

THE ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Vol 2 Issue 2 December 2017

Good wishes for the New Year to all Friends, supporters and followers, without you none of this would be possible.

Episode III

A long time ago in a town not far away...

A young boy called Peter, walking on the fields around his home, picked up what looked like bits of pottery. The more he looked, the more he found. That Peter is our own Peter Purdy and here is how it all started.

Peter was just 7 when he started to find bits and



pieces in the fields and gardens around Woodgate. He kept them in boxes and bags in the attic, anywhere where no-one else was. Having found some pieces, he thought there must be more so kept on looking. Most was found on the field where the Nursery now stands. Weekdays and holidays, with a packed lunch taken from the house, he would be out looking, finding remains, making dens, sitting in a boat on the lake or generally enjoying the surroundings.

It wasn't until he was 15 that he found out what he had been collecting. A family relative, keen on archaeology, thought they were Roman pieces in his finds. He often visited Norwich Castle Museum and asking there, had confirmation that they were pieces of Roman pottery.

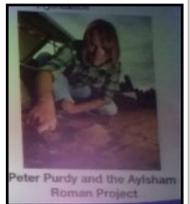


It wasn't, though, only Roman artefacts that he was finding. The best thing that he found before starting ARP was a silver crusader 13th century reliquary pendant.



Stars of Norfolk and Waveney Awards

Another award ceremony in December, we didn't win, but being finalists for this event was really exciting. Another trophy for the cabinet! The only bemusing part was Martin of BA was included in all the presentation photos, instead of Peter. We don't mind, though, without him and the BA team we wouldn't have been there anyway!



Animal Marks from August 2017 Dig

Work is in its early stages on the 2017 excavation CBM. During the dig a clear partial paw print of a European Wild Cat was seen. The print largely showed the toes, which would suggest the animal was running - either being chased (by a predator, dog or perhaps off the drying tiles by the tile maker!) or it was doing the chasing during a hunt (see drawing). Other tiles have shown some bird foot marks and prints of rodents, so hunting the smaller wildlife is quite possible for this cat.



Other marks include a range of dogs, a fox and a probable Stoat. Another Mustelid (probably a Polecat) was seen during the excavation. There are also some tiles with small groups of scratches, which are likely to have occurred when rodents were hunting on the drying CBM.

Many thanks to Julie Curl for this update. Julie has also had a couple of reports she has produced for us published in the book Norfolk Bird and Mammal Book 2016, produced by the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, ISSN 0375 7226, price £12.

Pottery Sorting

Tuesday mornings are again seeing groups sorting through the pottery finds. No counting yet, but, thanks to all in the washing and sorting area during the summer, everything is washed and in bags, making life so much easier than this time last year. Each piece is being labelled with the site number and the context number. We'll let you know how many pieces we have later in the year. *Thanks, George, for the photo.*



Kiln Building

We will not be excavating the kilns again this year. They are tucked up now for some time, but we are determined to go ahead with building a kiln this year. We are looking at dates at the moment, how to go about building it and where to build it. Once we have dates we will pass these on. We will also be looking at inviting people to make a pot to fire in the kiln, again more about this as we go into the new year.



Dates for your diary...Dates for your diary...

Our new venture this year is a schools' week. This will take place **Monday-Friday 25th-29th June 2018**. All 10 slots in the week have been filled. There will be no other digging at this time but we will need some volunteers to help support during the week. Please check your diaries and we will be in touch in the New Year.

If you are booking your summer holidays and don't want to miss out in taking part in August, the dig dates are here. The Aylsham Roman Experience will be weeks beginning **6th, 13th and 20th August 2018, Monday-Friday**. Again, more details as we go into the New Year.



Couldn't resist adding Philip's photo of the last afternoon, everyone trudging back to the kiln field, with the sky mirrored on the lake. Magic

~~Picture caption.....Picture caption.....~~
Please take part! Email a caption for this photo, ideas printed in the next issue.



 ARP.....Getting the community into holes 

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

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