

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOWSERS

Newsletter – FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome to this, our fifth Newsletter of our autumn/winter season.

Hello to all of our HADs Colleagues and I hope you are still keeping well and active as our Lockdown continues. It is possible that some of our members have now received their vaccination against Covid. I am pleased to say that Gill and I will be having ours shortly.

Your Committee met again recently. Our main matters for discussion were Edwina's final accounts for last year; a review of our Christmas Social; suggestions for purchases of equipment etc utilising the generous anonymous donation notified to our Members previously; plans for our Annual General Meeting to be held on 25 February and a discussion about future events.

Our year-end finances are in a very healthy position due mainly to a greatly reduced expenditure (because of the Covid-19 epidemic and the consequent cancellation of our planned events) and, of course the donation referred to above. I particularly want to thank Edwina for all her work running our finances in what has been a difficult year (especially in having to arrange the necessary refunds because of the cancellation of HADs residential tour to Kent last Spring) and the preparation of the year-end accounts.

In Committee we had an 'interesting' discussion about our Christmas Social and all agreed it was a great success despite the unusual circumstances. Maybe we should consider a summer virtual picnic???

Regarding spending suggestions against the donation, we still have on the backburner the provision of a sound system of some kind to aid speakers as suggested by Sue Stewart. We have looked into different systems but haven't yet come up with the ideal answer to our problem. When we asked members to come up with further ideas more recently Ray Davis suggested a list of equipment eg:

- *Surveying equipment such as a differential GPS;*
- *Surveying Station;*
- *Magnetometer;*
- *Drone for aerial shots or perhaps with LIDAR capability.*

All of the above would be very useful in our long-term future activities but might be beyond our current resources, but they will be examined.

The Committee is anxious to receive further suggestions from other members so, please, could you get your thinking caps on.

As to future events (all via Zoom), on 2 February Don will be giving the next talk in his 'History of Winchester' series and this time his topic will be 'The Victorian Period'; on 16 February Don continues his 'History of Winchester' with 'The Edwardian Period to the Present Day'; our AGM will be held on 25 February. The agenda, minutes of the 2020 AGM, a Brief Chairman's report and the Treasurer's report together with the 2020 accounts will be emailed to all members in due course and Don will email the Zoom link as usual. At the end of the AGM we will enjoy a talk by Don on 'The History of St Cross Hospital'. I am afraid we won't be able to provide Cheese & Wine after this year's AGM, but I am sure you will be able to make your own arrangements! And finally (for the time being) on 25 March Andy Skinner will be returning with 'Southampton in the Age of Spas, Springs and Highwaymen' (an intriguing title!).

The Committee also talked about arranging additional talks (via Zoom) in April and May and these are currently under consideration as well as ideas for talks in the Autumn/Winter season.

Speaking of virtual talks, may I please turn to our use of Zoom. There have been some comments about how Zoom is used by some participants and Sally agreed to put some useful hints together and they are attached with this Newsletter. In the meantime, can I please remind all participants to turn off their microphones and video link when a speaker is presenting his talk – it can be quite off-putting for there to be background noise during a talk and to be aware of 'off-stage' movements when a participant hasn't turned off their video and therefore remains on screen. Many thanks for your co-operation.

It just leaves me to wish you all, on behalf of your Committee, continuing safety into 2021 and we look forward to seeing you all again at our future events.

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Paul (Herbert), Chairman, HADs

28 January 2021

Zoom tips for HADS Spring lectures

A warm welcome to HADS Spring lectures for members and guests.

We anticipate that Zoom will be our only way of meeting for the next few months.

To make sure we maintain our (Don's) high standards and keep the lectures enjoyable for everyone we have sent a reminder of our Zoom hints and tips.

Hints and tips

1. Please click on the email link which will be sent out to you on the day of the lecture, this lets you into the meeting via the Zoom app. **If you haven't received the email link by late afternoon please contact Don.**

2. 'Doors open' from 6.30pm. You're welcome to catch up with friends before the lecture starts. **Please** make sure you are logged on ready for a prompt start at 7.30pm.

When the lecture starts please make sure your camera is off and your microphone is muted when the speaker starts.

Remember if you don't everyone will see and hear everything!

This also helps prevent any sound distortion or other strange noises (!) disrupting the lecture.

If you want to ask a question at the end of the lecture, please wave vigorously and remember to unmute your microphone!

The IMPORTANT technical bits

IF you are late logging into the lecture, or your Zoom connection fails, please contact Carol (mobile – 07881 548780) or Don (mobile 07973 559101)

As administrators they can let you into the meeting.

If Zoom won't connect/reconnect, log off completely, or you're having problems with the audio, close the Zoom app and restart by clicking on the link.

If you are still experiencing connection/audio problems, close your laptop/tablet/iPad etc down completely, make a cuppa and then restart the process. This may take several attempts!

Contact Carol or Don to update on your progress and they will let you back into the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.