



**Study Group for Roman Pottery**  
**Annual General Meeting 2020**

As a consequence of the current pandemic we have not been able to hold an AGM for this year (2020). As a substitute we are putting the following documents on-line:

- President's report
- Minutes of the AGM 2019
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Website report
- Newsletter report
- JRPS editor's report

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Rob Perrin)**

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to talk of many things", in this case, specifically, a time without this evil and annoying virus; hopefully a vaccine will be available sooner rather than later. My hope is that you all have managed to deal successfully with the lockdown and the various ramifications. I hope those of you with underlying health conditions have managed OK. Some of you I know will have been put on furlough or, worse, may have lost your jobs or face an uncertain future; I hope it all works out for you. Others will have not been so badly affected, being able to carry on working from home or even being able to work uninterrupted on unfinished reports or personal research. It was sad that we had to cancel the planned Leicester meeting, but this was out of our hands, as with so many events. The committee has been active behind the scenes working out how to effectively carry out its duties. We will probably be using the Zoom software for the next meeting and we feel that this has great potential for future meetings, as it will allow committee members to be drawn from members further afield who would otherwise find it difficult to attend in person. On this topic, some of the key Committee members will be stepping down shortly, and we need people to replace them, so please give this some thought. We are currently thinking about the planned 2021 Newcastle meeting which will be the Group's 50<sup>th</sup>. We clearly want this to take place without restrictions, but we obviously need to take account of the developing situation. Anyway, please take care and, as Churchill famously said – "Keep b\*\*\*\*\*ing on"!

## **MINUTES OF THE AGM 2019 (attached)**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT (Jane Timby)**

This has been an unusual year and it is difficult to predict ahead as to how 2021 will pan out. One thing it has brought to the fore is the use of technology for communication and we feel that this should be the way forward for future Committee meetings. This will hopefully allow more members to consider whether they would like to join the Committee and from the comfort of their own homes! We have two meetings a year – one in the Autumn and one in the Spring. There will be a vacancy for a Treasurer next year so if anyone wishes to step forward we would be delighted to hear from you. Diana will ensure you have all the information and she has made tremendous efforts to have the system in good order. We also have spaces for new ordinary members and of course the position of secretary is still up for grabs. If you are uncertain as to whether you want to get involved perhaps you would like to be a visitor at our next planned meeting which will be a learning curve for all of us. We hope by moving to a new method of communication it will encourage more people to come forward.

On other matters in the past year various communications have been circulated on new publications (Piddington; pottery stone wheels) and web-sites (Mancetter-Hartshill archive; Gloucester City fabric series); enquiries about odd flagons, Pompeian redware 6, Braives mica-dusted ware and Gallo-Roman fish-traps – the latter providing a new challenge for potter Graham Taylor!

### **TREASURER'S REPORT (attached)**

#### **WEBSITE REPORT (Edward Biddulph) 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

The year since the last AGM began with an on-going issue involving a serious hack of the SGRP website, <https://romanpotterystudy.org.uk/>. As part of the solution, the website host was switched, and the domain name subtly changed. This resolved the issue, but it was subsequently discovered that some of the content – online pdfs of the earlier journal papers and the samian rubbings, among other items – had been lost in the transition. While some content could be restored from a backup, other items could not immediately be restored. For instance, it has not been practical to upload all the samian rubbings to the website (there are just too many of them and even the few that are now on the website are taking up a lot of space), while the Covid-19 crisis has meant that I have not been able to access or use a CD containing digital copies of the journal papers. This remains an ongoing issue. I am currently talking to my IT specialist, Giles Carey, about a fix with regard to the samian rubbings, and over the next few months, as the lockdown eases, I hope to restore other missing items.

Email addresses for key committee positions were created and people are encouraged to use these when contacting committee members. The advantages of using bespoke email addresses are that personal email addresses are not permanently on 'public' display on the website and that the bespoke email addresses can be easily transferred when committee members change.

During the year, I have published newsletters and news stories (I would like to publish more and urge the membership to get in touch with items, eg new publications, notices of conferences (Covid permitting!) etc.), and passed on or answered queries from the membership and members of the general public that have come through the contact form of the website.

Since August last year, the number of visitors to the website has remained fairly steady, ranging from 560 to 1072 views a month. The most popular pages are our pages relating to our journals, standards and committee contacts. I'm sure that the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection pages are also very popular (indeed are the key attraction), but the use of the resource doesn't show up in the WordPress statistics, as this resource is an add-on.

Over the next few months, I aim to restore all the missing content and discuss with the committee ways that we can encourage members to submit more news stories and increase visitors to the website.

### **NEWSLETTER REPORT (Andy Peachey)**

The newsletter has continued to be delivered as Autumn and Spring editions over the last year, with sufficient content gratefully received, and a very satisfactory level of engagement for the SGRP members. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the Spring edition was slightly delayed, as many members activities were put on hiatus, and we awaited to resolve the arrangements for the cancelled conference. However; this has encouraged the newsletter to pursue a more anecdotal and 'life-story approach for that edition, allowing members to recount what they were doing during the lockdown period, which proved quite successful and popular. Therefore, while future editions will return to the slightly more formal format focussed on research, publications, projects and queries; we will try and incorporate or encourage more of this material from members in the future, as it seems to encourage engagement and participation.

### **EDITOR'S REPORT (Hon Editor: Steve Willis)**

Following a period of many months when there was little by way of submission of papers to the Journal there was a flurry of submissions either side of Christmas 2019. There is now sufficient material for volume 18. Oxbow have a slot for page-setting of the Journal at the beginning of 2021 (arranged some while ago but recently reconfirmed) and so it is hoped that volume 18 will appear in the spring next year. The following (below) is the list of contents as envisaged at present, with most items mentioned having already been through the refereeing and post-refereeing enhancement process. Volume 18 looks to be a particularly thick volume. In addition to these papers Paul Buckland has been working on the manuscript reporting the Cantley kilns and his preparations are well-advanced. Given the length of this contribution it is possible that this will appear as a single subject issue of JRPS in the near future (i.e. the volume may consist solely of the Cantley report), but this is not yet certain. It could perhaps appear in 2021 or 2022.

As mentioned in the recent SGRP Newsletter JRPS has been assigned 'ERIH plus' status (ERIH standing for European Reference Index for the Social Sciences and Humanities, based in Norway). This means our Journal is recognized as a top quality scholarly periodical. The Journal was listed previously but did not meet the relatively new criteria for ERIH *plus* rating so we needed to introduce some changes to ensure JRPS was included in the new top journal grading bracket. So we introduced an Editorial Board, introduced the abstracts in English and French (adding English

Abstracts on our webpages retrospectively for Vol. 16), published affiliations and contact details for the Editorial Board and Journal contributors, provided evidence that the papers are peer reviewed and ensured information was available via our website. Thankfully the Journal meets all the requirements for ERIH plus categorization, and will retain this standing.

**Prospective contents of *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* Vol. 18** (as at 29 July 2020).

### **Obituaries**

For Andrew Savage *by Steven Willis*

For Alain Vernhet *by Peter Webster*

### **Articles**

Mortaria production at Pentney, in the Lower Nar Valley, West Norfolk

*Michael de Bootman and Alice Lyons*

Late Roman pottery production at Gunvil Hall Farm, Wymondham, Norfolk

*Alice Lyons and Graeme Clarke*

An early Roman pottery kiln at Capel St Mary, Suffolk

*Steve Benfield and John Newman*

Pottery production at the Roman small town of Grobbendonk, Belgium

*Barbara Borgers*

A Late Iron Age and Roman pottery assemblage from Barton's Road, Havant, Hampshire

*Jane Timby with Dominic McAtominey*

Pottery on Mars. A 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery assemblage from Trade Parc Westland, Mars, in the *civitas Cananefatium*, the Netherlands

*Roderick Geerts*

A gazetteer of the incidence of less common samian ware fabrics and types in northern and western Britain. Part 2: Central and East Gaulish fabrics

*Margaret Ward*

*Ad hoc* accessories for Roman ceramic vessels: a note on modified vessel bases and worked ceramic discs

*Cameron Moffett*

An exploration of the distribution of relief-patterned tiles in Roman Britain\*

*Peter Warry*

### **Reviews**

Review of *The Roman Pottery Manufacturing Site in Highgate Wood: Excavations 1966-78* (2018) by A.E. Brown and H. Sheldon

*Robin Symonds*

Review of *The Roman Object Revolution* (2018) by Martin Pitts

*Jane Evans*

Review of *Links to Late Antiquity: Ceramic exchange and contacts on the Atlantic seaboard in the 5th to 7th centuries AD* (2018) by Maria Duggan  
*Joanna Bird*

\*to be included in Vol. 18 if space permits

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**Anticipated as a possible single subject JRPS volume (2021 or 2022)**

Excavations on Roman pottery kiln sites in Cantley Parish, South Yorkshire, 1956-1975  
*Paul Buckland and John Magilton†*

**Anticipated for inclusion in JRPS (Vol. 19?)**

Early Roman pottery production at Longford, Gloucestershire  
*Paul Booth and Martyn Allen*

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