

THE ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Issue 4 February 2017

Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter.

Hope you all survived Storm Doris!

Summer Dig 2017

At the time of writing, this year's dig is just 154 days away. There is a lot to settle before we can once again see what the Romans were doing here in Aylsham.

An important meeting was held this month to discuss the summer arrangements and, although there are still decisions to be made, here is an update of things as they are at the moment.

Britannia Archaeology have done further detailed geophysics on the field south of the lake. This has disclosed a variety of tracks and enclosures. An initial area of 40m x 20m will be excavated and prepared, with the possibility of it being extended and other areas nearby being opened up.

This will involve quite a walk from the kiln field around to this dig area and back. There will be a path marked by posts and toilets will be positioned here and in the kiln field (what a relief!).

Last year's children's area revealed interesting finds and an area around here will also be opened up. A new children's 10m x 10m area will be opened up on the same field.

At the time of writing, a final decision on whether the kilns will be opened up again has not been made. We are waiting to hear from Historic England. Once we have that decision we will let you know.

It is not expected this year's dig will yield the number of finds of last year, however last year we didn't expect much anyway!

The finds and cleaning area will be situated as last year in the kiln field and sieving will take place in both areas. The daily morning briefings and end of day talk will take place in the kiln field. We hope to be able to provide guided tours of the area during the three weeks.

There will be two main differences this year to last year. The cost of organising a dig is large, we will need to raise money and so there will be a charge to participate. The actual amount is to be decided upon and, again, once settled we will let you know. The other difference is we need to be more organised with who digs etc than we were last year, to try and ensure everyone is able to participate.

To help with this, we will be sending out an online form for you to complete and return. The first part will have the dates for the three weeks, am and pm, for you to say when you will be able to join us. Please check your diaries for August in advance of this being sent out.

There will also be a list of activities for you to opt into - we want to try and ensure you all are able to dig at some time during the three weeks. Other activities listed will be eg sieving, washing, acting as a tour guide. We will also be interested in anyone who would like to act as photographer or take short videos. Fund raising items will be on sale and we will need help manning the table.

Don't worry if this sounds daunting, we will help anyone who gets stuck!

February Talks

We have been very lucky and had two really interesting, and well-attended, talks this month. Many thanks to Rodney for the facilities at Aylsham Lodge.

Our first was by Alice Lyons, talking about the development of pottery to the Roman era and then focusing on our summer finds. We look forward to seeing her back at Woodgate soon, to help produce the pottery report and our finds from the two kilns. At the moment they are being sorted into rims, bases and body sherds. Further tasks will involve numbering and identifying different types.

We've also been doing some jigsaw work and have successfully matched up some pieces of pottery! Thanks to all involved helping with this.

Our second talk was by Julie Curl, who gave us a fascinating insight into what animals were living here. Many tiles Peter has found had marks on them, from during their drying period. Julie has been able to identify a variety of creatures such as cat, dog, horse, newt, otter and a big cat of some sort. She has also been studying the small but varied bone samples that we found. Her full report can be found on the website in the [Reports](#) area. It makes fascinating reading! Her presentation from the talk can be found [here](#) on the What's Happening page.

~~Future Events...Future Events...Future Events...~~

Aylsham Expo If you are in Aylsham on Saturday 4th March 0900 - 1230, please come in and see us, buy a pen/t-shirt/, have a chat!

Bric-a-Brac Sale Woodgate Nursery Easter Saturday 15th April 1000 - 1600. Again, come and see us, let us know if you can help on the day. Details of what and when to bring items coming out shortly.

~~Picture of the month...Picture of the month...~~

Sorry, short on these this month, but this will make up for it!



ARP.....Getting the community into holes



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