

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

News Sheet 13 - January 2010

Dates For Your Diary

January 13th 2010 - Marcham/Frilford Roman religious complex – Zena Kamash

Marcham/Frilford is a 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.

January 21st 2010 – Research Forum

2-4pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Road, Linslade.

February 10th 2010 - 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 is an opportunity to sit back and enjoy their guided virtual walk.

February 18th 2010 – Research Forum

2-4pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Road, Linslade

March 10th 2010 - Building survey - Sue Fox

Sue, Hon Secretary of Bucks Archaeological Society will tell members how that Society set up a Buildings Group, to study and record the old buildings in the county. Her talk will include 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 will also cover documentary sources and other research.

March 18th 2010 – Research Forum

2-4pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Road, Linslade

April 14th 2010 - Boarstall Tower - Gary Marshall followed by **AGM**

Gary will be presenting the documentary evidence and talking 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 Bucks which were demolished in the 1770s.

May 12th 2010 - Claydon House Archives - Sue Baxter

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

Paul Tate has been researching the line of the Roman Road through Little Brickhill and we have high hopes of being able to carry out fieldwork there in 2010.

We also 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 using our new resistivity equipment which we are currently purchasing.

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.

Old Maps and Plans

Do your house deeds have plans or maps attached? What about friends and neighbours? Do you know of any other plans or maps of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade? If so please let the Society know about them.

Research Forum

The Research Forum has proved a great success with up to eleven people attending meetings. Those who attend are expected to be actively involved in research and to share their findings with other members. Current topics are place-names, censuses and parish registers of baptism, marriages and burials.

If you are carrying out research or would like to join in please come along.

Summary of Past Events

September 9th 2009 – Local Videos –Colin Holmes and Paul Brown

Colin and Paul showed a number of videos of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade in the 1960s and 70s. This included the Broomhills Road 1977 Jubilee Party and a Day in the Life of Leopold Road School, complete with steam engines and milk monitors.

October 10th 2009 - Living History Day - The Civil War

Once again the Society put on a display in All Saints Church. This time the theme was the Civil War and Maureen Brown put Leighton Buzzard into context in the larger picture. The display was subsequently loaned to Leighton Middle School.

October 14th 2009 - The Virtual Sand Museum - Carmela Semeraro

Carmela, of the Greensand Trust, told us about the exciting Sands of Time Project which is recording the areas rich sand heritage. She played us some of the oral History recordings of people involved in the sand industry.

November 11th 2009 - Leighton Buzzard at War - personal recollections

Ludovic McRae, who was evacuated to Leighton Buzzard during World War II, told us how he formed a life-long bond with the town and told us about the life of a city lad in a market town at that time. Viv Willis told of his part in preparing Leighton for the rigours of the war years and how what he really wanted to do was fly Spitfires.

December 9th 2009 - Round up of the year

Forty one people enjoyed a cornucopia of an evening with reports from six members on different activities of the Society over the past year. We saw a video of life at Linslade Primary School. This was followed by reports on our fieldwork including finds at Bossington Hill, 27 Rothschild Road and 8 Gig Lane, Heath and Reach; research work on place-names, Linslade 1851 census, Leighton Buzzard Parish registers and the Leighton Buzzard Golf Course; our work with Heathwood and Leighton Middle schools; possible fieldwork at Little Brickhill. There was a book stall, raffle, coffee and mince pies

Chairman's Remarks

Maureen Brown commented after the Round-up of the year meeting that "we are a diverse Society". She is correct and that is what gives us our strength. People talk of having more than one string to your bow. I see us as a harp with dozens of strings.

Please use the subscription renewal request accompanying this News Sheet to pay your 2010 subscription. Regardless of the National situation let us make 2010 another success for LBD AHS.

Best wishes

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Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)