

# THE ARP ACTA



## Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



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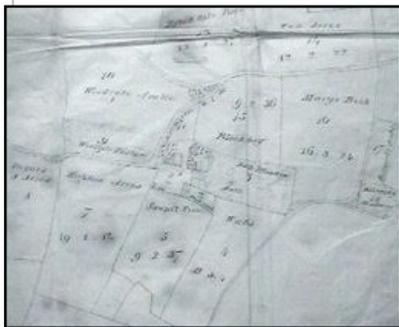
### Welcome to 2018,

the month of January, named after Janus which in ancient Roman religion was the god, amongst other things, of beginnings and endings. He is depicted with one face looking forwards and the other facing backwards. We can look back on a successful 2017 dig and look forward to our third dig in August.

### Episode IV

#### Not so long ago in the History of Woodgate...

Our excavations are beginning to uncover the distant past of Woodgate, of which at the moment we know only a little. The more recent history, from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, has been researched and put into book form along with other settlements in the area, by William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis. This makes interesting reading, as it is clear owners at the time had permission to extract sand and clay from the area. Maps of the



period name one area Brick Kiln Piece. This is to the side of the new roundabout on Cawston Road and can be seen at the very top of this map. The kiln field at the time was called Blackboy. Although there was an exploratory trench dug on this part of the land before the houses were built, it just missed the site of the brick kiln. We can only imagine what might have been found.....

With grateful thanks to:  
William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis - *Hearths and Heaths: Dispersed Settlements in Aylsham's Early Modern Landscape* £10 from Woodgate Nursery

### Tile Creation

It is so fascinating what Julie has discovered by looking at the tiles we have found, that we are thinking of conducting a tile project ourselves. She tells us the Romans would probably have rolled them out in Spring time and laid them on the grass to dry before firing them, ready to use on their buildings. During the drying period, creatures would have walked over them and left their marks. We are thinking of doing something similar, laying them out to dry in areas of Woodgate frequented by wildlife.

Before Christmas, a couple of camera traps were set up to see exactly what is going on around Peter's house. As you can imagine, Sable appeared quite often! We have, though, seen red deer, fox, muntjac, rabbit, squirrel, cat, hedgehog, mouse, pheasant, magpie, jay and blackbird. Once it warms up a little we will look again, but it is clear from the little we have done so far there are some areas that are used frequently.

We have had some fascinating pictures, but this one has tickled us the most - a close-up of a m u n t j a c wondering what on earth it is that has been tied to a tree!



This picture, though, is a rather strange bit of wildlife, but perhaps the less said the better!

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

**Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 Quiz Night 1900 for 1930 start** Test your general knowledge, and have some fun at the same time, by coming to our Quiz Night at the Friendship Hall, Cawston Road, Aylsham, organised by Deborah and Nigel. Teams of up to 6 welcome. Don't have a team? Come and join with others on the night. **Friends £5, Non-Friends £7**

Pay in person at Woodgate Nursery Shop

Enclose cash or cheque, made payable to Aylsham Roman Project, with your name and Quiz Night, in an envelope marked FAO Aylsham Roman Project

Pay by post to

FAO Aylsham Roman Project, Woodgate House, Aylsham NR11 6UP Enclose cash or cheque, made payable to Aylsham Roman Project, and your name and Quiz Night

**Easter Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 Bric-a-Brac stall**  
Woodgate Nursery 1000-1600

It's the moment you have been waiting for, the chance to make space and pass on those unwanted Christmas presents. Start looking now, more details as to what we can accept will come later.

**Monday-Friday June 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 Schools week** If you are able to help be a guide or man the tent any time during this week, please let us know. No digging for us, but just making sure the schools coming to dig have a good experience. Thank you if you have already offered, but we could do with some more if possible.

**Saturday/Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 2018 Woodgate Garden Show** Bigger and better than ever and we will be there both days, let us know if you can help on either day.

**W/B Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 Dig Weeks** Don't book your holiday during those weeks!! Far more to come about this.....

**August Bank Holiday Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 Aylsham Show.** We have a stand for the day at Blickling, no other details yet, but if you are able to help, please let

**Dates for your diary...Dates for your diary** let us know. It comes straight after our dig, but it's a chance to spread the word while its still fresh in our heads.....

## We will be building a kiln!

Full details are yet to be finalised but we have two dates you might like to make a note of:

**Saturday/Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> 2018**

Preparation weekend, dig the hole, line the kiln bottom and fire it.

**Saturday/Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Build, pack with pots and fire the kiln. The opening will take place during the following week, date and time to be confirmed. We have local schools involved, making pinch pots, but if any of you potters out there have one you would like to fire, please let us know. To give us any chance of success, please make sure your pot is made by the **end of July** to allow it to dry out completely. We will be using 20% grogg clay to try and ensure as few breakages as possible! We may have some clay left over from our schools' week for those non-potters amongst us to also have a go. We have no idea how many pots this may mean at the moment so not all may make it in to the kiln but we will do our best. A mixture of small and large is best for air circulation. We don't even know if we will be successful.....

**Picture caption.....Picture caption.....**



"No honestly, I'm stuck!"

"I don't know what it means, either, heads we carry on, tails we go to the pub."

Martin's (Britannia Archaeology) little girl has not been well over Christmas. All at Aylsham Roman Project wish her well.



**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](mailto:ayshamromanproject@gmail.com)