

The ARP ACTA



Aylsham Roman Project Newsletter



Vol 3 Issue 8 June 2019

Welcome to the last newsletter before our August dig. We start with the very sad news that William Vaughan-Lewis has died.

Here are some thoughts from Peter.

William and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis have been very much a part of ARP from the start, when I first thought about a community archaeological dig here at Woodgate. I had spoken to Dr John Davies from the Castle museum and to Kirstin Hughes from Broadland to see what would be involved and if it was really a possibility. Once the decision was made to give it a go, the first hurdle was how to finance the project.

William and Maggie had been working at Woodgate House for several months, sifting through the family archive and recording everything (a monumental task for which I am so grateful), and sending everything to the Norwich Record Office for safe-keeping and of course to make it available to all. They both had shown a great interest in the idea of an archaeological excavation, as they are very knowledgeable local historians, who have written many books on local history.



As I was mulling over the question of funding ARP and wondering if it would ever get off the ground, dear Maggie and William gave me a cheque for several thousand pounds, and handed it over to me with smiling faces saying,

'Would this help?' So very kind of them, and so we started the ARP with a wonderful donation from two very generous people. Each year since then, they have continued to help fund the project with large donations.

I am totally indebted to William and Maggie for their help and support, and for the close friendship which has grown over the years. William had been ill for some time, and was so strong to keep going and indeed writing more books, with Maggie's help and love of course. Sadly the day arrived when William had had enough and he died in his sleep on 19th June 2019. I will miss him so much, as he was my mentor, historical adviser, had a wonderful dry sense of humour and had become a close friend to me and my family. I hope you all will join me in sending our love and thoughts to Maggie and our heartfelt thanks to William for all he has done for ARP. Thank you William.

Schools' Archaeology Week

We have just finished our second successful year, with 100 children visiting us. Thank you to all schools who came and all the Friends who supported the week. A separate report about the week will follow.

August Dig Year 4

If you have yet to complete the online form, please do it now! We will have equipment for sale this year - trowels £3, kneelers £2 and shovels £5, on sale at our Open Air talk and during the dig while stocks last. Buy it, mark it and bring it with you each day.

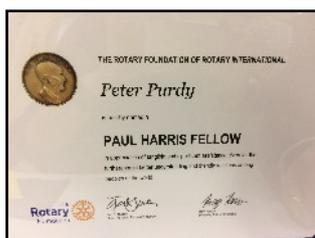
A trial trench dug in the corner of the Kiln Field during the Schools' Week, revealed very little and Martin is rethinking the position of the digging area in this field, probably to the north.

Award

We are delighted to report that Peter has



been awarded not just the Family and Community Service Award from the Rotary



Club but has also been made a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest award they can give. Congratulations from us all.

Woodgate Garden Show

What a mix of weather! Rain and very gusty wind on Saturday, hot sunshine on Sunday.



Despite this we had a bumper couple of days, and with donations at



the gate, £3000 has gone into the bank account, which is fantastic. Thank you to all who came and helped make this another successful year for us at the show.

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

Open Air talk

Don't forget, Wednesday 31st July on the Kiln Field, Friends £5, Non-Friends £7, bring a picnic. Gates 1800, Talk 1900, pay at the gate. Find out exactly what we will be doing this year.

Days to the August dig - 36

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

Romans thought owls were omens of impending doom. Thank goodness our thoughts are in line with the Greeks who saw them as symbols of good fortune.

Joke time...Joke time...Joke time...Joke time

Why did the archaeologist go bankrupt?
Because his career was in ruins.

*Mmm...definitely time for a break.
Back in November.....*

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

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