



## **VOLUNTEERS' UPDATE    ISSUE No.11    April 2010**

### **Our volunteers**

There are currently 170 volunteers registered.

### **The field walking program – where are we?**

The very long Christmas break came to an end during the last week of February when field conditions finally improved and walking resumed. Groups have been going out regularly since then, but as most land has now been drilled and crops are germinating the season is almost at an end.

### **The field walking groups**

If anyone's circumstances have changed since they registered with the project and they wish to either switch to another group or are regularly available to join in walks organised for groups other than their own please contact Hazel Leese (details at the end of this update).

### **Finds processing**

With the walking season about to close, next on the agenda will be pot washing sessions. Requests for help will be made by Group Leaders 'as and when' by email and phone.

### **2009 excavation news**

To give volunteers who were not able to participate or visit the site during the dig an idea of what we got up to, it was decided to produce a series of photographs in the Photo Gallery. Updates No.8 and 9 covered the main stages of the excavation preparations, set-up and trench views throughout the dig. Finds and recording were covered in No.10 and site breakdown, media and miscellaneous will feature below.

The dig blog can still be accessed by Googling 'Caistor Dig', a must for all.

University of Nottingham You Tube links - check out the following for more about the dig:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DP\\_WjswBWw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DP_WjswBWw)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NueHYTZqMYc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NueHYTZqMYc)

### **2010 excavation news**

Preparations for this year's dig are proceeding, although final permission to dig is still awaited from English Heritage. All volunteers who submitted their forms before the closing date should have received their confirmation letters and forms that arrived late will be processed as soon as possible. Unfortunately this year, digging places were over subscribed and those volunteers who could not be accommodated have been placed on a reserve list.

There has also been a lot of interest in the non-digging activities, but if anyone who has not yet completed a form wishes to join in please would they contact Hazel Leese (details at the end of this update) as soon as possible.

### **What else is going on?**

**£200 donation** - was received recently from Norfolk Yoga following a charity event. Wendy Shanks, one of the Project's volunteers who is on the group's committee, suggested that the Project would make good use of a donation. Many thanks go to Wendy and Norfolk Yoga.

**History Fair - Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010** - the Project will be taking part in the History Fair this year for the first time. A stall will be set up to promote the Project and the Roman town at Caistor. The site will be open to stall holders from 8am and the event closes at 5pm. Anyone wishing to help man the stall should contact Hazel Leese (details at the end of this update).

**Media news** - during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> April, which was the second week with the UEA students (see below), the Project had visits from Look East and Radio Norfolk who wanted to highlight the field walking programme. Airtime was also given by local station Future Radio.

**UEA Students** - following last year's success two groups of archaeology (arts/history) students from the UEA joined the Project's field walking programme recently. The aim was to provide them with valuable field experience and they participated in two weeks of walking and the processing of finds. Many thanks go to the Group Leaders and all the other volunteers who came along to help.

**Conducted tours of the Roman Town at Caistor St Edmund** - Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society is again giving free conducted tours of the Roman Town at Caistor. All tours start at 11.00 am from the car park and last about an hour. It is recommended to wear stout footwear and be prepared for muddy conditions. The dates are:

Sundays: May 9th June 13th July 18th July 25th Aug 8th Sept 12th  
Wednesdays: July 21st July 28th

The July dates are to tie in with the Festival of British Archaeology.

**The Staffordshire Hoard** – Sutton Hoo Society members will be able to hear Dr Kevin Leahy talk about his involvement in the finding and recording of the Staffordshire Hoard.

This should be a fascinating insight into this fantastic and eye-opening discovery.

It will be on Saturday 29th May 2010 at 11 am at The Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge.

Tickets are priced at £6.50 for members and £7.50 for non-members. Contact [suttonhoo@ntlworld.com](mailto:suttonhoo@ntlworld.com) for booking details.

<http://www.staffordshirehoard.org.uk/>

Thanks go to Charlie for sending these details.

**T-Shirt competition** - only one entry in the travelled or not so travelled t-shirt competition for this issue. Closing date is July 2010, many awards available but no prizes!



Mike with Richie Richardson (former West Indies Cricket Captain) in Antigua.

**Photo Gallery** - here are some more of the splendid photos taken at September's dig featuring site breakdown, media and miscellaneous.



*The final day of the dig was 19<sup>th</sup> September. Fortunately the following day was dry and sunny and the marquee came down with no problems*



*The wind did make certain jobs difficult*



*Equipment was cleaned ready for return to May Gurney and A Plant*



*Media coverage during the dig*



*We didn't find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!*



*A short conversation was held with the occupants of the Virgin balloon*



*The elusive slow worm*



*Cake was a big feature of the dig but this one made by Sue Harman should have taken first prize*



*The good weather allowed breaks to be taken behind the marquee*



*James seen here with Hazel was a regular visitor and a favourite with the marquee staff*



*Meeting and greeting in the marquee*



*Finds processing*



*Merchandising*

Thanks go to everyone who supplied copies of their photographs.

### **Next update**

Your comments about this issue and requests/ideas for items for future issues would be welcomed.

Please send your comments to Dave & Hazel Leese at: [solutions\\_leese@hotmail.com](mailto:solutions_leese@hotmail.com) or telephone them on 01493 781781.