

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOWSERS

Newsletter – MAY 2021

Welcome to this, our latest Newsletter of 2020/21.

Hello to all of our HADs Colleagues and I hope you are still keeping well and active as we gradually ease our way out of the Covid-19 crisis. However, with the current spread of the Indian variant it is essential that we remain extra careful, just in case!

I hope that those of you who attended our Tony Kippenberger's Zoom talk on 29th April enjoyed his presentation and weren't too shocked by some of his revelations.

We have arranged a further talk in the current season, on Thursday 27 May when Andy Burman (not the Manchester Mayor, another of the same name) will be talking to us (via Zoom as usual) about 'The Old Stones – the Megalithic Sites of Britain and Ireland. A highly illustrated talk based around many of the fascinating themes, new discoveries and mysteries highlighted in the book 'The Old Stones', of which Andy is the lead author. This talk will start at 7.30pm.

In addition, for those of you who missed Don's talk about his '60 Years of Archaeology' he will be repeating that talk to the Winchester City Guides on 3 June at 7.30pm. HADs members are invited to join that talk on Zoom.

Turning to future activities, Don has organised two Winchester walking tours on the 6th and 13th June. Although these walks are 'targeted' at those members who completed the 'History of Winchester' course we feel that they should be made available to all members of HADs.

The walk on 6th June will start at the Westgate in Winchester at 1.30pm. The second walk, on 13th June will start from King Alfred's Statue in The Broadway, Winchester, also at 1.3pm. Each walk is for a duration of 3 hours.

Then on 4th July, there will be a dowsing session, the site to be announced in due course. This will be an opportunity for any new members to have a go at

dowsing. Full tuition will be offered on the day. The site that Don has in mind will be suitable both for experienced members and new members if they wish to attend the session.

Your Committee met again on 20th April and the main item for discussion was the future venue for our Talks Programme (etc). This matter was fully outlined in the Spring Newsletter. Just to highlight the main issues - it has become apparent since we switched our talks to Zoom because of the Covid pandemic that we have attracted more members on a regular basis. We are very fond of The Hundred Men's Hall but have become aware that in the dark winter months it is still rather chilly at times despite Cathy ensuring that the heaters are switched on well in advance of our arrival. In addition some members do not like driving all the way from their homes to Winchester on dark winter evenings when the weather can often be bad. The Committee has, therefore, been discussing whether it would be beneficial to the majority of members to hold 'live' talks/events at a suitable venue (complete with a sound system/hearing loop) in October, December (Christmas Social) and March, with the events in November, January and February held via Zoom. We have also discussed possibly extending the talks programme to include events in September and/or April.

It is important that we seek the views of members to the above suggestions. We would therefore be grateful to receive your comments on this proposal as soon as possible. Please could you send your thoughts to me at: paulherbert33@gmail.com and all those received will be considered by the Committee. Many thanks.

The Committee also discussed possible purchases utilising part of the anonymous donation received last year and we agreed to purchase a fold-up trolley and camping table which would certainly ease setting up on site in future.

As always I wish you all, on behalf of your Committee, continuing good health and we look forward to seeing you all again at our future events.

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Paul (Herbert), Chairman, HADs 15 May 2021