



Newsletter – January 2016

(www.lbdahs.org.uk)

We enter double figures

This year we celebrate the tenth year of the Society, which has grown from four founding members to more than 170. In that time we have established a routine of having talks on the second Wednesday of the month but have also been involved in a constantly changing and increasing role in exploring the history and archaeology of the town.

It has enabled individual members – and teams of people – to produce a variety of publications for sale. These have been vital to the financial success of the Society and widening the knowledge about the history of the town to a larger audience. Following the success of our book “Q Central” the Society is financially better off than ever before, allowing us to invest in new computer and projection equipment.

A new large group of researchers has just embarked on a history of Leighton Buzzard in the First World War. The next meeting is a Linslade Community Hall (where we hold our monthly meetings) on January 8 at 2pm should anyone else like to come along.

Another research group has been transcribing old deeds from Bassetts Bank now Barclays and have just been given another large box with the deeds to two High Street pubs. Currently they are working on the deeds to the Old Sandhouse coaching inn on the A5. The story they tell of disputed inheritance would make an early 19th Century TV soap. New members will be welcome to this group too.

In addition to these activities we have put on a large number of exhibitions for local events and given talks to schools as well as providing a history walk round the town centre.

At the moment we are exploring with the Town Council the idea of opening some kind of heritage centre or small museum for the town where newcomers and visitors can come and find out about places to visit. We are also looking at the age of some of our most interesting buildings and trying to date them accurately.

This last year has been our most successful for archaeology with some Saxon burial goods found, include rare jewelry (the subject of our March talk). We now have a small but experienced band of diggers who would welcome new recruits, with or without experience.

So we are already looking forward to another busy year. As you will be aware the Society is run by a committee of nine people. We have lost one of our members so at the AGM in April we will be looking for you to vote in a replacement. Please consider if you would like to volunteer and let me know please. All the best for 2016.

Paul Brown
Chairman