



BARBARIAN COPY OF A GOLD TREMISSIS

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METAL POT MENDS

OAKUM-WHAT IS IT?

**MEMBERS REPORT ON THE
DEUS DETECTOR - PART 4**

OUR OWN WORST ENEMY



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Front cover photo - Gathering the rape in by Tom Redmayne

A Message from Admin

The crops are coming out now and already we are seeing more quality items appearing on the forum. We've had our 5,000th member and the calendar vote was fantastic

Well the crops are finally coming out - in a lot of places the wheat isn't out yet but give it four or five dry days and that'll be harvested and out of the way. Be quick though 'cos a lot of farmers are planting the new crop very quickly.

Already the better quality finds are appearing on the forum and more will surely follow.

new video section created

After the members requested it, we now have a Video section where you can place your own detecting video's.

We gained our 5,000th member some days back - a big milestone. We also have our ninth birthday coming up on September 28th.

During the past ten days a lot of you have been voting - choosing the best photos for the UKDN Calendar. Wow, some fantastic pictures there.

Detecting laws are different

As it is the last few weeks of the holiday season don't forget that, if travelling to Scotland or Ireland with your detector, the treasure and detecting laws are different. Don't get caught out !!

Speaking of being caught out the UKDN Team publicly denounce the act of going out to steal armed with a metal detector, commonly called night-hawking. We will remove from the forum anyone involved in this despicable act.

Good Hunting The Admin Team

The Admin Team



Brian & Mo'

Founded UKDN in Sept 2002, Detecting since 1978.



Puffin

Here since Nov 2007, Detecting since 2007



Coreservers

Techy Admin
Here since 2003, Detecting since 2003



Petethedig

Here since Nov 2002. Detecting since 1980.



History Hunter

Here since April 2005
Detecting since 1984.



Tomredmayne

Here since Sept 2006, Detecting since 2005



Kevmar

Here since Sept 2002
Detecting since 1978.



Karv

Techy Admin. Here since March 2004. Detecting since 2004.



Did you See

None of the members of the UKDN Forum ever see all the posts and topics created. Below we remind you of some of the more interesting topics you may have missed but which are well worth looking at.

Huge bronze Remembrance Medal?

detectorman68 posted "OMG the signal this gave of nearly blew my head set off - even Jordrell Bank could detect this one!

[***Click Here***](#)

What are the best rechargeable batteries to use?

Always an interesting thread

[***Click Here***](#)

Lead weights

john5379 posted, "My mate found these today. Any help would be great. The first is about 2 inches long the second about an inch.

[***See them here***](#)

Thinking about buying a Golden Mask 3+?

dazzbarwise posted, "I've been using a T2 for more than 3 years now but our mainly pasture fields seem so unproductive now, though there's a good chance there's more good finds deeper still. We were hoping to get a deus between us eventually but finances won't really stretch to £1400 so I've been considering the cheaper option of a Golden mask 3+ with the extra depth feature.

[***Click Here***](#)

gold today

dekey posted a stunning Roman gold coin and got five pages of comments.

[***Click Here***](#)

DOES DEPTH MATTER ??

sidnallie47 posted this question and got plenty of answers !!

[***Click Here***](#)

Coin of The Month

Gold tremissis of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian II Found by Guildy



My name is John Guild and I live in Broadstairs Kent I was out detecting on the 17th of July with my two DB's on some land that we have just got permission on. We had been detecting for about 3 hours and it started to rain.

I was detecting over the other side of the field from the others and looked over and they were taking shelter so decided to head over to them. As I got about half way I got a signal and out popped the coin so if it had not rained I dont know if I would have found it.

I am absolutely overwhelmed at finding such a special coin and it remains, "my find of a lifetime!!"

For the coin buffs amongst us the following information will be of interest...
UKDFD states, "A pseudo-imperial tremissis of Merovingian France.

The legends are blundered, but that on the obverse is probably a corrupt form of D N IVSTINIANVS P P AVG, indicating the prototype was a tremissis of the Byzantine emperor, Justinian I (527-565).

The reverse legend is a shortened and corrupt version of VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM. The rendering of the legends below is approximate, with letters actually being blundered and retrograde in several cases."

The coin dates to circa mid to late 6th century AD, weighs 1.4 grms. The Obverse shows a diademed and cuirassed bust right with the legend O N IVSTIANVS P AVG

The Reverse shows Victory standing facing, head left, holding globus cruciger in left hand and wreath in right with the legend VCIOIRIA AVGVSTOR; CON in exergue.

Obviously the coin is made of gold. It is 12 mm in size.

Since finding the coin I have had an email which stated, "I have in my collection already 4 pseudo imperial tremisses which perhaps can be attributed to a tribe called the "Alamanni". This tribe lived in south-west Germany around 500-550 AD. The group of coins where your coin and the four in my collection belongs to is also called the "Klepsau-type ". Klepsau is a small village in Germany where a large graveyard has been found. A lot of graves contained a pseudo-imperial tremissis like your find and the four in my collection."

Copyright: September 2011 Guildy



***There were no items
submitted during the past
month therefore we have
no winning artefact.***

Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Metal Pot Mends

by Tim Storer (Georgian Tim)



I dare say that most detectorists will have or will in the near future, dig up one of these. I have seen them identified as everything from curse pieces to scrap but they are actually pot mends and date to around the medieval period. They were used to patch holes in metal pans, bowls etc to extend their working life.

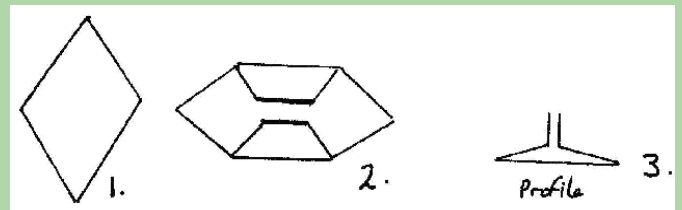
A modern version is shown here and depicts a delighted housewife having fixed a saucepan although I would be somewhat dubious about using it myself.



Probably the earliest version you will come across is the lead version. This was done by simply pouring molten lead through the hole in the pot and letting it cool.

Obviously this could only be done on pots that were not to be put on a fire to cook in.

The later medieval types are a variation on the one shown at the top of this article. The first step is to cut out a piece of metal (often copper alloy) in the rough diamond shape (Pic.1). Step 2 is to fold the "wings" in the points pointing up (Pic.2). Pic.3 shows the mend in profile (apologies for my poor drawing skills).

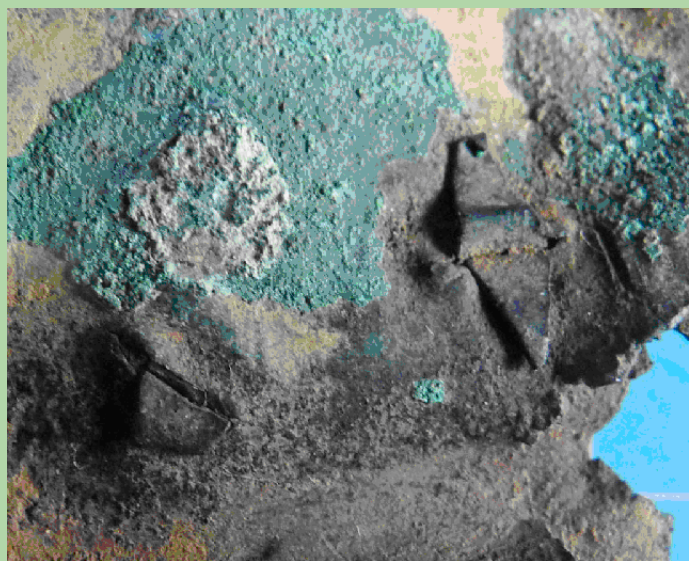


A hole is then made in the sheet to cover the damaged part of the vessel with a corresponding hole in the vessel. The wings are then pushed through both holes and the wings folded back to secure the sheet in place. This is repeated until the sheet is securely in place. Pitch can then be applied to make the mend water tight.

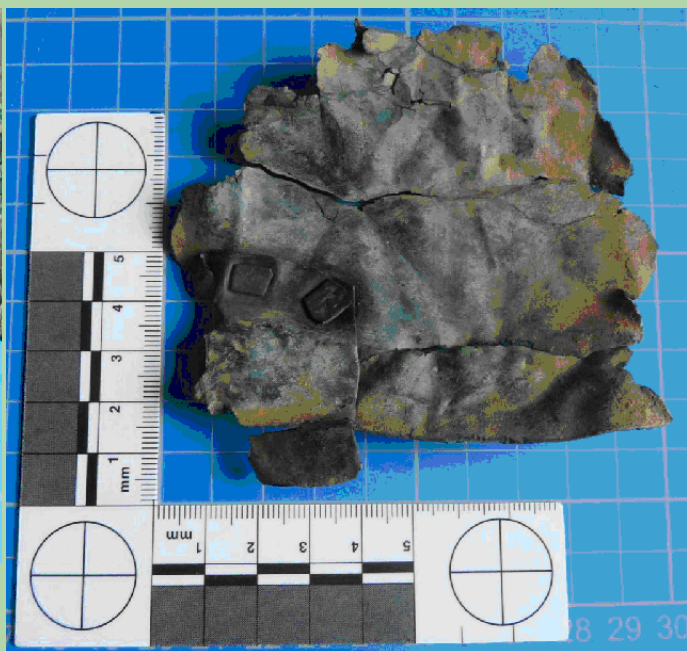
The next picture shows the top of the mend:



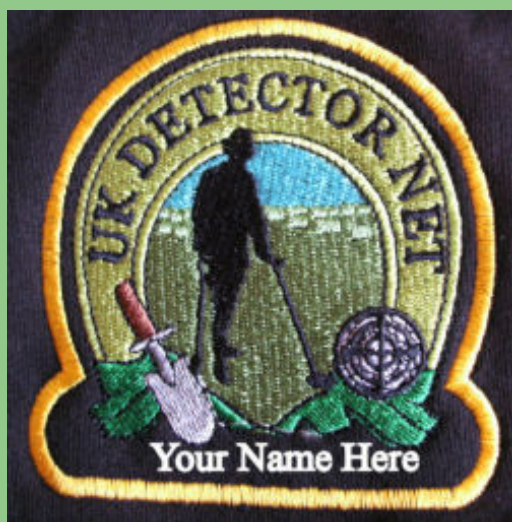
This picture shows the inside with the wings of the mend folded back



The final picture shows the mend in place on the fragment I dug up recently.



UK DETECTOR NET CLOTH BADGES



Design is as the photo complete with your username. Cost is £7.50 including postage. If you require one then click the Paypal "Buy Now" button on the UKDN Shop page or send cheque/PO made out to UK DETECTOR NET, to Mr B Cross, 52 Stonehills Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5UL

Badge creation is now very fast. Go to

UKDN Shop

This Months Identification

IDENTIFYING A ROMAN SILVER DENARIUS COMPILED BY YETI - UKDN FINDS ADVISOR

I am going to try and help you read some of the legends on Roman coins which can look a bit daunting but with a bit of practice can become a lot more easier than you think. I have picked out this denarius found by Jo and I will break it down bit by bit. I will concentrate on one side of the coin showing how this was identified and dated.



Jo's coin



IMP wording

So lets start with some of the abbreviated titles that we can see. The legend starts under the bust and goes in a clockwise direction. The first title we come to is "IMP" which stands for Imperator {Emperor}, supreme commander of all the Roman legions. This is a common start to a denarius from the late first century.

The next title is "CAES" which is short for Caesar, the name of the first Roman imperial family which later became a title.



CAES wording

Next legend is "GERM", now this abbreviated legend is a bit of bragging over his victories over the Germans. Other legends similar to look out for are BRIT, PART, DAC etc.



DOMIT wording

We then come to "DOMIT" which is not a title but an abbreviation of the emperor Domitian who reigned as emperor from A.D.81-A.D 96 and was the last of the Flavian dynasty.



GERM wording

We now come to "P.M." which stands for Pontifex Maximus. This title means he was the head of the Pontifies, who were the priests of all the Gods. Another title once bestowed that was kept for life. He had the final say on Roman religious ceremonies.



AVG wording

"AVG" is the title following this and is short for Augustus, a name given by the senate to the first emperor in 27 B.C and carried on to all following emperors.



PM wording



TR.P wording



XII wording

The next title is "TR.P" which is the Tribune Power {Tribunicia Potestas}. This old title was introduced to protect the poor against the rich and he was a representative of the people. They were very powerful people with lots of perks. Augustus the first imperial emperor realised this and had the title bestowed upon himself, and so it followed.

Finally on this coin we have "XII". Now this is connected to the previous TR.P. abbreviation so should be TR.P.XII when put together. The title of Tribuicia Potestas was held for one year and then renewed.

So by this we can tell that this was Domitian's 12th year which gives us the date of A.D 92/93. This is a great help when it comes to dating of coins.

I hope this has been of help to some of you and not as clear as the mud out of which it was found.

So this was a quick crash course on reading what was on this coin. It is probably easier to write it all down on to paper and then try to dissect what you have wrote when starting to try to identify your own coins. It does get easier with time, once you remember a lot of the abbreviations. The busts will become more recognisable the more you look at Roman coins too, with odd emperors with their little give away clues such as Septimus Severus's pointy beard etc.

I will be writing future articles concerning the identification of Roman coins. Hope you have enjoyed this article and will enjoy the others that follow.

Happy HuntingMick

Copyright Yeti - September 2011

This Month's Cartoon



Did you know?

In Ancient Egypt, flax was the textile in almost exclusive use. Wool was known, but considered impure as animal fibres were considered taboo, and could only be used for coats (they were forbidden in temples and sanctuaries). People of lower class wore only the loincloth (or schenti) that was common to all. Shoes were the same for both sexes; sandals braided with leather, or, particularly for the bureaucratic and priestly classes, papyrus. The most common headgear was the klafta, striped fabric square worn by men.

Certain clothing was common to both sexes such as the tunic and the robe. Around 1425 to 1405 BCE, a light tunic or short-sleeved shirt was popular, as well as a pleated skirt.

Clothing for adult women remained unchanged over several millennia, save for small details. Draped clothes, with very large rolls, gave the impression of wearing several items. It was in fact a haïk, often of very fine muslin. The dress was rather narrow, even constricting, made of white or unbleached fabric for the lower classes, the sleeve starting under the chest in higher classes, and held up by suspenders tied onto the shoulders. These suspenders sometimes were wide enough to cover the breasts and were painted and coloured for various reasons, for instance to imitate the plumage on the wings of Isis.

Clothing of the royal family was different, and was well documented; for instance the crowns of the pharaohs, the nemes head dress, and the khat or head cloth worn by nobility.

Copyright - [***Wikipedia***](#)

UKDN Fun Point Press and Pray - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



Nature V's Man Made by Marcsdigs

***Canon PowerShot SX30 IS
Shutter speed - 1/160s
F-Number - f/4
ISO - ISO 160***

UKDN FUN DSLR - Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



On the run by Coenwolf

***camera canon 50d
400mm F5.6 L series prime lens
i.s.o 400
shutter speed 1/800th sec
aperture F5.6***

***Hand held shot one of 300 plus shots taken while running along
the river bank to keep pace with stoat***

Detecting Tip of the Month

Not been out for a while, which is ok as have been cleaning sorting and recording finds.

Today I thought I would finally get around to doing something about displaying them. Now I've seen some great things on this site made by some clever people and have always been jealous as I have no practical skills whatsoever but I thought I would give it a go.

I bought the glass topped coffee table at a boot sale months ago for £4 and my plan was to cut a bit of ply to fit underneath and cover with felt. Simple!

Four hours later after lots of measuring and guessing, power tools out of the shed, cobwebs brushed away, near loss of fingers (I am sure there are things you can use to hold things steady), I finally ended up with this, I am well chuffed. Now just need to find lots of lovely things to fill it up.

Plodite (Richie)



UKDN FINDS BAGS - EXCELLENT !!



Made of strong, durable 200 gauge polythene with grip-seal open-ings and with three write-on panels.

Supplied in a three useful sizes to suit all occasions i.e. 1.5" x 2.5 inch for coins and very small finds, 2.5" x 3 inch for larger coins and artefacts and 4" x 5.5 inch for the larger finds.

Sold in batches of multiples of 100 e.g. 300 or 600 or just 100, 500 and 1,000.

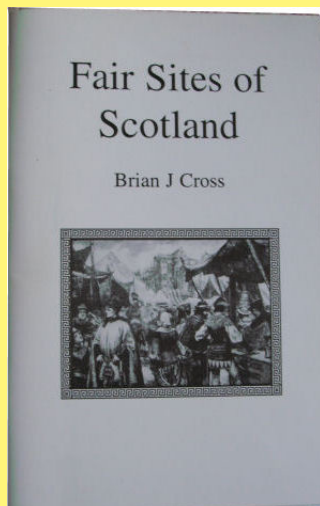
All sold at very competitive prices with no rip-off fees for postage. For more info and to order go to the [**UKDN Shop**](#)

100 small bags - £2.50 INC. postage
500 small bags - £7.80 inc. postage
1000 small bags - £12.00 inc. postage

100 medium bags - £2.80 inc. postage
500 medium bags - £8.50 inc. postage
1000 medium bags - £13.50 inc. postage

100 large bags - £3.99 inc. postage
500 large bags - £13.50 inc. postage
1000 large bags - £22.00 inc. postage

Fair Sites of Scotland by Brian Cross



Written by UKDN Forum Founder Brian Cross this book researches all the Cattle, Sheep and Horse fair sites in Scotland. It is an excellent research tool for any detectorist intent on discovering some of these highly productive metal detecting sites.

Originally sold for £6.50 + postage Brian is offering these books to UK DETECTOR NET for a one-off price of £6.41 including postage and Paypal fees.

All the proceeds i.e. £5 from the sale of each book will go to the server costs of UK DETECTOR NET.

[**Buy it Here**](#)

Wirral Brooches- Project Update by Frances McIntosh

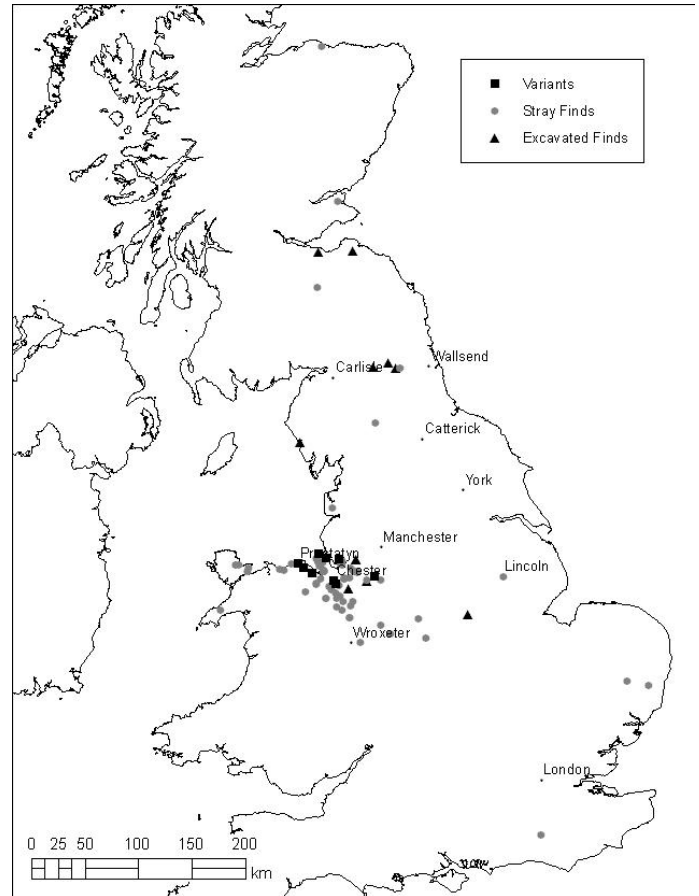
Frances updates the previous work done on this regional type of Roman brooch and discovers that the original naming of this type still applies.

The Wirral brooch is a regional type of Romano-British brooch which has a distribution mainly focused around the Wirral peninsula in the North West of England. Brooches are one of the most commonly found item on Roman sites across Britain and this is also reflected when looking at the stray find data. The Portable Antiquities Scheme database (hereafter PAS)¹ has 13,483 Roman brooches out of a total of 34,217 Roman objects² representing 39.4%. These figures demonstrate the ubiquity of brooches. In Roman Britain fastenings for clothing, other than brooches and girdles, were known but were not common.

most found by metal detector

My end database contained 102 Wirral brooches with 10 variants. Of those 89 were stray finds, some found before metal detecting but the majority found by this method. This means that without metal detectorists recording their finds, this regional type, so important to our understanding of rural Roman Britain, would probably not have been recognised.

The vast majority of these brooches were found in rural areas and not on the urban and military sites within the North West. The majority of the brooches found on sites, were found outside of the core distribution area. The map shows the distribution of all the known Wirral brooches so far and has a key defining stray/site finds and variants.



Distribution map

This distribution is important as it highlights just how tightly clustered this type is, and so backs up the theory that it is a type local to the Wirral and the North West and that it is most likely to have been manufactured there, as well as used. As well as the core distribution area I have also noted that there are two smaller 'sub-groups' one from Scotland and one from the Northern military zone. On top of this there are the few outliers which occur in any grouping.

I did some work looking at the reasons for the sub-groups and the Northern military zone group can be explained through trade. Two Wirral brooches have been found at Wilderspool so we know the type was used there.

Wilderspool (modern day Warrington), lay in a key position on the River Mersey, well within reach of the military zone. They produced large amounts of the mortaria, used for grinding and mixing foods. It is now known that two-thirds of the Wilderspool mortaria were marketed to the northern forts.

mortaria from Wilderspool

As well as the mortaria from Wilderspool there was lead extraction in North East Wales and salt production in Northwich, Middlewich and Whitchurch. This area in the Roman period was heavily involved in producing raw materials and items which were transported around Roman Britain, in particular up to the Northern military zone.

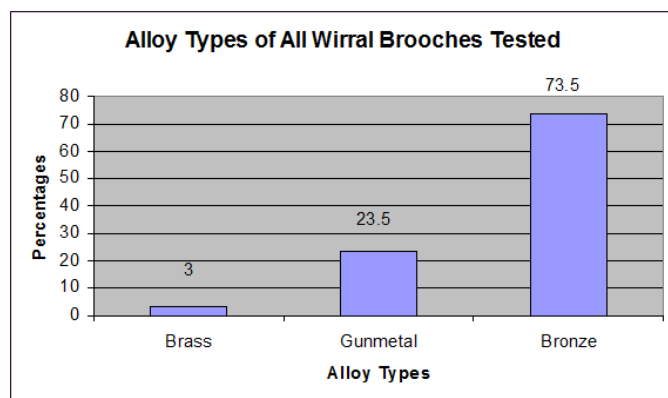
acted as an export port

Finds from Meols (where there were 8 Wirral brooches) have suggested it acted as an export port for the lead produced at the workings on Halkyn Mountain in Flintshire. All of these industries in the area where the Wirral brooch is clustered provide people moving up to the military zone who could have been wearing Wirral brooches and lost them when they arrived. Alternatively merchants could have taken brooches along to sell as a side-line

As well as looking at the distribution of the brooches I decided to take some samples of the brooches to look at the alloy composition. As they are mainly found as stray finds we have no information about where they were made and it was hoped that by doing this sampling we might be able to see if they were all made by the same person/workshop, if the alloys were the same.

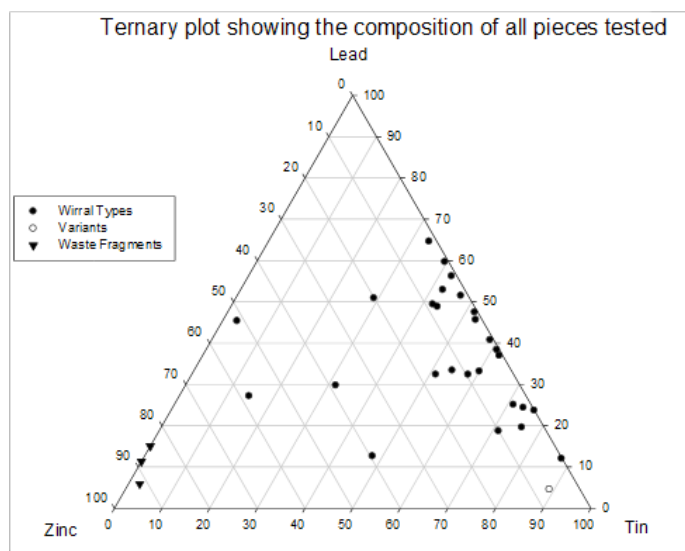
Dr. Matthew Ponting from Liverpool University did this analysis for me. In total 35 brooches were sampled, along with three fragments of waste.

Two of these brooches are variants; the others include four from the Scottish sub-group¹, one from the Northern military zone and twenty-eight from the core distribution area in the North West.²



The graph above shows that most of the brooches were made from bronze, an alloy of copper and tin.

The graph below shows the brooches sampled on the ternary diagram which shows how much of the three main alloying elements were in each one. The three triangles are three waste fragments which had been found in a field with two Wirral brooches and which I had hoped might indicate a manufacture site.



However you can see that they are miles away from the other brooches in their composition and therefore are not being made from the same metal at all. So that was one theory out of the window!



However most of the brooches were made from a similar alloy and this made Matthew and I confident that we could say that it is likely the Wirral brooches were made either in one place, or by one workshop (although this may have moved around) as they seem to have followed a similar recipe.

not really a pattern

The map showing the core area and where the different alloys within it are found above, shows that there is not really a pattern, the one odd brass example is right in the middle of bronze examples and those classed as gunmetal are also the same.

orange featuring frequently

After looking at the distribution and the alloy composition I decided to look more closely at the pattern of the brooches. The chequerboard effect on the upper bow is one of the main features which defines this as a Wirral brooch rather than another type. The colours are very bright, with orange featuring frequently.

Usually blue and red are the most common colours on Roman items, particularly brooches yet on the Wirral brooches orange is the most popular.

Orange occurs on thirty-four of the brooches and appears to be used all over the distribution area. However not one of the brooches found in a fort or on Hadrian's Wall has orange enamel; in the North of England, the Brough-under-Stainmore brooch is the only example.⁵ This is a significant distinction and something which has further implications as to who wore these brooches.

a rural brooch type

The mainly rural distribution of the brooches would point to a more local usage rather than a military related item. Some have been found on forts however which challenges this hypothesis. The striking difference in the distribution of those with orange between the military and non-military settings adds credence to the hypothesis that they were originally a rural brooch type.

Although this is just a quick tour through some of the aspects I looked at in my thesis (that was 23,000 words long) I hope it has given you some idea of why I was looking at them and what I found out. We saw that the distribution of them still clusters very tightly around the Wirral peninsular so Dr. Philpott was right in naming them the Wirral type. Their alloy type is very similar throughout those tested and so a single manufacturer is likely. They are used mainly in the rural areas, by the people living there, who were mostly Britons rather than Romans.

I have now completed my thesis and at the moment the project is paused. I did what I set out to do but I feel there is still more to be learnt from the Wirral brooches and I still want to hear about new finds of the brooches as I am aiming to publish my results and so any new finds can be added to the maps and database for that. I know there have been at least 4 since I stopped collecting data already!

This project would not have been possible without the metal detectorists and the museum curators who allowed Dr. Ponting and myself to test the brooches and take

samples- thank you!

I hope to get something in the metal detecting magazines about the results at some point and do keep recording any brooches you find as all new data helps.

Footnote 1: www.findsdatabase.org.uk The PAS will be discussed on page....

Footnote 2: Data correct at 5/02/2010

Footnote 3: All five were available for testing but the example from Edinburgh Castle was deemed (by Dr. Ponting) too corroded throughout to be sampled.

Footnote 4: Unfortunately, one of the samples had been mis-labelled and so cannot now be attributed to a specific brooch. However, as it was from within the core distribution area it can be included within these results but not mapped.

Footnote 5: This was found 'around a hundred yards east of the Roman fort' (Hildyard 1956, 54).

Unique ID: [LVPL-64EDF0](#)

Cast copper alloy Roman Wirral Type bow brooch dating to the 2nd century AD.



Unique ID: [LVPL-536C21](#)

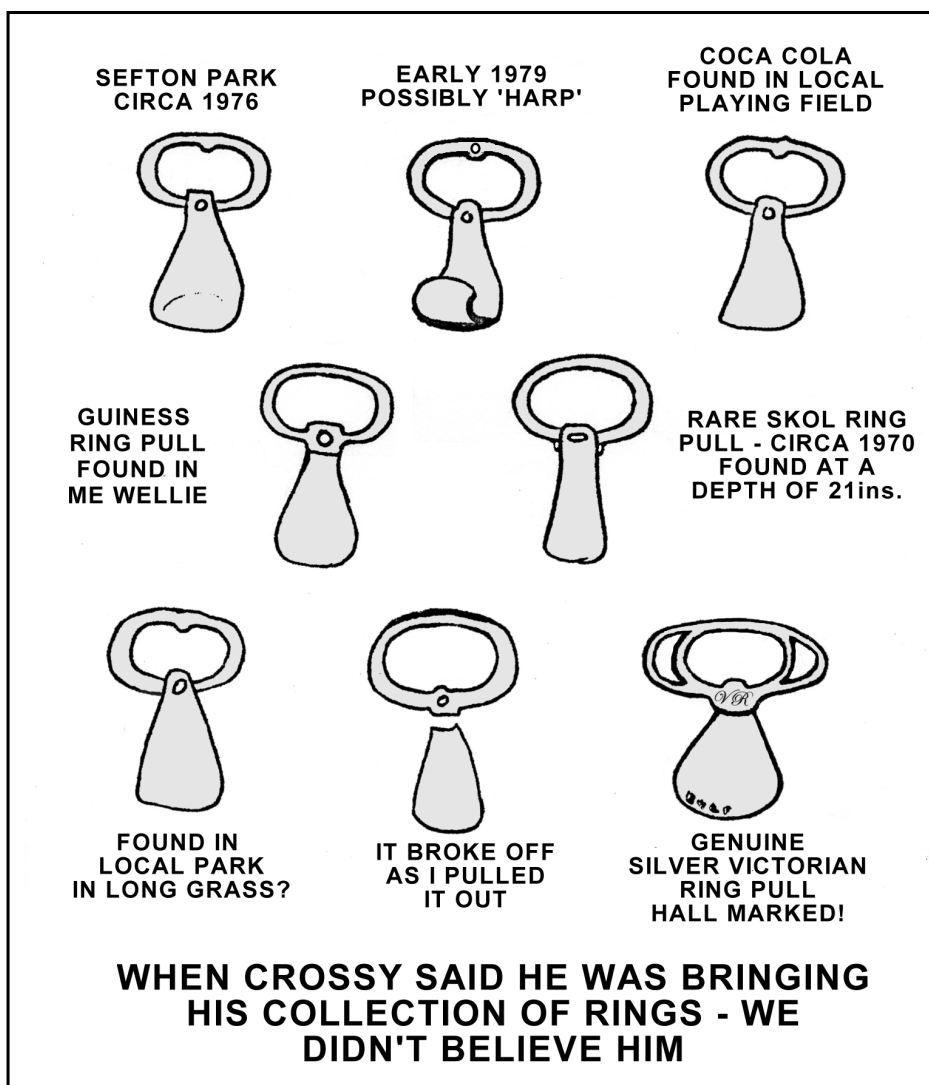
Roman copper alloy bow brooch of the Wirral type.



**Both PAS Records are
copyright PAS**

SOUTH LANCs AND CHESHIRE METAL DETECTING CLUB

NEWSLETTER **JANUARY 1983**



The South-Lancs & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club has been in existence since September 1978 and for a long period in the 1980s and 1990s the club newsletter was written by both Brian Cross and John Fargher.

The front covers were designed by Dave Berry, club member and resident artist. The newsletter front cover became a classic of good humour, hobby relevance and fine design and each month the club members looked forward to what Dave was going to put on the cover.

Many club members could see themselves captured by Dave and featured on the cover, Brian & Mo,, for example, courting at the time, often saw themselves below a heart carved in a tree or Brian would be featured wearing Wellingtons on the end of suspenders.

Dave has kindly given us permission to feature some of the classic covers and for this we thank him. Here's another classic from Dave Berry, dating from January 1983.

UKDN gets its 5,000th member

In just four weeks time UK DETECTOR NET will be a staggering nine years old. This latest news snippet just confirms how well established UKDN has become in that time.

stevegarrett became member number 5000 several weeks ago, he now wears that fact as his ranking. We asked Steve to tell us a bit about himself and he replied with this.... "My name is Steve and I live in Staffordshire. I'm pretty new to detecting and I haven't found anything significant so far.

The oldest thing I've found being a 1888 suxpence. My machine is a Garrett AT PRO which I imported from the states and saved about £100 in doing so. I can definately recommend the AT pro for depth and pinpointing, everything really ! It's a great mid-price machine and a guy at the local club I've joined says it's the equal to the high end machines, which i think it probably is, and its waterproof !

If there's another Staffordshire hoard in the ground hopefully I'll find it one day...I hope !!



UK DETECTOR NET GETS BRAND-NEW VIDEO SECTION

The UK DETECTOR NET membership have been asking for a new video section for several weeks now so... we set one up for you !

For the moment its only for detecting related videos but there is a chance that in the future another section will be created for your non-detecting videos.

You will find the new section in the old PHOTOGRAPHY AREA which has been renamed VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY AREA. The first post explains exactly how to place your YouTube videos up to UK DETECTOR NET thereby sharing them with all your forum detecting buddy's !

Enjoy and visit this new section, there's bound to be some great vids there.

Our own worst enemy !

For far to long now we have been in a very uncomfortable area. One in which there is an area of "conflict" of interests between those in the hobby of metal detecting, and those in almost all other areas, such as archaeology, recording, etc.

I have always believed that, we detectorists are our own worst enemy.

acting in a criminal way

Why? because far too many within the hobby cannot accept the fact that, a certain section of persons using a metal detector are acting in a criminal way, a fact which has been pointed out numerous times by a variety of people with a genuine interest in the one thing which matters i.e. the preservation of the history of our great nation, NO MATTER by which means it is discovered.

not everybody regards us as bad

All too often metal detectorists take umbrage at any criticism which comes to the fore, feeling apparently that metal detecting in general is being slated. If we read the remarks and reports carefully, it can be seen that, not everybody regards us as bad. Take a good look at the 2008 Treasure Report, which makes a very clear statement about us, and our contribution to the understanding of our past history, and feel proud of what it says.

looking to destroy our hobby

I have already said that, we are our own worst enemy, but why you may wonder? The answer is one which has been brought to our attention many times by those who regard us as our critics, looking to destroy our hobby, the ILLEGAL DETECTOR USER, the night/day hawker, the common thief.

It is an answer which, for far too long, we have chosen to ignore. It is a fact of life, a fact over which we the vast majority of honest detectorists DO HAVE THE POWER OF CONTROL. We cannot just, see it, learn about someone who is involved in the practice, and IGNORE IT.

offenders are brought to justice

If we sincerely want to be at one with the other factors involved with unearthing of historical finds, we must see their side of the coin. There is only so much that the police, and other agencies can do, but, it's not enough.

On the other hand, think about this very carefully, if you or I see, or know of any person who is involved in illegal activity on Scheduled Monuments, or land where you suspect that they have no permission to be there, then we have an obligation to, not only the nation we live in, but to every single person in our nation/hobby to do the right thing, and that is, make sure that ALL offenders are brought to justice.

I was doing us all a favour

In the first instance I would suggest contacting your FLO, particularly if you know the offender, and, approach them, giving them a warning, but, do not put yourself at risk.

I have now done so twice, and have no regrets about doing so. The strange thing is that, on the first occasion he told me he was involved, at which point I dropped him like a ton of bricks, and then, when I learned that he had claimed that a find had come from a certain site, where I knew he was ignoring a Scheduled Monument ruling, I took the matter further. He will not do it again, at least not on our patch. Do I feel guilty about my actions?, the hell I do, I feel like I was doing us all a favour.

self police our hobby

What I would like to see now is that YOU take control of as much as it is possible for you to do so, and start to self police our hobby. All you have to gain is the respect of those who you think are against us, they really are not. Tell the farmer/landowner, and the police, plus the archaeologists etc. If you can, make a note of vehicle registration numbers, and pass the details on.

At present, we are our own worst enemy, let us all strive to change that view. There can be no winners as we know them, only losers, the criminal faction, who do not give a monkey's, until they lose their freedom.

Old Git John September 2011

For details of how to report nighthawking

[***Click Here***](#)

Club Reports wanted

Get your club noticed and in the media by submitting a club report to the UKDN Word and reach 100's of detectorists.

Most metal detecting clubs need outlets such as the hobby magazines and media to advertise their existence. Word magazine is offering a superb facility to metal detecting clubs in that we will, for free, allow you to advertise your metal detecting club within the pages of this well-read magazine.

But, unlike the printed magazines, UKDN Word can give you plenty of space to show off your club, show off your members' finds and even advertise your future metal detecting club rallies.

Its simple enough to do... gather your information, take good quality pictures of your members' finds and submit them to any one of the Team here or simply email them to briancross4@hotmail.com

Your club can put forward a monthly report which will feature in the magazine every month - just allocate one person with whom the task of submitting your clubs material will lie and that's all there is to it. The Word staff will ensure its featured every month.



UKDN CAPS

We have just 7 of these caps left at the current offer price of £11.83 online price or £11.50 if sending a cheque.

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Oakum

Do you know what it is?

Brian Cross has done some research on a local hospital and has discovered a practise that, in Victorian times was hated by prisoners and work house inhabitants alike !! It was a, nothing for free, society then.

A week or so ago I was doing some research and reading a book covering the history of Whiston Hospital near Prescot, Liverpool.

I was intrigued by a short paragraph which stated that... "in 1887 a tramp named John Blake was brought before the Prescot Police Court, charged with refusing to perform his task at the Prescot Union. After a night's rest he was supposed to pick 4lb of oakum, but after unravelling about half a pound he refused to work any longer. He was sent to gaol for seven days !!"

"What was this picking of Oakum," I asked myself and after some research on the internet I discovered the following facts.

Oakum is a term for tarred fibres used in building ships. The tarred fibres are squeezed into the joints of the timbers of wooden ships and between the deck planking of steel and iron ships.

It was made, in Victorian times especially, from old ropes and cordage which was painstakingly unravelled and stripped down to fibre. This work was often done in Victorian prisons and workhouses.

I discovered that John Blake, above, had been given the equivalent of hard labour for his payment for his nights rest. Reading the above statement it is fairly obvious that in return for his night's rest he was expected to "pick 4lbs of oakum"

Various mentions are made of the amounts inmates were expected to unravel. Wikipedia states... "Picking oakum was a common occupation in Victorian times in British prisons and workhouses. In 1862, girls under 16 at Tothill Fields Bridewell had to pick 1 pound a day, and boys under 16 had to pick 1.5 pounds.

Over the age of 16, girls and boys had to pick 1.5 pounds and 2 pounds per day respectively. The oakum was sold for £4 10s (£331 in modern money) per hundredweight (50.8 kg). At Coldbath Fields Prison, the men's counterpart to Tothill Fields, prisoners had to pick 2 pounds per day unless sentenced to hard labour, in which case they had to pick between 3 and 6 pounds of oakum per day. Copyright.. [Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

The publication.. Criminal Prisons in London and Scenes of Prison Life, first published in 1862, H. Mayhew and J. Binny. discussed oakum thus..

"Oakum picking was introduced into prisons as a punishment for men in 1840:

"...prisoners were given a weighed quantity of old rope cut into lengths equal to that of a hoop stick. Some of the pieces are white and sodden looking... others are hard and black with tar upon them. The prisoner takes up a length of junk and untwists it and when he has separated it into so many corkscrew strands, he further unrolls them by sliding them backwards and forwards on his knee with the palm of his hand until the meshes are loosened.

The strand is further unravelled by placing it in the bends of a hook fastened to the knees and sawing it smartly to and fro which soon removes the tar and grates the fibres apart. In this condition, all that remains to be done is loosen the hemp by pulling it out like cotton wool, when the process is completed...

The place is full of dust... the shoulders of the men are covered with brown dust almost as thick as the shirt front of a snuff taker... the hard rope cuts and blisters their fingers."

Its amazing what facts you unearth when doing research for metal detecting - that's why I love this hobby !!

When you think about it the photographs in this article were taken just over 100 years ago in a harsh society where virtually nothing was given away for free i.e. everything, even a night's rest, had to be earned.

My article coincides ideally with the unrest we have recently seen in our city centres and it makes you wonder if we couldn't dream up something useful for all the idle hands we have in our society in this day and age.

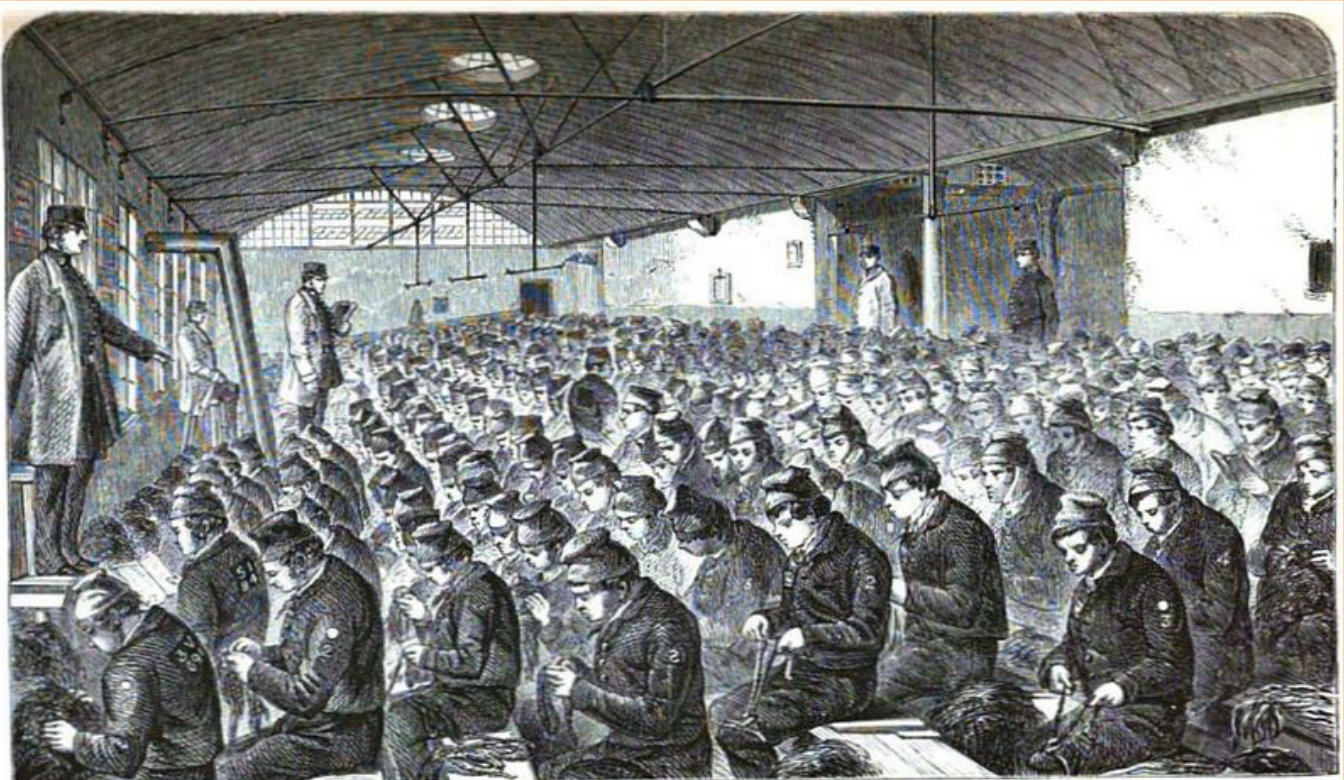
Brian Cross - September 2011



Picking Oakum in the East End of London in 1906

© PRO (PRO 30/69/1663).

See <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/>



LARGE OAKUM-ROOM (UNDER THE SILENT SYSTEM) AT THE MIDDLESEX HOUSE OF CORRECTION, COLDBATH FIELDS.

Members Report on the Deus Part Four – By Blue Yeti

Blue-Yeti continues his appraisal of the Deus metal detector with this final article. He continues detecting fields that have produced little last year and keeps getting surprises !!

So back out again today after a trip last week to detect round the grounds of a 12th century house/monastery. As always seems to be the way with gardens for me, everything decent was too deep. My best find was a silver spoon, Sheffield made and dating to 1909. Other than that I found only bits and bobs but if that garden surface could be scraped by 2feet...

my favourite fields

So back out onto my favourite fields today. Didn't know which one to go on to be honest but decided, due to the rain, to go on where we have been the last few times that have been producing hammeredds and drains really well with sandy soil. I decided to leave my sensitivity higher than I normally do. I am getting used to the chips and chatters that need no attention so don't need the silence that comes with lower sens to be able to pick out finds. I decided to do lines from roughly where I had got to last time albeit working away from the area where most of the coins came from.

the third was a hammered

One swing gave me three signals. One was showing 52, one 67 and one 82, all were steady but the 82 was the perfect signal with that one tone higher pitched noise that you get to associate with the higher numbers. The first signal was a shotgun base, the second a musket ball and the third a hammered, this time one of the late groups of Charles I 6d, badly clipped but a welcome find, and number 11 for the year now!!

I have though found something that annoys me with the Deus! Now it may be my style of detecting and not a common problem, or indeed that this site is quite hilly, but when you put the machine down to dig a find, it has a tendency to roll over being as light as it is. This is particularly annoying when you have the signal in your hand, the clump is getting smaller and then it topples over! The more concerning thing for me is that it could topple and knock the control box off. That said even if it did I cannot imagine not noticing that quickly as the number guides are invaluable and on getting a signal is the first thing I look at.

far more signals than last time

After lunch we went back into the heavily mineralised area where I got a Mary groat last time here. I think my proficiency with the machine is improving as I was able to pick out far more signals in amongst all the crud than last time.

Two jettons, both visible eyes only, a crotal bell, a nice sword pommel, the usual musket balls all came up. Coke is easily avoidable by the numerical guide, in GM Mode (2) it shows in the 20's so this can be ignored and thus save you digging and depressing yourself in this area.

All too soon the risk of showers brought the day to a close as one hit us bang on, and the gradually drying field turned to soup again.

I cannot really overstate how much I'm enjoying using this machine at the moment. Perhaps its the leap I have made from a pretty basic but reliable machine to a top of the range one, but the amount of digging, finds and enjoyment I am getting is phenomenal.

11 hammered this year

In keeping my updates and scores going it's worth saying again that so far I have had 11 hammered this year, against only 1 for the whole of last year, off no new sites, and indeed all have come off sites we have done for many years, including todays fields which I debated giving up. I can just imagine what I would have made of it if I had given these up and then someone had shown me what they had off these fields using a Deus, I would have been gutted and am so glad I kept all my farmers on the Christmas drink run!

I have attached some shots of the hammered in clod, then when wiped and some various pictures of the bits mentioned.



the hammered wiped



some other bits



the hammered in clod



the jetton

Well some strange timings of work have left me detecting at some odd times for odd periods. Last Friday was the first of the recent trips out. I went to my favourite fields, which consist of four fields around an old house. I decided to go the front field this time as its gradually smoothing off and over the years it has been kind to me.

I did though decide to work an area that I have never spent much time on, thinking that the Deus would make it all worthwhile. I walked down the hedgerow and could not get a signal... Eventually I got a rather nice reading of 80, although it sounded a little large, popped out the clod and lying in front of me was an Elizabeth 6d 1574.

This was a surprise in this area as the hammerededs have never been this far across, so following this I slowed down and started doing lines. Sadly no more showed up and I was left with only crotal bells, the odd musket ball and a buckle for the next two hours effort. That said the day was excellent due to a number of factors as well as hammered number 12 for the year!!

as good as the day could get

Firstly, the weather was gorgeous, then I was low overflown by an Apache helicopter, and to top it off a Spitfire that must have been doing a photo shoot with a helicopter spent the next 30 mins doing tight turns and low level passes. Now for me, a WW2 aviation buff and former warbird pilot, this was about as good as the day could get. However I don't think I can claim the private airshow was down to the Deus!!



The Elizabeth Halfgroat

Next up was the following day where a change of schedule meant I could get out with my detecting partner for a bit. We debated where to go and despite Daves reservations I convinced him we should go to a medieval strip where a few early hammerededs had turned up in the past and in an area that I just like.

Huge field of 200 acres !!

It always feels right to me and is a huge field of some 200 acres that borders another of my sites that has some Roman and Saxon on it. We have to walk through a small field to get to the main event and usually we do just that, walk through. However the surface was perfect and we talked ourselves into spending an hour on it. I got a Georgian, and Dave quickly found a Georgian seal matrix that was sadly broken.

He decided to keep working the area to see if he could find the missing bits. Next signal was part of the handle, the signal after a Henry VII halfpenny!! Of course this made the field a whole heap more interesting so we slowed down and worked the area. A perfect sharp clear 88 signal got me digging and an 1820 George III 6d popped out, sadly quite worn, but silver nonetheless!

it wasn't going to be my day

Despite our best efforts nothing more pre-Georgian showed up so we moved on to the big field. There is an electrical cable that runs through this field and whilst all other machines don't like it the Deus hated it and we had to start detecting some 10 yards in from the edge. This field also suffers from a lot of coke, which before has put us both off, but with the Deus every signal from 16-25 you can confidently ignore and thus whilst a bit of a pain getting the signal a quick glimpse tells you to move on. I really wasn't finding much and although signals were coming up regularly I just knew it wasn't going to be my day.



The Three Hammered Coins

However just before the close of play Dave got a silver ring, that was broken but pretty and requires some further ID work to accurately date it. It was enough to once again raise our interest in this field. However time had beaten us and that was it for the day. Dave had already pledged his Sunday to this field and I knew that sadly I wouldn't be joining him as I was on child care duty on Sunday to free the Mrs up to go out with her mother... ho hum..

a rather nice Henry IV penny

So I knew I would just have to wait in and get ready for the texts or photo texts showing me the days hammered. I didn't have to wait long before I got exactly that and a rather nice Henry IV penny of the York mint was beaming up at me from my phone!! Around 1530 the missus returned, the kids were having a nap and I put on my very best begging voice and found myself out on the field by 1600.

I walked across to see Dave and his son. We were detecting alongside each other and discussing the perfect signal, we talked about how signals in the 70's, whilst always non-ferrous, rarely seemed to be anything good. Of course right then my next signal was a 73, "typical" I said as I dug what was only my second signal!

I saw that familiar grey disc and was holding an Elizabeth half groat from an area way outside of the normal zone for hammered. This encouraged us a lot because if the hammered continued in the same numbers this far up then, we had a whole bunch more acres of interest just opened up!! So lines it was again and despite our efforts no more hammered turned up. However we were now keen to return to this area.

we had found nothing

The chance came on Weds as we both took a day off and met on the field at 1100. By lunchtime we had found nothing on the small field where the Henry IV had come off and decided to carry on where my late Lizzie had come up. I said to Dave 'lets go for a roam', 'good luck with that' he replied, such is the scale of the field its daunting with areas of random modern junk and coke.

Off I toddled and Dave followed. Iron, coke, iron bit of alloy (The iron being ignored by way of the Deus fart type signal and low numbers) but still it wasn't encouraging!

I then got a little Georgian and looked round to see Dave walking towards me... Now when you see this you just know its something reasonable or unexpected, so I tried to read his grin and work it out... Saxon? Yep he replies and indeed it was, a nice little sceat from around 700AD, good quality silver but sadly just damaged in one point.



Dave's Sceat

'What number did it give' I asked 'a 58' he replied. Certain finds are more valuable because they tell you what might be in the field rather than they ever are in their own right, and this was exactly one of those moments, Saxon, on this huge field, some 300 yards away from where we often find short cross, Wow, that brings the possibility of our finding Norman and Saxon pennies into the equation and, of course, with Roman nearby and the odd stater about in this vicinity we slowed down to make the most of our final half hour.

Bits of crotal bell seemed to be the order of the day, when suddenly I got a perfect small crisp 58 signal. Out comes the plug and sitting there is a small grey disc. 'here we go' thinks I, and then I realise its actually a tiny hammered, it appears to be an Edward III farthing, so another piece of info about the field and for me hammered 14 for the year, and another tiny one which is proving to be bread and butter to the Deus.

So that was it for the week, three hammered for me, two to Dave who also had a sceat and a silver ring. Again all came off fields we have done time and time again. Not only is it that we are finding in areas we have bashed, areas that we have ignored are turning up finds, this means that you then detect these areas and thus turn up more finds. I know some people will say, walking over a sceat on a 200 acre field is just pot luck, and I agree, but having the machine that picks it up, in a junky area and tells you to dig, is not luck and is what the Deus excels at. The other thing is that because your finds rate has gone up you want to go out detecting more, we are now planning another trip back there asap.

This is the final part of this series for now. UK DETECTOR NET will print further results in later months. I hope this little series has shown that the Deus has, for me, produced finds where, with my previous detector, I thought there were none.

Last year between Dave and I, we had four hammered and no other significant finds This year we have had 21 hammered, a sceat and a ring and its only March. I now feel like a striker who expects to score in every match, rather than one lacking confidence after a long injury!!

I wish you all the very best in your searches and hope that you continue, like me to make interesting finds and show them on our forum - UK DETECTOR NET.

Blue-Yeti September 2011



Did you know?

The word shilling originates in the schilling, an accounting term dating back to Anglo-Saxon times, when it was deemed to be the value of a cow in Kent or a sheep elsewhere

The name Groat has also been applied to any thick or large coin, such as the Groschen (grosso), a silver coin issued by Tyrol in 1271 and Venice in the 13th century, which was the first of this general size to circulate in the Holy Roman Empire and other parts of Europe. The immediate ancestor to the groat was the French gros tournois or groat of Tours, which was known as the groot (Dutch for "great" or "large") in the Netherlands.

The name groat also refers to a range of other European coins such as those of the Italian peninsula known as a grosso including the grosso of Venice and the Kraków grosz. Marco Polo referred to the groat in recounts of his travels to East Asia when describing the currencies of the Yuan Empire.[1] His descriptions were based on the conversion of 1 bezant = 20 groats = 133 1/3 tornesel.

The crown, originally known as the "crown of the double rose", was an English coin introduced as part of King Henry VIII's monetary reform of 1526 with the value of 5 shillings.

The first coins were minted in 22 carat crown gold, and the first silver crowns were produced in 1551 during the reign of King Edward VI. However some gold crowns continued to be made up until 1662.[1] No crowns were minted in the reign of Mary I, but silver as well as gold coins were minted in the reigns of Elizabeth I, James I, and Charles I.

Copyright - Wikipedia

Best News Stories from August 2011

England's western-most Roman town uncovered

A chance discovery of coins has led to the bigger find of a Roman town, further west than it was previously thought Romans had settled in England.

[Click Here](#)

2,000-year-old treasure hoard found

AMATEUR archaeologists Andy Green and Shaun Scott have unearthed a hoard of 2,000-year-old treasure worth more than £500,000.

[Click Here](#)

More than 3,000 Roman coins have been discovered in a field, it has emerged.

The hoard of copper alloy coins, dating from the 3rd Century, was unearthed in Montgomery, Powys, several weeks ago. About 900 were found by a member of a Welshpool metal detecting club, with the rest of the discovery made with help from archaeologists.

The exact location is being kept secret to protect the site. The Powys coroner will determine whether they qualify as treasure.

[Click Here](#)

Roman dead baby 'brothel' mystery deepens

New research has cast doubt on the theory that 97 infants were killed at a Roman brothel in Buckinghamshire.

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Dig uncovers English Civil War 'casualties'

Archaeologists working on the site of a former hospital in West Yorkshire have uncovered human remains thought to date back to the English Civil War. The bones, including a hip bone and parts of a skull, were dug up in the grounds of the old.....

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Body aged over 2,000 years found in Laois bog

The significant find has been described as "very exciting" by the National Museum of Ireland. Initial examinations indicate it could be a woman's body. The museum said the find was one of very few bog bodies discovered in situ, which meant not only the remains but its intact environment could be studied.

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About us

UK DETECTOR NET was created on September 28th 2002 to bring together responsible metal detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

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UKDN aims

UKDN is a forum for people who are interested in the hobby of metal detecting. UKDN is an online community where members can exchange and share knowledge, their views, discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects. UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the hobby and some of the wider issues through healthy pro-active debate within the forum and through the monthly magazine, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The magazine includes UKDN based news and articles, as well as wider news, debate, and issues of heritage interest.
2. Provide a platform to inform beginners in the hobby of the basic principles in the use of a metal detector, gaining permission, site research, basic heritage law, farming scheme rules and in the 'best practice' for conservation, recording and co-operation.
3. Actively promotes the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting' to all members of the UKDN online forum and beyond.
4. Encourage all UKDN detectorists to record their finds with the appropriate bodies (depending where they detect); In England and Wales, this is with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in Scotland this is the Treasure Trove Unit.
5. UKDN will actively work towards ensuring the future security of the hobby. We will liaise and co-operate with heritage professionals in a way which is mutually beneficial to all parties whilst maintaining our independence, and we encourage their active participation, either in the UKDN online community or through our on-line magazine.