

# The ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Magazine



## Schools' Archaeology Week 2019

Welcome to a special magazine edition of The ARP ACTA

During the week June 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, we held our second Schools Archaeology Week. Over 100 children joined us through the week, looking to see what they could find here on our site at Woodgate Nursery.

As each group arrived they were told about the site, where we standing, what we had found and why it had all started thousands of years ago. A walk to the lake followed to look out for any wildlife. It was then time to become archaeologists!

### Preparation



The previous week, Lloyd arrived with his digger and removed the top

layer. Martin from Britannia Archaeology was with us, deciding on the areas to expose and looking out for features. He was also with us throughout the week. The marquee was erected



over the area, a further one over the sieves. We were ready!



### Day 1 - June 24<sup>th</sup>



We had no schools booked in on Monday, but it meant the Friends

could prepare themselves for August by getting into a hole! A very humid day, but things were on their way.



### Day 2 - June 25<sup>th</sup>

We had a great day with Aylsham High School pupils and staff. The day started wet, but ended in sunshine. Our marquees over the areas meant we could carry on without any problem. In the afternoon dragon flies came out to see us when we walked down to the lake. Everyone got involved in digging and sieving.



*"Thank you for such a wonderful opportunity, both staff and students enjoyed it."*

## Day 3 - June 26<sup>th</sup>

Two groups came today from Greshams, Prep Prep Year 2 and a group from the Senior School. The weather was overcast, but dry. All Year 2 were very excited about what they were involved with, finding, among other things a lovely piece of worked flint. The Seniors enjoyed an input from Martin about the use of geophysics to try and determine what is in the ground beneath us, to help with the decisions on where to dig. Sometimes there is nothing, other times there is a lot! The first few sections of our digging area this year held nothing, but as we worked south, more emerged.



*"They loved being involved and were buzzing about what they had found."*

## Day 4 - June 27<sup>th</sup>

What a busy day this was! We had 60 Year 5 and 6 children from Buxton Primary, half doing archaeology with us while the other half made use of Peter's fantastic land for an outdoor lesson. It was a breezy day on the field and both dig and sieve areas were full of children and volunteers.



*"It was such a fantastic day, thank you."*

## Day 5 - June 28<sup>th</sup>

Our last day, where had it gone? Beeston Hall and Year 3 were our last visitors and brought Otter the dog with them, she was an instant favourite! Very excited children searching in the spoil heaps and the test pits were not disappointed.



*"We had the best morning, thank you so much."*

We have once again welcomed young people to dig up our past - did they find anything significant? Read on.....



We started off with a surface cleared of the topsoil and one metre squares marked out, ready for excavation. We ended up with a chequered board of excavated holes. The far sections revealed very little, but as we moved south, we were rewarded. Crossing



from right to left we found a Roman ditch and other associated features. Some of the sections were quite deep before natural soil was found. We carried on for the next couple of days, working on the sections in between and revealed more of the ditch. This may now get extended during our dig in August.



We found further pieces of our own Woodgate Ware, most of which is grey and distinctive from other types of pottery found. We found



one very thick piece, probably part of a large storage jar, that looked as if it had been in the kiln on quite a few occasions. Further bits of kiln fabric were also found, all probably from our own two kilns and spread across the land.

One or two other bits of pot were uncovered, a piece of Nene Valley ware, Romano-British, and a piece of Grimston ware from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Further pieces look like Iron Age pieces and await expert opinion.



We were lucky to find some worked flint and these blades, tiny, that fit in the palm of your hand. Other finds



included a piece of slag, which is metal working waste, clay pipe, burnt flint and nails. Some really interesting pieces to add to our list of finds.

*Thank you to you all for visiting and adding to our growing knowledge and understanding of what lies buried beneath our feet.*

*A huge thank you to all ARP Friends for volunteering through the week.*

*A massive thank you to Peter for once again allowing us to dig up and explore his land.*



**ARP....Getting the community into holes**



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