

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOWSERS

Newsletter – SPRING 2021

Welcome to this, our sixth Newsletter of 2020/21.

Hello to all of our HADs Colleagues and I hope you are still keeping well and active as our current Lockdown approaches its end. By now some of our members may have received their second dose of the anti Covid vaccine whilst the rest of us are still awaiting our turn.

I hope that those of you who attended our latest Zoom talk on 25 March enjoyed Andy Skinner's presentation about 'Southampton in the Age of Spas, Springs and Highwaymen'

Our next talk of the current extended season will be on Thursday, 29 April, when Tony Kippenberger, Chairman of Bishops Waltham Society and a Trustee of their local museum, will be telling us about 'The Winchester Geese: 1107-1546'. Apparently, for over 400 years brothel-keepers and prostitutes in Southwark were licensed and supervised by the Bishops of Winchester, a valuable source of Episcopal revenue! Tony warns that his talk isn't really for the faint-hearted! We will be joined on Zoom on this occasion by members of the Winchester City Guides.

Your Committee met again on 24 March. Our main matters for discussion were:

- *a review of February's AGM.*
- *Edwina's financial update.*
- *a discussion about possible spends against the anonymous donation received last year*
- *our future Talks Programme and how we might present those talks in the future (see item below)*
- *an outline of a future dowsing plan.*
- *and future extended tours..*

Returning to the planning for our future Talks Programme, we had an interesting discussion as to the direction this might take. We still consider our home to be The Hundred Men's Hall at St Cross Hospital in Winchester. However, it is noticeable that numbers attending our talks there during the winter months are lower than at other times, mainly due to adverse weather conditions and that hall is not necessarily the most comfortable in wintry conditions, though we love it dearly. One suggestion is that we look to find an alternative venue with all mod cons that is fairly central to the majority of members and we will be continuing with researching alternative venues. However, another suggestion is that most of our members seemingly find it very convenient to watch talks presented on Zoom, in the comfort of their own homes, regardless of the weather outside, and without the need to travel. Therefore, the Committee has agreed to look into a possible mix of hall based and Zoom talks, possibly depending on the season.

However, we must not overlook the fact that most of our members enjoy the social aspects of meeting with their HADs colleagues so we will be bearing that in mind when looking at our future programme, whether it be talks, dowsing or other (new?) activities. So, please watch this space for further information in due course.

It just leaves me to wish you all, on behalf of your Committee, continuing safety into 2021 and we look forward to seeing you all again at our future events.

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Paul (Herbert), Chairman, HADs

29 March 2021