



July saw the group's return to the site near Hagg farm. SWAAG has been exploring this Romano-British site for nearly ten years. This summer's excavation concentrated on a 400 metre area to the north of the 2017 excavation. The weather was scorching for most of the fortnight, but 72 enthusiastic volunteers, supplied with vast quantities of tea, coffee, cake and flapjack, put in the equivalent of 362 days' work time.



The aerial photograph above shows the extent of the site on the 13th day of the dig. The turf circle shows the form of a round house and was used in the outreach work with local schools.

As is the nature of archaeology, some questions were answered but more were created! Philip Bastow, the project manager, was hoping to discover a house platform this year but none was found. The excavation exposed more areas of flagged paving, together with paths, walls, embankments, pits and a possible posthole. At least sixteen distinct features have been identified. Their analysis is still at an early stage, but reinforces the previous conclusion that the site's occupants had a high





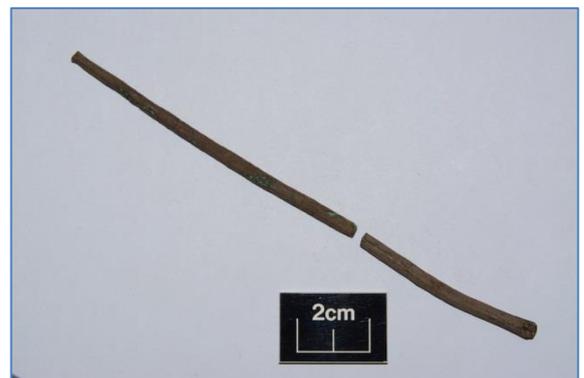
level of civil engineering expertise. This was also apparent from GPS transverses taken across the site, which revealed that the paved areas were part of a series of terraces cut into the hillside.

This year's finds are currently with experts for conservation and analysis. Once again one of the most frequent discoveries was of quern stone fragments - found in 16 bits of various sizes. One of the most impressive was a large, collared hopper quern. More pottery was found

this year - 3 kg in total - compared to 2kg found in 2017. Some large rims and pot bases were found. A number of heavily corroded ferrous objects were discovered, but until they have been x-rayed and studied, it is not possible to say with certainty what they are. Once again a number of smooth and shaped stones were also found, but their use is uncertain – counters, pot-lids or hones are possible interpretations. Only two pieces of worked flint were found this year.



Amongst the smaller objects were a jet and possibly a shale bead. The latter had two holes drilled through and might have been part of a double-stringed necklace. Some very small pieces of Roman glass were found, together with part of a bangle. Two coins were also found but these were very thin and degraded compared to those found in 2017.



One of the most interesting discoveries was a copper alloy tool. It was found in two pieces and was initially thought to be a writing stylus. Comparison to other known examples suggests this might not be the case, as these usually had a flattened end to smooth the wax tablet and a pointed end to write with. One possibility is that it could be a spatula to use with a cosmetic palette, such as the one found last year.

The site also yielded various animal bones and these will be sent for analysis. Environmental samples were taken from under the flagged surfaces, which it is hoped might provide further clues as to how the building of the site developed.



There are more photographs of the excavation and the finds on the SWAAG website under Gallery.

Fabric of Place – Roman Pottery Workshop Update

As reported in the last newsletter, some SWAAG members attended a pottery workshop in May, run by Graham Taylor. There were opportunities to make decorative tiles and oil lamps. Some individuals even succeeded in throwing (wobbly) pots on the hand wheel! The pottery has now been fired and collected from Graham. We are told that lamps can be used but need to be sealed with full fat milk prior to filling with olive oil. Please contact Sue sue@swaag.org for full instructions! Use of the lamp is at the owner's risk!



Members' meetings

May - Eniko Hudak, Roman pottery specialist from Pre-Construct Archaeology, spoke about her analysis of the pottery finds from the 2016 and 2017 excavations on The Hagg. The amount of pottery discovered was very small in comparison to the quantities she normally deals with; however the site was unusual for its range of fabrics and forms. There was a strong late fourth century component in the finds, typified by a Huntcliff-type jar rim and fragments of Crambeck ware. Such an occurrence is relatively uncommon on rural sites in the north of England. There are some earlier forms, including some fragments of Samian ware, but the latter were heavily abraded

suggesting the pottery may have been prized and kept by subsequent generations. There is more detailed information about the pottery finds on the SWAAG website.

June - Dr. James Gerrard of Newcastle University gave a fascinating talk entitled, 'Connecting Small Worlds: Travel and Communications in Roman Britain', based on his current areas of research. He explained the difficulties of travel across the Roman Empire. The cheapest form of travel, based on cost per mile, was by sea. Journeys by land cost twenty nine times as much and were slow, arduous and often dangerous. Those who could afford to travel by horseback, rather than by oxen cart, had extra expenses linked to their animals, in addition to the costs for food and accommodation and perhaps a guide. No wonder the word for 'travel' derives from 'travail' - it was a hard slog in those days!

September - Philip Bastow and Rob Nicholson reported on the initial findings of the 2018 excavation on The Hagg, as summarised at the beginning of the newsletter.

Social occasions



Members have enjoyed two meals together since the publication of the last newsletter. In June we returned to the Queen's Head at Finghall and at the end of September we met at the CB Inn, in Arkengarthdale. Flora kindly organised another fiendishly difficult quiz. No one got all the answers correct! Barbara, Tony and Christine were the winners and won a batch of Flora's famous flapjack. A room has been reserved in the Garden Rooms at

Tennant's, in Leyburn, for the Christmas meal, on Friday 14th December. Please let Shirley shirley@swaag.org know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

Local History Group

The group met on Thursday 4th October. Will Swales gave a very interesting talk on his research into Board Inns, which had been prompted by a comment by Jocelyn. She had pointed out that in the White's Directory of 1841 an unusual number of Board Inns are recorded in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. These oddly named establishments existed alongside taverns, beer-houses and alehouses. Curiously by the end of the 19th century they had either changed their names (for example the one at Grinton became the Bridge Inn) or had simply disappeared.

The reason for the name is not clear. Was a Board Inn simply a drinking establishment without a name - literally a blank sign board - or did it refer to the provision of food as in 'board and lodging', 'sideboard' or 'half board'? Board Inns were common in other northern towns and villages - Scarborough, for example, had eleven Board Inns in 1823 but by 1840 numbers had declined to five. Will's research had produced no firm conclusion as to the origin of the name.

Alan Mills talked about evidence of early settlements in Hurst, where rabbits had disturbed middens at two locations. The first site had 16th/17th and no later than early 18th century pottery

and there was evidence nearby of a possible house platform(s). This site was located in an area free from mining remains suggesting it might have been the house of an influential person. The second site had late 18th/early 19th century pottery. Neither site was anywhere near buildings shown on the 1st edition (1854) O.S. map, however the map did show an old wall near the second site. Closer examination on the ground showed this to be the rear wall of perhaps four single celled houses, about twelve feet across. These could have been miners' cottages associated with the nearby lead mines.

Alan also noted that there was a similar small settlement of four dwellings at Daggerstone's, in Healaugh, with 16th to early 18th century pottery. He also referred to finds of 13th century pottery found in Hall Garth, in the centre of the village which, given the name of the field, might have been the location of an early manor house.

Work on transcribing the Manorial Records is continuing and book I is now nearly complete. Finished records can be viewed on the SWAAG website.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th March 2019, at 4.15pm at The Buck Hotel, Reeth.

Future dates

See the details of forthcoming events below. Please note that December's meeting is at the CB Inn in Arkengarthdale.

The next newsletter

The newsletter relies on contributions from members so if you would like to contribute a photograph or short article about a walk, talk or event please contact me at: jane@swaag.org. Future events, of interest to members, could also be publicised. The next newsletter will be issued in the New Year.

Jane Harrison

DATE(s)	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	DETAILS	CONTACT
13-11-2018	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Members' Meeting and Annual Founder's Lecture	SWAAG Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Peter Denison-Edson, will give a talk on "What is 'Roman' about Romano-British Swaledale"	Sue@swaag.org
11-12-2018	7pm	CB Inn, Arkengarthdale	Talk	Stuart Ross of NAA will give a talk about the archaeological discoveries made during the recent A1 widening	Sue@swaag.org
14-12-2018	tbc	Tennant's Leyburn	Members' Social	Xmas Dinner. Booking essential	Shirley@swaag.org
08-01-	7pm	The Buck	Talk by Christine Wallace	SWAAG member	Sue@swaag.org

2019		Hotel, Reeth		Christine has an expertise in the history of textiles.	
12-02-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Jane Sammells	Many of you will remember Jane of Curriculum Kitchen from the school days on The Hagg. Jane recreates the material culture of various historical eras. Expect an authentic recreation of Romano-British dress and food.	Sue@swaag.org
12-03-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Short talk by Philip Bastow about The Hagg followed by a discussion of SWAAG's future activities and the opportunity to have your say.	Philip will present a preview of his forthcoming talk to the prestigious Royal Archaeological Institute in London. Chairman Dave Brooks will then lead a discussion and questionnaire session.	Sue@swaag.org
09-04-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	AGM and Ten Year Anniversary of SWAAG	Join us for a celebration of ten years of SWAAG.	Sue@ swaag.org
14-05-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Tony Metcalfe	Tony will give us a talk about Altogether Archaeology and their dig at Holwick including an update on finds and post-ex.	Sue@swaag.org
11-06-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Professor Janet Montgomery of Durham University	Janet was kind enough to talk to us about isotope analysis and its role in archaeology in 2017. This year she will develop her theme with more examples of practical application.	Sue@swaag.org
09-07-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Informal social during Fieldwork	Come and join us at The Buck for a pint and a chat about this year's fieldwork. NB NO AUGUST MEETING: HOLIDAYS!	Sue@swaag.org
10-09-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Professor Charlotte Roberts	Charlotte is an expert in the field of osteoarchaeology and will talk to us about what the analysis of human bone can tell us about life in the past.	Sue@swaag.org
08-10-2019	7pm	The Buck Hotel, Reeth	Talk by Miles Johnson	Miles Johnson, Senior Historic Environment Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will give a talk about Archaeology in the Dales	Sue@swaag.org