

HADS SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012



Hi everyone,

Welcome to this edition of the HADS Spring Newsletter, hopefully the cold and wet days will be behind us and we can look forward to enjoying our dowsing activities in the sun! I know, I know, we have had our wet days in the past, especially South Cadbury and the Isle of Wight where we battled on regardless despite the appalling weather.

It is a very busy year for me, not only as Director of HADS but I am also very involved with the organisation of visits with WARG as they celebrate their 40th anniversary. Then of course there is my guiding work...but still that's life!

Your committee have arranged a very good programme of both dowsing and archaeology over the next few months and plans are now well established for the next winter's programme of talks at St Cross.

We have decided to offer again this year various trips to visit sites further afield than normal, extended field trips to Cumbria and Pembrokeshire and to continue our very important survey of the "Lost Roman Roads of Wessex". We have also the opportunity to survey two very important sites, one at Bishop's Sutton and the other at St. Cross. Another site at Bishop's Waltham may be available to us in the autumn.

We do need your support on these trips and surveys, the last survey weekend at East Stratton was disappointing to me as we had a fantastic site offered to us but only a handful of members turned up to help for various reasons.

Our next talk at St Cross is on Thursday 15th March when Gary Biltcliffe is making a return visit to talk on "More revelations on the Hampshire Belinus Line and The Isle of Portland". We do hope that many of you will be attending this talk as it was such a popular talk last time Gary spoke to us.

Our Roman Road survey will re-commence in the spring when our attention will turn to the routes leaving *Clausentum* (Bitterne) and heading towards Portchester and Chichester. We have almost finished our study of the New Forest routes but they do need to be written up.

HADS 2012 PROGRAMME

- Thursday 15th March Gary Biltcliffe's talk at St Cross at 19.30 (as above).
- Saturday 17th – Friday 23rd March
Recce to Cumbria (Don)
- Friday 30th March – Sunday 1st April
Survey at the site of the Bishop's Palace at Bishop's Sutton. Volunteers required to help set up on the Friday and to assist in the survey on Saturday and Sunday.
This promises to be a very interesting weekend of dowsing and we hope to open the site up to local villagers. More details will be given at Gary's talk.
- Sunday 15th April
Day trip to South Cadbury Castle – the site of *Camelot*. We shall be travelling down by shared cars and then dowsing the site of the Great Hall, chapel and gate houses as well as looking at the Iron Age track-ways and Round Houses. Lunch will be taken at the Camelot Inn (the old Red Lion) before we ascend the hill.
- Tuesday 24th April – Monday 30th April
Extended Tour to Cumbria combining with the ADG weekend at Shap. This event is fully booked.
- Wednesday 2nd May – 12th May
Don & Carol are on holiday!!!
- Sunday 27th May
Dowsing Survey (tba)
- Sunday 3rd June
Field trip to St Aldhelm's Head, Langton Matravers. St Aldhelm's Chapel is well known to be on an ancient site and several energy patterns are present within the area. This trip involves a round walk of about four miles. Lunch in The Compass Inn (pasties only!).
- Sunday 10th June
Field trip to Hengistbury Head
Car share to Mundeford. Ferry to Hengistbury to locate some of the Pre-historic structures buried beneath the ground. This site was one of the most important ports in Iron Age Britain.
- Sunday 1st July
Dowsing Survey (tba)
- Sunday 15th July
Dowsing Survey (tba)
- Saturday 28th July – Friday 10th July
WARG excavations at College Meads, Winchester

HADS 2012 PROGRAMME
(continued)

Friday 10th August – Sunday 12th August
ADG event at Wisbech

Sunday 26th August Dowsing Survey (tba)

Sunday 9th September Dowsing Survey (tba)

Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd September
BSD Annual Conference

Friday 28th September – Thursday 4th October
Proposed trip to Pembrokeshire

There will also be an opportunity to carry out further dowsing surveys on some Thursday's throughout the spring and summer for those who are lucky enough not to have to work.

As you can see the programme is a very full one and offers members a chance to visit some amazing sites, many of which Don has excavated, and he can provide specialised information.

Please keep up to date by visiting our wonderful website provided by Chris Sellen:-

<http://www.hantsarchaeodowsers.hampshire.org.uk/>

Recent Events

Our survey of some of the New Forest routes continued throughout February especially at Copythorne and Testwood. We were able to trace the route from Cadnam to Nursling via Copythorne and Stoneyford to reach the River Test.



Members of HADS tracing the Roman Road towards Testwood Lakes

At the end of February three members of HADS turned their attention to an initial survey of the Roman Road crossing at Fairthorne Manor near Botley. What was different on this occasion was the mode of transport...kayaks, supplied and strictly supervised by Ray Davis!

After paddling down from Botley this gallant, but foolhardy team landed opposite Fairthorne Manor and promptly started dowsing for Roman remains before the tide started to recede again!!



Kayaking dowsers....whatever next?

Our most recent event was over the weekend of the 25th and 26th February when only a few members were able to assist in the survey and recording of part of the “removed village” of East Stratton. The Saturday was spent setting out a large grid to enable the systematic field walking of part of the site to take place. As a result of this survey several pieces of pottery were recovered and are being dated as we speak. Some sherds may be Iron Age or early Roman.

The Sunday was spent completing a dowsing survey of the remains of the old village where we were able to plot where the old cottages used to be as well as the two early churches.



Marking out some of the cottages at Stratton



Field-walking on the site of the old village of East Stratton



On the site of the Old Saxon church at Stratton

This was an astonishing but tiring weekend as we covered quite a few hundred yards which had been recently ploughed leaving deep furrows for us to walk over.

ADG event at Gestingthorpe

Just a few members of HADS were able to participate in this event. Our targets this year were to dowse for Bronze Age remains near to the site where a large amount of burnt flint has been recently discovered. On the Saturday March 3rd we were able to identify Bronze Age round houses and pits by dowsing. These were systematically recorded by team members.

On a very wet Sunday we were able to locate and record what appears to be an Iron Age circular ditch enclosing Roman temples and other features including a possible sacred spring or swallow hole.



Attempting to record information on Lemon Hill!

So, I would wish to thank all the members of HADS for all of your support over the last winter and early spring and I am really looking forward to seeing you all again very soon as we commence our exciting Spring Programme.

I must not forget one extremely important event taking place on Saturday 17th March, it's not just St Patrick's Day it is the day that our own Clive & Trish are getting married and we would wish them a very happy day indeed!

Kindest regards to all,

Don