



Study Group for Roman Pottery SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Hello and welcome to the SGRP Spring Newsletter 2025!

I hope that the start of the year has been good to you all as we now enter springtime and hopefully the warmer weather will continue and the bulbs will continue to appear from underground.

As we enter spring, arrangements and organisation of the SGRP annual conference are well under way and I'd like to draw your attention to the Call for Papers and Conference information sections below.

Remember, if you have any news, non-urgent pot queries or pretty pot pictures you would like to share with the group in future newsletters, please email me: cburn@mola.org.uk
Take care and happy reading,

Charlotte (Lotti) Burn

Committee News and updates

SGRP Committee:

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

Secretary: Kayt Hawkins: kayt.hawkins@ucl.ac.uk / Elizabeth Johnson: embe1@le.ac.uk

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

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

Newsletter coordinator: Charlotte Burn: cburn@mola.org.uk

Social Media coordinator: Claire Davey: socials.sgrp@gmail.com

Ordinary members: Janice Mcleish and Diana Briscoe

The committee is currently working hard to edit the papers selected for JRPS 21 for publication in spring 2026.

Ordinary member, Claire Davey, has kindly agreed to take on the SGRP social media accounts as well as running the SGRP Discord group (see message from Claire below)

Elections for the SGRP committee will be held at the June AGM at the conference. Details about available positions and voting will be circulated at a later date, so watch this space!

On to our Meet the Committee section and in this newsletter we hear from our website editor, Edward Biddulph.



Edward Biddulph serves on the committee as the website editor, a role that he has undertaken for over ten years. Before that, he served for a number of terms as an ordinary member. He is a project manager at Oxford Archaeology, where he manages post-excavation projects and brings sites to publication, perhaps most notably a Roman small town near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, where one of the discoveries, a complete chicken's egg, made headlines around the world.



Edward still manages to look at Roman pottery from time to time, most recently an assemblage from what appears to be a fairly high-status site at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich.

Before joining Oxford Archaeology, Edward worked at what was then the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on, with Joyce Compton and Scott Martin, the massive late Iron Age and Roman pottery assemblage from Heybridge in Essex. In his spare time, Edward tends to have small bits of pottery research on the go. Papers published as a result of this work have been on topics as varied as the selection of funerary pottery, the salt industry, cultural evolution, and pottery fragmentation.

Beyond pottery and archaeology, Edward captains a table tennis team in a local league and enjoys cycling. He is also something of a James Bond aficionado and has not only written numerous articles for journals, websites and fan magazines, but has published a Bond-themed cookbook ('Double-O Dining') and has another book – a guide to Bond-related locations – out later this year.

Nominations and Applications Reminder

John Gillam Prize

The annual John Gillam Prize, established in 2004, honours a key founder of our Group for his tremendous contribution to the subject. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 award. A wide range of work that has had an impact on pottery found in Roman Britain and the Continent is eligible, so long as it was completed within the last two years. Nominations can include pottery reports (both published and grey literature), site reports, monographs, synthetic studies, websites, student dissertations, digital projects or theses. Any nomination must highlight specific aspects of Roman pottery from a technological, regional or thematic perspective. Please send your nominations to the President, who chairs the Gillam Committee.

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.

SGRP Conference 2025

Call for Papers

When: 6th-8th June 2025

Where: Gloucester

Organisers: Paul Tyers and Jane Timby

We are keen to involve a broad cross section of those working in Roman pottery and are seeking both 5 minute 'snapshot' talks and papers of up to 20 minute duration. There are still available slots and the organisers would love to hear from you at glos2025@potsherd.net. The closing date for the submission of titles is **28th March**.

Conference details

We are very excited to announce the return of our first residential conference in several years and hope that this will allow Roman pottery specialists from around the country and beyond, to meet face-to-face and strengthen friendships and co-operation amongst our group community. The conference is an in-person event only with options for the papers to be uploaded online at a later date. Further information about the conference is below and booking details will be circulated in the near future. The committee are really looking forward to seeing you there!

We are very grateful to Jane Timby and Paul Tyers for arranging the conference this year.



STUDY GROUP FOR ROMAN POTTERY CONFERENCE

Gloucester (6th – 8th June 2025) – First circular

The annual conference of the SGRP will be held being held in the city of Gloucester over the weekend of Friday 6th June to Sunday 8th June, 2025. The conference is being organised by Jane Timby and Paul Tyers and will be based at the **Folk of Gloucester**, in Westgate Street. In addition to the presentation of papers, there will be an opportunity to examine pottery from earlier excavations at Kingsholm and Gloucester City, currently housed in the reserve collections of the **Museum of Gloucester**, and a selection of pottery, including kiln material, from more recent work.

- The Folk of Gloucester : <https://thefolkofgloucester.co.uk/>
- Museum of Gloucester : <https://www.museumofgloucester.co.uk/>

Principal themes : The Roman army first came to the area c AD 49 setting up a legionary fortress at Kingsholm just north of the City, possibly to define the crossing of the River Severn at this point. The Kingsholm site was abandoned and a second legionary fortress established on the site of Gloucester City around AD 61.

The ramparts of this fortress were still standing when the *colonia* was founded sometime in the last decade of the first century AD. Gloucester (*Glevum*) is one of only four such *colonia* established in Britain and it soon became a flourishing defended Roman settlement with various public buildings, shops and houses, and extensive dockside facilities fronting the River Severn. This is reflected in the pottery arriving at the town which shows a diverse range of continental and regional imports alongside local wares. The Gloucester City type fabric series was first developed during the extensive excavations in Gloucester during the 1970s and is now available on-line.

- Roman Gloucester : <https://www.roman-britain.co.uk/places/glevum/>
- The Gloucester City type fabric series : <https://glospot.potsherd.net>
- Hurst, H. R. 1999. *The 'Coloniae' of Roman Britain: New Studies and a Review*. Journal of Roman Archaeology, Supplementary series 36.

Friday 6th May :

- Folk of Gloucester (99-103 Westgate Street, GL1 2PG)
 - 18:00 : registration opens
 - 19:30 : opening lecture by Tom Brindle (Cotswold Archaeology) *'By the side of the road: a Roman roadside settlement on the A417 Missing Link development'*
 - 20:30 : reception at the Folk

Saturday 7th May :

- Folk of Gloucester
 - 10:00 : first session of papers
 - **12:00 : AGM, for SGRP members only**
 - 13:00 : light lunch at the Folk
- Museum of Gloucester (Brunswick Road, GL1 1HP)
 - 14:00 : pottery viewing session, visit to galleries and East Gate chamber (Roman gate and wall)
 - 17:00 : free time to visit Gloucester
- Fountain Inn (53 Westgate Street, GL12 2NW)
 - 19:00 : conference dinner (pre-booked)

Sunday 8th May :

- Folk of Gloucester
 - 9:30 : second session of papers

- 12:30 : closure of conference

There will also be the opportunity to display posters. Papers will be recorded for later transmission.

Travel to Gloucester : *By train or coach:* Gloucester Railway Station and the Gloucester Transport Hub ('Bus station') are both a 10-minute walk from the city centre and are served by frequent services from London, the Midlands, the south-west and south Wales.

By car: Gloucester is situated close to the M5, between Junctions 11 (north) and 12 (south). Routes from London include the A40 & M40 (via Oxford) and the A417/A419 (via Swindon and the M4).

- Travel information for Gloucester : <https://www.visitgloucester.co.uk/discover/visitor-info/getting-to-gloucester>

Parking : The central area of Gloucester, along the four main *Gates* streets, is a pedestrianised zone. Car parks are available around the edge of the City. The **Westgate Street Car Park** is a 3 minutes walk from the Folk (pay-and-display from 7am to 6pm). The **Quayside Car Park**, located at the back (south) of the Folk will be available to attendees at the opening session on Friday, free, after 6pm, but is otherwise pay-and-display over the weekend.

- Gloucester City parking information : <https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/parking-transport-and-streets/parking/gloucester-city-car-parks/>

Accommodation : Hotel chains such as Premier Inn and Travelodge are represented in the Gloucester Quays area, just south of the City (15 minutes walk from the Folk). These can be booked through agencies such as [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or the individual company web sites.

Several of the hotels in the city centre can be booked through [roomsbooked.com](https://www.roomsbooked.com), including the 15th century Grade 1 listed **New Inn** on Northgate Street, usually described as the most complete surviving example of a medieval galleried inn in Britain.

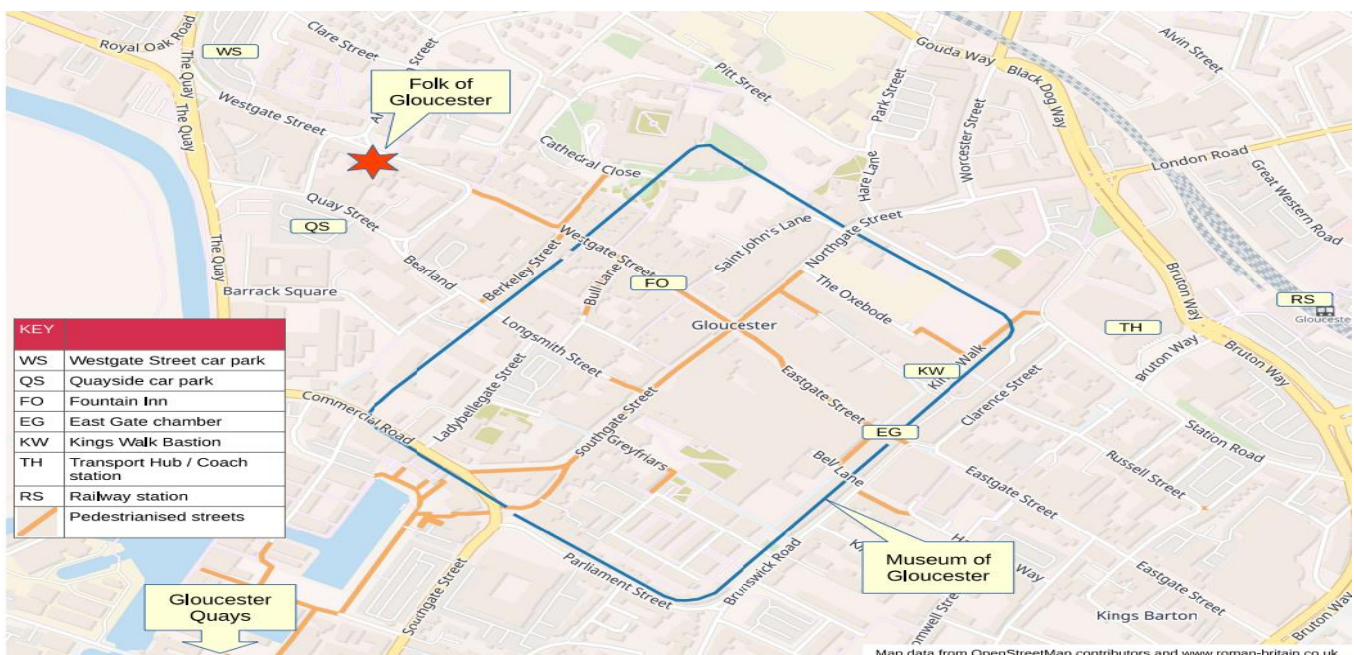
- Visit Gloucester 'Where to Stay' : <https://www.visitgloucester.co.uk/where-to-stay>
- booking.com : <https://www.booking.com>
- roomsbooked.com : <https://roomsbooked.com/>

Catering options : There are numerous cafés, restaurants and pubs in the central area of the city, and in the Quays area to the south. A map showing these, and other visitor attractions, can be downloaded from the **Visit Gloucester** web site. Light refreshments and drinks can be obtained from the café at the Folk during the conference.

- Gloucester tourist map : <https://www.visitgloucester.co.uk/dbimsgs/Gloucester BID Map 2020 A2 16pp.pdf>

There will be a pre-booked conference dinner at **The Fountain Inn** on Westgate Street, on Saturday evening. **Further details and a booking form will be sent to registered attendees.**

Contact : Please contact the organisers with offers of papers, posters or pottery for display.
glos2025@potsherd.net



Discord Information

Dear Colleagues and Members,

I am pleased to announce that, subject to approval at the upcoming AGM, my role as an ordinary member on the committee has developed to include managing the SGRPs social media presence (with the support of Kayt and Liz). We are already on Facebook, but in an effort to enhance our community engagement, we will be transitioning away from Twitter/X and onto Bluesky and Instagram.

Recognising the increasingly fragmented nature of social media, we are also establishing an SGRP Discord server to provide a centralised platform for community interaction (chatrooms!). You may be thinking 'oh no, not another app' however, the advantages of Discord over other platforms are many - no adds, it is free (optional subscription for extras), you don't need to share personal email/phone numbers with other contributors (but because you have to ask to join the server the moderators can see who are members), and it is free from algorithms!

Our Discord group will:

- Facilitate dialogue among individuals with a shared interest in Roman pottery.
- Encourage knowledge exchange and collaborative learning among enthusiasts and experts.
- Foster the growth of the SGRP community through shared information and ideas.
- Disseminate relevant updates from SGRP members and affiliated groups to those not active on social media.

The Discord server will feature a general chatroom, dedicated chatrooms for regional pottery groups, an early career chat group, and other areas as determined by community needs. We envision this platform as a dynamic space that evolves to meet the interests of our members.

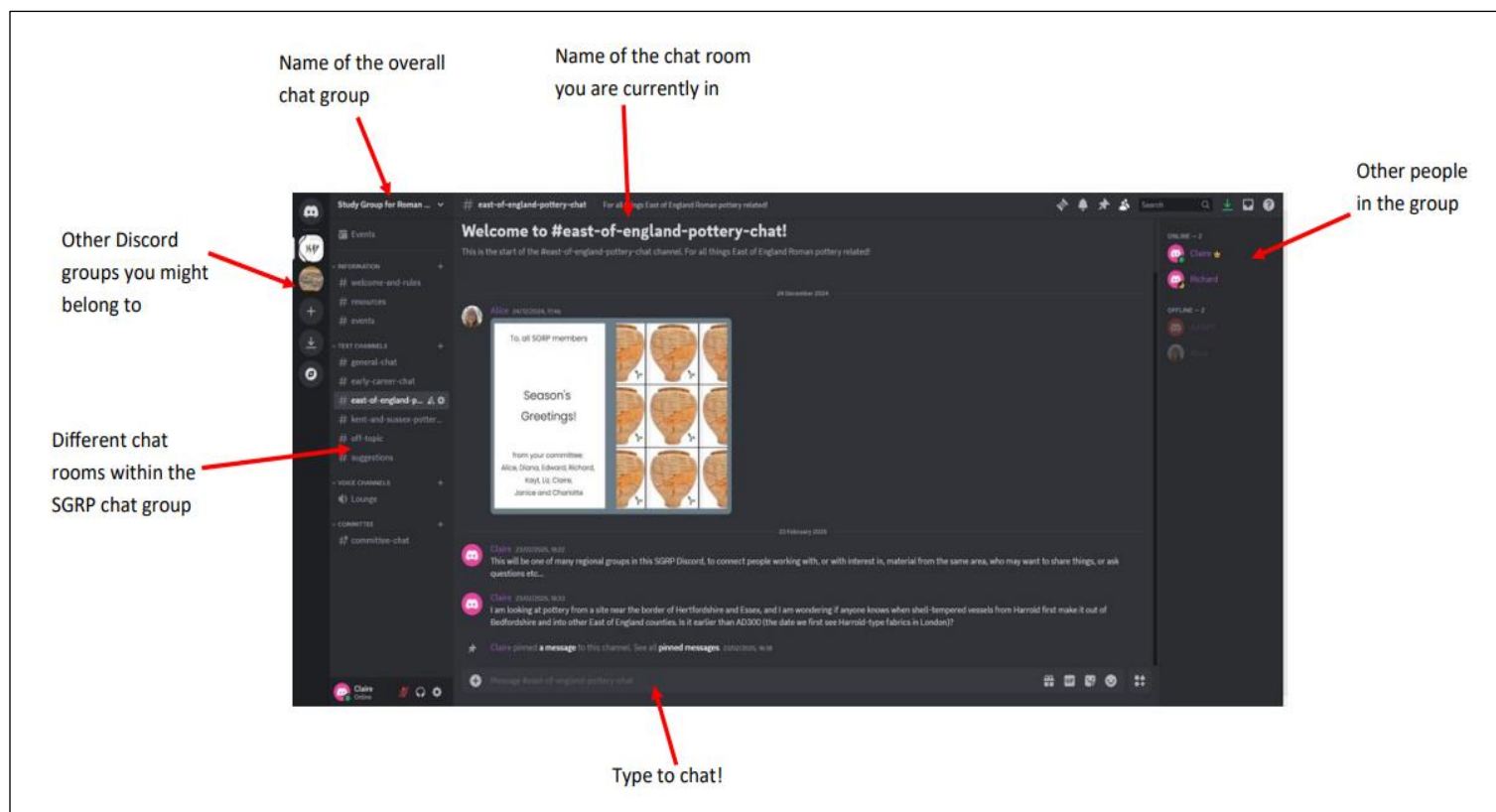
To join the SGRP Discord server:

1. Download the Discord application on your preferred device; go to www.discord.com or whatever app store you use
2. Create an account
3. Email to request an invitation to the SGRP server: socials.sgrp@gmail.com

We are looking forward to this exciting new phase of community engagement. Below is a screenshot what the SGRP Discord currently looks like – see you there!

Sincerely,

Claire



Kay Hartley Mortarium Database update

Dear All

I am pleased to let you know, we have just updated the Kay Hartley Mortarium Archive Project website as follows:

- The potter data for potters working in north-west England (including the western end of Hadrian's Wall) have been added along with an overview of these industries by Kay
- The potter data for Continental potters whose stamps are found in Roman Britain have been added along with an overview of these industries by Kay
- The searches and filters have been speeded up considerably by ADS, making finding a match for your newly excavated stamp and much easier process
- The rubbings have been batched up alphabetically to make downloading them much quicker from the download page. Downloads of the stamps of individual potters can still be downloaded via the potter pages and searches

The site can be accessed here:

Hartley, K., Leary, R., Boutwood, Y. (2025) *Kay Hartley Mortarium Archive Project* [dataset]. York: Archaeology Data Service [distributor] <https://doi.org/10.5284/1090785>

Thanks

Ruth Leary

Want to AMP up your career?



Historic England are launching small grants for Archaeology Mentoring Partnerships (AMP) to support the development of post-excavation specialist skills



AMP grants (£3,000 to £7,000) offer funding to enable experienced practitioners in archaeological post-excavation specialisms to provide emerging professionals with structured skills development, using a one-to-one mentoring approach.

To support the launch of these grants we are running a workshop as a fringe event to the 2025 ClfA conference.

Join us at the BMI in Birmingham on 29th April to meet potential Mentors or Mentees, learn good practice in what makes a great mentoring partnership and find out how you can apply for a grant!

Book your place at the event:

<https://archaeologymentoringpartnerships.eventbrite.co.uk>



Find out more about the grants:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/hpc/proposals/>