



Newsletter 19 – June 2012

(www.lbdahs.org.uk)

Dear Members,

Two summer walks are being organized at the request of members. The first is on June 20, a Wednesday evening, starting at the Market Cross. It is to walk round the town centre to look at the 12 buildings or features associated with the Bassett family. The second is exactly four weeks later on July 18, when we will look at the legacy of the Rothschilds and the remainders of Leighton House. Both walks are follow-ups to the successful talks on the Rothschilds and the Bassetts at our winter meetings. The speakers will be fitted with a microphone so it should be quite easy to hear and in both cases the distances covered will be quite short. Both walks start at 7 pm and should both end roughly where they started at 8.30pm. These walks are only being advertised to members to avoid large numbers.

Finally, a third walk at Mundays Quarry Heath & Reach will be led by geologist Jill Eyres together with the quarry manager. It will take place on Sunday 2 September at 10 am and last for 2 to 2.5 hours - a "very interesting quarry with fossils to see and collect". Should you wish to be included in the group, please contact a committee member (see paragraph on archaeology below). Information on where to meet, what to bring and what to wear will be given later.

As you can see from the enclosed schedule there is a full autumn programme. In the meantime we hope to do some archaeological work. Please contact Bernard Jones 376550, Pauline Hey 237754, or Paul Brown 374050 for details.

We have been asked by both the Town Council and Central Beds Council to help bring tourists to the town by preparing leaflets to be distributed widely giving the town's historical buildings and other attractions. Signboards are also being prepared to go in car parks and elsewhere.

You can also see from the programme our research groups are thriving, all aiming to publish their work either in book form or on the internet. Please visit our updated website on www.lbdahs.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 20 2012 Summer Walk, "Bassetts' Trail" – starts 7 pm at the Market Cross - Paul & Maureen Brown

June 22 2012 Research Group, 2 to 4pm 54 Mentmore Road Linslade

June 28 2012 Research Group, 2 to 4pm 54 Mentmore Road Linslade - WWII

- July 18 2012** **Summer Walk, “The Rothschilds in Leighton Buzzard” – starts 7 pm at the Market Cross – Sophie Piebenga**
- Sept 2 2012** **Summer Walk – Munday’s Hill Quarry – starts 10 am - Jill Eyres**
- Sept 12 2012** **Coaching Inns – Illustrated talk by Julian Hunt.** Leighton Buzzard was on the main coaching route between Oxford and Cambridge. Among the coaching inns were the Swan and the Eagle and Child in the High Street and the Unicorn in Lake Street. Julian Hunt brings to life this lively and competitive era when horse drawn coaches were the main form of long distance travel.
- Oct 10 2012** **Leighton Buzzard Methodism – Chris Mesley.** Leighton Buzzard became a hotspot for Methodism by the middle of the 19th century. The talk will explore why this happened and how it influenced the town and surrounding villages. Chris Mesley researched and prepared an exhibition of Methodism in Leighton Buzzard in 2011 following his research for "Millers and Methodists" published by LBD AHS in 2010.
- Nov 14 2012** **The Hambleton Roman Villa - Jill Eyres, geologist.** The strange discovery of nearly 100 infant skeletons at the very large Hambleton (Yewden) Roman villa, has given rise to speculation that it could have been a brothel or an early maternity hospital. Jill Eyres will give an illustrated talk about the finds from an original dig in 1912 and further recent excavations that revealed the infant skeletons.
- Dec 12 2012** **Magic Lantern Show– by “A Touch of Glass”.** Following their outstanding success last year the same magic lantern team is to present a special Christmas show for Leighton Buzzard.
- Jan 9 2013** **Bedfordshire Lace – Toni Methven**
- Feb 13 2013** **Winslow Court Rolls – Dr. David Noy**
- Mar 13 2013**
- April 10 2013** **Frank Wild Polar Explorer – Angie Butler - followed by AGM**
- May 8 2013**

All society talks are at Linslade Community Hall (St Barnabas) Waterloo Road LU7 2NR at 8 pm. Other events dates and times and places as stated.

Paul Brown, chairman (01525 374050) email paulbrown5@mac.com, Bernard Jones, hon. secretary (01525 376550)