

HADS venture out.....

We are delighted to report that on Sunday, 9th August 2020 HADS resumed its quest to investigate and learn about the roads and trackways that exist in our local area. On a blisteringly hot day (36C?) we met at Shawford station (see map below). There were 15 of us - all so pleased to be out and about again.

We heard about Victor Meldrew's demise filmed by the BBC next to Shawford railway bridge and then contemplated the walk that Don had designed for us.

Most of us, including 2 new dowsers, staggered up to the memorial where Don told us about some of the people who came from the island of Tristan da Cunha. They were displaced when their island suffered a volcanic eruption in 1961.

We saw where the chalk turns to gravel, and learnt that oak trees don't grow on chalk. We were glad to be on the gravel in the shade of an enormous oak tree as Don told us about the important roads that once crossed this area. Dubbed the Spaghetti Junction of Shawford we learnt how the old A33, the Roman road and the Old Royal Road all passed here on the way to Winchester.

Meeting a welcome breeze as we came down off the hill we were able to reflect on the importance of this place in earlier times.

Thanks to Don for arranging this walk, and for encouraging us to join him again for the next meeting in Twyford on August 23rd.

Edwina Cole
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