

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOWSERS

Newsletter – November 2020

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Your Committee has continued to hold virtual meetings via Zoom during the Coronavirus epidemic and the intention of this Newsletter is to update HADs members on recent decisions and happenings, a reminder about Andy Skinner's virtual talk to us on 26 November and to announce plans for HADs Virtual Christmas Social on 10 December and to seek your views on the proposed programme.

But, first of all I want to congratulate our Director, Don Bryan, on his very successful weekly talks via Zoom on 'The History of Winchester'. We are all gradually getting accustomed to using Zoom for those talks as well as other activities many of us are involved with. Don's talks are being enjoyed by 29 HADs members and guests, including some friends of Don and Carol who live in Canada. So, HADs and local history is reaching an international audience!

Turning to recent Committee decisions:

Membership Subscriptions

We have discussed the issue of members' subscriptions for 2021. Members have paid in full for the current year but of course, due to the epidemic lockdowns and other restrictions, HADs has been unable to hold its usual range of activities. Therefore, we propose to offer recompense to our members in the form of a 50% reduction for the year 2021/2022, which will mean that as from our Annual General Meeting in February members will pay £6 instead of £12. We hope that this decision will meet with members approval.

A Special Donation

We have received a very generous donation from an anonymous donor. We cannot thank that individual enough. The donation will help reduce the financial impact of having to suspend our usual activities and enable HADS to be able to move confidently forward into 2021.

There was no indication whether this donation was from a former or current HADs member. As HADS Chairman, I'd like to say a heartfelt thank you on behalf of all of us in HADs to our donor for your very generous gift. Words alone cannot adequately express our thanks.

This extremely generous donation was formerly reported at our recent Committee meeting and it was agreed that future consideration would be given to using it for the lasting benefit of HADs and its members. We have already thought of a couple of ideas but would welcome suggestions from our membership. So, please, if you have any ideas please do not hesitate to let me know.

November Talk

On Thursday 26 November, at 7.30pm, Andy Skinner will be returning to give HADs another talk, this time will of course be a virtual presentation via Zoom. Andy's topic will be "Southampton in the 1600s: The Mayflower, Civil War and the Great Plague" (quite appropriate as this year we are celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage to the New World).

We hope that the majority of HADs members can join us on Zoom for this talk. As usual, Don will send an email to all members with the link to access the talk.

Christmas Social

Despite not being able to hold our traditional Christmas Social this year we have decided, nevertheless, that it should go ahead albeit in a virtual way, using our trusty tool, Zoom. It will be held as originally planned on Thursday 10 December, at 7.00pm. Consideration has been given to the content and programme. We would like to make the event as festive as possible with our Members wearing bright Christmassy clothes and Xmas hats. Obviously participants will have to provide their own nibbles and drinks on this occasion. As for the programme, Alan has agreed to run a quiz on the night, Don will be giving a short presentation, and we are asking for members' input by providing some five minute slots, which could be humorous poems, amusing anecdotes, maybe a song or two, party tricks etc etc. Any other suggestions would be welcome. Time is not on our side so please get your thinking hats on and don't forget, we are looking to our members to entertain us. We have decided on a

cut-off date of Wednesday 2 December for the close of entries (though it is not a competition) and for other suggestions. The Committee is meeting again the following afternoon to finalise the programme. So, can you please respond to me via email (paulherbert33@gmail.com) with your suggestions and offers to provide supporting entertainment (with details if possible).

Many thanks.

Paul (Herbert), Chairman, HADs

20 November 2020