

Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society (LBD AHS.org.uk)

News Sheet 14 – Jun 2010

Dates For Your Diary

Dec 8th 2010 – Round up of the year

All talks are at St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Road, Linslade & start at 8pm unless otherwise advised. Everyone welcome. £2 for non-members

Fieldwork - 2010

A number of resistivity surveys have been carried out at 27 Rothschild Road, Linslade Manor and Little Brickhill. So far nothing startling has been found.

Under the directorship of Bernard Jones we have been excavating at Little Brickhill across what we hoped was a Roman Road. We have encountered a sandstone surface just where we anticipated the road would be. However, the sandstone looks natural and is similar in appearance to that found at 27 Rothschild Road in 2009. We are seeking second opinions from archaeologists and geologists.

When we have completed our work at Little Brickhill we intend to resume work in Pond Meadow where we excavated in 2006 and 2007. We hope to investigate some of the “hot-spots” highlighted by the magnetometer survey. We will also be carrying out a complete resistivity survey of the field.

If you wish to dig a test pit in your garden please get in touch so we can give you a short course on how to go about it.

Please contact our Site Director, Bernard Jones on 01525 376550 regarding field activities.

Trowels suitable for archaeological work are the 4” WHS trowels. These are available over the web. One such site is: archtools.co.uk.

Research Forum

Meetings of the Research Forum continue to be held approximately once a month. If you are carrying out research or would like to join in please come along.

Summary Of Past Events

January 13th - Marcham/Frilford Roman religious complex - Zena Kamash

Due to bad weather this talk was postponed until May.

February 10th - Battlesden and Potsgrove - Dick Denton

During the last two summers the Heath and Reach walks group has organised very well attended evening walks through the local parishes of Potsgrove and Battlesden, looking at the evidence of their history which includes a child bride, a strange, titled widow, lunacy, bankruptcy, insider dealing, the purchase of honours and a local boy made good. It is, they say, an everyday story of country folk! This was an opportunity to sit back and enjoy their guided virtual walk.

February 27th - Launch of Millers and Methodists

This book, written by Chris Mesley, was launched at Trinity Methodist Church, North Street, Leighton Buzzard at a short ceremony attended by the Town Mayor, Councillor Cursons. The author signed copies. There was a display and refreshments. The cost of the publication is £4.50.

March 10th - Building survey - Sue Fox

Sue, Hon Secretary of Bucks Archaeological Society told members how that Society set up a Buildings Group, to study and record the old buildings in the county. Her talk included a general introduction about why buildings might be surveyed, different levels of survey and how to carry out a basic survey of a building. She also covered documentary sources and other research.

April 14th - Boarstall Tower - Gary Marshall

Gary presented the documentary evidence and told us about the excavations and geophysics carried out in July 2008 to assess surviving evidence for the former manor house and gardens at Boarstall Tower in Buckinghamshire which were demolished in the 1770s.

April 14th - AGM

Transactions 4 was launched and given to members.

May 3rd – May Faye

Once again the Society had a pick-a-ticket stall where we raised £291.12. Thanks to members who helped in any way. Especial thanks to Joan Horne who collected all the prizes and folded all the tickets.

May 12th 2010 - Marcham/Frilford Roman religious complex – Zena Kamash

Zena told us about the Marcham/Frilford Roman rural religious complex near Abingdon in Oxfordshire that has been excavated by the University of Oxford since 2001. The complex comprises a temple set in a large sacred precinct that is linked to an amphitheatre structure as well as several other ancillary shrines. The site has Iron Age origins; in recent years as well as looking at the temple structure, the excavation team has also been investigating the Iron Age village to the east of the religious complex.

May 15th - Heath and Reach Fayre

Members attended this raising £62. They also made several contacts for further work in the village.

June 13th - Leighton Buzzard Heritage Fayre

This was brilliant. Our stall was besieged with visitors all day, drawn by Colin's stunning photo display. We sold lots of books and had invites to look down cellars and view old deeds. So it was a very good day all round. We took £114.50.

Chairman's Remarks

This year has got off to a very good start with our usual winter lecture programme. You will have noticed that we have been present at some of the Fayres where we have had a good response from the public.

During May we were one of the three Waitrose good causes. We are currently awaiting our cheque.

Please let us know if you are able to help at events.

Best wishes

Barry Horne (bhorne@globalnet.co.uk)

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)