

HADS

MID-WINTER

NEWSLETTER



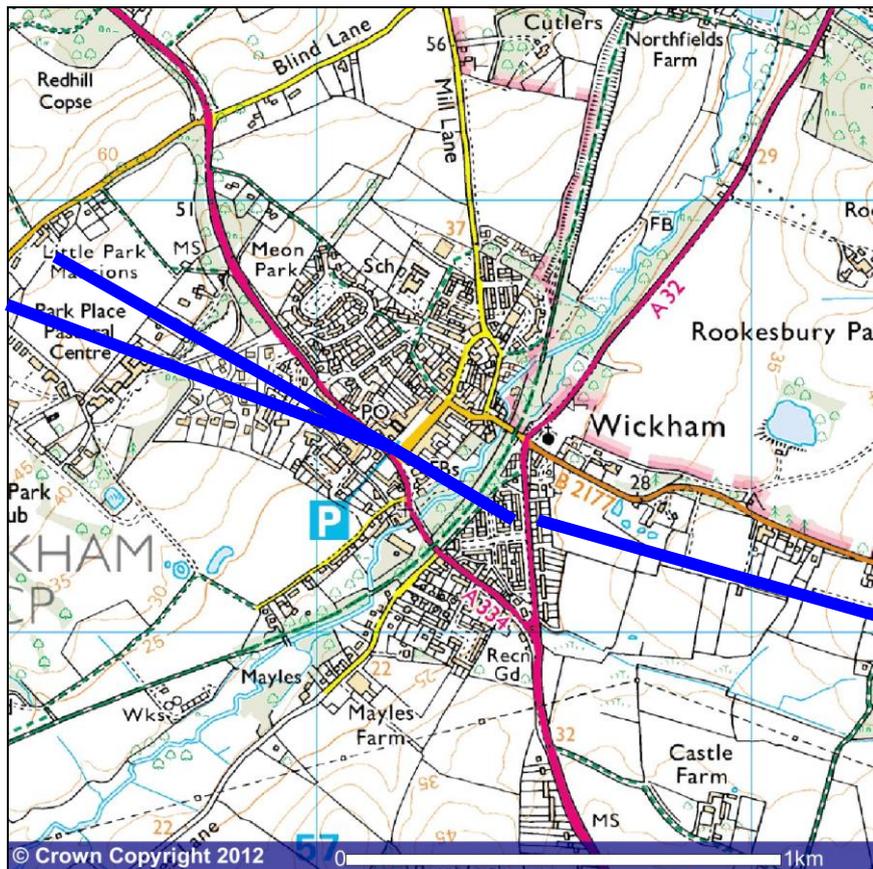
Mid-Winter Sunrise at Stonehenge

Looking back over the past year of HADS photographs it is easy to see that 2012 has been a thoroughly wet and cold one. Although we have had trips out, especially to Hengistbury Head and Coldharbour Farm where the weather has been perfect! Despite the weather I am amazed that so many members have turned out on our field trips, it just goes to show that HADS are made of sterner stuff!

I would wish to thank all members of HADS for the support you have given over the year. You have turned out whatever the weather and I really appreciate your efforts.



Near the River Meon Roman Ford



Roman Routes at Wickham

Over the last few months we have been studying the area around Wickham. Our weekend at Coldharbour Farm back in August indicated that as many as five Roman roads converged near the town. We have been tracing the route from Coldharbour to the ford at Wickham, we have studied the route at Emsworth, especially where it crossed the Creek and we have even been to Chichester to find out where the route to Wickham left the Roman West Gate. Our last field trip was to Southwick, where we located the Roman Road near Southwick House. This was our last field trip of 2012 so we had a Christmas Lunch in the Horse & Jockey at Hipley (and very nice it was too).



Lunch stop 16th December 2012

Beauworth

A few members of HADS were involved with dowsing a site near Beauworth. The farmer had been aware of crop marks in a certain field. He had also found a number of Roman coins and pottery over the years. He called in WARG to see if they could get involved and I suggested that HADS dowsed the field first. This was carried out on November 5th and we achieved some very interesting results.

Joint WARG and HADS members then got involved in carrying out a resistivity survey of the field and we were delighted when the results confirmed our earlier dowsing survey. Because of the sensitivity of the site these events had to be kept fairly secret, hence only a few members were invited to be involved.



A well-earned break



Paul & Gill busy on the Roman site



Don recording some of the Roman buildings



Ed carrying out a resistivity survey

With the farmers permission we hope to open up some evaluation trenches to discover at what depth any remains are beneath the soil. Initially these trenches will be quite small but it may be possible to expand these trenches at some time in the future.

Emsworth

On the 22nd November members met at Emsworth to discover the location of the Roman road, especially where it crossed Emsworth Creek.



A very stormy Emsworth



Don (not being a seagull) but pointing out the line of the Roman road.

On December 2nd we met at Fishbourne Roman Palace and then moved on to Chichester where Don showed where the site of the Roman Amphitheatre was. Members were then able to locate the shape of the amphitheatre by using their dowsing skills



Don pointing out the Roman amphitheatre



Locating the amphitheatre

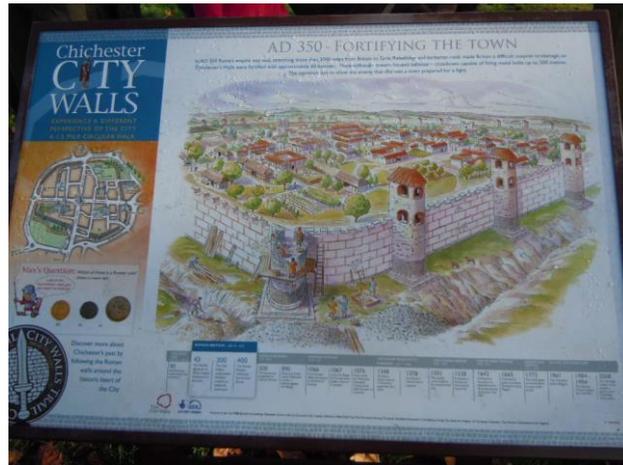


The Chichester team

After we had dowsed for the amphitheatre we walked through the site of the Roman East Gate and continued through the City to the site of the West Gate where we dowsed for the Roman Road heading west towards Fishbourne.



Jerry pointing out the centre of the Roman City



The City Walls of Chichester



A close up of the Chichester team

TALKS

We have had two talks from our programme thus far; **the first** was given by Jim Leary, an archaeologist from English Heritage on 15th November. We had almost a full house to hear Jim speak about “The Giants of Wessex” – Silbury Hill, Marlborough Mound and the Hatfield Barrow.

This was a very interesting evening much enjoyed by all. We look forward to Jim returning to talk to us in March on the subject of Marden Henge.



Jim Leary



Almost a full-house



Silbury Hill

Our **second talk** was given on the 15th November by Clive Essery; Clive is Assistant Director and Vice-Chairman of HADS.



Clive dowsing in Cumbria

Clive gave us a fascinating talk on Kilpeck.....not only is the church of great interest but as Clive pointed out: there is also the Medieval castle and the ancient village of Kilpeck too. Again, this was almost a full house and Clive's talk inspired us to investigate whether an extended week-end tour to this site could be arranged in the near future.



Kilpeck Church

And then there was the social!!!!

On December 13th HADS celebrated with their Christmas Social at St Cross. Many thanks to all members for making this event so successful. Special thanks should go to Paul & Gill for organising much of the event including the draw at which I won a chocolate lollipop!!!



Listening to Don's presentation

Everyone supplied their own food and drink and Don put on a very light-hearted presentation of some of HADS activities throughout the year, some of which certain members would wish to forget!!!

Our very own quiz-master – Alan Sandford set the quiz which was enjoyed by all....thank-you Alan.



Alan our Quiz Master



Members attempting the quiz

And then.....

Don was really surprised when HADS own choir appeared, led by Laurie Booth and dressed accordingly in various tartan attire, and sang a very special version of "Donald where's your trousers". Apparently the words were written by Alan after the HADS trip to Cumbria.

This was such fun, and enjoyed by all present. It was a good end to the evening when, not only for food and drink but also for the socialising. And, of course, we did celebrate Tracey's very special birthday with a bee cake and a toast to Tracey from us all.



This man has hidden talents



The HADS choir (thank-you all)

Well....that was 2012. What about 2013? Plans are already made for further field work especially around the Fareham and Wickham areas. We are also planning another extended trip to Kent and Essex in the autumn of 2013. A short week-end trip to the Kilpeck area may be possible too.

Thank-you for supporting your committee throughout 2012 we are truly fortunate to have such an active and very friendly group.

Don Bryan
Archaeological Director
HADS