

The Tiddington Times

Tiddington Village Residents Association Newsletter

Our new village roadside signs arrive in April. They will carry a reference to our village's Roman history and we are producing this special Spring newsletter to tell villagers about that particular period.

All Villagers are invited to a...

Roman Re-enactment

Alveston C of E Primary School playing fields

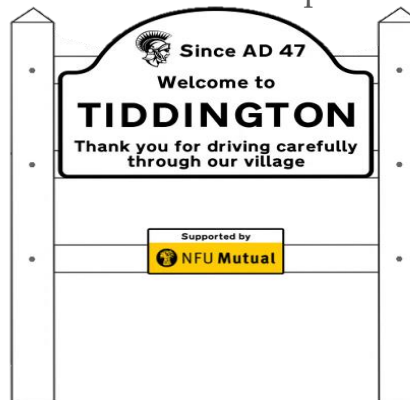
Saturday 29th April 10am-4pm

To let the children of the area experience more about the Romans and how they lived, we have partnered with Alveston C of E School in Knights Lane to hold a Roman re-enactment on the school playing fields. This will be done by a group of enthusiasts called 'The Victus', a Roman re-enactment Society who will set up camp to show how the local Iron Age people and Romans lived in the first century AD. The group will be showing the living history of the first century Iron Age and Romans in a small trading town associated with the Roman military. There will be Roman soldiers, Roman and Iron Age traders and villagers. All residents of Tiddington and Alveston are welcome. Dig out your old Roman gear & come along, Child soldiers are particularly welcome. Please also feel free to bring a long a picnic.



Village Entry Signs

In April, Warwickshire County Council will be replacing our two village entry signs which will carry a reminder about speeding through the village. The signs will also show a Roman helmet as a reference to the Roman past of Tiddington. See the special feature over the page. The signs are paid for by a generous donation from NFU Mutual with the cost of installation covered by Councillor Rolfe's WCC discretionary fund and they will replace the existing two signs. One of the existing signs will be relocated to Knights Lane.



With thanks to TVRA member Paul Tomlinson for his hard work on this project

Tiddington and the Romans

Few Tiddington residents today are aware of the connection with the Romans and yet they lived here almost two thousand years ago on the banks of the Avon. Fifty five years before the birth of Christ, the Roman empire extended from ancient Greece in the east to what today is Spain and France and to much of Germany west of the Rhine. Julius Caesar, a powerful Roman general first invaded Britain at this time landing on the Kent coast but with storms, shipwrecks and a few local battles, he turned back into the safety of France. Not to be thwarted, Caesar returned the following year with more ships and soldiers and established a foothold in Britain.

But the main invasion and occupation was not to take place until the time of the Emperor Claudius who, needing a military victory, launched the invasion of Britain. This time they were serious and landing in AD 43, they moved north and west, reaching the Midlands around AD 47 and constructing roads whose names and locations we still know today. They built a local road from the Fosseway to Alcester crossing the River Avon by a ford at Streetford (now Clopton Bridge). It is thought that the military stayed in the area until about AD 70 and so it is possible that the village we know of today as Tiddington was founded by this occupation though it is also possible the village could have an Iron Age beginning.

The first Roman remains were found in Tiddington in 1924 when building work commenced in Tiddington

Road. A cemetery containing 220 burials was discovered then later as the golf course was laid out, more Roman material was discovered. In fact it was soon realised after other discoveries that rather than having a military purpose, the settlement was a large Roman village based on mixed agriculture. Corn drying ovens were found and paddocks with wells. The buildings were made of timber with just one stone building. Other artifacts discovered were pieces of pottery from far flung parts of the Roman empire many of which are now kept by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.



Spindle Whorls used in spinning



Bone spindle, hair and dress pins



Brooches



Enamelled Brooches



3rd Century Coins



Bone Gaming Counters



Today any demolition of a house in the area leads to further archaeological exploration before new building can commence and artifacts continue to be discovered.

The site straddles either side of the Tiddington Road on the long straight before reaching the golf club.

Eventually during Anglo-Saxon occupation, the village acquired its name from 'Tidda tun' meaning the settlement of the followers of the family of Tidda.



With acknowledgements to Alveston author Brian Johnson for allowing us to use excerpts from his book "Just Six Square Miles". Tel: 01789 292 800