

THE ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Issue 3 January 2017

Welcome to Issue 3

Happy New Year to you all!

Another exciting year for the project is under way. Click [here](#) to find how many days there are to our August Dig!

Who are we?



This month we focus on Martin Brooks, director of Britannia Archaeology. Learning about the Anglo Saxons in school, and watching Raiders of the Lost Ark, gave him an interest in archaeology and after studying it at university he became a site assistant in East Anglia.

If he could choose where/when in the world he could study (apart, of course, for Aylsham!), he would go back to Karakorum, the capital of the Mongol Empire, mainly to see if the fabled Silver Tree of Karakorum existed. Supposedly crafted by a captured Parisian and made of silver and other precious metals, it loomed over the palace with its branches extending into the building. A silver fruit hanging from it enabled the Khan to have a drink, with an angel raising a trumpet to its lips and wine pouring from the mouths of serpents that wound round the tree. That would have been some sight!!

If any of our younger readers want to get involved in archaeology, Martin suggests getting involved in local community projects and to see if there are any nearby YAC groups.



If he were footloose and fancy free he would probably be doing something that involved beer, guitars and loud obnoxious music. (Not a good neighbour to have, then!)

Describing archaeology in five words?
- Digging up someone else's rubbish.
As an author, he would write: My Archaeological Career: The Hole I kept Digging.

His most treasured possession is his 11 year old trowel (although this does share a place with his cat Ted). He took part in the ice bucket challenge while suffering from sunburn - did it help, not a bit!

We need to check with the Civil Defence for the Summer, because his favourite drink is Adnams Ghost Ship and a favourite choice for a filled rolled is ham, cheese and pickle!

Thanks Martin.



Our Roman Dog

Remember the dog skull we found? Remember the competition to name our dog and the winning name Gronmoad? No? Well read on, because we now know a lot more!!



Julie Curl, our local animal bone specialist, has been using her considerable knowledge to put some meat on the bones (!). This is what Gronmoad might have looked like, drawn by Julie herself.

Although the body is missing, Julie has been able to work out from the remains that the dog was probably female. She has used her imagination about the thoughts of the dog:-

I have tooth-ache both sides, early stage arthritis front and rear, a broken rib, fusing bones and a painful paw *and* you want me to walk to the coast to get more clay supplies and hunt hare on the way? ...Errrrr...NO!!

More details on the day, see below!

Future Events...Future Events...Future Events...

Pottery Talk Don't forget Roman pottery expert Alice Lyons, will be in Aylsham on Saturday 4th February 0930 Aylsham Lodge, cost £5. A great chance to learn about this period in history. Email for details of pre-payment to ensure a place or pay at the door.

Animals in Archaeology and the ARP Julie Curl will also be with us in February. Saturday February 25th 0930 will see her at Aylsham Lodge. Please email if you have lost the details for pre-payment to ensure this talk goes ahead. After a presentation about identifying creatures and bone markings, Julie will talk about the finds here in Aylsham and what creatures were roaming across our countryside during the Roman period, including more details about dear old Gronmoad, (who was only 15/16 inches high). Bring any bones you have found with you for Julie to identify. Suitable for the young and not-so-young!

Future Events...Future Events...Future Events...

Bric-a-brac Sale Easter Saturday 15th April at Woodgate Nursery, 1000 - 1600. We are looking to raise funds for the dig and to buy promotional items, so rummage in your cupboards, look out those unwanted Christmas presents and take them along to the Nursery. Watch out for an email coming your way very soon, giving full details about what to bring and asking if any of you would be available to come and help for an hour on the day. Tell your friends!

Video of the month.....Video of the month.....

Catherine has been looking out some You Tube links to see us through the dark nights. Here's one to start with - [Roman Invasion of Britain Part 1 of 3](#)

Did you know?...Did you know?...Did you know?...

Claudius' third wife was once said to have donned blond wigs, gilded her nipples and entered a competition with a local prostitute to see who could bed the most men in one night. Claudius had her executed..... (A gem from Martin!)

(Can you do better? Get involved. Please email!)

Joke Time...Joke Time...Joke Time...Joke Time...

Why did the Roman Coliseum have to close?
The lions had eaten up all the prophets!
(Another from Martin)

(Can you do better? Get involved. Please email!)

Check out our website...Check out our website...

Not been there recently? We've had a facelift so do go and have a look, read some of the reports that have been written and relive the summer dig in pictures, text and sound.



ARP.....Getting the community into holes



Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) links plus our [website](#)
<https://aylshamromanproject.com/>

Email us at ayshamromanproject@gmail.com