

The UKDN Word



Issue 2 October 2007

The World Of Responsible Detecting

Plus

Grass Roots
North of the Border
Club Scene
Guest Pages

Spotlight on Petethedig



Finds of the Month



Meet The Admin Team

Welcome...

To the 2nd edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

We thank the three members involved in its creation i.e. PhilD, Ashmantle and Corinne Mills. These three people have worked very hard behind the scenes to bring you this very professional product. We thank them very highly for the expertise and commitment they have brought to the UKDN Newsletter.

We take this opportunity to also thank those of you who have contributed to this second edition and helped make this an informative and interesting issue.

We will use the newsletter to inform you all of our plans and expectations for the near future, we can tell you of the future plans for the software, we can tell you of the stories you may have missed on the forum and tell you of developments within this fascinating hobby of ours.

The newsletter will be a regular monthly feature of UKDN and so we will need input from as many people as wish to give it then some more. To create and sustain a monthly newsletter we need regular and varied contributors so we ask you to post to your newsletter in much the same way that you post to your forum.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and will welcome your feedback on the forum.

Brian, Mo' and The Team

Tell us what you think!

Send a PM to Corinne or PhilD

Contents...

- 3 Meet The Admin Team**
First part of a new series where we introduce the faces behind UKDN
- 5 UKDN News**
This months news and information
- 7 Grass Roots**
Kevin Woodward shares his knowledge of trade Weights.
- 8 Finds Of The Month**
Results for the August Competition.
- 9 North Of The Border**
Lesley Sleith's highlights on the Scottish Detecting scene.
- 11 Portable Antiquities Scheme**
The latest PAS events around the Country.
- 12 Helping In The Community**
Leadlumps, Whoobub and PaulR help out.
- 13 Spotlight**
This months Spotlight focuses on Peter Twinn (Petethedig)
- 14 Guest Pages**
Guest Articles by Peter Twinn, Corinne Mills, Suzie Thomas and John Lynn.
- 19 Club Scene**
Alan radley (Deetektor) talks about the Essex Detector Society.
- 21 C.O.P**

Brian & Mo'

Myself and Mo' have been detecting since the late 1970's and have always been involved in the politics of the hobby since the 1980's. Brian is an Honorary Member of the NCMD as he was instrumental in its formation. Many people will know us from our club visits in the 80's and 90's when we went around clubs in the north-west of England banging the big drum for the NW Federation and the NCMD.

People will also know us from our articles

when we used to have the Red Rocket and then, later, the Skidmark motorhome. Myself and Mo' have also visited clubs throughout England giving talks on shallow water detecting where we talk of our experiences and squeeze Mo' into a rubber suit, always good for a laugh.

We love our detecting in its numerous guises, we love being on a ploughed field alone, we love being on a rally chewing the cud with like-minded people, we love travelling about just visiting new places detecting new fields and meeting new people. We also love being on the forum we setup over five years ago now speaking with people who obviously get so much enjoyment from it.

We met through metal detecting and have lived it for almost 30 years. It's a great hobby with great people within it. The people on UKDN simply reflect our passion for this fascinating hobby. Myself and Mo', as owners of the site would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Administrators;



Petethedig

Peter Twinn (petethedig), married to Sarah (20 Years), and have a son called Philip who's 9. I live in Gloucestershire, where I was born and raised, although I lived in Southampton for 10 years and San Antonio, Texas for 1 year. I'm currently an under-graduate at the University of Bristol, studying Archaeology.

It was the later part of 1979 that I discovered the world of metal detecting when a work colleague was looking to sell a C-Scope 770d. In the preceding 28 years I have been

fortunate to find many wonderful things, but only in the last 4 years or so have I recorded my finds when I discovered the Portable Antiquities Scheme which in-itself led me to take the degree course.

My passion, although I love metal detecting is really flints and in particular the tools of the crossover period of the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and the Neolithic (New Stone Age). In the past 5 years I have found numerous unknown and un-recorded sites, which are now on the historic record. For me Metal Detecting if undertaken with the highest standards is a fabulous tool that can re-write and re-draw the historical landscape that we all live in.

I'm sure that this newsletter will be a fabulous window and portal to responsible metal detecting in the UK and even beyond!



Kevmar

Hiya, I'm 45 years old, married with 3 sons, aged 23,16 and 9, a horse a dog,cat and 2 fish.

I'm a joiner by trade, but sometimes wish i'd followed another career.

Iv'e been detecting since the 70's and have a deep interest of anything archaeologically related.

Iv'e had many machines,and i'm also always on the look out for the elusive 'best machine ever'.

Although many of my earlier years of involvement in the hobby had me fighting the good fight defending detecting per se, i'm glad to see that these days things are looking up, more respect from both sides of the hobby/profession and the great recording vehicle that the PAS is.

Happy hunting, recording and saving our heritage,for future generations.



Steve B

Here on the UKDN we pride ourseleves on harbouring a common sense approach to the hobby of metal detecting, primarily in encouraging the recording of finds with the PAS and secondly by promoting a responsible approach to the hobby.

In the past the term 'responsible' has been misused either as a weapon to attack the hobby by those outside of it, or by those taking offence at its use by those within it.

Personally, I prefer to use the term in respect of the responsibilites being a detectorist holds and we do have them! In doing so this may well make me a more responsible detectorist and I don't have a problem with that. It was refreshing to see a letter in the recent magazines by Michael Cuddeford expressing very similar ideals to those being fostered by the UKDN. I too have been dissapointed at what appears to have been an increase in negativity in respect of the PAS and other agencies, a lot of this due to either misunderstandings or the need for confrontation.

Here on the UKDN we are comfortable in our continued support of the PAS and the FLO's that do a remarkable and worthwhile job.

Kate

I have been detecting for about three years. It is something I have wanted to do for years, but had to wait until my kids were older until I bought my first detector. I started with a Whites Classic 3, which was the detector I found my first and only Roman coin with, I now use a Whites XLT.

As my husbands hobbies are playing rugby and mountain biking and he wasn't offering to wander round a field with me, I joined a local club and went out on a few club digs and was given loads of helpful advice and hints.

I don't get out as much as I would like due to work commitments at the moment, but I am still a member of a friendly club and get out with them on occasion.



In next months issue we bring you the real power behind the throne..... **THE MODS!!!**

UKDN Rallies wanted in 2008

Hiya everyone,

It is hoped that, with the help of the membership, we can have three or four UKDN only rallies in 2008. It would be nice to have them, if only to enable most of us to put faces to forum names !! and the chance for us all to detect together.

Finding land on which to have rallies is not always easy, especially, if like myself, Mo' and other admin people, a lot of our spare time is spent helping run UKDN. What we need is some help from you, the membership.

Ideally, we need four rallies, two in the Spring, say March/April and then two more anytime between August and October. And..this is where you can help.

We don't want to hold BIG rallies, we want small get-togethers of no more than 100 members. So we need just 100 acres of good detecting land i.e. either stubble, flat ploughed or decent detecting land. No rough plough please !!

"How will it work?", you ask. OK, let's picture the scenario. You have a farm and have permission to detect say, 700 acres of arable land. You've done 200 acres but haven't a clue about what might be on the other 500 acres and probably haven't got enough hours in your life-time to survey those acres with an 8" search-head.

You decide to offer UKDN a 100 acre block to set aside for a UKDN rally. We don't like to charge more than £10 per head and so need to talk to you about monies. If your farmer wants the dosh, that's fine, if you want the dosh that's fine as long as its OK with the farmer. If you or the farmer wants the money to go to charity then that's fine also. All we ask is that UKDN gets £1 of the entrance fee so that we can put it towards the upkeep of the forum. So if the rally costs £10, you/the farmer/or the charity will get £9 per person, UKDN will get £1 per person.

UKDN will provide event insurance, marshals, radios, road signs and event literature. We will also take monies from members saving you the hassle of having to deal with this sort of stuff. We will also liaise with you in the event planning.

The regional FLO will also be invited so as to record any finds that the finders wish to be recorded.

"What's the advantage to me?" I hear you asking. Simple, you/the farmer or your charity gets to earn some easy dosh and you, the detector user, get's to know what's on those 100 acres. You can't do it properly but invite some people on it for one day and you get to know straight away where the hammered or Roman are coming from!! Great news for next time it's ploughed.

Interested? The pm any one of the Admin team with your phone number and we'll call you back straight away and discuss the possibilities with you.

UKDN Supporter Status & Donations

As you may or may not know UKDN Forum became five years old on September 28th 2007. Because of its increase in size during the past few years we have had to raise cash to help pay for the server fees and other costs involved in running UKDN.

During the past year or two some members have wanted to donate towards the running costs of UKDN and so, to acknowledge their contribution, we placed "UKDN Supporter" beneath their forum username. To donate you simply go to the portal page by clicking on the top big banner or going to bb3portal.php and clicking on the donate bit in the middle, choosing the amount you wish to donate by clicking on the drop-down box. Don't forget to include your username. it saves us having to contact you to ask for it when we get the donation.

However. some people want to contribute year in, year out and so now, since September 28th 2006, we felt we needed to acknowledge that continued commitment to UKDN.

Anyone who is already a "UKDN Supporter" who contributed between September 28th 2006 and September 27th 2007 had the title "UKDN Supporter – Bronze" beneath their username instead of UKDN Supporter. The Bronze title comes complete with a small bronze star graphic.

A forum member who has not donated previously but who decided to donate between September 28th 2006 and September 27th 2007 got the title "UKDN Supporter" beneath his/her username.

After this September 27th 2007 we have introduced a silver status so that we can keep a record of donations and donatees.

UKDN still remains free to all end users and no special areas will be created for those who have donated.

For those who do not wish to use the Donate Button and want to send a good ole cheque then please make cheque payable to UK DETECTOR NET and send it to

UK DETECTOR NET
52 Stonehills Lane
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 5UL

UKDN Lottery Works a Treat

The UKDN Team are constantly looking for way to increase the members' enjoyment of the site. Kate's Mystery Object is a prime example. The exercise does nothing more than give the UKDN members an extra dimension to their visit to the site.

The UKDN Lottery was dreamt up for a very similar reason with the added bonus that someone would get something for free from the site. It was the UKDN's way to say "Thanks for your support".

The last one was run on 8th September and was a huge success attracting 240 posts compared with the earlier Lottery which gained about 160 posts.

If you haven't taken part then it's this simple.

You will receive an email from UKDN, probably on a Thursday, asking you to go to the thread. On the thread you have to choose and post up a number chosen by yourself which is between 21 and 279. Only one number per member will be allowed. Any member inputting more than one number will be disallowed. There will be no discussion allowed, you simply put in your number and maybe a lucky comment. Discussions will be deleted.

The thread will be stopped SATURDAY evening at exactly 7pm. The winning number will be chosen through the National Lottery draw which will take place on Sat evening. The winning number will be the total of the 6 winning National Lottery Numbers drawn on Saturday night, hence your number having to be between 21 (the lowest possible six winning numbers i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) and 279 (the highest possible six winning numbers i.e. 49, 48, 47, 46, 45 & 44)

If we have multiple winners then those winners will be asked to choose another number under the same rules and the number nearest the following Wednesday Lotto draw will win the prize.

So..... next time you get a UKDN email telling you about the Lottery, go give it a go, we are trying to give you something for free (usually books valued about £20+)

UKDN Crossword

This months competition is a detecting crossword compiled by PhilD. Its an online version which is easy to use (not so sure its easy to solve!)

All you need to do is click on the link below for the crossword page to open. Good Luck!!

<http://atoz.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/newsletter2crossword.html>

A Weighty Matter By Kevin Woodward

Most detectorists will be familiar with trade weights, either from their own finds or through seeing them in the magazines or on UKDN. What they are isn't difficult to fathom but putting a date to some of them is a common question asked by members on the forum, especially the different Georgian items. The following will hopefully illustrate how to tell which weight was made and verified in which reign. I shall restrict the scope here to copper alloy examples from the 15th to 18th centuries; if feedback is positive other articles will appear in future issues.

The earliest round copper alloy examples bear just a crown and are often confused with coin weights of the period; the difference is that the coin weights have a crown with a fleur-de-lis underneath; these were for the Noble series of coins. Both types of weight can be dated to 1420-1500. Henry VII made attempts to standardize the weight system which up until then had been open to abuse. Even this attempt had to concede to local standards but headway was made. If you have been lucky enough to find a weight with a crowned 'h' (in the Lombardic style) then it will date to 1495-1549 as the design continued through to Henry VIII reign.

1588 saw a new issue of standards for both the troy and averdepois (chemist) systems. Various standard markings were introduced and weights were verified by the Founders Company in London. Their mark, the ewer (or coffee pot as some call it) was stamped on all approved weights alongside the City of London Guildhall mark of a sword (sword of St Paul) and sometimes a capital letter 'A' on weights over an ounce which represented the Averdepois system. But the main dating evidence will come from the Royal cypher which composes of a crowned initial(s); all are straightforward being 'EL' for Elizabeth I, 'I' for James I (Iacobus) and II, 'C' for Charles I and II, 'WM' for William and Mary, 'W' for William, 'A' for Anne and 'G' for the four Georges.



The Royal cypher was replaced during the Commonwealth period (1649-1660) by the shield of St George, a cross within a flat-topped shield, this should not get confused with the shield of the London Guildhall that has a sword in the top left quarter; this mark was used on weights from 1826. These verification marks allow us to tell which reign they are from and by their differing positions tell most of the same name monarchs apart. For example, James I weights will have a crowned 'I' as would James II but the ewer on a James I weight is at the 12 o'clock position and is inverted, whilst the James II has the ewer at the 6 o'clock position and is the correct way up.

Using the same observations other duplicated monarchs can be distinguished from each other. The list below shows the signs to look out for and is intended to be an easy reference guide to any you may find or need closer identification.

Henry V to Henry VII - crown only 1420-1500

Henry VII and Henry VIII - crowned 'h' (Lombardic style) only 1495-1549

James I - crowned 'I', ewer at 12 o'clock but inverted, other marks at the 6 o'clock position

James II - crowned 'I', ewer at 6 o'clock and correct orientation, other marks at around 12 o'clock.

Charles I and II - crowned 'C', no way to tell monarchs apart.

George I - crowned 'G' at 11 o'clock, sword at 12 o'clock, 'A' at 1 o'clock, ewer at 6 o'clock.

George II - crowned 'G' at 9 o'clock, sword at 12 o'clock, 'A' at 3 o'clock, ewer at 6 o'clock

George III and IV (before 1826) - crowned 'G' at 3 o'clock, sword at 12 o'clock, 'A' at 9 o'clock, ewer at 6 o'clock.

Around the early eighteenth hundreds weights started to bear provincial marks and this practice continued for over a century. There are hundreds known, usually they are just numbers, but just to confuse some are crowned letters. Some are clearly not monarchs as the crowned 'X' for Exeter demonstrates, but others if slightly worn may deceive identifiers, such as 'MW' for Wakefield and 'SC' for Somerset.

I have only scratched the surface with this article so if you have a weight with markings different to those stated above or have extra marks please post them on the forum and I (and others) will do our best to help get a definitive identification. For those who wish to read more I can recommend the books by Norman Biggs "English Weights" 1992 and Maurice Stevenson "Weight Stamping by the Founders Company" 1991.



August Coin of the Month



Wodan Head Sceatta



"You got till mid September, the farm manager said to me, cos the farm is being sold,so make the most of it", trouble was the harvest was late this year and all I had was stubble set aside from the year before and I'd been over it time and time again.

Listening to advice from many folk on the Minelab machines you gotta go slow to find the small stuff they say so I thought that's what I'd do.

First few days I found four hammered farthings, going slow, one being a rose copper type a first for me.

So over it again I went when I returned a couple of weeks later and found a roman bronze that gave a cracking signal that you would pick up even if you were tearing along so I must of missed it earlier in the year.

Then a low soft signal like a thin hammered or a piece of copper sheet had me digging again and up popped what I thought was a button.

The first thing I do when I dig a coin like target is to feel it to see if it's the same both sides,then I know it's not a button,but this was nothing like I'd seen before,tiny, looked silver but also had an eastern look about it.

Couldn't wait to post it up on UKDN to see what the experts reckoned it might be and was chuffed to find out it was Saxon.

And even more chuffed that it got so much support in the find of the month competition . may I say thank you to all who voted for it. . **Ossie**



August Artefact of the Month



Well I was at the Firle Rally with Linda, it was the second days detecting, the first day I had not done much detecting at all, just enjoying the company really, in other words gas bagging all day!

On the Sunday we ventured on the field we decided we liked the look of, as I walked further into the field I spotted some pottery I thought might be Medieval. I noticed a couple of people gathered together obviously looking at something just found, so I walked over to them and asked if it was something nice.

Well yes it was, it was a fantastic fob seal, medieval. I walked away from them, a few steps ahead I got a faint signal, dug it, and out of the clod of dirt came what I initially thought was a Medieval belt mount, but as I cleaned more dirt off the enamel showed itself, I then turned it over and could see immediately it was a Roman Brooch!

I was really over the moon, and it was so unexpected, I just had a Medieval 'head' on.

Although I have never found a Roman brooch like this I assumed it was a common type really, but looks like it is not at all. It has not really been ID'd properly yet, recorded on the UKDFD as a Piriform plate brooch. I will wait and see what the FLO at the Firle Rally come up with. But one of my best Rally finds to date, and really proud to have won Find Of The Month on UKDN with it. **Sukisal**



And some of the other entries that didn't quite make



Following on with the current detecting scene North of the Border, We thought it would be a sound idea to highlight the clubs that are currently in existence within Scotland and try and get in touch with them. This turned out to be quite a challenge, but determined to find them and with help of some friends I have managed to track the majority of them down. A big thanks to all the clubs for their help, and for sending me their input and photographs and getting the information to me in such a short space of time. Hopefully through compiling this article we can now keep in contact on a more regular basis.

As I said in last month newsletter launch, Clubs are widely spread all over Scotland and members travel some distance to join a club and to partake in the clubs activity's and dig days. Below is a compilation of some of the clubs currently based in Scotland, if anyone knows of, or indeed is a member of a club based in Scotland which is not listed below, please feel free to get in touch, or send me some input for future articles if you so wish. **Lesley Sleith**

The Ayrshire Research and Detecting Group was formed in 1980 and meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Dreghorn Community Centre, near Irvine. The meetings are very informal and last approx. one hour. There is one outing per month, usually on the Sunday following the meeting. Outings range from beaches to parks and can be anywhere between Dundee and Carlisle.

Usually two rallies are attended each year and these count towards the club championship which is held at the AGM in March. There is also a prize for the best site, best coin and artefact.

The club has 15 members and costs £10 per year to join. There are no other fees to pay but members are encouraged to join the FID to obtain insurance.

If anyone requires other information on the club or would like to join the secretary, Alan Leishman, can be contacted on 01294-466450 or audidoleish@btinternet.com



The Scottish Detector Club (SDC) is Scotland's oldest established, founded in 1977.

The SDC meets on the first Monday of every month at 7.30 within the Ex-Servicemen's Club, 7 Smith Place off Leith Walk, Edinburgh. The club has a website at www.scottishdetectorclub.com. Everyone has a chance to air their views about the running of the club, and most of all, we have a lot of fun.

Currently, there are 39 members, and our meetings are very informal. We try to arrange outings to farmland on Sundays whenever sites are available, usually in the Lothians and Borders areas, sometimes in Fife. We have also done a lot of work over the past 2 years in East Lothian carrying out survey work for archaeologists at the sites of the Battle of Pinkie (1547) and Prestonpans (1745). The site of the Cromwellian battle at Dunbar (1650) is also scheduled for survey this year – all interesting stuff! Some of our members have appeared on 'Time Team' and 'Two Men In A Trench', so we think we have a good track record! The club also makes a point of attending a few metal detecting rallies in Yorkshire in August/September each year, and this season's finds have been impressive, ranging through Roman, Saxon and medieval coinage and artefacts. Membership runs from the A.G.M. in April until the end of March and currently costs £15 a year, £5 of this going towards NCMD membership and insurance.

If you are interested in joining the SDC, you will be made very welcome. Contact the Club Secretary, Alastair Hackett at:

alastairhackett@blueyonder.co.uk



The SARG Club (Scottish Artefact Recovery Group) have been going since 2003. We meet the last Tuesday of each month in the Bonnybridge Social Club, 35 Main St, Bonnybridge.

Check out our club web site www.sargclub.co.uk

Currently we have about 48 members in the club, our membership is quite wide spread from various areas of Scotland with the furthest travelled from Aberdeen. The Club nights are very informal with the Club Competitions being run each month, we sometimes have a speaker at the club to give a talk. This year for three months we had someone from Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) to look at finds and photograph them. Club outings are one of the social days out that we all love to attend, with digs taking place in Edinburgh, Borders, Central Glasgow. We also have a Monthly Club newsletter and a Club and Scottish forum for members and none members based in Scotland.

The demand for the Club survey service this year has been very busy with a large amount of surveys taking place in Stirling with possible links to the Battle of Bannockburn. We have also managed a few other Battlefield surveys this :- Battle of Bothwell Bridge (1679), Battle Pinkie (1547), Battle Bannockburn (1314). The Club always attend a few rallies over the summer usually in Yorkshire, this is a great weekend away with a large number of the members travelling down for the weekend. We have been lucky to return with some amazing coins and artefacts, with members also having finds declared TT at the rallies this year.

Cost to join the Club is £10 year with £5 going towards the NCMD Insurance.

Please contact Lesley Sleith if you wish any more information on the club. lesleysleith@blueyonder.co.uk



Highland Historical Search Society-Based Inverness

My name is Len Pentecost-Ingram, you may have seen me often in Treasure Hunting

in an ad for

cordless headphones standing near Loch-Ness.

I have been running the Highland Historical Search Society since 1988.

We are a fairly small club of around 25 and hold an evening meeting at Whites Electronics Inverness every other month, and have a club search once a month.

We find much the same type of stuff as most clubs but far less amounts due to the low population in the past around these parts. We, also like many other clubs have been involved with "Two men in a trench" and "Time Team" and countless radio interviews/press features.

Some of the highlights in the past for me have been working with archaeologists on an ironage site and finding a hoard note my finds are the cross and roman coin rest are archaeologist.

I caught the detecting "bug" way back in 87' and have never looked back I, still always enjoy that exciting sense of the unknown every outing and so far have never got tired of this absolutely fascinating hobby.

Len

In this month's newsletter, I want to let readers know about some exciting stuff that happened over the summer and let you know what the FLOs get up to when they are not recording finds! FLOs do a lot of work on top of finds identification and recording, and going out to detector clubs is only a part of it. Any of you that have helped out with museum events or at Finds Day will have seen just how wide a range of people FLOs get to talk to and work with, but for those of you that haven't had chance to join in with events like these, I thought I'd give a taster of what you've missed!

During 14th to 22nd July, it was National Archaeology Week, 9 days of archaeological activities that ranged from museum open days, lectures, chances to get involved in field work, educational events and finds days and took place from Newcastle to Newquay and everywhere in between!

NAW is organised by the Council for British Archaeology but organisations from right across the heritage spectrum help by hosting and running events. It aims to encourage young people and families to visit sites of archaeological and historical interest and to see archaeology in action.

Over the week, the PAS held a whopping 69 events, which were attended by 7233 people! The events varied from region to region; did you go along to any in yours?

In Leicester, Wendy Scott was running an event at Jewry Wall Museum where visitors of all ages, especially children could *'have a go at being an FLO'*. Using objects from her handling collection Wendy had children of all ages finding out about what they were made of, what they looked like when they were being used and how old they were. One of the children reckoned that a medieval brooch being was *'as old as my gran'*!

Many children also 'recorded' the objects by drawing them. It was very popular, so popular that some people came back for a second go! Two little girls were so interested in the objects they were recording that Wendy ended up giving them a tour of the museum so she could show them the different brooches in the cases.



Over in Scunthorpe, Lisa Staves and her colleagues held a Roman Fun Day at North Lincolnshire Museum on 21st July that, like Wendy's, was very family orientated. The event celebrated not only National Archaeology Week, but also the opening of the new temporary exhibition, 'Roman Holiday'.

Rather than concentrating on finds recording, this event was more about giving people the chance to get up close and personal with the artefacts and to ask all of the questions that they might not get chance to ordinarily. We forget that because of our interest in archaeology being such a big part of our lives that people with less all-consuming hobbies or jobs just don't get to interact with objects in the way that we do.

As well as the chance to handle real objects, there were also opportunities to have a go at responsible metal detecting and



search for real finds in the custom made sand pit! Two soldiers from the Ermine Street Guard were there to give a display of Roman fighting techniques and pose for pictures. Other activities included making a roman bracelet, contributing to the remaking of the Horstow chariot mosaic and making a roman pot with the museum's community archaeologist. The event was attended by 145 children and 161 adults, some of whom said that they had never been to North Lincolnshire Museum before!

At the other end of the country in Cambridgeshire, Philippa Walton and her colleagues held an event at Cambridge University's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. There were lots of things to try and do and two of the more unusual ones included making Iron Age style shields from pie dishes and being decorated with real Iron Age designs ain modern day 'woad' (bright blue face paint)! The 'woad' painting went down especially well with local teenaged boys!



These are great activities to do with your kids or grandkids, pressing designs on to the reverse of a pie dish (or even thick baking foil or crafting foil) is very effective for doing home-made 'repousse' decoration!

If you did miss all of this fun this year, next year's National Archaeology Week will take place during 12th–20th July and the CBA's website www.britarch.ac.uk will list all of the events that will be taking place throughout the country. The PAS website www.finds.org.uk will carry details of all of the PAS events nearer the time. - **Ceinwen Paynton PAS**



Many congratulations from all at UKDN to Dan Pett and Kate Kelland who were married on 29th September and are now enjoying a relaxing holiday in the Maldives scuba diving. Dan is our main contact on the forum from the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Kate is the Persia Education Officer - both based at the British Museum

Whoobub and PaulR

"Starting in 2008 there is going to be a new housing development of homes for approximately 3000 people a couple of miles down the road from myself.

Much of the land has been detected on in the past with a couple of nice finds.

A couple of weeks ago I walked over and got chatting to the gang of archies carrying out a proper dig on the site. Turns out they are going to be working over a large area for the next 18-24 months! They are a friendly bunch and the Head Honcho has given PaulR and myself permission to detect over the whole site, provisos being that we only go over there whilst they are working which is Mon to Fri 9-5. There are trenches everywhere and they have made multiple finds of all sorts of pottery and other artefacts.

We went for the first time yesterday and started detecting the spoil heaps.

I found a nice pot/cauldron leg and a lovely copper alloy Roman bracelet plus a couple of unrecognisable grots.

My chum PaulR found the coins (pictured right)

The archies are searching for the junction of 2 important Roman roads and think they may have stumbled across a previously unrecorded major settlement!

PaulR and I think our detecting future looks bright"



Spanner in the works' BY LEADLUMPS

One of the local farmers had phoned saying his neighbour had lost a spanner. 'a spanner'? Then he explained to me it was not the loss of the spanner or how much it would cost to replace it, but where he had lost it. It turned out he was working on a corn auger (as used to move corn via a travelling turn screw) and had dropped the spanner in the heap.



"No problem,i'll be up within the hour." On arriving at the farm the farmer said 'He hit the wall and fell somewhere in there.' I said how long ago so he replied "last week", " think t'was about Wednesday I lost'em" ..mmmm, he then explained how he and his son had rounded up the pile before they had crib" (Cornish word for lunch).

"How big a spanner?"

"Bout that long" he said, showing me with his hands forefinger and thumb around four or five inches in length.



Now for anyone who has ever walked on a heap of corn will know it's like walking on quick sand, every step will sink a foot.

Off i go, minelab in 'all metal' - dust and grain in my shoes. Then 'blurrb' a faint clear target, Minelabs distinctive pinpoint sound. In goes the arm - out comes the spanner, job done.

The reason looking for the spanner is the farmer crushes the grain in his mill, one spanner in the works <no pun> can cause unforeseen expense in the middle of winter when uses the corn milling it for winter feed.

One hour of searching has produced nothing of historical or monetary value, what it has done is let me search another four hundred acres of land if i want to. The farmer sadly lost his wife through lymph cancer two years ago and is agreeable with his neighbour holding a rally on his fields in aid of that charity.

by the way,he offered to pay me for finding the spanner, "Give it to the charity" I said.

Have you been involved? Have you helped in the community? assisting on an archaeological dig, doing talks, history fairs etc? We would love to hear your story and see your photos – please email them to either Corinne or Phil D

Spotlight on – Petethedig (Peter Twinn)

As a lad I always had a hunger for history and certainly visiting sites of interest. It was not until I was 17 did I first become aware of detecting when a work colleague sold me his C-Scope 770d, with its long black swan neck and the red pinpoint button conveniently placed in the end of the handle.

That was in 1980, since then I have to admit I've only owned three other detectors that have done the business for me, a Metadec 3, Sov Elite and an Explorer II. I've been pretty fortunate with sites over the years with detecting permissions on everything from river foreshore's to pasture and cereal type fields. In all the years I've detected I've nearly always found myself detecting alone, but I don't mind my own company and it's nice to have some peace and quite sometimes. I do however from time to time have friends over for the day or if I'm lucky I get invited over to someone else's for a day out, so that compensates me somewhat!

In November 2002 whilst trawling through the Internet I came across a newly opened website called UKDN, it was at that time one of only a handful of sites that were beginning to pull together like minded people who soon became an on-line community. UKDN has been a great source of help and instruction, certainly making me a better detectorist. UKDN has continually given free help and advice in copious amounts to those who have wanted it, be it information on the latest machine to hit the market or how to research a site. The sense of community has both grown and changed in that time, but I have to say I'm the type to embrace change rather than being concerned by it. Being a member of the staff for nearly 4 years, I can't speak highly enough of the team that makes this site work. The Admin, Mods, Techies, Finds Advisor's and Newsletter team have a wealth of experience and commitment and few would realise what it takes to run a site like this, and all for free!



In 2003 I met my FLO Kurt Adams, someone for whom I have the greatest respect and consider a friend. Kurt and I have spent literally hours together talking about anything detecting or archaeology related (As well as getting a few finds recorded). When I signed up to go to university, studying archaeology, it was Kurt who gave me the reference that got me onto the course. We've also worked together in educating students in how detecting, the PAS and the SMR works together, this with Tim Grubb (Gloucester SMR officer and member of this site). I've also supported Kurt on finds conservation days as well as other PAS events. I've recently booked us both to speak at a local historical group in October, again showing how detectorist and archaeologist can and do work well together. I consider my relationship with the PAS, which has developed these past years, to be central to all I do when out detecting, be that through recording my finds to sharing with landowners or the general public (usually when walking their dogs) what the remit of the PAS is

through recording and creating a record of the things we find. For me the work that the FLOs do is paramount to the future security of the hobby, and all it's taken for me is the time to record those finds of mine...easy! I don't think we appreciate the hard work and effort that these FLOs of ours put in during the year, often having to attend club meetings on wet, cold, Winter evenings. I sometimes make a point of thanking Kurt for what he does, just a phone call away and always willing to listen!

The PAS in the last 10 years has revolutionised our hobby beyond recognition of pre 1997, in my view for the best. Many of the FLO's visit the site on a regular basis, but two who have stood out are Dan Pett and Adam Daubney, both bring expertise and their humour, something that's dispelled many misconceptions that have often arisen due to misinformation and bad experiences with archaeologist or indeed the PAS itself. We're also fortunate to have the likes of David Connelly who owns the archaeology site, BAJR, as well as the DEFRA (English Nature) aficionado and 'Civil War' re-enactor Peter McCrone, both being main-stays to this site for a good few years now! All of them willing to speak up and encourage our working together between archaeology and detecting!

UKDN has in many ways become a big part of my life and it's something I enjoy so very much. I feel the quality of our members enriches me with their willingness to both give and share from their vast wealth of experience. I love to watch the newbie's come in and become a part of the community. To see people find their first Roman or Hammered coin and at the business end Stonner, Folkert, The Bell, Dean or Jim giving their IDs to an expectant crowd! I feel privileged to have seen some of the wonderful treasure finds that turn up each year, saved for the nation, but seen here first! With all the recent changes to UKDN as a renewed, invigorated site that sees responsible detecting and recording with the PAS as a cornerstone to the future, we can only get better, move on and improve through the interaction of the membership. I look forward to many more interesting finds, threads, articles and people who will share in what I have found in the community that is UKDN.

petethedig



Coberley Rally Report, Gloucestershire September 2007

By Peter Twinn

As I set out driving up the M5 on a crisp autumnal September morning I began wondering what the Coberley site might produce by way of finds and maybe excitement! It seemed to me that rallies no matter where they seem to be located are pretty hit and miss affairs when it comes to what may be discovered! Little was I to know that by the end of the day the history books would need to be re-written for this quiet backwater village nestling in the undulating hills that are the Cotswolds, (Fig. 1).

On this particular day I wasn't even going to be detecting, this due to the fact I had offered my services to help my local Find Liaison Officer (FLO) Kurt Adams. I figured that it would involve some writing and identifying of the common finds that usually turn up at these events. Not so, as it turns out, but the bottle was definitely half empty as I arrived and was ushered down a farm track to be able to offload my books etc. I parked up, introduced myself, and got a warm welcome from Dave Hutton and Don Sherratt, the rally organisers, then shown the place set aside for the PAS for identifying and recording finds from the rally. Kurt soon arrived soon after with Cass his partner and we organised ourselves for the onslaught I really never thought we'd have! Now I have to admit my expectation here was that we'd see a few hammered and Roman coins and some High Medieval artefact's, take some pictures, fill in some finds forms and that would be that.

Things began to take their course as they do at these events and soon the rally was started and away they all went. Now before the off and the detecting proper started, things took a turn for the better as a gentleman came and saw us as we prepared for the first coffee of the morning holding what was a chipped carved cross in his hand (fig. 2).

Now I say took a turn for the better because this particular artifact was an 'eyes only' find that he had picked up in what was the car park on a stubble field by the main road where everyone entered the site. We were blown away, possibly the last thing we thought we'd be seeing this day, but that turned out just to be the beginning of an artifactual onslaught the likes that had never been seen in these parts for many a year!

As the rally proceeded and time took its toll, people began to trickle in late morning, either wanting just a breather or something to eat or drink. It was here that a slow trickle soon turned into a fast torrent of finds discovered and people wanting identification. Talk about writers' cramp, It was one of those days that we started with the best of intentions and ended up with 'get the bare essentials' due to the queue's that politely waited with patience. I remember we started taking the details of the initial finders and even filling all the important information like what was it, how long, how wide, weight, etc, etc, then writing out a description of the artifact so there would be less for Kurt to do later back in his office. Names and addresses of the finders were taken so they could be contacted later with the information of their finds they had dug, a pretty good service I'd say, (Fig. 3).

The rally fields were not only set in a beautiful countryside, but there were lots of them, in fact, more than enough for the 450 or so attendees who were blessed with fabulous weather and detecting conditions on mainly seeded and rolled fields, (Fig. 4).

Now whether the conditions helped the finds rate, we'll never know, but it was un-relenting to the extreme and I reckon Kurt was beginning to think we needed more like 5 volunteers than the two he ended up with. The three of us never stopped recording in all the time the finds began to appear at the table. We should have guessed that this would be no normal rally when finds from the Early Medieval started to appear alongside all the Roman as expected. I cannot remember seeing so many Saxon strap fittings in one place and all on the same day. The real shocker was the appearance of Viking artefact's where they should never have been! It started with a beautiful buckle, then a wolf-head strapend, then another and then a bridle cheek-piece and so on.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

October 2007

During the day, that I know of, at least 4 items of Treasure Trove were discovered and shown to the FLO, he duly explained to the finders the Treasure Act and that they had 14 days to inform their Coroners as the law dictates; or that they could go through the process with Kurt there and then if that was their wish. I found myself amazed again at the generosity of some within the hobby as one man not only agreed to hand a find to Kurt there and then, but signed the find over as a donation. The find was a silver Saxon clothes hook which was beautifully carved with an interwoven pattern, (fig. 5).

With the closing time of the event fast approaching and as people were beginning to 'call it a day,' the three of us were so busy that we had to ask many to take their finds home and record them with their own local FLOs.

We continued to record significant finds, as well as getting the ones we had photographed onto the finds form containing at least a name and address and basic find detail, (Fig. 6). Many people left the Coberley Rally that day pleased that they had found so many important finds that dated from the Stone Age right through to the present. The rally, in terms of finds and the recording of them was a success and those who did record with us should be proud of adding to the historical record in re-drawing the local landscape. I'm sure this very successful and well run rally is due to the kind permission of the land owner and the brilliant organisation of the Taynton metal detecting club, so a big thank you goes to them. Monies raised by this event were distributed between several charities including the Air Ambulance and the local church.

Lastly as a footnote, we as a hobby have in recent times been thrust more and more into the public eye in the way we participate and act in what we do.

Recording finds at rallies is not only responsible, but important in preserving these types of events for the future. Rallies are not just great social meetings, but a chance to show that we not only love finding the past, but care enough to put it on record. A well done to all who did, and a challenge to those that have not done so yet!



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

My take on Water Newton Rally by Corinne Mills

Background

Circumstances (i.e. That old devil called work!) have stopped me dead in my tracks as far as getting out and about detecting for a number of months now - so when I was given the opportunity to work alongside Badger and his team at the recent Water Newton rally I jumped at the chance to be involved.

Badger (David Connolly) had been invited to work alongside rally organiser Norman Smith to help ensure the rally went ahead in the face of opposition from a number of groups including the local county archaeological unit. To say they had to fight tooth and nail to achieve this would be an understatement.

Badger submitted a comprehensive project design detailing the way in which the archaeological team would record finds in the field using GPS, identification of the finds made at the rally and what would happen going forward including publication of the records made.

The archaeological team was made up of Badger and his partner Maggie, a troupe of young lady students from Newcastle University, a host of Portable Antiquities Scheme staff as well as other helpers.

How it worked

As rally members left the main marquee area on their way to the fields they were given zipped bags, pens and markers (initially coloured tags but quickly changed to re-usable pin flags as the GPS team had trouble finding the tags!)

The idea was when a find was made, it was popped into a numbered bag and retained by the finder. The spot where it was dug from was marked with a pin flag on which the finder had written the number from the bag. The GPS team found these flags in the field and recorded them as the findspot - with the bag number as the id record.

When the finder then presented the finds bags at the Portable Antiquities desks the bag number was entered as part of the record - this will then be matched up against the GPS reading to ensure accurate find spot recording.

Sounds simple and it was!



Who took part in recording?

Well - not everyone participated in recording (it was voluntary) – but many, many more did.

The sheer numbers of people attending (way over the 250 originally advised and including day attendees) meant that not everyone heard the PA system or understood the request for recording before the start – and a great many people don't think roman grots are worth recording too. There were also people turning up on the day not knowing about the recording function taking place.

Walking around the field there were a number of people who didn't have bags and flags – but as many if not more did. It was encouraging that some people asked for extra to try and encourage the others around them to get involved too.



Was it worthwhile?

The proof will be in the pudding i.e. Badger's final report, but I think the answer has to be a resounding “yes”! The benefits of having an archaeological presence there were appreciated by the majority of detectorists and prove that we can work together where there is a will. That said, there is no reason why detectorists could not pull off a rally of this type without any archaeological input – it just requires the organisation of find spot recorders and an identification team to attend, do the recording and photography and the final records to be passed onto either the PAS or direct to the HERs. I wonder however which is the easiest option? I'd go for the professionals to make life simpler all round.

some teething problems

Sure there were some teething problems, lessons to be learnt etc which Badger has taken on board and will be reflected in his report.

From a personal point of view some areas for consideration are:

When an event of this type takes place the attendees need to be fully briefed beforehand so they know what is expected if they choose to get involved.

The PA system needs to be adequate to cope with the number of attendees at the rally.

Bags and Flags are great from an recording standpoint but maybe some thought needs to be given as to how practical pin flags are for detectorists to carry about easily.

Involve the local community. There were a steady trickle of visitors to the marquee during the event from the village who were curious to see what was happening on their doorstep and to discover what was found. Many had conversations with detectorists – no bad PR for our hobby. Badger is also returning to the village after his report has been written to give a talk to the locals about the event and the findings themselves. It's good to give something back to the local community.

Finds cabinets – there were no finds cabinets in place for people to see what had been unearthed during the weekend. Given the reluctance of people to part with their finds it would be good for the images taken by the PAS to be shown in the evenings on a slide show on a laptop.

Involve some detectorists in the archaeological and findspot recording team – it helps break down barriers.

A smaller scale event would perhaps have been better – for no other reason than the logistics. Most of the above hic-cups would have been prevented if there was a more manageable number attending.



The good bits

This was first and foremost a detecting rally - not archaeology. You could say it was a “best of both worlds” rally where we all proved we could co-operate without getting in each other's way. Most of us came away feeling that we had worked together as equals, that we got on with each other, we had respect for each other and that we all can learn from each other.

The rally was very much about sharing and caring for our history and heritage. The final report by Badger will tell a story – a true one at that! - of the landscape and the shadow of the people who walked this ground before us.

The rally detectorist's were shown in a good light – we were seen as people who care for our history and the importance of artefacts as much as any professional. As an added bonus BBC tv cameras were there to record it too to broadcast it to the nation.

Even my mum watched !

Do I detect some tension? Archaeologists and Metal Detectorists in England and Wales Suzie Thomas, Newcastle University

Archaeology and metal detecting in the UK has a varied and sometimes controversial history. Most of us, archaeologists and detectorists alike, have a fair few anecdotes of both good and bad experiences of working or not working with each other. My doctoral research at the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies, Newcastle University, has led me to investigate the complexities of this ever-changing relationship. From the initial emergence of metal detectors in the 1960s until present day, the reactions by archaeologists and the counter-reactions by those supporting the hobby have been both varied and fascinating.

There is often talk about how difficult relationships have been over the years, with the infamous 1980 STOP (Stop Taking Our Past!) campaign cited, along with concern by many detectorists over the current research focus on nighthawking. Yet there are some very positive developments taking place as well, and in fact there have been so for the past four decades. The late Tony Gregory, a Norfolk-based archaeologist, and later, TV presenter, was pioneering cooperative measures between archaeologists and metal detectorists as early as the mid 1970s. He is still remembered fondly by metal detecting clubs in that part of the country. For over ten years too, the Portable Antiquities Scheme has provided national coverage for metal detectorists and other finders in England and Wales to have the opportunity to report their finds for addition to the PAS database, and also providing helpful advice, such as on conservation techniques and identification. BBC1 has also recently shown, through its coverage on the One Show, examples of archaeologists working at metal detecting rallies to increase the number of finds and find spots recorded and noted at these events.

My research has focused on England and Wales, due to the legislative differences in other parts of the UK. As well as having the opportunity to delve through previously un-researched archives, I have interviewed many key people, in archaeology and detecting alike, about how things have developed and changed over the years. I have also been a fixture at several metal detecting rallies with my clipboard, talking to regular metal detectorists about the hobby.

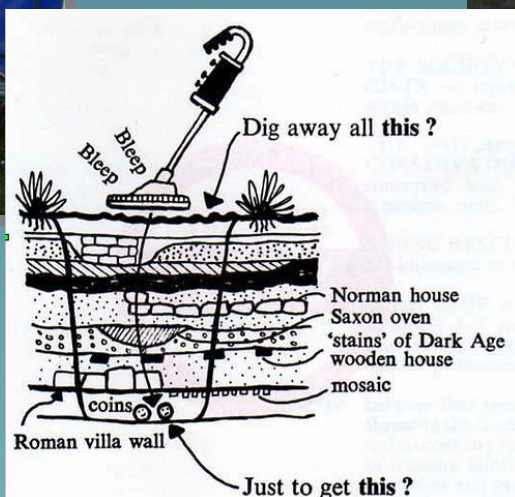
After organising a conference on metal detecting and archaeology in Newcastle a couple of years ago, I am co-editing book on the subject, which is due out in the next few months, and features both archaeologists' and detectorists' viewpoints, as well as examples from different countries.. In addition, a further event inviting metal detectorists and archaeologists to come together and discuss both concerns and common ground is planned for 2008, again in Newcastle, so watch this space!

I am moving into the writing-up phase of my PhD now and am, in a rather geeky way, very excited about what findings will emerge as I examine the data that I have collected over the past few years. Although I have finished the majority of my research, I am always interested to hear of peoples' experiences of working with detecting and archaeology, both good and bad. I am also happy simply to explain more about what it is that I'm doing. If you would like to get in touch with me, please feel free to do so, on suzieelizabeth@yahoo.co.uk.



Staff and volunteers from the Portable Antiquities Scheme record finds at the Snape metal detecting rally, 2006

A section from one of the STOP Campaign leaflets, 1980



Searching detectorists at the Durobrivae (Water Newton) rally, August 2007.

New Detectorist and Archaeologists by NORFOLK WOLF

I was asked to write a piece for the forum, normally I don't get into the politics or arguments, I have always done my own thing and gone my own way. However, after reading the excellent article by Mick Cuddeford in the Treasure Hunting magazine one piece really made me sit up:

"Britain is one of the very few countries that allows almost unrestricted treasure hunting, but also accommodated the hobby with the PAS rather than banning it outright which it could easily have done".

So here's just my take on things and why I am in favour of the Archaeologists and the PAS:

In the early days of my detecting I suppose that I was one of the fortunate ones. Way back, when some of you who are reading this were only a gleam in your father's eye; I was lucky, no make that privileged, to meet up with an absolutely brilliant Archaeologist by the name of Tony Gregory. I had just found my first hoard of Celtic Staters and he phoned me to say that he would be handling it.

On first meeting he struck me as being your original middle class hippy "arky", Jesus boots, (sandals) worn out jeans, a checked shirt open at the neck, three buttons down showing off a mass of chest hair. The obligatory beard and eyes that looked straight at you, instead of sliding around the corner and now top this lot off with a long mass of straggly hair. Boy, did he know how to spark up your interest. If only my old history teacher had had a fraction of his enthusiasm, instead of all the dry boring stuff he tried poking into me.

It reached the stage where Tony would knock, let himself in, politely demand for the kettle to be put on and then ask what fields I would be working that day. "Right sling yer gear in my land-rover and let's go have a look". I'd be swinging the coil, whilst he was off field-walking looking for any signs of habitation. "It's worth giving it a try over there; I've just picked up a few sherds of Iron Age pottery". "Look at the difference between these and this Roman grey-ware, and this orange stuff is Samian-ware that was imported during those times." Now tell me, how could you not get fired-up with all that encouragement, knowledge and friendliness being shown to you?

Unknown to me, the fan was blowing full blast and a very large amount of the smelly stuff was about to hit it. I had initially received permission from the farmer, but it turned out he was only a tenant and the landowner was looking into starting criminal proceedings against me. The very least was an immediate ban from detecting on the estate. (I'm still not allowed to reveal the landowner, but I do listen to the message she gives out at Christmas).

Tony Gregory and another fellow from the British Museum had a meet with the estate manager and put forward my case for continuing detecting which resulted in me having access, not only to that tenant farmers land but all of the estate! Bear in mind that this happened about a quarter of century ago. Detecting was pretty much small beer in those days and for the full weight of the British Museum to go into bat for an unknown old boy from Norfolk, made a hell of an impression on me.

It didn't stop there, Tony Gregory instigated the Norfolk archaeologists into visiting Metal detecting clubs, giving talks, identifying and recording finds. (The forerunner of FLO'S). They actively encouraged the detectorists, gave out a mine of information and it was all for free.

What has made it so good, is the fact that I have always been treated as an equal and if I had something to say I was listened to. I regard it as a joint effort, I find the gear to be recorded and the museum service gives me the information; not only on what I've found, but the likely-hood of anything else in the area. It don't half speed up the finds rate and stops time wasted on barren areas!

It was a very sad day when Tony died of cancer, but he left a legacy that has been continued by ALL the archaeologists in Norfolk. Andrew Rogerson, Tim Pestle, David Gurney et al, these are all straight-up guys that acknowledge the importance of the role that metal detectorists play in modern archaeology.

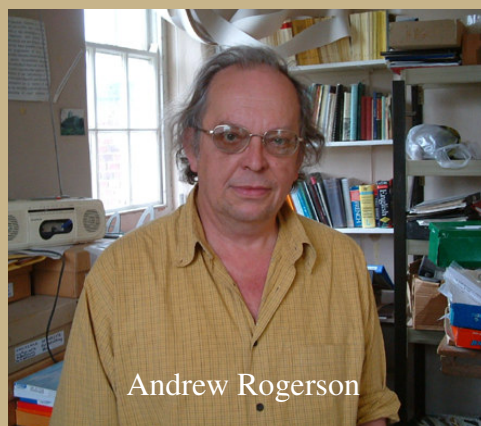
I have been aware that in the past some other Counties have been slow in coming forward and still frowned on Detecting. I couldn't understand the reasoning behind it and was just glad that I lived where I did.

Times have moved on and for the most part every County has gradually got in line and from what I can gather, those fences between detectorists and Archaeologists are getting smaller and smaller.

Mettlin' has been my way of life for a long while now, it's bought me a living (meagre), real enjoyment and a hell of a lot of friends, I would like it to carry on that way.



John Lynn



Andrew Rogerson

—— John Lynn ——



Metal Detecting Clubs

By Alan Radley (Deetektor)

I have been a member of the Essex Detector Society ever since I started metal detecting, which must have been around the year 2000. When I joined I didn't know any of the other members, but I was made welcome, and soon got to know people.

It can be daunting joining any group or club when you don't know anybody there. This is why I always try to encourage members to go up and talk to people they don't know, rather than thinking to themselves or asking someone else, "who is that?".

Potential new members, especially those who are nervous in unfamiliar company, might not come back for a second visit if they are totally ignored. This is worth bearing in mind for any of you who belong to a club. It's something which doesn't always have to left to committee members.

Since being a member of the EDS I've learnt a lot, as we have a number of long standing members who have been detecting for twenty years or more. This is one of the plus factors a club has to offer. For instance, I'm not very good at identifying early hammered coins, but we have a number of people who can tell at a glance what a coin is, due to their experience.

We also have visits from the Essex FLO, Laura McLean. This can be the only practical method some members have of getting their finds recorded onto the PAS database.

We do our best to encourage responsible detecting, and emphasise the importance of recording finds.



My first good find was on one of our club sites, it was a Papal Bulla. It was the first time I'd seen one and I had no idea what it was, (although I thought it looked old). I showed it to Paul (Skunky) who told me what it was, along with a few words like "You lucky thing" or words to that effect. That's another point, I would much rather be out with fellow club members, than detecting on my own. It's nice to show others you finds, and to see what they have. We hope to hold another rally in 2008.

We held a couple of rallies which were well attended, and for which we had lovely weather.

These take an awful lot of organizing, and rely on a small group of dedicated committee members to make things run smoothly.

This picture was take during our 2004 rally, and shows some of the (then) committee members.

Including (far right) the late Lewis Brady. He was our membership secretary, a job now done by his wife Irene. We hope to hold another rally in 2008.

People join clubs for a variety of reasons. Some just need access to farm land which they can't get themselves, and there are those who want to be able to record finds with an FLO. I know that many detectorists like to do their own thing, but I would urge anyone to join their local detecting club.

A club is only as good as it's members and it's committee. It's no good sitting at the back moaning to your mate that the club doesn't do this or that. Get involved, you have a voice, use it.

Being responsible means:

Before you go metal-detecting

1. Not trespassing; before you start detecting obtain permission to search from the landowner/occupier, regardless of the status, or perceived status, of the land. Remember that all land has an owner. To avoid subsequent disputes it is always advisable to get permission and agreement in writing first regarding the ownership of any finds subsequently discovered (see www.cla.org.uk / www.nfuonline.com).
2. Adhering to the laws concerning protected sites (e.g. those defined as Scheduled Monuments or Sites of Special Scientific Interest: you can obtain details of these from the landowner/occupier, Finds Liaison Officer, Historic Environment Record or at www.magic.gov.uk). Take extra care when detecting near protected sites: for example, it is not always clear where the boundaries lie on the ground.
3. You are strongly recommended to join a metal detecting club or association that encourages co-operation and responsive exchanges with other responsible heritage groups. Details of metal detecting organisations can be found at: www.ncmd.co.uk / www.fid.newbury.net.
4. Familiarising yourself with and following current conservation advice on the handling, care and storage of archaeological objects (see www.finds.org.uk).

While you are metal-detecting

5. Wherever possible working on ground that has already been disturbed (such as ploughed land or that which has formerly been ploughed), and only within the depth of ploughing. If detecting takes place on undisturbed pasture, be careful to ensure that no damage is done to the archaeological value of the land, including earthworks.
6. Minimising any ground disturbance through the use of suitable tools and by reinstating any excavated material as neatly as possible. Endeavour not to damage stratified archaeological deposits.
7. Recording findspots as accurately as possible for all finds (i.e. to at least a one hundred metre square, using an Ordnance Survey map or hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS) device) whilst in the field. Bag finds individually and record the National Grid Reference (NGR) on the bag. Findspot information should not be passed on to other parties without the agreement of the landowner/occupier (see also clause 9).
8. Respecting the Country Code (leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals, or disturb ground nesting birds, and dispose properly of litter: see www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk).

After you have been metal-detecting

9. Reporting any finds to the relevant landowner/occupier; and (with the agreement of the landowner/occupier) to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, so the information can pass into the local Historic Environment Record. Both the Country Land and Business Association (www.cla.org.uk) and the National Farmers Union (www.nfuonline.com) support the reporting of finds. Details of your local Finds Liaison Officer can be found at www.finds.org.uk, e-mail info@finds.org.uk or phone 020 7323 8611.
10. Abiding by the provisions of the Treasure Act and Treasure Act Code of Practice (www.finds.org.uk), wreck law (www.mcga.gov.uk) and export licensing (www.mla.gov.uk). If you need advice your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you.
11. Seeking expert help if you discover something large below the plough soil, or a concentration of finds or unusual material, or wreck remains, and ensuring that the landowner/occupier's permission is obtained to do so. Your local Finds Liaison Officer may be able to help or will be able to advise of an appropriate person. Reporting the find does not change your rights of discovery, but will result in far more archaeological evidence being discovered.
12. Calling the Police, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find any traces of human remains.
13. Calling the Police or HM Coastguard, and notifying the landowner/occupier, if you find anything that may be a live explosive: do not use a metal-detector or mobile phone nearby as this might trigger an explosion. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such explosives.

WHAT IS THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME?

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is a voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by the public in England and Wales.

If recorded, these finds have the potential to tell us much about the past, such as how and where people lived and about the types of objects they made and used.

This guide gives information on advice for finders

http://www.finds.org.uk/documents/advice_for_finders06.pdf