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Design a tour, wash some pots and walk
and talk

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Caistor Clarion

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Pot washing - from Chrissy

There will be two days of finds washing at the barn on Monday 25 May (Spring Bank Holiday) and Tuesday 26 May in an attempt to leave all the finds we have found so far to dry whilst I am away.

Start on both days at 9.30 and finish at 2.00. Bring lunch if you are staying all day. You can come for part of the day if that is preferable for you. Refreshments provided as always. Contact me if you need directions - all members welcome.

Please let me know your intentions on brilix@icloud.com.

Thanks - Chrissy



Dr Tom Licence (reaching out) at his talk on middens recently

Help design a tour of the Roman town - Lizzie

Earlier this year, Will Bowden and Ben Bedwell from the University of Nottingham were awarded funding by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for a project to take place as part of the Connected Communities Festival 2015.

The event will enable CRP members and members of the community to participate in the design and testing of a new experimental visitor tour of the Roman town to be accessed via mobile devices. Participants will use the *Wander Anywhere* platform, developed by the Horizon Digital Economy Research Institute at the University of Nottingham, which allows the user to make location-specific information available through GPS-enabled phones and tablets (see www.wanderanywhere.com).

How it works is that you can walk around an area and when you reach a certain spot, your phone will give you information about that location through text, audio, pictures or video content. This can be information about anything from bus times to plant species to the stories of the people who lived in a particular house. For our project, you will decide what information you want to give people about the Roman town and how you want them to find it.

The extraordinary simplicity of *Wander Anywhere*, which uses the WordPress blogging platform, means that anyone can make location-based information available to people equipped with a smartphone. Participants will design a tour and customise its content. They will also learn to use a tool that enables anyone who can use a smartphone to create location-based content about their own locality. As part of the project, participants will also learn to create *Aestheticodes*, which are simple designs that can be used to trigger web-based digital content on mobile devices.

On Sunday 21 June, at the Caistor Hall Hotel, we would like 40 volunteers come to an all-day workshop to help our team create and test this tour. This will involve sharing your thoughts on what information to include in the site's interpretation, making drawings to create *Aestheticodes*, walking the site itself to test your prototypes and then adjusting the tour in light of your experience.

Don't be frightened by the "tech" aspect of this. The great thing about *Wander Anywhere* is that anyone with very basic computer skills can use it to create tours or information about anything you like. You will need a smart phone of some kind and if you would like to bring/use your own lap-top that is fine.

The day will start at 10.00. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. A buffet lunch, teas and coffees will be provided. Please note volunteers will be needed for the whole day and also to come to our follow-up event on the afternoon of Sunday 19 July, which will allow volunteers to share their feedback on the experience.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact **Elizabeth Stewart** at elizabeth.er.stewart@gmail.com to book a place or to ask for further information. So book now, or miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

Can you talk the walk?

Over the coming months we are going to be called on to conduct guided walks of the Roman town, the first of these being at the SNC Fun Day on 23 May and another for the hotel in July. We have a few already able to do this and it's not rocket science although it can be fun. You need a reasonable knowledge of the town and the work we have done. You sometimes get some very perceptive questions especially from children. If you would like to be one of a small team of guides would you please contact Andrew at aeiray@virginmedia.com.

Workshop on post-Roman pot

There will be a workshop on post-Roman pot by Sue Anderson who has examined our test pitting finds of this pottery on 20 June, 10.00 - 12.30, at the Caistor Hall Hotel. Places are free to members but very limited. Contact Chrissy at brilix@icloud.com.

Dates for your diary

18 May, 19.00 CRP members' general meeting, open to all members - Caistor Hall Hotel

23 May, Caistor Family Fun Day

12-14 June, Roman pottery conference (alice.lyons1@ntlworld.com)

20 June, 10.00 - 12.30, Workshop on post-Roman pot (see above)

21 June and 19 July, Connected Communities (see above)

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