

THE ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Vol 2 Issue 3 January 2018

Welcome to our March newsletter.

The original Roman calendar had just ten months, with March as the first - so Happy New Year (again!)

Thank you.....Thank you.....Thank you.....

This month's letter must start with a huge thank you to three couples who have donated £5000, £2200 and £500 to the project. This is so incredibly generous and spurs us on to discover further what lies beneath the soil at Woodgate. Whether large or small, all donations are gratefully received, for without them, we would not be able to continue.

Episode V1 - where we are now

More geophysical survey is required to gain a complete picture of what is here on Peter's land, but even that does not show up everything. We only need to think about the two kilns we have unearthed during the past two years to realise there is so much more still to learn. Kiln 1 was obvious from the first trial trench on the field and was fully excavated last summer.



Kiln 2 only revealed itself during the second week of digging in August 2016: during the first week it was just a mystery, a mess, a puzzle. 2017 showed it in its full glory, over 2m in diameter and one of the largest, if not the largest, recorded in the country. Unfortunately, to preserve both of them, they have again been covered over.



They will live on in our images and posters. For those lucky enough to have dug or seen them, they will be forever in their memories. 2018 dig sites are yet to be finalised, but no doubt they will reveal further exciting insights into the history of Aylsham.

Claire Bradshaw



We are having to say goodbye to Claire who has supported us from the beginning. She has been the Norfolk Community Archaeologist and based at Gressenhall Rural Life Museum. Unfortunately her post has been cut and, although sad, she is looking forward to continuing her studies and travelling. We wish you good fortune in all you do, Claire. Please come and see us when you can.

Finds update

We have now managed to finish washing, counting, weighing and marking the pottery finds. Not all have yet been recorded, but we have added nearly another 4000 pieces, giving us a total for the two years of around 20000 pieces from the two kiln areas. Well done everyone!

While this has been going on, Colin has been wading through boxes of CBM from 2016, finding further tiles with markings, pieces of slag and the odd bits of pottery. A few more boxes will see this process finished and we can all then move on to the 2017 bags for sorting, counting and weighing. We already have tiles which Julie identified in the summer as having eg European wild cat markings on. What else might we find...

Quiz Night

What a great night we had at the Friendship Hall on March 16th! Fourteen teams battled it out, answering a variety of questions testing general knowledge of all sorts. No photographs, I'm afraid, it was all go all night!

It was very close at the end, but the winning team by one point was Be Afraid Lurcio, from Thorns and Roses in second place and two points further back Hadrian's lot. Thank you to everyone who supported us and all those involved in running such a successful evening. Great questions and organisation, Nigel and Deborah, think we should do this again. We raised over £500, all of which has gone to the Project.

David Kirkham

A friend of Peter's, David, of Fisheye Images, has visited us to take some very high resolution photographs of some of our finds. The Roman coins Peter has found over the years have come alive in front of our eyes. This one during the reign of Marcus Aurelius shows Roma with three shields on the reverse side.



He has also photographed one or two of the tiles Julie identified, our



wonderful waster and the pot so carefully cleaned by Wendy during 2016. Thank you, David, we look forward to seeing you again.



Database

It is hoped that in the future some of our interesting pieces and photographs will be uploaded to an online database for all to see. A meeting with Samantha Johns at Norwich Castle Museum has already taken place and set the wheels in motion.

Future Events. Future Events. Future Events.

Keep your fingers crossed the forecast of a cold Easter doesn't happen as we have our Bric-a-Brac sale at Woodgate Nursery on Easter Monday, April 2nd, 1000-1600. Please come and support us, come and sign up to be a Friend for the year and also for the three week summer dig - all dates are on the website page Future Events.

Looking further afield is Peter's two day Garden Show, **Saturday/Sunday June 9th/10th** at Woodgate Nursery, that will be even bigger and better than last year! Any helpers on either of those two days would be really appreciated.

Even further, on Bank Holiday **Monday 27th August** we will be at the Aylsham Show, please put it in your diaries and if you would like to talk to all who visit the show, please let us know. It follows on from the dig weeks, so we will all be full of news of what has been going on!

 Don't forget, you Tesco shoppers, to get your tokens and place them in our box. It runs until the end of April. The money raised will contribute towards the Schools' Week in June.

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

Roman spear heads were made to break off so if they missed their enemy, the head fell off and could not be used by them to throw back at the Romans.



ARP.....Getting the community into holes



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