

HADS SPRING NEWSLETTER

2013



Hi everyone,

My colleague Adrian-Incledon-Webber, Chairman of the BSD Earth Energies Group, wrote these lines in his recent Dowsing Spirits Newsletter:

“As I sit and type here in Herefordshire and the daffodils are beginning to appear: Spring is about to be sprung, a wonderful time of the year for re-growth, new beginnings and fresh starts.

“It is a good time to come out of hibernation, so get out of the house, take a few deep breaths of fresh air and move your thought patterns and processes from introspective to external observations, look at what is around you and what we all have to be thankful for.”



Well, it may be springtime in Herefordshire, but here in Hampshire spring has not sprung...in fact the very thought of going back into hibernation sounds extremely attractive! The official first day of spring was marked by a very heavy hailstorm with hailstones the size of pebbles! As we all know by now the jetstream is causing chaos with our weather. Extremely cold temperatures and biting winds have been affecting us for several weeks.

Despite these adverse conditions members of HADS have donned their winter woollies, thermal underwear and thick socks and woolly hats and have ventured out to join in with our programme of research! Are we determined dowsers or just completely mad?

“In the bleak mid-winter”

Some of us did meet on Thursday 10th January. As it was so cold we used the skittle alley at The King’s Head, Wickham where I introduced the valuable dowsing tool of map dowsing! I demonstrated that Roman roads and other sites can be identified by using a pendulum, a cocktail stick and a map...hard for some people to take in but it can be done!

After a few hours indoors at The King’s Head, Wickham, we ventured out to see if our results could be proven on the ground. Surprise surprise we went straight to the outskirts of Fareham and found the route from Wickham previously identified by map dowsing!



Paul & Gill map dowsing



Roger, Gill & Sue having a go



Derek having a go too

On Thursday 17th January I gave a talk on “Dowsing the Arthurian legends” to HADS members at the Hundred Men’s Hall at St Cross. We are thankful that Alan Sandford has produced a report on my talk:

**DOWSING THE ARTHURIAN LEGEND – TALK BY DON BRYAN
17 JAN 2013**

On the (very cold) evening of 17th January, Don Bryan gave a fascinating talk entitled, “Dowsing the Arthurian Legend”. Don has been intrigued by the legends of King Arthur since childhood and is a lifetime member of the Pendragon Society.

Arthur is supposed to have lived in the late fifth/early sixth centuries (the early “Dark Ages”) and to have led resistance to the Anglo-Saxon hordes invading our shores in the post-Roman period. Unfortunately, this is a time where written records are almost entirely lacking. The first known mention of Arthur is by Nennius, a Welsh monk, in about 830 AD. Arthur does not appear in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle, although this does not mean he did not exist (Saint Swithun, a ninth-century Bishop of Winchester also fails to get a mention). However, most of the legends associated with Arthur (the Knights of the Round Table, Guinevere, Merlin, Camelot, the Holy Grail etc.) are much later and are clearly medieval “enhancements”. Nevertheless, Don believes there is credence to the basic story and has been fortunate enough to have dug and dowsed at some of the sites most associated with Arthur.

Legend associates Tintagel in Cornwall as Arthur’s birthplace, although the existing castle dates from the 13th century and is much later than Arthur’s time. However, archaeology has revealed between 50 and 60 fifth-century dwellings on the site as well as some contemporary pottery (“Tintagel B” type – Mediterranean in origin) and a single stone engraved “Artognou” - could this be Arthur? Through dowsing, Don believes that the site contains a Dark Age church a “great hall” and more structures contemporary with the time of Arthur.

South Cadbury Castle, an Iron Age hill fort in Somerset, has long been associated with Camelot – Arthur’s alleged castle and court. Don was involved in excavations at South Cadbury over a five year period in the 1960s when Dark Age ramparts, the footprint of a large timber hall and more Tintagel B pottery were located. Don believes that the site also contains a church dating from about AD 460 which has not been excavated. Local people still talk of ancient battles at South Cadbury and legend says that when the castle fell, the fleeing Britons were captured and beheaded. Much later, a plane crash revealed the burial of 27 decapitated skeletons, adding support to the story.

Another legend regards Arthur being killed (or mortally wounded) in the Battle of Camlan and taken to Glastonbury for burial. The discovery of his burial at Glastonbury Abbey is likely to have been no more than a propaganda

exercise to raise funds for the rebuilding the abbey after a fire in 1191. However, the nearby Glastonbury Tor has been partially dug and evidence of Dark Age structures, graves, a church and yet more Tintagel B pottery have been found.

Don concluded by stating that we can say with certainty that in the alleged time of Arthur there was a Christian king somewhere in the West Country, who fought at Cadbury and may have been buried at Glastonbury. For everything else, the jury is still out!

**HADS FIELD WORK – SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY
HAVANT**



Members of HADS outside St Faith's Church

From earliest times the history and fortunes of Havant have been closely related to its many springs and streams. Some twenty springs rise within the old parish of Havant in the space of two-thirds of a mile, along the narrow spring-line formed by the junction of the impervious Reading Clay and the chalk strata which surface here. The source of the water is very deep-seated. It emerges crystal clear and at a constant temperature of 51°F.

The spring water has been used for a variety of industries over the years. For 1000 years Havant was the centre for parchment making. The parchment for both the *Magna Carta* and *The Treaty of Versailles* was produced here. Another, more modern industry made famous at Havant was glove making, indeed Her Royal Highness, The Queen Mother had gloves made from Havant. Other industries using the water was brewing, tanning and leather working. There were also several water-mills in the area.

Much of Havant was destroyed by fire in 1760, leaving only the church and the adjacent late 16th or early 17th century cottages known collectively as "The Old House at Home". Now used as a pub it is claimed that two of the roof beams were recovered from a wreck of a Spanish galleon during the failed attack on England by the Spanish Armada. Also in the bar is the "bear post", said to be where the last dancing bear in England performed!

Havant has also suffered two minor earthquakes, one in 1784 and the other in 1811.



The Old House at Home

The place-name Havant is derived from the Old English form *Hamanfunta*, first recorded in AD 935, meaning “Hama’s Spring”. *Funta* is a corruption of Latin *Fontana*, a fountain, and Margaret Gelling argues that this element probably came into Old English direct from Latin and therefore implies continuity of occupation from Roman to Saxon times.

“Hama’s Spring” is almost certainly the Homewell, a spring which rises in the centre of the town, 40 yards south of St Faith’s Churchyard. The earliest documentary reference to the Homewell occurs in 1301, when it is *Hamwelle*.



Homewell Spring



Homewell Spring

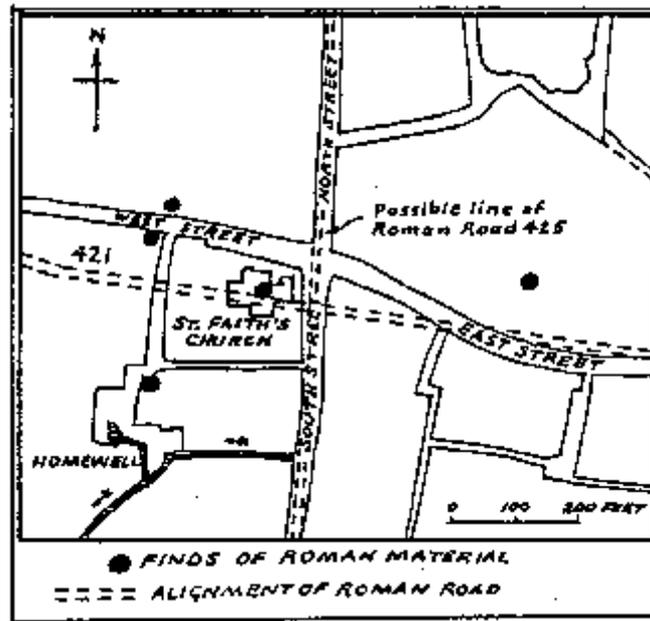
The origins of Havant are obscure, but it is fairly certain that it owes its existence to developments initiated in the early years of Roman occupation. Havant lies on the Roman road from Chichester (*Noviomagus*) to Bitterne (*Clausentum*) half-way between Chichester and the Roman settlement and road junction of Wickham.

It is significant that Havant lies at the intersection of two major alignments of this road laid out in the first century AD, and it is likely that the Homewell Spring formed the objectives of these alignments. It is also possible that a road station was set up here, attracting subsequent occupation for which there is plentiful archaeological evidence, from the second or earlier until the fourth century.

At some later date, possibly during the third century, a north to south local road was made to serve the Roman potteries which had started production at this time in the Rowland's Castle area, and formed a link with Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island. The crossroads attracted further occupation, and by the third and fourth centuries a small market had probably formed dealing in pottery, salt, oysters and local farm produce.

The site of St Faith's Church and its immediately surrounding area, including the Homewell, has yielded scattered evidence of Roman occupation. It is always assumed that the Chichester to Bitterne road deviated from its alignment on the east-west sides of town in order to follow the approximate course of the present East and West Streets, but this is only conjecture.

It is equally possible that the original alignments continued and formed an angle west of the church, in which case the line of the road would have passed beneath the south side of the church. Indeed the present road may be the result of a rerouting of the Roman road in the early Middle Ages to avoid the church-yard.



Junction of RR 421 & RR 425 (John Pile)

C. J. Longcroft, writing in the mid-nineteenth century recorded the discovery in 1832 of “a solid concrete of Roman brick and cement beneath the tower of the church”. Two Roman coins were found between the foundations of the medieval church and the Roman remains, one dated *circa* 140 AD and the other of 384-388 AD.

A few yards to the west of the churchyard disclosed a Roman well containing some fragments of second century pottery. A Roman occupation layer adjacent to the Homewell included oyster shells and pottery sherds. The overall nature of the occupation can only be guessed at. The sites that have yielded Roman material so far suggest a settlement of timber-framed, rather than masonry, structures strung out along the east-west road, with a hint of a more substantial building on the site of the church.

It is possible, although there is no direct evidence to support the idea, that the Saxon or Medieval church was built on its present site because there was a tradition of religious activity related to the Homewell.

On the scant evidence available it may be permissible to advance the tentative suggestion that there was a late Roman Christian church, perhaps with a baptistry, on the site of St Faith’s Church, which in turn may have superseded an earlier Pagan shrine associated with the spring”.

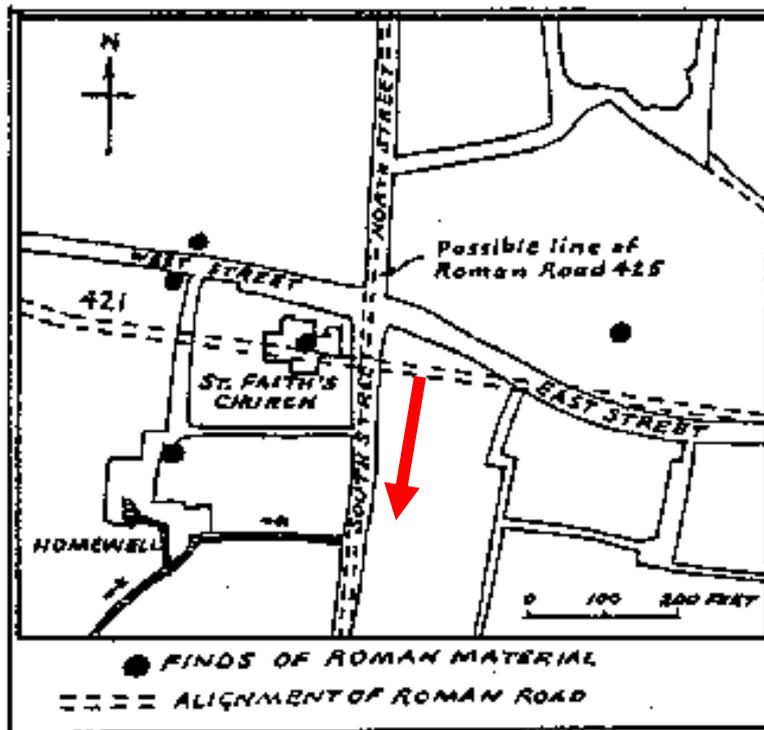
- *The Homewell, Havant, Hampshire by John Pile*
- <http://people.bath.ac.uk/liskmj/living-spring/sourcearchive/fs5/fs5jp1.htm>

Field Work ~ Thursday 14th February Havant



The Roman road to Langstone passes under this pub

On Thursday 14th February some members of HADS braved the cold conditions again to trace the Roman road from St Faiths Church at Havant towards a possible Roman port at Langstone.



*John Pile's map of the Roman routes at Havant
(arrow shows area of survey)*



On the Roman road at Havant



*The Roman road didn't stop here but we did!
(The Royal Oak at Langstone)*

Field Trip 24th February Bosham

Several members of HADS again ignored the cold weather and turned up at Bosham on Sunday 24th February. Bosham is truly a remarkable place to visit. We had studied the scenes from the Bayeux Tapestry depicting Harold Godwinson arriving at Bosham church in 1064AD. After having a meal in a hall the tapestry shows him departing for Normandy via some steps on the fore-shore.



Bosham at sunset



Bayeux Tapestry with Bosham church to the LHS



Harold arriving at the north door of the church



*Pradip standing in the blocked up doorway of the church
(As depicted on Bayeux Tapestry)*

After visiting the church the Bayeux Tapestry shows Harold having a meal in a two storey building. This building is thought to have been a monastery or priory.



Blocked up doorway in corner of church



Blocked up doorway close up



Early masonry opposite the blocked up doorway of the church. Is this part of the monastery?



Harold coming down the "King's Steps at Bosham



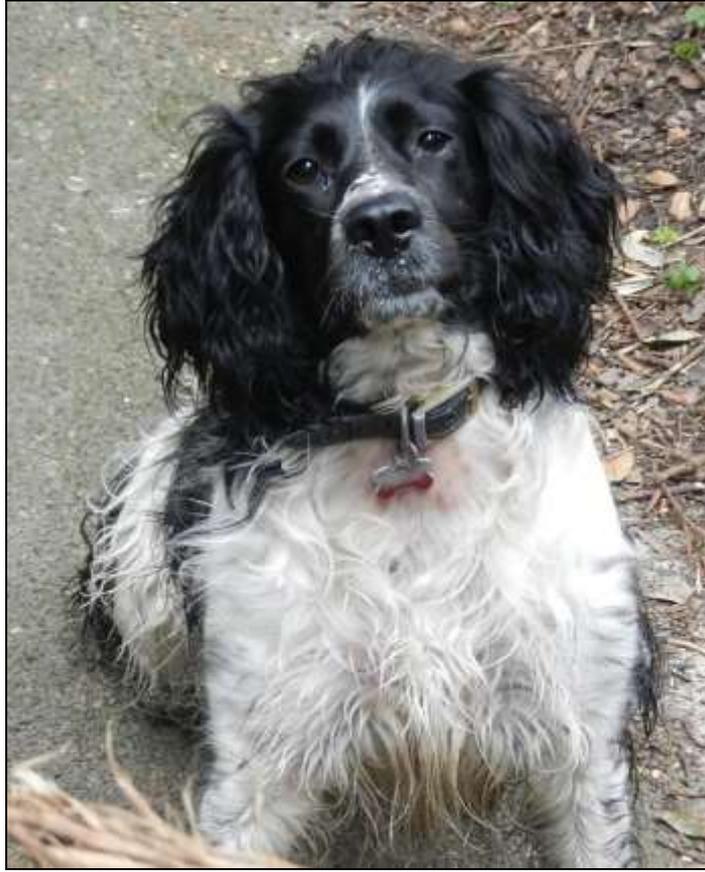
HADS on the King's Steps



Dowsing for part of the monastery



Just having a great time!



Isn't she gorgeous!!



Laurie seems to attract animals wherever he goes!!

Field Work – Thursday 28th February Wymering

Our research on the Roman road from Chichester towards Portchester continued at Wymering - an ancient site itself. The Roman road was located by dowsing just to the south of the present church site. We were amazed when we visited the church and were informed by a church guide that a large Roman “depot” was located and excavated when an electricity sub-station was constructed just opposite the church some years ago. We were also told that a Roman track-way led from this “depot” towards Portchester Creek directly. This led to further research and survey.



*Wymering Church ~ Roman route is in the foreground.
(Ancient manor house is on the left)*



One of Jane Austen's brothers is buried in the churchyard
Lecture ~ Thursday 14th March
Jim Leary

We welcomed back Jim Leary from English Heritage at our lecture on 14th March. Despite another free lecture at the Great Hall in Winchester we were delighted that so many members turned up to enjoy Jim's lecture on the Henge at Marden. A full report of this talk will be given in the next newsletter.



Jim Leary



Clive Essery introducing Jim Leary

Field Work – Thursday 21st March Port Solent

Another freezing cold day saw HADS members tracing a Roman road from the Wymering direction towards Portchester Creek. There may have been a route to the anchorage opposite Portchester Castle



Tracey in the mud at Port Solent



Perishing HADS opposite Portchester Castle

Field Work - Sunday 24th March Winchester

Because of the adverse weather conditions making much of the countryside too wet to carry out research I decided to visit Winchester on Sunday 24th March. The number of members who attended this trip was disappointingly low due to a number of reasons.

Our targets for the day were two-fold: the first was the possible site of the great gateway of Winchester's Castle (which has not been discovered in any excavation thus far). We were able to locate two possible towers near the now filled-in castle ditch. Other castle walls were also detected by dowsing.



Dowsing for the castle bridge



Inside the Great Hall at Winchester

Our second target for the day was to start looking for the Winchester to Old Sarum Roman road. This is well known along much of its length but we started looking for it just outside the West Gate of the city.

The photograph below shows HADS members on the line of the Sarum Road, which virtually runs under the Clifton Terrace sign.

Beaten by the very cold temperatures we decided to head down to the West Country Pasty shop to warm ourselves up with a welcome cup of coffee or chocolate!



On the Sarum Road at Winchester

Field Work – Thursday 4th April Wickham

On yet another cold day, members of HADS met outside the King's Head at Wickham to discover where the Roman road from Coldharbour Farm to the Fareham direction was located near Wickham. On climbing the old Meon Valley Railway Line embankment we came across the route just a few hundred metres from the Wickham Road.

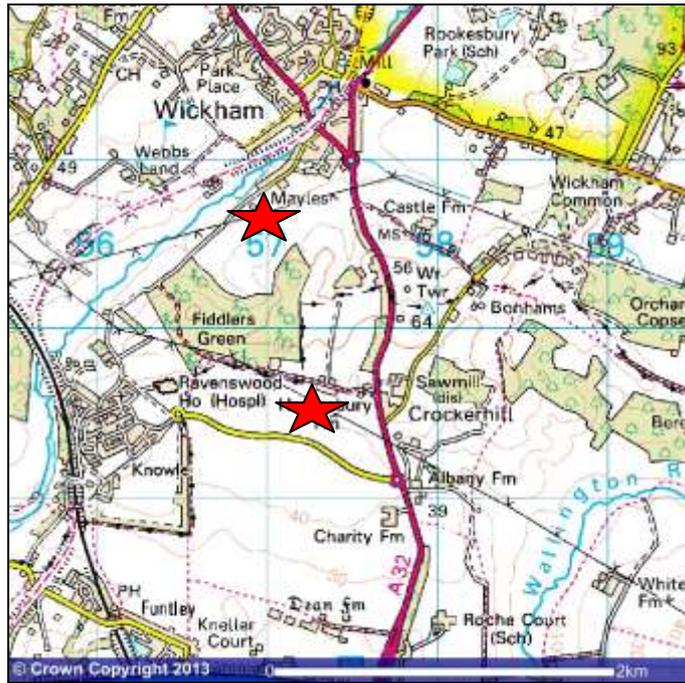
We followed the route via Mayles Farm towards Heytesbury Farm where the route was also identified. This route seems to line up with a suggested route towards Fareham located by map dowsing carried out a few weeks earlier. Further study will be necessary on this route, especially near Dean Farm and Hellyers Farm close to the M27 motorway.



The team at Wickham



Near Heytesbury Farm



Two plots on the Fareham route



Sunday 7th April

Twenty-one members and friends attended our first Field Visit for 2013 on the 7th April. We met at the Silver Plough at Pitton and walked to the medieval hunting palace of Clarendon, once one of the finest palaces in Britain and the place where Henry II had the row with Thomas à Becket.



HADS at Clarendon with the Great Hall in the background



We were joined by some very interested natives!



What are we all looking at?



Henry III's Wine cellar!



An attentive audience



Ed addressing the group!

Sat amongst the ruins of the palace seemed an apt place for Edwina to read out a report written on the site by Margaret Howell: -

“The site of the royal palace at Clarendon...has been the subject of a recent detailed archaeological investigation, which helps to create a lively impression of Queen Eleanor of Provence’s accommodation there in the early 1250s, shortly after a major programme of enlargement and refurbishment. Many of the details come from the chancery rolls. By 1252 Eleanor had a compact suite of apartments at Clarendon, comprising a hall, a chapel, three chambers and a wardrobe.

“They were situated on two floors. The rooms were spacious, two of them extending to a length of 40 feet, and the amenities of her chamber had been greatly improved by the adjacent construction of a two-storied building providing access to “a fair privy chamber, well vaulted on both floors”. The focal point of the queen’s hall was an imposing new fireplace with double marble columns on each side and an overmantel carved with representations of the 12 months of the year.

“The windows of her rooms were glazed, perhaps mainly in plain glass or the delicate silver-grey *grisaille* patterns, but also with some figured glass, which would have been coloured. The windows of her hall overlooked a garden. The chapel, on the upper floor, had a marble altar, flanked by two windows, which could be opened and closed, and above the altar was a crucifix, with the figures of Mary and John. Religious imagery was not confined to the chapel: in the window of one of the queen’s chambers there was a representation of the Virgin and Child with the kneeling figure of an earthly queen, presumably Queen Eleanor herself, with an *Ave Maria* scroll.

“The walls of the chapel were initially painted with scenes from the life of St. Katherine, but later redecorated “with symbols and stories as arranged”. One distinctively up-to-date feature of these rooms were the tiled floors, and the remaining portion of one of these, lifted in the post-war excavations at Clarendon, can be seen on the far wall in the medieval ceramics room at the British Museum. The pavement dates from 1250-1252 and was laid in one of Eleanor’s ground floor chambers. Divided into panels of patterned and figured tiles, glowing in muted shades of gold ,grey, and warm pink, its power to evoke is incomparable.”

“Back to earth”



Do you remember this? Who could forget it!!!

Well we have had a request to include in this newsletter the words sung by members of the HADS choir at our Christmas party!

Donald, Where's Your Dowsers?

We've just got back from the Isle of Wight,
Where we planned to see historic sights,
But it rained all day and it rained all night,
On Donald and his dowsers.

Chorus:

*Let the wind blow high, let the wind blow low,
Torrential rain and hail and snow,
Follow us wherever we go,
Donald and his dowsers!*

One night up on St Catherine's Hill,
We were there with Paul and Gill,
Paul rolled down, head over heels,
And Gill came tumbling after!

Repeat chorus

On a trip to Avebury,
West Kennet and Silbury,
Two of us were lost at sea!
Donald, where's your dowsers?

Repeat chorus

We thought we'd visit Cadbury,
The place is steeped in history,
Three of us got dysentery!
Donald, where's your dowsers?

Repeat chorus

So you can tell from what we say,
If we go out, it rains all day,
Carol cries out in dismay,
"Donald's wet his trousers!"

Final chorus:

*Let the wind blow high, let the wind blow low,
Torrential rain and hail and snow,
Folks who see us, say "Oh no",
It's Donald and his dowsers!*

Thank you Alan, I'm glad we have some cultural members amongst us!

So, you can see from the above that HADS have kept going throughout the winter despite the appalling weather and I look forward to producing the next "Summer Newsletter" when I hope the photographs will include some sunshine!

I would wish to thank all members for supporting HADS and turning out sometimes in atrocious conditions.

Kind regards

Don