

A Look Back over Summer and Autumn 2017

HADs have had a busy time over the Summer and into Autumn this year, so we thought it would be good to recall what we have been up to!

In June, we started our evening visits with going to Buckland Rings. It was great to meet up with Izzy and her friends as we explored the site on a lovely evening. Later in the month we joined the Waverley Dowsers at Waverley Abbey where we enjoyed a hot day, a wonderful picnic and interesting dowsing.



At the end of the month we met at Old Sarum, just outside Salisbury. This is a very ancient site, and there is more work to be done there.

In July, another of our evening visits took us to East Wellow where Florence Nightingale is buried. The churchyard is very peaceful and there were some interesting lines of energy that could be traced there.



On July 29th we were delighted to see so many members at our ten-year celebration at The Otter. It is difficult to think that we have been going for ten years, but in recalling the places we have been and the work we have done, it all adds up! We are indebted to Don who works so hard to sustain our interest by arranging for us to visit interesting places, lovely tea rooms and wonderful pubs.

The weekend of 19/20 August saw us at Hinton Ampner, a National Trust property. The NT supports dowsing, and they were happy for us to try to find where the original house would have been built on the site. Not only were we successful in our dowsing, but a large number of visitors came over to see what we were doing. Several of them had a go at dowsing, and the level of interest was very high. Again, we were blessed with lovely weather, but our next two ventures were somewhat soggy to say the least!



On September 3rd we met at Petersfield to explore Petersfield Heath, which lies behind The Pond. This area has been the focus of much archaeological activity because of the number of barrows in the area. We stumbled on an event which was celebrating this rich area, looking at the archaeology, wild life, and artistic expertise of local groups. It was very wet and the following Sunday was even worse!

Don offered his Titanic walk in Southampton to coincide with the Heritage Weekend. It was fascinating to visit the areas of the city which was so closely connected with this famous vessel.

The St. Cross Fair on the 23rd gave us an opportunity to talk about what we do, and enjoy watching some skillful sword fighting! Again, a lot of interest was shown and many people had a go at dowsing for the first time. As we have dowsed on this site, and some of us have dug on it with WARG, we were able to explain quite a lot to the visitors. This was the second year we have done this and its always great fun.



The following day took us to Downton Moot, which is outside Salisbury. The substantial earthworks were built in the early 12th century. We could see remains of the ditches and the castle keep. It was landscaped and there is a feature of an amphitheatre which is formed by 6 tiers of grass. It was fascinating to dowse here and enjoy this fabulous site.

At the end of September we embarked on our extended tour to Robin Hood country, which merits an article all on its own!

Finally, we have just completed our dig at Bishops Sutton. So, as you can see, we have been very busy. We have worked hard, played hard, been dowsing and digging, eaten a lot of food and have downed some beer and laughed a lot. It's business as usual for HADs!

Edwina Cole
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