



Study Group for Roman Pottery

SUMMER/AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

2024

Hello and welcome to this bumper double edition of the SGRP Newsletter which will cover conference and pottery news from the group from over the summer and into the autumn. I will keep the introduction brief as there is plenty of content below, but here is a quick reminder of my email for contributions and pretty pottery pictures for future newsletters: cburn@mola.org.uk. Many thanks to those who have sent in content for this issue.

Charlotte (Lotti) Burn



Committee updates and news

SGRP Committee:

President: Dr Alice Lyons: alice.lyons1@ntlworld.com

Secretary: Kayt Hawkins: kayt.hawkins@ucl.ac.uk

Treasurer: Richard Chadwick: treasurer.sgrp@gmail.com

Webpage coordinator: Edward Biddulph: website.sgrp@gmail.com

Newletter corodinator: Charlotte Burn: cburn@mola.org.uk

Ordinary members: Janice Mcleish, Elizabeth Johnson, Claire Davey and Diana Briscoe

Ordinary Members Nick Cooper and Kellian Coste have sadly resigned from the committee while Diana Briscoe (former Treasurer) is continuing on the committee as an Ordinary Member. In addition Eniko has sadly had to step down as Editor and sends this message to you all:

“It is with a heavy heart that, after much reflection, I announce my resignation as JRPS Editor due to ongoing health issues. It has been an incredibly difficult decision, and I am devastated to leave the position so soon and unexpectedly. Editing and completing Volume 20 has been a fantastic journey. I thank you all for your help, support, knowledge, and generosity during my time as Editor.”

Alice extends sincere thanks on behalf of SGRP to all of these committee members for their contribution to the smooth running of the group over the years and we wish Eniko a speedy return to health. Although the committee remains healthy we will definitely be looking for at least one, possibly two, new Ordinary Committee members at the next AGM and while the role of Editor will be covered by the committee in the short term, going forward we will be looking for a more permanent replacement.

Continuing from meeting the new SGRP treasurer in the Spring Newsletter, you can read below about Ordinary Member Elizabeth Johnson.

After a career in Local Government and as a vocational tutor, Liz studied for her undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in archaeology as a mature student, where she became a protégé of the SGRPs very own Nick Cooper. She has worked for University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) as a Roman and Iron Age pottery specialist since 2004 and has been involved with the major urban excavations in Leicester as well as rural sites over the last 20 years across Leicestershire and the East Midlands.

Liz really enjoys community archaeology and outreach work, engaging people in understanding and appreciating their local historic environment. Before having her own family, she was branch leader of the local Young Archaeologists' Club and is still a member of the local archaeology and historical societies. She enjoys opportunities to work with young people, including students at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester, and children at her local primary school.



Liz is currently shadowing SGRP Secretary Kayt Hawkins with the intention of taking over the role at the next AGM (subject to a successful election!).

Conferences and Meetings

SGRP Conference St Albans 2024

The 2024 SGRP Annual Conference was held at Verulamium Museum on 15th June and the full programme can be found in the last SGRP newsletter. In summary, it included a wonderful variety of papers from early pottery production to homoeotic samian, legacy data to dolia and the National Forms project to the role of Women in Archaeology. The day included an opportunity to visit the fabulous 'Women Doing Everything, Everywhere, All at Once' Exhibition at the museum. There was a pottery handling session which provided some great discussion points and questions throughout the day. Overall, a wonderful day and a great chance to catch up with friends, colleagues and likeminded pottery enthusiasts! Special thanks go to Lexi Diggins and Kayt Hawkins for their organisation skills, Diana Briscoe for mastering the online element of the conference and finally the SGRP committee and to all the attendees for making the day a great success. Below are some great photos from the day.





SGRP AGM 15th June 2024 (St. Albans)

Note from the President.

It has been another busy year, behind the scenes with regular committee meetings cumulating in our wonderful annual conference at St. Albans (described above). I would like to thank all of the committee members – those that remain in post and those that have had to step down, for committing their time to keep the management of the group running smoothly.

At the St. Albans conference we held a brief AGM which reviewed the health of SGRP which remains buoyant with 174 members. The specialism does face, however, the dual challenges of very sadly losing some of its valued elders, while sufficient training is only just being put in place to maintain our specialist work in all aspects of British archaeology. The CIFA pottery toolkit is to be particularly warmly welcomed, while SGRP will also be trialling a Discord chat forum to make talking to our dispersed community an easier prospect (details for both are in the newsletter)!

Another major challenge to be faced, in addition to adequate training and embracing new technology, is the necessity of raising the annual subscription (See Richard's article below). While it is a chore for us all to update our standing orders, I would ask you to do so in good time for January so that we can continue to plan for all of our activities which include publishing the JRPS, maintaining the SGRP webpage, also the Kilns webpage and giving the small grants and bursaries for original research and supporting early career Roman pottery professionals.

The full AGM minutes will be circulated before the next AGM. I wish you all a happy transition into 2025 and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Alice Lyons (President SGRP)

European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) Conference 2024

SGRP was well represented at the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) annual conference in a swelteringly hot Rome (28th – 31st August 2024), held at Sapienza University with some 4500 delegates in attendance from across Europe. Several sessions included papers on Roman pottery but one session in particular was organised by several SGRP members: Session 120 '*Divide and Conquer? Advancing Multiscale Theoretical Frameworks for Archaeological Ceramics in Northwestern Europe*', was organised by our own Eniko Hudak (Newcastle University), Adam Sutton (Aurelius Archaeology), Kayt Hawkins (ASE/UCL), Sonja Willems (Catholic University, Louvain, Belgium) and Vaiana Vincent (INRAP, France). Papers covered a wide range, such as late Roman Germanic Pottery in northwest Europe (Vince Van Thienen), ceramics, sociality and theory in Romano-British archaeology as considered through the work of David Peacock (Adam Sutton), the intersection of Neoclassical Economic Theory and British Imperial Discourse (Eniko Hudak), pottery traditions in the Northwest of the Iberian Peninsula (Alicia Hernandez-Tortoles), and divergences in methodologies of pottery studies in French preventative archaeology (Vaiana Vincent & Sonja Willems). Discussion reflected on the current state of archaeological theory in ceramic studies, and how we as specialists could/should step out of the imposed modern boundaries of material, chronology, geography and theory to embrace a more intersectional approach to our work – discussions which continued over lunch! Other highlights included an evening opening reception 'after hours' in the Vigna Barberini, Palatine Hill and the although the logistics of such a large conference were not without the occasional blip, overall congratulations are due to the EAA organising team for a fabulous conference. The location of EAA 2025 will be Belgrade, Serbia (3-6 Sept) under the theme 'intertwined pasts'.

Kayt Hawkins

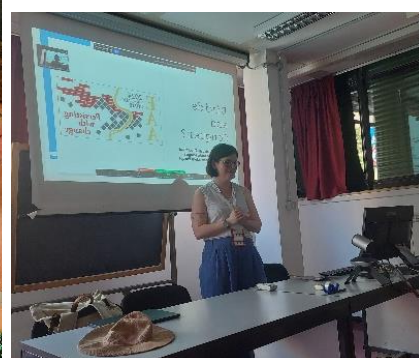
Photos from EAA

Thursday, Aug 29 Friday, Aug 30 Saturday, Aug 31

120: Divide and Conquer?
Advancing Multiscale
Theoretical Frameworks for
Archaeological Ceramics in
Northwestern Europe

🕒 11:00 – 13:00
📍 60=CU022-EXT-Serra
🔴 Live Stream

Eniko Hudak, Sonja Willems, Adam Sutton,
Kayt Hawkins, Vaiana Vincent



CIFA Finds Group AGM Event

The Cifa Finds Group held its annual AGM event on the 17th September 2024, focused on 'Pottery studies in archaeology: new research and resources'. Held online, the day had an amazing take up, with almost 100 delegates, showing the desire for learning opportunities when it comes to pottery studies. The morning was split into two sessions, starting with Kayt Hawkins introducing the new Cifa Toolkit for Finds: Pottery, based on A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay et al 2016). This was followed by papers looking at the use of online type series (Rachel Cubbitt), and the application of Organic Residue Analysis (Lucy Cramp) and Petrography (Imogen Wood) in research and project design. It was a great collaborative conference with papers also presented by the three pottery study groups (PCRG, Grace Jones; SGRP, Alice Lyons; MLPRG, Lorraine Mephram). The afternoon session was dedicated to networking, with delegates choosing a virtual zoom room, hosted by each of the three pottery groups. Congratulations to Emily Johnson and the Finds Group for a highly engaging and informative day. A link to the Toolkit will be circulated to the SGRP.

Kayt Hawkins

Reminder that the Malcolm Lyne Memorial Conference will be held on the 16th of November 2024, organised by the Sussex School of Archaeology and History.

Conference link:

[Sussex School of Archaeology | Selmeston \(sussexarchaeology.org\)](https://sussexarchaeology.org)

Prizes and Bursary Reminder

John Gillam Prize

Congratulations to Lanah Hewson who was awarded the John Gillam Prize at the Study Group for Roman Pottery annual conference in June. Lanah received it for the recent publication of her masters' thesis "Pure and sample: An assessment of the impacts of sampling on the interpretation of a Roman pottery assemblage from the A14C2H excavations" in JRPS Vol. 20. Lanah completed her Masters as part of the MOLA Headland Infrastructure and National Highways A14 studentships.



Graham Webster Bursary

Two Graham Webster Bursaries are available to help anyone attending the annual SGRP conference with costs. The bursaries will cover **50% of the conference fee** and **50% of return travel to the conference**, up to a maximum of £100 each. Please don't be shy – we would love for this bursary to be used - apply to the Treasurer.

Membership Fee Update

Following on from the discussion at the June AGM we have concluded that we need to increase membership fees from 2025 onwards, an increase in fees which we think is for the first time ever. Unfortunately, the costs of producing and distributing the journal, and making updates to the SGRP and kiln websites increase every year and therefore the increases to the fees reflect this. Therefore 2025 membership fees will be the following:

Member - £25 per annum

International Member - £40 per annum

Early career or student member (25 or under on 1/01/2025) - £20 per annum

Please could we therefore ask you to set up a **new** Standing Order to the SGRP's current account (Sort Code: 20-20-62; Account No: 0045 7272) which pays on 2 January every year. From outside UK, please use SWIFTBIC BUKBG B22 or IBAN GB13 BUKB 2020 6200 4572 72 or donate via the SGRP's PayPal account.

We are actively looking for options to reduce costs, particularly those relating to the journal, so that membership fee increases are kept to a minimum. In the meantime, many thanks for your continued support for the Study Group and if you have any queries please get in touch.

Richard Chadwick (Treasurer)

Discord Server

We are setting up an SGRP group chat on Discord, email Claire Davey (cdavey@mola.org.uk) for an invite.

A14 Pottery for Discard

A message from Sara Machin at Headland:

'I am sure everyone is aware of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement scheme and the enormous IA/RB pottery assemblage that was recovered.

We are well underway with the archiving process which will ultimately result a proportion of the assemblage being earmarked for discard.

We are keen to distribute the material to interested parties, schools, community groups etc. and I wanted to open this up to the SGRP membership. I must point out that there is no capacity for us to curate the material and if delivery is required this will be your own cost.

So, at this point I am looking for expressions of interest, therefore please let me know if you would be interested in taking any of the discard material for your own reference, teaching or handling collections etc. There will also be CBM and animal bone available on the same terms.

Once we have an idea of the number of interested parties, we will be making arrangements for the distribution/collection and will contact people directly at this point.'

For further information and queries contact sara.machin@headlandarchaeology.com

National Kilns Website

The SGRP committee is currently looking at getting the website up and running again so that it is once more a resource that can be used by the pottery community. Once this has been successfully established then we will be looking to update the website with new kilns so watch this space for further updates.

Pottery Pics and Queries...

Below is a query from Jerry Evans:



It is a Crambeck vessel and a rather fine piece with a painted name, IARINV(s) above the bat spout.

I will send it to RSOT eventually, but I was struck by what seems to be a name with a good Italian pedigree. Does anyone have a view as to whether this is my potter, my potter's owner or even the Mr big at Binchester who commissioned it?

Jerry



Thank you to Franziska Dövenor for emailing with a parallel for the Much Hadham face from the last newsletter.

