

HADS venture out.....AGAIN!

Encouraged by the success of our walk on Shawford Down, and in an effort to continue our dowsing activities, Don offered to lead another walk, this time in the village of Twyford just outside Winchester.

The weather was perfect, not too hot and mercifully dry! We were delighted (and amazed) to welcome 20 members and guests to the meeting place just outside the parish church of St Mary the Virgin.

Stopping by the important junction by Mildmay House, Don outlined the importance of Twyford, giving details of its long history. From the church, the paths are on causeways across the valley, and it is likely that Twyford was probably the principle fording point in the Bronze and Iron Age before the rise of Winchester. The wooden bridge we crossed is probably one of the two fords that give Twyford its name. Don was able to demonstrate the course of the Roman road several times during our walk.

We passed a large Sarsen stone, which may have been a boundary stone, and heard that the village itself had its origins in the land between two fords. It retains the distinction between North and South Twyford, with the latter already established by the time of Domesday Book and centred on Queen Street. Crossing Berry Meadow, we heard about the mills in the area, and then came to Compton Lock. This was full of people enjoying the good weather and swimming in it.

Finally, we came to Compton Place, a site of archaeological significance. It was the site of medieval buildings, a Tudor house, wall and gateway. There are the remains of a Norman moated encampment and the area was dowsed by HADS some years ago. We also heard the story of Captain Barnard who was in command of a company of Roundheads billeted at Compton Manor House. Prior to advancing on Winchester he found his men preparing to eat a feast in honour of the birth of the Goldfinch's son. He asked that the boy be called Barnard, remembered at the inn (now demolished) on the Otterbourne Road.

Returning to the church, we thanked Don for this interesting walk. We are looking forward to the next one, scheduled for Sunday 13th September when we shall be exploring Compton.

Edwina Cole
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