

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOWSERS

Newsletter – Mid-Summer 2021

Welcome to this, our Mid – Summer Newsletter.

Greetings to all our HADs Colleagues. As Covid restrictions are coming to an end (hopefully) life gradually returns to normal. Following Don's two very successful Winchester Walks on 6th and 13th June (both attracting over twenty participants) we finally returned to Dowsing on Sunday 4th July, when we visited Itchen Stoke. After a visit to St Mary's Church we gathered on the footbridge over the former mill stream off the River Itchen before dowsing a nearby field for a medieval track-way. Twenty dowsers, both experienced and 'newbies', enjoyed getting out and about again whilst Don gave some elementary dowsing training to our new members. Unfortunately we were unable to dowse the site of the original Itchen Stoke Church because the landowner was concerned about potential hidden dangers on the site and he would have been held responsible for any accidents.

Our next Dowsing outing will be on Sunday 25th July when we will meet at Mayflower Park in Southampton and then go and explore the site of the original Priory near God's House Tower. Don will be sending out further details in due course. I am sure Don will be organising further Dowsing trips later in the year.

An exciting development has occurred at Hook Park/Common (Warsash), the site of the Hook Medieval Village, where quantities of shards of medieval pottery have recently been discovered. HADs has been involved with Hook Park for some years and is now hoping to undertake an evaluation trench excavation on 25th and 26th August. Because of the nature of the site and the proposed excavation, the numbers of diggers will be extremely limited. However, Don has suggested that it may be possible for HADs members to attend a 'viewing' on the afternoon of the 25th of August.

Your Committee met again on 7th July and one of the main items on the agenda was our 2021/22 Talks Programme. The following programme has now been confirmed:

Thursday 28th October 2021 – Andrew Negus – “Portsmouth Harlots, Dung and Glory – 1860-1930 – Into the Modern Age” (at Shawford Parish Hall).

Thursday 25th November 2021 – Chris Sellen – “Exploring Aspects of Aerial Archaeology” (via Zoom).

Thursday 16th December 2021 – “HADs Christmas Social” (at Shawford Parish Hall).

Thursday 27th January 2022 – Andy Manning, Wessex Archaeology – “The Durrington Anomaly’s – Hiding in Plain Site” (via Zoom).

Thursday 24th February 2022 – HADs Annual General Meeting (via Zoom).

Thursday 31st March 2022 – Kay Ainsworth – “Life and Times of Alfred the Great” (at Shawford Parish Hall).

All talks etc. will commence at 7.30pm. It will be noted that three of the above events will be held at Shawford Parish Hall. Directions to the hall and overflow car parking will be sent to all members before the first talk.

All other talks etc will be via Zoom.

(In the last Newsletter we mentioned we would be unable to arrange a talk in September 2021 as three of the committee members will be away on holiday at that time. We had thought it might be possible to arrange a talk in April 2022 but the proposed date would clash with HADs pre-arranged Spring Tour to the Kent Weald so therefore a talk that month cannot go ahead).

Now that our forthcoming programme has been finalised, Gill and Edwina can get together to work on the publication of our 2021/22 brochure.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we hope to be able to organise some social events next season but more thought needs to be given to this proposal.

As always we wish all of our members a good summer and hope that many of you will be able to fit in belated holidays. We look forward to seeing you all again at our future events.

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Paul (Herbert) Chairman, HADs

12 July 2021