



News Sheet 17 – September 2011

(LBD AHS.org.uk)

This autumn sees the publication of the Society's latest book, the history of the town in the civil war. All society members will be invited to the launch party. Details nearer the time. The society has also decided to improve and update our website. This is partly so that people from far and wide who may not be able to travel to the town can share in our heritage and history. It is also a useful way of selling our publications which are one of the society's main forms of income. Below is a list of the exciting talks and other events the committee has arranged for this autumn and winter. The list includes regular Research Group sessions on a wide range of projects. We have also had discussions with the Leighton Buzzard Observer to improve our links. This follows the series of successful articles that members have written for the 150th anniversary of the paper. Our thanks and congratulations to all those who have worked so hard on this project. The next article is on the secret establishments of Leighton in the Second World War. This year Living History Day has been abandoned in favour of cultural events so we will not be having our stall this time. Soon a small team will be sorting out the contributions for the society's annual publication Transactions - this will be number 6. Anyone who has anything they would like to offer can they let me know. The deadline is December 31.

All the best, Paul Brown.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All society talks are at St Barnabas Church Hall at 8pm. Other events dates, times and places as stated)

Sept 14, 2011 The Tom Lawson Legacy. When local historian Tom Lawson died he left a large collection of his illustrated local history talks to Maureen Brown for the use of the Society. Richard Hart has been working to put them in a more manageable format, and we are now able to present **Old Leighton Linslade District (in two parts)** – a unique collection of pictures, plus Tom's inimitable commentary

Sept 23, 2011 Research Group, 2-4 pm at 54 Mentmore Road on 'Overend Green'

Oct 1, 2011 Buckinghamshire Local History Network, annual conference and fair – 'Military Bucks.' All day conference with seven half hour lectures. Lunch available. Society runs a stall. Contact Maureen Brown for further details. (LB.374050)

Oct 12, 2011 Historic Mills of Leighton Buzzard - Chris Mesley. The milling of corn was an essential part of our local economy over hundreds of years but there are very few visible remains of the industry. This talk will examine what we know of Leighton Buzzard's historic mills from a variety of sources and explore them in the context of the other watermills in the Ouzel valley. Where were Leighton's windmills and why were there so many? Who were the millers and what was the role of the millwrights? Why did our mills disappear? Is there enough information to construct a history of milling in the town? All of these questions and more will be the subject of this well-illustrated talk.

Oct 21, 2011 Research Group, 2-4 pm, 54 Mentmore Road, subject 'World War II'

Nov 9, 2011 A Victorian Magic Lantern Show. This is a light-hearted fast moving show given by Tony Brown, an expert from '**A Touch of Glass**'. An original 1890 lantern, modified to run on electricity, will be used to project the slides. We will see an assortment of the type of show and the different types of slides that would have been used at the time e.g. comic sets, black and white photographic slides, moving slides of several types, advertising slides etc. The demonstration will last from 50 to 55 minutes after which questions will be welcomed.

Nov 18, 2011 Research Group, 2-4 pm, 54 Mentmore Road, Linslade.

November 30, 2011 Picture quiz of Leighton Buzzard, photographs old and new. Can you identify where in Leighton these places are? Prize for top marks. Seasonal refreshments and jollification.

January 11, 2012 Genealogy – Professional Genealogist Mrs. Sarah Minnie explains how to trace your family history. Learn about the records that are used for this fascinating past time, from items to be found in your own home to documents in our National Archives. Discover what your ancestors did at work and play - those who were honest upright citizens and those who weren't! Develop the skills to uncover a hidden hero that you can be proud of. Every one of us has a family history. Learn how to find out about all those people in your family's past who made you YOU!

Jan 20, 2012 Research Group, 2-4 pm, 54 Mentmore Road linslade

Feb 8, 2012 Droveways – Bruce Smith

Feb 17, 2012 Research Group, 2-4 pm, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade

Mar 14, 2012 The Rothschilds and Leighton Buzzard – Sophie Piebenga,
Garden Archivist at Waddesdon Manor.

April 11, 2012 2012 AGM and talk by Dick Denton on the Bassetts Trail

May 9, 2012 2012 Florence Nightingale – Sue Baxter

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Bernard Jones, hon. secretary (LB 376550)