

Hampshire Archaeological Dowsers

Spring 2015

Newsletter



Hi everyone,

Welcome to this Spring Newsletter, although looking out of my window this morning it doesn't look very spring-like today. It is May already and we have been dowsing every month since the New Year started. Our year started with Steve Burman's talk on the 8th January, his subject was on "Prehistoric Cave Art". The talk was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Thursday dowsers started the season off on the 15th January when we continued researching an unknown Roman road from Bursledon Road to Hamble.

The planned dowsing survey of the Royal Hunting Lodge near Fritham had to be cancelled because of flooding in the area which had caused a bridge to collapse. This event will be re-scheduled later on in the year.

February 12th was our AGM, and once again I am so grateful that your committee members have put themselves forward to stand for office. The committee work so hard behind the scenes making sure that we maintain our high standards of dowsing research whilst providing a light-hearted social programme. Thanks go to Paul & Gill, Edwina, Clive and Tracey.



Oliver's Battery Enclosure



Don's briefing at Oliver's Battery

The 15th February was a bitterly cold day, but that did not stop members of HADs carrying out a dowsing survey on the site of the Iron Age enclosure at Oliver's Battery. The survey was very successful and we were able to locate the main trackway and the site of some circular buildings within the enclosure.

We were so grateful to Dee & Peter Smith for supplying coffee and a warm shelter in their home before some of us retired to The Dolphin at Hursley for lunch. We intend to return to Oliver's Battery and search for the 1st World War buildings near Yew Hill.

Wootton Wawen Workshop 21st February

As a newly appointed BSD Tutor I ran a Saturday workshop at Wootton Wawen, near Stratford. The workshop was well received and several good comments were passed on to the BSD. I would wish to thank Edwina for her support on this venture. The BSD are seeking to gain more members and this is a good way of introducing archaeological dowsing to members of the public. Two more workshops are planned for July and November. If you would like to attend one then please contact Ed or myself

The Thursday dowzers met again on the 26th February and we got very confused about the Roman road to Hamble...there now seem to be two routes, watch this space!

Gestingthorpe - 6th – 8th March



BSD Archaeology SIG members



Ray and "the kit"

This weekend at Gestingthorpe was a BSD Archaeology Special Interest Group event. As Chairman of this group I am so thankful to Edwina, Clive and Ray for helping run this very successful event. The landowner is so delighted with our results here, especially when we now have Ray on board carrying out some resistivity surveys too.



Ed, leading from the front as usual!

Hamble Lane - 12th March

Not to be deterred by too many Roman roads our Thursday heroes returned to Hamble Lane on the 12th March to continue to survey the very complicated system of roads in the area. All went very well for the first part of the morning when we were able to follow a route across the car-boot sale field opposite Tesco's towards Hamble.



On the Roman road in the car-boot field at Hamble Lane

However, we were thwarted again in our efforts of making sense of this road network as it seems too complicated for us to follow. After taking a short break we will return to Hamble and perhaps start all over again!

Paul Daw's talk - 19th March



It was standing room only for Paul's talk, we were virtually full to breaking point and extra chairs had to be brought in to cope. We had visiting dowsing groups from across the south as well as interested members of the public. It just went to show how popular Paul's talks are.

Micheldever Wood - 22nd March

This too was another cold day but in the sunshine it felt really great. A large number of members and a few guests turned up at the Cart & Horses, Kingsworthy, for a welcome cup of coffee before we drove in convoy to Micheldever Wood. I had previously dug on some of the sites within the wood with the M3 Committee, so I knew what was lying beneath the ground. Members were able to survey the Iron Age “Banjo” Enclosure along with hut circles within the enclosure. Some members were able to locate structures outside the enclosure too. This was a really good day of dowsing and meeting old and new friends.



On the Bronze Age burial mound



Gerry with his stone axe!



Gemma in one of the Iron Age structures

Deacon Hill - 9th April

Just for a change we abandoned the area around Hamble Lane and started a new route for the Thursday Dowzers. Deacon Hill is the next hill up from St Catherine's Hill heading towards Owslebury. For many years I have been interested in why the Roman road from Winchester does such a sharp turn here. I suspected that another Roman road led towards Beauworth from Deacon Hill.

After just a few minutes of dowsing we discovered that such a road did exist and further more a small rectangular Roman building did stand between the two roads.

We shall return to this site and survey in the building at a later date.



Dowsing the Roman building at Deacon Hill



On the Roman road at Deacon Hill

Netley Abbey - 26th April



HADs at Netley Abbey with poor Ed sitting with her damaged elbow

Several members turned out for the Netley Abbey visit on Sunday 26th April. We were able to dowse for some of the missing buildings and the “secret” tunnels that are meant to be at the site. We were able to locate the buried latrine channels and no one came up with any buried treasure!



In the nave of the church, looking for graffiti rather than treasure!



Crickley Hill - 3rd May

We celebrated the International Dowsing Day by inviting other dowsing groups and members of the BSD to join us at Crickley Hill near Gloucester. After leaving home in the pouring rain I was very apprehensive about driving a full mini-bus to the site. But we had simply a great day out meeting dowsers from South Wales, Cheltenham and Bristol. We were met by George the Ranger, who introduced the site to us and then we split into three groups, Ray led one and I led the second group, we gave a site familiarisation tour before lunch and dowsed some of the structures after lunch. George led the third group on a hunt for wild flowers.

A Neolithic long mound and sanctuary were targets, as too were Iron Age halls and structures. Both groups spent a long time searching for any Dark Age structures outside of the hillfort itself. Many thanks go to Ray as he organised this event both for the BSD and HADs. Very special thanks also go to Ed for turning up with her dislocated elbow to support us. We really ought to thank Richard (Ed's husband) for driving her to Crickley and for taking some really good photographs.

BSD Symposium at University of Worcester

Over the weekend of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April we were asked to support an event held by the BSD at Worcester. Ed and I put on two different workshops titled "Seeing is Believing". On the Saturday workshop we created a replica of the Hayling Island Celtic/Roman temple and on the Sunday workshop we created a Neolithic henge. "Seeing is Believing" turned out to be far more than expected as fellow dowsers were amazed just how realistic the temple and henge were. The henge especially gave some astonishing results, so much so that we are tempted to repeat the workshops as part of the HADs diary...again, watch this space!

HADs Tour of Yorkshire

Friday 8th May – Thursday 14th May

A report on this tour will be produced later.

HADS SUMMER EVENTS

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Sunday 24 th May	HFC Trip to Basing House
May 29 th - May 31 st	BSD Saltwood Castle
Thursday June 4 th	Owslebury area
Thursday June 11 th	Social Evening - Danebury Hill Fort & The White Hart at Stockbridge
Sunday June 14 th	Afternoon visit to Amesbury

This event has been arranged between Don and a fellow Blue Badge Tour Guide, Lady Sally Peel from Salisbury. We will be visiting the Amesbury History Centre, Amesbury Church and Abbey as well as the site of the recently discovered Mesolithic site at Blick Mead. Details will be circulated shortly but we will be meeting at 14:00 hours in the Church Street car-park at Amesbury and there will be a charge to pay Sally's fee.

Thursday June 18 th	Social Evening - Ashley Castle (near Farley Mount) & The Dolphin at Hursley
Thursday July 2 nd	Social Evening - Hamble Point and a local pub.

SATURDAY JULY 18th ~ Don's birthday bash

The Otter, Otterbourne ~ 13.00 – 17.00

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!