

# The ARP ACTA



## Aylsham Roman Project



**Special Edition - Aylsham Roman Experience August 2022**

Vol 6 Issue 5 March 2022

### Welcome to this special edition of the newsletter

The excitement is growing. After two years we are aiming to run a full three week **Aylsham Roman Experience 2022**. Thank you for your continued support: those who became Friends and all who have supported us in any way at any events we have managed to run during these past two years.

***Please note that filming and photography will be taking place throughout the three weeks across all areas of the site, to post on our website, Facebook and Twitter page, include in videos we sell and upload to YouTube and during our talks and presentations.***

We need to maintain this income and so we are asking if you would kindly continue to support us.

### Become a Friend

We would like you all to become a **Friend of ARP** by committing to an annual subscription of **£10 per adult**. This will ensure you continue to receive our emails, newsletters and any news before it appears on the website, Facebook or Twitter. You will also get reductions on any events that we run.

*If you are already a Friend, we'd love you to renew! Please do so as detailed below.* There are three different ways you can do this.

#### 1. By Standing order/Bank Transfer

Account	<b>Aylsham Roman Project</b>
Bank and Sort Code	<b>Santander 09-01-29</b>
Account number	<b>00907699</b>

**If you set up a standing order last year, thank you, you need do nothing.**

Once it appears in our account you will receive a confirmation email. If you are not on our mailing list, please email us at [aylshamromanproject@gmail.com](mailto:aylshamromanproject@gmail.com) and let us know to expect it. It can take a few days to appear.

#### 2. By post to

FAO Aylsham Roman Project,  
Woodgate House,  
Aylsham, Norwich,  
NR11 6UP

Please place cash or cheque - **made payable to Aylsham Roman Project** - in an envelope, **with your name/s**, and the words **Friends of ARP**. If you are not yet on our mailing list, please also add your **email address**.

**3. In person at Woodgate Nursery shop.**

Please place cash or cheque - **made payable to Aylsham Roman Project** - **with your name/s**, in an envelope addressed as **Friends of ARP**. If you are not yet on our mailing list, please also add your **email address**.

You will receive an email confirmation and a card with your name on will be created. This card will enable you to participate in the **Aylsham Roman Experience 2022**, for which there will be a charge, at a reduced cost. Your card can be collected at any of our events or during the August dig itself.

Some of you may not wish to dig, sieve, wash etc, but simply be a part of ARP. You may just want to come along and have a look at what's been found in the finds marquee, walk around the site, sit, have a drink, have a chat and watch it all happening in front of you. You will also be able to buy our promotional items from the Welcome Area.

**We want you all to feel part of this project**

**Participate in the Aylsham Roman Experience August 2022**

Those of you who become **Friends of ARP** will be able to participate in the three weeks for **£40 per adult** and **£10 per child under 16**. Should you wish to give more, this would be gratefully accepted.

*Please note, all children must be accompanied at all times.*

Preparation from 25<sup>th</sup> July , Dig weeks - W/B 8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

There are different activities to become involved in.

- **Digging, sieving, washing** - digging areas are yet to be confirmed, but we hope to uncover and excavate more features. Finds may not be in abundance as when we discovered the kilns, but all contribute to our understanding of the history of Woodgate. Sieving is very important, not just from soil removed during the dig itself, but the topsoil removed during the preparation week holds many interesting and important items. We have large, stand-up sieving areas as well as small individual sieves. Washing and cleaning takes place in the large marquee. Friends will help with the process and it's a great area to take a breather, have a chat and marvel at what has been found.
- **Drawing and recording** - Friends have found this rewarding, seeing a whole process through. This comes with guidance from Britannia Archaeology, our professional partners.
- **Photography and video** - send us photos you take to add to our Facebook posts, use our video equipment to record short sequences.

- **Tour guide** - help to take people around and explain what is going on. We hope to have laminated notes of the site that you can take with them.
- **Welcome tent - meet and greet** - we will need people to sign in those who come each day, hand out the Friends of ARP cards, gather groups for tours etc
- **Welcome tent - shop** - we also need people to sell any merchandise and collect donations. There are always at least two people so you are not on your own, and if it becomes very busy, further help will be available.

Payment for this year can be made in the following ways:

1. **Bank transfer** using the account details given on the first page.

2. **By post to**

FAO Aylsham Roman Project,  
Woodgate House,  
Aylsham, Norwich,  
NR11 6UP

Please place cash or cheque - **made payable to Aylsham Roman Project** - in the envelope, **with your name/s** and the words **August Dig**.

3. **In person** at Woodgate Nursery shop.

Please place cash or cheque - **made payable to Aylsham Roman Project** - **with your name/s** in an envelope addressed as **August Dig**.

If you pay by **cash/cheque**, want to become a Friend AND take part in the August Dig, please place the **total** payment in an envelope, **with your name/s** and the words **Friend and August Dig combined**.

*For those who do **not** become Friends of the ARP, but wish to come for a day, the charge will be **£10 for adults and £5 for child under 16**.*

*Family rate - **two adults and two children under 16 - £25***

*Not sure if it is for you? Visit free on*

***Try-us-out-Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August.***

*If you like us, sign up for the rest of the dig.*

*For those who wish to just come and visit, everyone is more than welcome, but we would appreciate a donation, thank you.*

## **Online Aylsham Roman Experience August 2022 Form**

Once your payment has been received, we will send you a link to an online form asking you to say which days you are available and what you would like to be involved with.

**Please fill in a separate form for each person.** You will be asked what mornings and afternoons during the three weeks you hope to come. A further section will ask

you what activities you would like to be involved with, select as many or as few as you wish to be involved in. This gives us an idea of how many we might expect on any one day and a timetable is created for digging to try and ensure everyone gets an opportunity to dig. Spaces are also available for day visitors. A further timetable is created for the Welcome Area.

*We appreciate that some of you may have difficulty completing the form until much nearer the time. The deadline for completion, though, is **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**, wherever possible and reminders will be sent. Please email if you have any problems.*

If you have not visited us before, we are on Cawston Road, Aylsham, NR11 6UH, turn into the Woodgate Nursery entrance and left into the field. Please keep left and follow the track to turn right and park in the **East Field**. Walk back round to enter via the **Welcome Tent** to sign in etc.

The actual digging areas, including an area for children, are yet to be finalised, but are likely to involve walking across uneven, possibly muddy ground. There will be toilets available near each area. We hope to have hot and cold drinks available and the opportunity to order filled rolls. More on this nearer the time as we are in the process of sorting out catering arrangements.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does a typical day look like?

0830 - volunteers arrive to prepare the site for the day, ready to receive everyone.

0915-0945 - arrival time. This gives time to sign in, read any safety documents, order lunch etc.

0945-1200 - groups for digging/ sieving/washing etc are detailed.

1200-1245 - lunch, if you finish eating and want to sieve, please do so!

1245-1500 - again groups organised and all activities continue

1500-1515 - sites tidied, finds labelled and gathered in, everyone returns for an end of day talk. Depending on what is found and the weather, this may take place at any of the dig areas. An announcement will be made at the beginning of the afternoon.

1530 - departure time. This may be a bit later depending on what exciting discoveries have been made during the day. Volunteers remain to complete the site tidy, secure finds, clean toilets etc. During the evening of every day a report and photos are posted onto our Facebook page and copied onto the website, keeping everyone informed of our progress.

**What happens if it rains?** We keep going as much as we can, but dig areas etc may not

becomes a coffee and chat/washing area. Fun can still be had even in the wet and there is always something to do!

**Will digging take place every day?** We dig as much as we can, but there are times, apart from when it rains, when it might not be possible. These will be dictated by Britannia Archaeology and a site may be closed for recording to take place. There will, though, always be plenty of sieving to do and many happy hours can be spent at this activity. With finds coming in during the week, cleaning and washing is also very rewarding - a muddy piece of tile can reveal an interesting pattern or foot prints. Sites open will be displayed on a board in front of the Welcome Tent.

**What do I need to bring?** You could bring just yourself, but try and bring some of the following with you *eg trowel, bucket, kneeler, sieve, small shovel, gloves*. We hope to have some items for you to purchase on site, such as trowels, kneelers, buckets, sieves and hand shovels. Please bring your own gloves, especially for little hands, or purchase from the Nursery. *Please label all you bring!!* We also have some that can be borrowed for those visiting us just for a day, sorry no gloves.

**Is there anywhere to buy a drink?** As mentioned previously, we hope to offer hot and cold drinks and filled rolls for lunch, orders taken as you arrive. If you think you may be able to help out in the area, please email and let us know. If so, and you have not yet let us know, *eg happy to serve drinks, take money, make rolls etc*. There will also be a seating area. This will be open from around 0900 and, we hope, not close until the afternoon session is finishing.

**Can children come?** We welcome all ages, all abilities. There will be a dedicated children's area on the Kiln Field and it is lovely seeing the young ones taking an interest. **They must be supervised at all times.**

**What is Specialist Wednesday?** If you have any questions about archaeology, finds etc, then visit us during the second week, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, when our experts will be on site ready to help. Our archaeologists from **Britannia Archaeology** are always ready to answer questions, so if you have dug up some bits of pot in your garden, bring them along.

We will also have **John Lord**, a professional flintnapper with us once again. He is fantastic to watch as he turns a lump of flint into a tool. He is also happy to look at any flint finds you may have.

**Julie Curl**, Sylvanus - Archaeological, Natural History and Illustration Services, is an ARP Friend and helps with our bone specimens and tile prints. She will be in the large finds tent ready to talk about what she has found here and show you some of the things she has found over the years.

**John Davies**, retired senior curator at Norwich Castle, who said to give a community dig a go, will be with us too. He has great knowledge about the periods

of history we are uncovering here.

If you've visited Woodgate Nursery, you must have seen **Tel Turnbull** in his gallery or creating pots. He will be with us on the field, with his replica Roman pottery wheel, making Roman-style pots and telling stories.

**Beryl Hines** is a professional potter and has appeared in editions of Time Team. She has helped us with experimental archaeology in re-creating and firing a Roman pottery kiln, with great success. She too has plenty of stories. Find her somewhere near our kiln. Look out for the covered area on the Kiln Field, the site of our kiln.

**Any other queries?** Please email [aylshamromanproject@gmail.com](mailto:aylshamromanproject@gmail.com)

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

**Easter Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> and Easter Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>** Come and see us at Woodgate Nursery! Renew your Friend card, pay to participate, bring your clothing order or pick up a form, buy our promotional items, help raise funds so we can keep digging! (*Please note Woodgate Nursery is closed, as always, on Easter Sunday*). Further dates to come and see will be in next month's newsletter.

**Woodgate Garden Show Saturday and Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** A great day out for everyone and we will be there with bric-a-brac, secondhand books, all our promotional stuff and a tombola. If you can donate a prize, please bring it along on a Tuesday morning to the Kiln Field, 1000-1200 or over the Easter weekend to Woodgate Nursery.

**Aylsham Open Gardens Saturday and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 1030 - 1600** ARP Friends Carole and Neville will be opening their garden on Hungate Street and raising money for the Project. They wonder if any other Friends would be able to help with making and serving refreshments or donate some cakes. ***If you think you can help at any time during these two days, please email and we'll send you their email address. We'll be there with our goodies!***

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Let's hope we can re-create a photo like this taken on the last day in August 2019



\*\*\*\*\****Don't forget! Last few days for Tesco blue tokens, ends March 31<sup>st</sup> - keeeeeep shopping!!!\*\*\*\*\****

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

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) links plus our [website](#)

<https://aylshamromanproject.com/>

Email us at [aylshamromanproject@gmail.com](mailto:aylshamromanproject@gmail.com)

Look at our 360 world <http://virtronix360.world/arp>