



The Study Group for Roman Pottery

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

S.G.R.P. Website - www.romanpotterystudy.org.

Remember to use our website for information and queries. If you would like to add an item, or suggest how the website may be developed, please contact

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News from the Committee



✓ Welcome back to the 'series'

Welcome to the Study Group for Roman Pottery Spring 2017 newsletter; in which we are excited to announce details of the annual conference in Carlisle, and delighted to see the resurrection and development of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection on an online platform. Both of these achievements were only attainable by the hard work of those dedicated to Roman pottery, and if anybody would like to further contribute to the aims of the SGRP, there are vacancies arising on the committee for which we welcome applications (see below).

The SGRP is delighted to pass on the following message from Roberta Tomber:

"It is a great pleasure to announce that the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook is now live on the SGRP website www.romanpotterystudy.org/. As you know, it has been a lengthy process, but hopefully it will be a valuable resource for a wide range of users. The website is essentially the published handbook, with Andy Chopping's original fresh-break photos immeasurably enhanced as digital images, and a photomicrograph added for each fabric. Numerous organisations and individuals were instrumental in finalising the resource and are thanked in the introduction to the site. Here I would like to mention the Roman Research Trust, who funded this resource, and Museum of London Archaeology, Historic England and the British Museum, all of whom have had a longstanding input into the NRRFC. Above all, I am grateful to Paul Tyers, whose tireless efforts are responsible for the completion of this project."



The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, both as a resource, and for the principles and systems that underlie it, had become one of the corner stones of contemporary pottery studies, therefore it was vitally important to see it re-established. The SGRP would like to offer their congratulations to Roberta for all her hard work in completing this challenging accomplishment, and hope we can honour that by ensuring it remains active and available by hosting it on our website.

Compiling this newsletter has its challenges, and sometimes this is eliciting contributions from our members, so please consider if you have anything of interest, large or small that you might like to offer forth for the Autumn newsletter. I am always delighted to hear from you.

Many thanks to all contributors

Andrew Peachey

✓ Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2017. Annual subscription £15 (overseas £20). Cheques should be made payable to the Study Group for Roman pottery. Payments by Standing Order would be preferred. Please contact Diana Briscoe (Hon Treasurer). Email: archive@asps.org.uk Address: 117 Cholmley Gardens, Fortune Green Road, London, NW6 1UP. Individuals who are not up to date will be removed from the circulation list. Please contact Diana if in doubt.

✓ The John Gillam Prize

We are constantly looking for nominations of articles or reports for the 2017 John Gillam prize. Please send your nominations to the Gillam Committee, consisting of the President and Publication Committee at youngokthorpe@btinternet.com. A wide range of work on pottery found in Roman Britain is eligible, so long as it was completed within the last two years. Nominations can include pottery reports (both published and grey literature), synthetic studies, websites, student dissertations, and theses etc. These contributions can range from day-to-day pottery or site reports to monographs and digital projects, as long as they highlight specific aspects of Roman pottery from a technological, regional or thematic perspective.

✓ The Committee and 2016 Elections

Following the 2016 AGM during the annual conference, the SGRP committee comprises the following members:

President:	Christopher Young
Treasurer:	Diana Briscoe
Secretary:	Jane Timby
JRPS Editor:	Steve Willis
Ordinary Member (Newsletter Editor):	Andrew Peachey
Ordinary Members:	Rachael Seager-Smith, Ed Biddulph, Stephen Wadeson, Jane Faiers & Roy Friendship-Taylor
Website:	Ed Biddulph

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

After a prolonged period of service Rachel Seager-Smith is stepping down as an **Ordinary Member**, while the formal 3 year tenure of the position of **Secretary** (Jane Timby) is also due to expire. If any body would be interested in filling one of these vacancies, nomination papers are included below, and if you would like to discuss what these roles entail then please feel free to contact the secretary or other committee members to discuss this, either by e-mail or in person at the forthcoming conference.

Secretary

The main role of the **Secretary** is to set the agendas and take the minutes at the Committee meetings (twice a year) and the AGM (once a year), to ensure various timetables are met and liaise with other members of the Committee when necessary, and to circulate information and enquiries to members. The secretary may assist in the organisation of conferences where required, and is fully supported wherever necessary by the President, Treasurer and other committee members.

NOMINATION FORMS

Secretary (Jane Timby- term expired)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

Ordinary Member (Rachel Seager-Smith- standing down)

Nomination.....

Proposed by

Seconded by

The next committee meeting will be on 28th October at Piddington Roman Villa Museum (N'hants), and if anyone would like an item added to the agenda, please contact the secretary.



SGRP 2017 conference



Study Group for Roman Pottery Conference

Friday July 14th – Sunday July 16th 2017

TULLIE HOUSE, CARLISLE

This year the SGRP conference will be held in the City of Carlisle, and will be a full weekend combining lectures, pottery handling, site tours and food. The SGRP last visited Carlisle in 1999, and in the intervening period a large number of excavations both in Carlisle and the surrounding landscape have taken place. Over the weekend the group will be addressing several themes including the Roman pottery of Carlisle, North West Britain and pottery from larger projects and international sites.

The conference will be located at Tullie House for all three days; On Friday evening there will be a wine reception at Tullie House with access to the Roman Frontier Gallery, while on Saturday afternoon site visits will include a guided tour at the Roman Fort of Vindolanda by Andrew Birley. The visit will also include a firing of a replica Roman Pottery Kiln by Graham Taylor. On our return, we will stop for the Conference dinner at the Shepherds Inn.

FRIDAY 14th JULY		
Time	Activity	People
12.30-1.45 pm	REGISTRATION	
1.45- 3.00pm	Session 1:	
1.45 – 1.50 pm	Welcome	Christopher Young (President SGRP)
1.50 – 2.20 pm	<i>Carlisle: archaeological background (provisional title)</i>	Rachael Newman (OA North)
2.25 – 2.55 pm	<i>People, pots and the pyre. Roman mortuary rites in Carlisle.</i>	Megan Stoakley (Wardell-Armstrong)
3.00 – 3.25 pm	TEA BREAK	
3.25 –4 .25pm	Session 2:	
3.25 - 3.55 pm	<i>The construction and firing of a replica Roman Pottery Kiln at Vindolanda.</i>	Graham Taylor (Potted History)
4.00- 4.10 pm	<i>Recent developments at Corbridge Museum</i>	David Hanks (EH)
4.15 – 4.25 pm	<i>Roman fabric series: update on Stage 2 of Worcester and National Roman fabric series</i>	Derek Hurst/ Jane Evans (Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service)
4.25 – 5.20 pm	AGM (non-members can look around the Roman Frontier Gallery) Main museum shuts at 5.00.	
5.30 – 7.00 pm	Wine reception and buffet in Function Room (adjacent to lecture room)	

SATURDAY 15th JULY		
Time	Activity	People
9.15am - 1.00pm	Session 3	
9.15 - 9.25 am	<i>All's well that ends well: third century well groups from Moorgate</i>	Charlotte Burn (MOLA)
9.25 –9.45 am	<i>Lyon ware revisited: new information about colour-coated and glazed-ware production in Gaul and beyond</i>	Kevin Greene (Newcastle University)
9.50-10.15 am	<i>The third century in the north west: evidence from Maryport and Brougham vicus</i>	Ruth Leary/Gwladys Monteil
10.20-10.40 am	<i>Iron Age and Roman pottery from Bedale, North Yorks</i>	James Gerrard (Newcastle Univ.)
10.45-11.15 am	<i>The pottery from recent excavations at Barlby, North Yorkshire</i>	Phil Mills/ Gwladys Monteil
11.15 – 11.40 am	TEA BREAK	
11.45 - 12.05 pm	<i>Recent work at Scotch Corner by Northern Archaeological Associates</i>	David Griffiths (NAA)
12.10-12.30 pm	<i>Later Iron Age and Roman pottery from investigations in north eastern Lincolnshire</i>	Ian Rowlandson
12.35-12.55 pm	<i>Vindolanda – aspects of pottery supply to Hadrian's Wall in the mid-later Roman period</i>	Jerry Evans (Freelance)
1.00-c 9.00 pm	Trip to Vindolanda followed by conference dinner	
SUNDAY 16th JULY		
Time	Activity	People
9.15am – 12.30pm	Session 4	
9.15 – 9.35 am	<i>Recent excavations of a 4th -century kiln to the west of Scotch Corner</i>	David Griffiths (NAA)
9.40 – 10.00 am	<i>Mid-Roman Campanian amphorae in the northern military zone; the significance of their distribution</i>	Paul Bidwell
10.05-10.25 am	<i>Amphorae at Centurion House</i>	Fiona Seeley (MOLA)
10.30 – 10.50 am	<i>'I saw the sign: Chi-Rho graffiti from Brandon House, Southwark'</i>	Eniko Hudak (PCA)
10.50 – 11.10 am	TEA BREAK	
11.10 – 11.30 am	<i>'The pottery from the 5th c. hall at Batten Hanger, Elsted, West Sussex'.</i>	Malcolm Lyne (Freelance)
11.35 – 11.55 pm	<i>Neronian pottery, including a discarded samian stock group, from 167 Barnwood Road, Gloucester</i>	Ed McSloy (Cotswold Archaeology)
12.00 – 12.20 pm	<i>Roman pottery, medieval context. Imports to Britain and the wider Atlantic Seaboard from the 4th-7th century</i>	Maria Duggan (Newcastle Univ.)
12.25 – 12.30 pm	Conference Close	Christopher Young

Registration Form

General conference registration will close on June 16th, however, for those also requiring University of Cumbria accommodation the deadline for booking is June 10th.

Conference	Member	Student	Non-Member *
Friday 14th, afternoon conference at Tullie House with evening wine buffet	£45	£30	£50
Saturday 15th, morning conference at Tullie House with an afternoon tour of the Roman Fort of Vindolanda	£45	£30	£50
Conference Dinner	£20	£20	£20
Sunday 16th, morning conference at Tullie House	£25	£20	£30
All weekend ticket (incl. conference dinner)	£125	£100	£135

*It costs £15 (UK members)/£20 (non-UK) to join the SGRP for reduced conference rates and free bi-annual monograph publication. Joining fees can be submitted with conference registration, but please make it clear if you are including a membership subscription as well.

Accommodation - Book through SGRP (include with conference fee payment)

Accommodation is NOT included in the standard fee, however, a limited number of B&B rooms are available at **University of Cumbria, Fusehill Street Campus**. The Campus has 85 single ensuite rooms (two of which can be twinned, if not required by wheelchair users) arranged in 13 flats of between five and nine bedrooms per flat. (Each flat has a fully equipped kitchen should you want to self-cater, with seating area). A small number of rooms are available for Thursday 13th July however these are limited and subject to availability at the time of booking.

A virtual tour of the rooms by visiting the link below:

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/StudentLife/VirtualTours/Accommodation1.aspx>
<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/AboutUs/Conference/Accommodation.aspx>

Date	Single Room		Twin room	
Friday 14th	£30.00 (Not incl. Breakfast)		£48.00 (Not incl. Breakfast)	
Saturday 15th	£30.00 (Not incl. Breakfast)		£48.00 (Not incl. Breakfast)	
Total	£60.00		£96.00	

Breakfast is not included in the prices above; (in order to provide catering outside of normal hours (over the weekend), a minimum number of 25 delegates are required) a full English breakfast is currently charged at £8.00 per person/per serving.

There is a regular bus service between the campus and city centre from which it is only a short ten-minute walk to Tullie House. Alternatively, the Fusehill Street Campus is a 25-minute walk, or a short taxi ride from Tullie House. Guests who wish to leave their car over the weekend, can do so at no additional cost.

For those who wish to drive to Tullie House, all car parks require a one off payment for all day parking. The cost of all day parking near to Tullie House as varies however the two closest to Tullie House are: The Town Dyke Orchard Car Park at £10 all day and the Devonshire Walk car park, located across the road and next to the Castle where all day parking costs are just £2.50. The following link takes you to the Council website which goes into more detail. <http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Residents/Car-Parkingnew/Car-Parks>

Accommodation: Self booking

If people would prefer to stay in the centre of Carlisle or else where there is various different type of accommodation available with a booking service provided through the tourist information centre:

<http://www.visitcumbria.com/north-cumbria-holiday-accommodation/>

For those who wish to stay in the centre of Carlisle, the closest hotel to Tullie House is the Crown & Mitre Hotel, just a minutes' walk away.

<http://www.peelhotels.co.uk/hotels/crown-and-mitrehotel-carlisle-cumbria-england/>

Coach Trip

Our excursion will first entail a guided tour of ***Vindolanda Roman Fort* led by *Andrew Birley*. The visit will also include a firing of a replica Roman Pottery Kiln by *Graham Taylor* who will be presenting a paper on Friday afternoon at Tullie House. There will be an opportunity to handle some of the Vindolanda pottery which will include some interesting 'wildcards' from the collection to tax your brains as well as time to look round the Vindolanda museum (not to mention the tearoom and shop). Time allowing, the trip will finish off with a walk from either Poltross Burn or the Gilsland Primary School along the wall Birdoswald Roman Fort, where we will meet the coach. On our return journey we will stop for the conference dinner at the Shepherds Inn, Carlisle.

***Entry to the site is free for Friends of Vindolanda members,*
<http://www.vindolanda.com/trust/become-a-friend>

Booking Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ Email: _____

Conference Fees (please tick appropriate box)

Tullie House, Carlisle	Member		Student		Non-Member	
Daily Rate for Friday 14th, (incl. evening wine buffet)	£45		£30		£50	
Daily Rate for Saturday 15th, (incl. coach trip)	£45		£30		£50	
Daily rate Sunday 16th	£25		£20		£30	
Conference Dinner	£20		£20		£20	
All weekend ticket (incl. conference dinner)	£125		£100		£135	
Total Payment	£		£		£	

Accommodation Fees (please tick appropriate box)

University of Cumbria, Fusehill Street Campus	Single Room		Twin Room	
Friday 14th, (Not incl. Breakfast)	£30		£48	
Saturday 15th, (incl. Breakfast)	£38		£56	
Total Payment	£		£	

Total Payment (Please ask for a receipt if one is required)

Conference Fees	£
Accommodation Fees	£
Grand Total	£

Dietary requirements: Vegetarian/Vegan/Other: _____

Please advise if you have any special access requirements: _____

I require parking at the University of Cumbria, Fusehill Street (Registration No.) _____



details):

*I would like to become a member of the SGRP: -

☐ (Please provide

**Friends of Vindolanda Member (free entry to site): -

☐ (Please provide

Please make cheques payable to: SGRP. Payment can also be made by bank transfer or in cash especially for delegates based abroad, please contact Diana for details.

Post to: Diana C. Briscoe, Dr. 117 Cholmley Gardens,
Fortune Green Road, London, NW6 1UP

If you require additional information please email Stephen Wadeson at:

stephen.wadeson@oxfordarch.co.uk

Bursary

Graham Webster was instrumental in establishing the Study Group for Roman Pottery in the early 1970s and in honour of his contributions to the field of pottery studies, two bursaries have been named in his memory. The grants are designed to allow those with limited means (students, part-time researchers or those between posts, or those who have retired) to attend SGRP conferences where costs may otherwise prove prohibitive, and we invite applications to cover 50% of the conference fee and 50% of return travel to the conference up to a maximum of £100 each. Applications may be submitted by members and non-members of the Group. Preference may be given to applicants wishing to attend most or all of the conference. A subcommittee of the Group will consider the applications with discretion. Applications should be made via a brief statement verifying the limited means of the applicant and their wish to attend the conference.

Applications for a grant should be submitted by email or letter to the hon. secretary of the Group (Diana Briscoe), who will pass the applications on to the subcommittee of the Group for consideration. The closing date for receipt of applications is **9th June**. Applicants will be informed of the decision of the sub-committee within a week of that date.

Please apply to Diana C. Briscoe, Dr. (SGRP Treasurer/Membership Sec.) - archive@asps.org.uk

Name:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Conference fee:	
Accommodation:	
Membership subscription (new member)	
Total Payment:	
Special requirements: (diet/access)	
Receipt required:	



✓ A Day on the Desk of....Jason Monaghan, and more Amphorae from Guernsey

(jason.monaghan@gov.gg)

Editor's Note!

Just as the SGRP likes to elicit more formal papers on pottery assemblages, items or themes for the Journal of Roman Pottery Studies, so we would also like to encourage smaller informal notes from all of you about what you are working on, or in short, what is crossing your desk at the moment, and to kick off this idea is this delightful contribution from Jason....

"At the Norwich SGRP conference I read a paper on what Roman pot finds from the Channel Islands could tell us about trade patterns. It has been asked where all Britain's Roman shipwrecks are, and my answer is "we've got them". The Romano-Celtic vessel dubbed 'Asterix' is the best known, sinking in the harbour c.AD 280. Some 200 metres further to sea is 'Site A'; a scattering of Spanish amphorae of type Beltran IIB/P&W Class 19 of the early first-mid 2nd century. Six have been reconstructed and are on show in Guernsey's museums. 'Site B' is in deeper water in the Little Russel Channel, revealed when amphora sherds are caught in trawl nets. I have been recently collating sherds which have been brought in by fishermen since the initial find in the late 70's. We now have 225 pieces from at least 15 separate



A Haltern 70 ampورا

Vessels (below), including 14 part or whole rims and 14 spikes. The form is principally Haltern 70/P&W Class 15 of the mid-first century BC to mid-first AD (above, right). The surfaces are too abraded to see any markings, but the interior was routinely lined with tar or resin."



Amphorae from Site B

"A furrow-rimmed gauloise type (P&W Class 55) also comes from the same area, and we now have a number of body sherds and a dished flat base too. This indicates we may have a fourth wreck in the area, and a clutch of millstones off the east coast may be our fifth."

I am currently working with Heather Sebire and Phil de Jersey to complete the 'Roman Guernsey' volume bringing together all known Roman finds to date."

Bibliography

J Monaghan 1990. 'Pottery from Marine Sites Around Guernsey' JRPS 3, 63-69

✓ On the subject of shipwrecks

While we endeavour to focus the newsletter on pottery related to Britain, occasionally we can plumb the depths on vessels from across the empire and these amphorae lifted from a Roman ship off the coast of Portofino in Liguria, north-west Italy provided some gratuitous photos of complete transport vessels.

The wreck was discovered when a fisherman from Santa Margherita Ligure (Genoa), much like those in Guernsey (above) 'caught' four amphorae in his nets, each bearing legible and detailed stamps.



The stamps indicated the kilns in which the vessels were made, and also the names of the slaves that had made them. Most intriguingly, the amphorae could be identified as a cargo of wine being carried for Consul Lucius Domitius Ahenobarus in the 1st century BC. Given their size, it was assumed that they were part of a large shipment of a rather large ship.

Subsequently, exploration using sonar scanning located the wreck site and specialist robotic camera equipment has begun to reveal more detail of the ship and its cargo. The ship appears to have been about 25 meters in length and carried a cargo of 2000-2500 amphorae.



The scale of a single cargo, probably around 100-150 tons, and the volume of its contents have a striking bearing on the capacity of imported trade, through a limited number of vessels to achieve a significant impact, far beyond the

Mediterranean, including on Britain as it approached the period of the Roman Conquest. Simon Luca Reigona, Superintendent of Archaeology, explained that the estates of the Domitii Enobarbi, a great senatorial aristocratic family were concentrated in southern Tuscany, an important wine production area. To this family belonged the consul Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus, the Roman general who in 121BC defeated the Gallic tribes of the Arveni and of the Allobroges; thus it is not coincidental that the stamps on the Santa Margherita Ligure amphorae are concentrated in Central Gaul, probably the target market of the ship, and shortly after the wars were conducted.

✓ Kilns at RAF Brampton

By Kathryn Blackbourn & Alice Lyons

Since the SGRP conference at Peterborough last June we have been working hard on the report for the kilns uncovered at RAF Brampton and after completing the grey literature report and submitting our first draft to the Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society we thought this was a good time to update the study group on our findings.

In total eight kilns were identified within an area measuring 25m by 15m, although this most likely extended to the east outside of the limits of excavation. These kilns were demarcated to the south by a ditch aligned east to west and a number of pits and a gully were located nearby and contained pottery (being produced on site) suggesting these features were in use at the same time as the kilns. No associated settlement was identified at Brampton; however kiln sites in Cambridgeshire do appear to favour fairly isolated positions in the landscape most likely to avoid the risk of fire to nearby settlement (Anderson & Woolhouse 2016, 22) and also if the potters were itinerant potters (Evans *et al* 2008, 128). The kilns were however located in the perfect position for the exploitation of the materials needed for pottery production (The River Great Ouse and the natural geology of Oxford Clay). The area was also well served by Roman infrastructure with the presence of the temporary Early Roman fort at Godmanchester.

The kilns were of a 'figure of eight' or 'dumb bell' shape with a clay lined chamber leading to a stokehole, most of which were aligned east to west or south-east to north-west with the chamber at the western end, bar one kiln that had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. A number of kilns contained in-situ kiln furniture and 1136 fragments of kiln furniture were recovered weighing 92709g including pedestals, superstructure fragments and kiln plates.



The kilns were not all in use at the same time, evident by two earlier examples being truncated by later kilns (*above, right*) and the relining of another. The kilns at Brampton varied slightly in design, two kilns with integral pilasters were paralleled at the Hutchinson Site in Cambridge (Evans *et al.* 2008, 60; fig 2.25) but were short lived, thought to be early experiments by potters new to the technology. The cylindrical pedestals were defined as 'dumb bell type' by Swan (1984) and are closely associated with the Upper Nene Valley. The lack of kiln bars on site is unlike the other sites in Cambridgeshire, clay plates were however prominent at Brampton although the type is similar to those seen in Milton Keynes (Williams 1994, 363).

A total of 2036 pottery sherds weighing 46888g were recovered from the eight kilns with the kilns producing a range of fabrics and forms but primarily sandy reduced grey ware lid-seated jars and lids between 60 to 80AD. Fine wares, imports and other specialist wares were absent from the assemblage although a few sherds of cheese press were present indicating that the assemblage represented production rather than domestic waste. The dearth of kiln bars, combined with the unusually large and varied number of pedestals and clay plates, indicates that the Brampton potters developed a system of firing pottery whereby numerous pedestals

(both rectangular and cylindrical) were used to support a temporary floor constructed from circular kiln plates. This technology was influenced by practices seen in Northamptonshire and the Upper Nene (Swan 1984, 68, fig. VIII). Early Roman pottery kilns in and around Cambridgeshire shows that they appear to broadly cluster around the larger settlements of Cambridge and it seems that the Brampton kilns may have been more closely associated with the fort and early settlement at Godmanchester, which in turn may have been more influenced by its connections to the north and west (Lyons *forthcoming*). It is suggested, therefore, that these kilns represent the work of at least one generation of indigenous craftspeople working in the decades following the Roman Conquest, perhaps with links to the nearby fort and settlement at Godmanchester, producing lid-seated jars and lids.

Bibliography

Anderson, K, Woolhouse, T, Marter-Brown, K and Quinn, P 2016, Continental Potters? First-Century Roman Flagon Production at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. *Britannia* vol. 47, 43-69; available online on CJO 2016 doi:10.1017/S0068113X16000052.

Evans, C, MacKay, D, and Webley, L 2008, The Hutchison Site, Addenbrookes. In C Evans et al., *Borderlands: The Archaeology of the Addenbrookes Environs, South Cambridge*. CAU Landscape Archives: New Archaeologies of the Cambridgeshire Region (1), 23–139.

Lyons, A L forthcoming, *Excavations at Rectory Farm, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire between 1988-1995: prehistoric monuments and a Roman villa farm*. East Anglian Archaeology.

Swan, V 1984, *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Supplementary Series 5. London: HMSO.

Williams, R J 1994, Fired Clay. In R J Williams and R J Zeepvat, *Bancroft. The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements and Roman Temple-Mausoleum*. Buckingham Archaeol Soc Monogr Ser 7, 361-363.

✓ **New early Roman settlement and kilns at Rugby**

Archaeology Warwickshire

Excavations off Ashlawn Road ahead of residential development have recorded part of a previously unknown Roman settlement, which appears to have been the focus for pottery production, including kilns producing Belgic pottery in the 1st century AD (*below, left*). This is intrinsically interesting as kilns producing the transitional late Iron Age to early Roman Belgic wares are not usually found west of the Avon Valley, which encircles the eastern side of the modern town. A Roman stone-lined well was also recorded on the site, as was a 'ritually' deposited vessel, complete except for the rim (*below, right*)



✓ Roman Mortaria and the Kent Archaeological Society

Ted Connell

The Kent Archaeological Society is in the process of preparing material from the Christopher St John Breen Pottery Archive to be hosted on its website to aid those visiting the area to identify pottery types. Chris Breen and members of the Dartford District Archaeology Group collected thousands of sherds in the 1980s, largely from the Billingsgate Soil Dumps, which are now being supplemented by sherds from excavations throughout Kent to cover a more comprehensive range of pottery in the county.

As part of this process the Society is seeking to identify the kiln site, fabric and form and numerous mortaria vessels from East Farleigh Roman Villa (excavated by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group), mostly of 3rd-4th century AD date. Sample pictures of two mortaria are included below, but many more can be viewed at: <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/21/000.htm>.

The selection and quality of the photos on the web page is first class so please have a close look through the mortaria therein and if you can help on identifying any of the kiln sites, fabrics or forms, please e-mail your suggestions to ted.connell@btinternet.com. When completed the archive will also include samian ware, other fine wares and masses of various coarse wares (a medieval section has been completed already). We look forward to seeing the progress of this tremendous archive project.

Sherd EF-09-111-9034



Flange



Profile



Fresh Break



Trituration Grits

Sherd EF-11-316-9563



Spout



Profile

✓ Exotica & Esoterica

The term 'ritual' has become a routine label for archaeologists when labelling the symbolic, albeit when we often have lost sight of the symbolism involved, but archaeologists at the Roman legion camp Vindonissa in the northern canton of Aargau, Switzerland have added a new association of Roman pottery under this umbrella. Amongst the foundations of buildings, they recorded a cooking pot typical of those previously recorded at the camp, but strikingly it contained 22 ceramic oil lamps (*below*), each decorated with an image, including the moon goddess Luna, a lion, a peacock and an erotic scene. Each lamp also contained a carefully placed coin, comprising low denomination bronze issues that indicate a date from AD66-7 (Vindonissa remained a Roman camp until AD101, subsequently a civilian settlement). The pot also contained charred fragments of animal bone suggesting it was not part of an urned human cremation, but very a 'ritual' offering or placement whose intentions remain mysterious.



✓ The Route to Roman Enfield

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Spanning many years, the diligent work of Enfield Archaeological Society has recovered significant quantities of Roman pottery from a range of sites throughout the roadside settlement, culminating in this comprehensive publication. Many thanks to Roger Dormer for keeping us informed of its progress.

✓ Bringing Samian Ware to Life

If you would be interested in learning how to make samian ware, and further understanding the techniques of potting, stamping, moulding, slipping and firing involved, then this may be the workshop for you....

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Workshop Dates:
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24th June 2017
22nd July 2017

Places are limited to 8 people per session, please book early to avoid disappointment. Course runs from 10am until 5pm.

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Workshop £65 including all materials and a complimentary visit pass to Vindolanda.

Book online at www.vindolanda.com/courses

Potted History

Graham Taylor is a Potter, Experimental Archaeologist and Ancient Pottery Technology Specialist, based in Rothbury, Northumberland. In March 2017 Graham and a team of volunteers built a replica Roman pottery kiln at Vindolanda. You can find out more about Graham's work at www.pottedhistory.co.uk