circulated when the date is fixed.

Otherwise this year we are doing an update and reprint of Chris Mesley's *Millers and Methodists* publication that sold out some time ago. There is a new and exciting publication on a Toddington landlady. Most of the research has been done and her love letters transcribed but there is still much work to finish.

There is also our annual journal, *Transactions*, for which several articles have already been submitted for publication and we will be continuing what we hope will become a regular feature, street histories. A number of other research projects are continuing and some new ones are starting so we hope we have in the pipeline several new ventures.

Since the Society began 12 years ago we have grown enormously in membership and our collection of publications and archaeological investigations is a tribute to the hard work and enthusiasm of many people who have contributed.

All this has led to a thriving and financially sound society, which now has an extensive collection of photographs, documents, artifacts and information about the town, but as yet no museum or heritage centre to display it. We also find that committee members are often very busy. We would welcome anyone who would like to help out with the running of the Society, a research project or any other aspect of the Society's programme. As my father used to say: "A volunteer is worth ten pressed men (or women)."

You will see from the programme that we have our regular monthly meetings at Linslade Community Hall, and in the summer we hope to resume our archaeological digs. Anyone who has an idea of a site we could investigate should let Bernard Jones, our site director, know.

As well as hearing an interesting speaker the monthly meetings are a vital part of the Society's activities, exchanging news and ideas and meeting other members.

Thanks to everyone who helps organise them, puts out the chairs, etc.

Happy New Year,

Paul Brown.