

FIELD TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2011
(A date never to be forgotten!)



RAIN, RAIN AND EVEN MORE RAIN !!!!!!!!

Nineteen members of HADS took on the elements last Sunday and lost! We travelled over to the island in the Red Jet and picked up a mini-bus and “people-mover” that Clive drove for us. We then drove to Yarmouth to pick up Isobel before arriving at Mottistone. Despite the appalling weather we climbed Mottistone Down to view the Long Stone (the remains of a Neolithic long barrow) and dowsed for the extent of the barrow and an energy line which passes through the site. Tracey managed to locate burial chambers within the barrow.



Don briefing the group at Mottistone



Don and Jan on the site of a Celtic Temple

Very close to the Long Stone there is an Iron Age enclosure which contained a temple and natural spring. Both were located by dowsing as too was another smaller building discovered by Roger.

Very wet members at the Iron Age enclosure site

No –they are not orbs...they are rain drops!!!



The Long Stone



After a really good lunch at Hulverstone and a chance to dry out, we continued our tour around the Island via Ventnor, Shanklin and Sandown to arrive at Brading Roman Villa.

We were offered the services of a guide who showed us around the complex. Brading Villa sits on an energy line and we were able to locate this as well as at least two spirals very close to the “sacred well”.

By this time the rain was intensifying so we did not have the chance to continue our survey outside the complex.



One of the mosaics at Brading and a “stuffed” archaeologist.



Jan, being Jan at Brading

We then beat a hasty retreat back to East Cowes to avoid the Isle of Wight Festival traffic and then crossed over to West Cowes by the chain ferry to return the transport before returning to Southampton.

Despite an extremely wet day our spirits remained high for most of the day, and, would you believe, I have received a request to return to the island! We did not have a chance to visit Newtown as per the itinerary so a return visit would concentrate on the Medieval village and creek area. So watch this space.

Thanks to Ed for the photographs as my camera doesn't like getting wet!

It was remarked that this day was not quite as bad as the infamous Cadbury Castle day, the reason being that we did not get wet underwear!

Don