



## VOLUNTEERS' UPDATE    ISSUE No.17    June 2011

### **Our volunteers**

There are currently 242 volunteers registered.

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

The season officially ended on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. However, due to a surprise late appearance of a suitable field, Tony's group managed to get in a walk on 21<sup>st</sup> May. This walk and its finds will be included in 2011/12 data primarily because it missed the final pot washing session. There were 83 volunteers involved, who between them carried out 24 walks in just under 1000 hours.

### **Finds processing**

All the finds from field walking have been washed and processed and have been delivered to Gressenhall for identification and recording.

Feedback from walkers of 'we found nothing' seems to have been unfounded, as in total there were 1798 bags of processed finds weighing nearly 147 kilograms! Admittedly there were 118 kilograms of ceramic building material (brick and tile) but that still leaves 29 kilograms of pot, shell, flint etc.. Included (subject to official identification) were some nice worked flints and Romano British pot sherds, which were found in 9 different locations.

### **2011 excavation news**

Planning for this year's excavation is going well and final permissions have been received.

The dig will be open to the public between Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Site preparation begins on the 8<sup>th</sup> August and the clear up on the 4<sup>th</sup> September for probably 4 days.

All allocations have now been confirmed. Both digging and non-digging places were oversubscribed and it was not possible to give everyone everything they wanted. However, all active volunteers have a placement although not necessarily for the number of weeks or days requested. All volunteers whose requests have not been fully met have been placed on the relevant reserve lists along with several inactive volunteers who were keen to join in.

The Project has signed up to participate in the BBC's Hands on History - Dig project, which aims to inspire local communities to get hands on with history. The Project will run activities on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August, aimed at children they will follow roughly the same programme as offered to the school parties last year.

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

**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:

Saturdays:     August 20th    September 3rd  
Sundays:        July 17th    July 24th    August 14th    August 21st    August 28th    Sept 18th  
Wednesdays:    July 20th    July 27th

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

**Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project** - SHARP's Prospectus for 2011 is as follows:

#### **One-week courses    £180 (off site)    £260 (on site)**

*Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques*    3rd - 8th July, 10th - 15th July, 17th - 22nd July, 24th - 29th July, 31st July - 5th August

*Human Remains 1: Introductory*    17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July

*Modern Conflict Archaeology - Zeppelins, Fighters and Ack-Ack*    17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Studying Bones - An Introduction to Osteoarchaeology 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July  
 Landscape Archaeology 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July  
 An Introduction to the Archaeology of Standing Buildings 24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July

**Day Courses £25**

Animal Bones in Archaeology  
 Anglo-Saxon Cooking  
 Archaeological Illustration

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
 Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

More details about the 2011 Season on the website [www.sharp.org.uk](http://www.sharp.org.uk)  
 Email enquiries [bookings@sharp.org](mailto:bookings@sharp.org) or telephone Bren Stibbons 01263 510969 07786644980

**Time Team** - the much awaited Time Team Special, which for our new volunteers was filmed during last years excavation, finally hit the screen on May 4th.

Feedback received has been mixed but mainly focuses on the lost opportunity to promote the Project, its volunteers and the beautiful county of Norfolk. Let's remember it was always debatable how much would be left on the cutting room floor, as the trenches didn't turn up what was expected by the script.

Our leader Will Bowden says, "It would have been good to see some more of the excavation footage, but that which was used made the excavation look clean, organised and professional (which it is). We also got some nice reconstructions, although the interpretation of the site lacked a certain amount of nuance (!). With TV you enter into a pact with the forces of darkness, but it was an interesting experience nonetheless!"

**Photo Gallery** - in this issue's photo gallery we can see some more ceramic finds from the 2010 excavation. Most of the photographs care of Dave Leese.



CRT10/4003/SF4649 Ceramic stamp.

This ceramic stamp appeared in the last update. Will Bowden did some research and found that it is a known lamp stamp from northern Italy (Modena) a bit like the ones in the picture on the right.



SF2564



SF6223



SF4322



SF3506



SF3509



SF3514



SF3519



SF3696



SF6197



SF4125



SF4650



SF4655

All these ceramic pieces have been worked from broken sherds of pot. The first three have been fashioned into spindle whorls and the rest were probably used as pot lids, or in the case of the smaller ones, counters.



SF 3404  
A fragment of a crucible



SF3405  
A fragment of a mould



SF3520



SF3521



SF3522



SF6017

All these pieces have been adapted for some purpose with the addition of a drilled hole. The two on the left may have been repaired with lead strips attached by rivets.

### 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: [caistor.leese@gmail.com](mailto:caistor.leese@gmail.com) or telephone them on 01493 781781.

[www.caistorromanproject.com](http://www.caistorromanproject.com)

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