

THE ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Vol 2 Issue 1 November 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter of our second year and what a year it has been!

Review of the Year

Our Social Event on November 15th at Aylsham



High School looked back over the last year and what a year! This time last year we won the Marsh Award for Community Archaeology. This year Peter and Woodgate Nursery have won Business Community Supporter of the Year, partly for the support he gives the town generally but also for the ARP - well done and so well deserved.

We now have over 160 Friends and money from these, dig participation, fundraising activities throughout the year, talks, events and collection boxes mean we start with a healthy bank balance on which to build in readiness for our third season. All money raised goes directly into the project and we are so grateful to all who have helped in any way. We just need to continue to build on it, so any ideas for fundraising greatly appreciated. We are often praised for our community spirit and how well it works, this helps to show why it works, plus the fact that we can all take pleasure in what is going on and what has been achieved with just five weeks of actual digging.

Our new lightweight canvas shopping bags proved a hit and we now have some on sale at the Nursery shop, price £4 - yes, more than at the Social Event, but that WAS a special event!



Thank you for the review of the dig weeks. Suggestions from this are already being taken on board - eg more sieves, information boards, earlier and more advertising and more help in the Welcome tent. Afraid the suggestion of BA entering with smoke and lights won't happen!

Aylsham Roman Project



Our new flyers are out, look out for them at the Nursery and Heritage Centre. If anyone knows somewhere we can put them, and a collection box, please let us know.

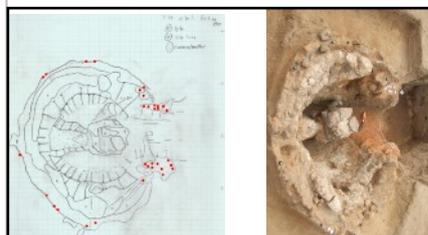
The film taken by John Whatley of the Aylsham Picture House went down well and copies can be ordered, price £2. Please place money in an envelope with your name and the word Video and leave at the Nursery. Once ready an email will be sent and they can

be collected from the Nursery. We are hoping to include the BBC Voices video as well, but Colin and George who are working with Gary Standley on this say it might not be ready for some time. It will, though, be worth waiting for!

Archaeomagnetic Dating Kiln 1

Peter's concern about losing much of Kiln 1 when Katharine from Bradford University came to take samples proved not to be the case, much to everyone's relief!

Archaeomagnetic dating is a method for dating fired materials based on their preserved magnetic properties. Having collected many samples from the walls of the kiln, which contain magnetic particles, Katharine can compare them with a dated record of changes in the Earth's magnetic field and, with time, date the last time they were heated.



Her diagram shows where the samples were taken from, the outer wall, many around the flue.



This form of dating, although less commonly used than some other methods, is particularly applicable to fired clay and stone and in our case, kilns. Each sample taken has a plastic reference marker and once removed, Katharine packed them carefully for transporting back to Bradford University.



These samples have been consolidated in order to make them more solid so they do not disintegrate during the measuring process.

Katharine has told us that around 10 samples have gone through the initial stages, using the large spinner magnetometer seen here in this photograph. There are many more stages to follow but the samples indicate they are sufficiently stable to produce good results. It is hoped that a date for the final firing of Kiln 1 will be available by May 2018. In the mean time, Katharine will provide us with regular updates on her progress.



For further information go to:

[Magnetic Moments in the Past](#) - Bradford University, [Archaeomagnetic Dating Guidelines Booklet pdf download](#) - Historic England

This work usually costs around £4000, but by seeking and taking advice from professionals, in this case Historic England and Bradford University, we have Katharine completing the survey as part of her studies.



With grateful thanks to:

Dr Cathy Batt, Senior Lecturer Archaeological Sciences, Bradford University
Dr Zoe Outram, Science Advisor (East of England), Historic England
Katharine Foxtton, student, Archaeological Sciences, Bradford University.

Kiln 2

This kiln is amazing everyone who sees and hears



about it, due to its 2.3m diameter, its perforated floor which has been repaired using bits of pot and clay showing the person's finger marks, its inner wall created

and the huge flue. Around 60-70% of the kiln survives, with the roof obviously missing - it was massive! There is great interest being shown as other examples of such a kiln in Britain are hard to find. A puddling pit, where the clay was prepared, was found close by the kiln during the tidying process by BA.

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

Cordea was the Goddess of Hinges and Penates was the god of Cupboards.

 ARP.....Getting the community into holes 

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) links plus our [website](#)
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