

HADS SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019



Welcome to the spring as we emerge from a rather cold and damp winter. We ended our lecture series on March 28th with a fantastic talk by our very own Edwina Cole. Her subject was Uzbekistan – Jewel of the Silk Road. In her presentation Ed showed many beautiful images of the wonderful buildings of some of the cities in Uzbekistan. Five new members joined HADS on the evening and it gives me great pleasure to welcome them to our group.

We still have just a few members who have not, as yet renewed their subscription and we do look forward to them re-joining soon. Ed will be delighted to receive their payment for the 2019/2020 season.

We have already booked all of the speakers for our next series of fascinating talks. Leaflets will be available soon. The details of the talks can be found on the website www.hads.uk

Sunday April 28th

This is our next dowsing event when we shall be exploring a possible Roman site at Bishopstoke. When the sewerage pumping station was constructed at Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, a series of Roman pits and ditches were discovered. No structures however were identified. Over the last few years, metal detectorists have been finding Roman artefacts on land behind the Toby Carvery, Bishopstoke Road on the far side of the River Itchen. We shall be surveying the field where some of these artefacts have turned up.

We shall be gathering at 1.30 pm in the car-park at the Toby Carvery. PLEASE NOTE if you are planning to have lunch there you should arrive by 12.00 as it does get very busy. Anyone parking their cars in the car park MUST register their number plates at the bar before eating/drinking. There are side roads near to the Toby Carvery if you would prefer to park there. As this is just a preliminary survey we should be finished by 4.30 pm.

Friday 17th – Sunday 19th May

There are now 15 members going on the short HADs trip to South Wales. Sites to be visited are: Tintern Abbey, Chepstow, Caerwent, Caerleon and Trellech. A full itinerary has been sent out to participating members.

Thursday 23rd May

Surveying the supposed Roman Road from Winchester to Neatham (Alton) more details will follow.

SNIPPETS



Recent excavations at Wickham by Cotswold Archaeology have revealed evidence of a substantial Roman settlement and a major Roman Road. This discovery has re-ignited the argument that the site of *Clausentum* is not at Bitterne but at Wickham!

The case of the site of *Clausentum* goes back to the *Antonine Itinerary* of the late second century AD as the first station on *Iter VII*, entitled “the route from Chichester to London”, where it appears that *Clausentum* is 20 miles from *Noviomagus Regnorum* (Chichester), and 10 miles from *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester). The problem is that Bitterne is 26 miles from Chichester whereas Wickham is only the 20 miles as suggested in the *Antonine Itinerary*.

THE CASE GOES ON. We will keep our eyes on this case and trace the newly discovered Roman Road.

“The Round Heads Cometh”

This term was used in the 1960's to discuss the possibility that the Bronze Age people were invaders and defeated the earlier Neolithic society. This theory was dismissed out of hand by later archaeologists as “poppy-cock”. I attended a Council of British Archaeology Study Day near Salisbury on 23rd March. The speaker was Francis Taylor who has carried out numerous DNA tests on both Neolithic and Bronze Age skeletal remains and has come up with the amazing results that the DNA for the later Bronze Age people are completely different to that of the Neolithic people, so a different race!

Francis Taylor also suggested that the last Ice Age melt was 7,000 years BC and not the 8,000 BC years which has been accepted for many years.

Hengistbury Head



Over the weekend of 6th-7th April I attended a conference on Hengistbury Head hosted by Bournemouth University. On Saturday 6th we were at the university itself listening to various lecturers, including Professors Sir Barry Cunliffe, Tim Darvill and Nick Barton plus supporting speakers. It was an amazing day and we discovered that Hengistbury Head was probably the most important Iron Age port in Britain. The trade with Brittany was extensive in the Late Iron Age, especially the import of items such as wine, figs, cheese, honey and clothing.

It appears that Hengistbury was a modern day “free port”. The importation of wine makes Hengistbury the first port in Britain to land wine from Brittany!

On the Sunday we arrived at the Hengistbury Head visitor centre to start a guided walking tour with Sir Barry Cunliffe. Barry pointed out the site of the Iron Age Village and Port whilst Professor Nick Barton pointed out the site of the largest Palaeolithic and Mesolithic sites in Britain!

A truly inspiring weekend.

As an archaeological dowsler I was intrigued with the Brittany link as the energy lines from Stonehenge pass through Hengistbury Head heading south to Brittany. This would link the famous Brittany Neolithic sites with Stonehenge, Glastonbury and St Michael’s Mount.

I am tempted to arrange another HADs visit to Hengistbury Head armed with all of this new knowledge.

Exton Roman Temple



On Tuesday 9th April I attended the AGM of the Meon Valley Archaeological and Heritage Group. Over the last few years the group have been digging at a site at Exton and have discovered a possible Roman hexagonal temple.

Professor Tony King and Doctor’s Nick Thorpe and Nick Stoodley each gave a presentation on aspects of the site. Tony King announced that on the last day of the dig last season a mare horse skeleton and a foal had been discovered

UNDER the Roman Temple.....this is thought to be an Iron Age burial. Mare and foal burials are extremely rare in Britain and are linked to the Celtic Goddess Epona (the word pony comes from Epona).



Epona on a Classical statue

This discovery makes the Exton site one of the most important sites in Britain and I, for one will be looking forward to this season's excavation to see what else turns up!!

I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you out on our field trips, especially fired up with all of the above discoveries.

Don Bryan
Archaeological Director
HADs

Spring 2019