

The UKDN

WORD



Issue 4 December 2007

The World Of Responsible Detecting

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
From The UKDN Team



Welcome...

To the 4th edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

First of all – this is the perfect opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to this fourth edition and helped make this another informative and interesting issue. There are some excellent articles as per usual from our members and guest contributors – Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy Christmas, even though this issue will come out in early December. The team on UKDN would like to thank you all for your continued support and hope you all have a most prosperous 2008!

The newsletter is now a regular monthly feature of UKDN and we 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. Please contact Phil D or Corinne who will be happy to help! We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and will welcome your feedback on the forum.

Brian, Mo' and The Team

UKDN LOTTERY to go monthly

Following on from the huge success of the previous months' UKDN Lottery's, the UKDN Team have decided that for the foreseeable future we will hold the event on a monthly basis with a prize of a book/books to the value of approx. £20.

The lottery will take place about one week later than the UKDN newsletter launch so will happen about one week into each month. It will run from Thursday evening until 7pm on the Saturday evening when the topic thread will be locked. The 6 numbers will be taken from the Lotto draw that evening about 8pm.

Any joint winners will need to submit further numbers, the winning number chosen from the following Wednesday draw.

All UKDN members will be emailed a few days prior to the lottery so that all can take part.

Don't forget it is free !!!

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Tell us what you think!

Send a PM to Corinne or PhilD

thebell

I am a constantly retiring Californian architect, from Indiana/ Illinois - 59, having escaped to Sacramento, California -- a town with some charm, where I am thoroughly married to modern Millie.

I admit to a crushing passion for British and American literature and history -- Chaucer, the Hundred Years War and the colonization of America. I collect photos of heraldic artifacts, especially heraldic harness pendants and studs.

Millie and I like antiques, books, art, and travel to everywhere away from here. We live in a wonderful park with our rather demure Border Collie, Emily (the Dickens) and three indoor alley cats - Rickie, Stephanie, and Snowflake.

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jimhallidaymdet

Jim Halliday,

Age 74 years, been married 53 years to Kathleen who is not a bit interested in anything to do with metal detecting.

Been detecting since the mid 1970's - have owned many machines - still looking for one better than the latest. I have donated 1000's of artefact's to the local museum where they will be seen and studied by future generations of people who are interested in local history.

Worked since retirement in 1993 at various places recording finds for PAS and before that with the guidance of the York Archaeological Trust at the Archaeological Resource Centre. I have written for the Searcher Magazine for many years but recently reduced my output to give others a chance to pass on their knowledge.

Web Page <http://www.jimhalliday.com>

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folky

I have used metal detectors for more than 25 years now (with a break of about one year), have very close co-operation with the local archaeologists and am a member of various historical societies. Several years ago I started to study archaeology, but for some personal problems I had to give it up and started a career as translator and interpreter.

I have always been really interested in all aspects of archaeology and have specialised in roman small finds and roman pottery. I am also very fascinated by medieval artefact's and lead seals. I will probably go back to University next year to finish my studies.

The chances of finding a job in archaeology aren't very good over here, so keep your fingers crossed for me. I am always pleased to ID roman coins and other items on the forum and I will try to keep up my work here at the same level as now.

Stonner

My name is Lee, I am 39 and I have been detecting for just over 5 years and presently own an Exploder II. I have always been interested in history, but only got into coins about 7 years ago when I picked up an old copy of the Spink coin catalogue for 50p and realised how many different types of coins there really were. I consider my coin knowledge to be strongest in the period from Edward III to Henry VII, as it is a period of history I find most interesting. Outside this area I have to get the books out. I enjoy identifying other people's coins, especially the challenge of identifying worn and broken coins which appear on the forum.

My detecting success has not been great and I have a knack of finding mostly lead. My personal hammy total is pretty poor, but I have managed the usual suspects: Henry III, Edward I and Elizabeth I. My favourite find has been a small Bronze Age dagger and my best hammy to date is an Alexander III penny, which is recorded in UKDFD. At the top of my most wanted list is to find a Saxon coin.



In next months newsletter we meet some of the folks who often go unrecognised.

**The UKDN Forum Technicians
&
The UKDN News Team**

Catherine Parr Metal Detecting Rally:- August bank holiday weekend 2007 by Durham Dave



As I had attended the same rally in 2006 I was really looking forward to this rally, granted, I hadn't found much then, but I also enjoy the social side of these events. A lot of people had arrived on the Friday and were given some 'free land' to go at.

As I was at work on this day I received a few text messages of a 13 hammered coin-purse drop find and a nice Phillip and Mary hammered found by my mate UKND. I was chomping at the bit to get down there, but couldn't set off till early Saturday Morning. Upon arrival I soon met up with members of both my clubs the N.S.S. and D.S.S. With their help I soon had my camp set up and



coffee cup in hand (thanks Sue). Shortly after my arrival Ghost and Marty-L turned up, Sue (Amber) once again got the lads a cup of tea apiece while they struggled with their tent lol. Ghost in his inimitable style commented on the tea 'well you make a sh*t cup of tea Sue' ever the gent!

We were soon out on the fields with high hopes and the usual race to the high ground!! There was more than enough land available and everyone was soon well spread out to avoid the cross talk prevalent at the beginning of a rally. Was told by our gang lunch was at 12.30pm sharp.....totally lost track of time and turned up at the campsite at 3.30pm.....no food left!

Never found anything of mention apart from a Tudor lead button. Just along the way I saw Roman Rich talking to another lad coming off the fields, Rich shouted me over 'Ere Dave come and remind yourself what a hammered looks like!!'..... Nice one Rich.



The entertainment on Saturday evening was very good and everyone enjoyed themselves at the marquee. I must have had a good time as Yorkshire lass reckoned I couldn't find my way into my tent!

Sunday morn dawned with practically a cloudless sky and once again I was fed and watered by Sue and Alec. Many more hundreds of acres were opened up and once again there were detectorists soon dotted around on all the fields. My finds were sparse that morning so I made it back to base camp for lunch at 12.30pm. After lunch a few of us decided to try a south facing stubble field that was opened up the previous day. Sure enough just above me I heard someone shout to his mate 'just found hammered groat'.

If I've detected on hotter days I can't remember when! Sat down on the field with Amber and Ghost at one point just too knackered to carry on. Made my way back to the campsite to have a look at the finds in the tent. Hmmmm....no finds table, only the FLO recording things they were shown, they did however show me two gold rings I had heard of being found. For me it was a little disappointing not to be able to view the finds, as there is only word of mouth to tell of the finds.

I stayed on till Monday morn and shot off very early as it was my sons birthday that day. The only negative thing to occur over the whole weekend was the attempted theft of a detector and generator late Sunday night. Some people were apprehended by detectorists until the Police arrived, I've no idea if there have been any charges made.



Would I go again next year?, very likely as it is a beautiful spot and I get to meet up with many old friends.

Durham Dave.

October Coin of the Month

Tom's (ventaicenorum) Viking Penny

"My brother and I started detecting back in 1972, when we both purchased C Scope IB300 detectors and apart from Victorian coins, my only success was when I was given permission to detect on my sister in law's uncle's farm, which included the Roman Town of Venta Icenorum! I hasten to add that I only detected on land adjacent to the ancient monument. (honestly!)

In 1990, I suffered a serious injury at work, which brought an end to my detecting exploits; but when I retired, at the beginning of 2005, I decided to give the hobby another try and purchased the latest Minelab Explorer II detector, plus a harness, to save wear and tear to my old bones! I found I was able within limits to detect and after much searching, I obtained permission to detect on a small dairy farm, which I did for the next two years. I had some success, finding coins and artefacts from Medieval to date; but what were obviously random losses, as no sign of settlements, etc. were found on the farm.



A few months ago, my brother-in-law's friend suggested that I might like to detect on some land he owned near to the Norfolk/Suffolk border. I, reluctantly,

followed my new benefactor to his land, only to discover that it comprised of hundreds of acres, which I later discovered included an Early Iron Age site, a Romano British Farm and two Deserted Medieval Villages!!! Unfortunately, I only had a few trips to the land before it was seeded; but in this time, I have made many great finds, from the Roman period onwards.

My favourite, is the St Edmund Memorial silver penny, struck in Viking Danish East Anglia, in the early 10th century, which never required any cleaning, apart from a wipe with a damp cloth! At school we were brought up with the story of Edmund, King of East Anglia and his bravery and I am thrilled that my find has won Octobers Coin of the Month. May I thank you all who voted for my best ever find. (to date that is!!)"



October Artefact of the Month

Georgian Gold Vanity Case & Contents By Paul Clayton (Be Prepared)

ANOTHER PERFECT DAY

It was my first visit to this club farm. I had already been advised that lots of hammered coins had come off the fields over the many years that the club had been coming here.

We started on a small area that had been ploughed and rolled. After about an hour I thought I would take a walk around the edge of the field and having found a couple of musket balls I then had another good signal. I dug down about 8 inches hoping I may have at last found a hammered but there was no sign of anything so I carried on digging down carefully about another 4 inches and then I saw it, GOLD! In fact it was a beautifully decorated gold tube and as I picked it up it rattled. I could not believe my luck, this is the second time I have found gold this year.

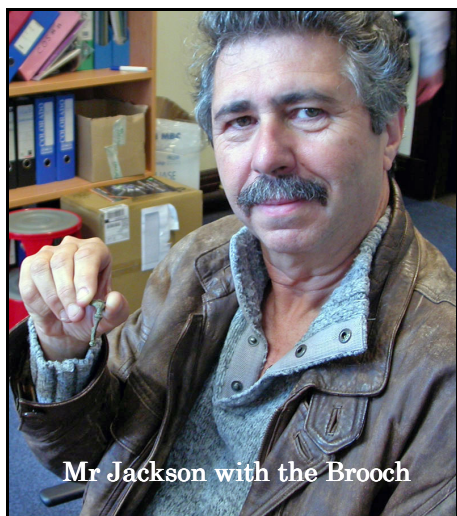
I called Jerry, one of the other club members, on his mobile and we quickly met up. Between us, after about fifteen minutes, we gently eased the gold cylinder open to reveal the contents. Inside we discovered four pieces of twisted gold which, after much debate, we think could be toothpicks.

A couple of days later I was examining the piece and discovered some hallmarks just inside the lip and after much research by Jerry Morris it looks like it was made in Paris between 1762 - 1768. At present it is with the British Museum.



Kraftig-profilerte type- what is it doing in Atherton?

Frances McIntosh - Finds Liaison Officer for Cheshire, Greater Manchester & Merseyside



Mr Jackson with the Brooch

Mr Jackson was metal detecting one day in March, near Atherton, Wigan when he found a Roman bow brooch. He brought it to show to his local Finds Liaison Officer, Frances McIntosh at the Bolton Museum. She identified it as a Kraftig-profilerte type and was quite excited about the find, specifically its location. It has been recorded on the database as LVPL-1B0623. Mr. Jackson has kindly donated it to be used as part of the handling collection.

Kraftig-profilerte means 'strongly profiled'. This type of brooch is defined as a one piece brooch with a spring of c.8 turns. It has a superior chord held by a rearward facing hook above a wide crossbar. The upper bow expands towards a narrower neck at the head and the profile is highly arched and angular above a central encircling moulding. The foot is narrower and curves upwards towards a terminal knob (Bayley and Butcher; 2004; 59). Hattatt gives them a date of around the first half of the first century AD (1982; 104)

This type of brooch is fairly unusual in Britain with only c.30 being known. Their origin is thought to be Pannonia, an area around the Danube and Rhine. The 9th Legion had been recruited from this area and then came over to England with the invasion of Britain, bringing the Kraftig-profilerte with them (Simpson; 1979; 330).

The known examples from archaeological excavations are mostly from the East and South East of England (e.g. Colchester and Richborough). This has been thought to be because this is where the 9th Legion were based/passed through. They are known to have been at Longthorpe (45-66 AD), Lincoln (66-71 AD) and York, reaching there by 71 and staying until c.120. Five of these brooches have been recorded on the PAS database prior to Mr. Jackson's, all from places in the South East such as Kent, Ditchling and Essex. Due to the small number of this type found it was thought that this style/type was never actually made in Britain. The ones being found came from soldiers who brought the brooch over to this country from Pannonia

However this view is starting to change. An example of a Pannonian brooch has been found during recent excavations at Wroxeter (2002; 103-4 fig 4.7 no 28). The authors of this report say- "the basic message is that the Pannonian arrived early in small numbers and failed to travel as far as Hod Hill... Wroxeter is one of the few assured finds in advance of the Fosse Way ". Mr. Jackson's example, along with the one from Wroxeter, starts to put into question the idea that the Pannonian type was not made in Britain. It is thought that the Kraftig type is the precursor of the British Trumpet brooch (Hattatt; 1982; 104-7) and alloy compositional studies have also suggested that some of the British examples could have been made here as copies of this style (Bayley and Butcher; 2004; 148). Variations would have occurred as the British brooch makers created their own versions of the Kraftig type and enough similarities can be seen between the trumpet and the Kraftig to see the transition to this new form took place.

This is a case which shows how important it is to be recording find spots and also highlights how individual finds can really change our ideas about certain things. There are different possibilities about how this brooch ended up so far West compared to all previous examples. Possibly it was exchanged or given as a gift to someone who then travelled over to this part of the country. It could be that one of the 9th came over this way for some reason.

Or it could be that this type of brooch was made in Britain and that the NW brooch makers were starting to copy this Continental style. Just because more haven't been found does not mean there are not more there. What we find is only a small proportion of the material culture which existed in the past. The locality of this brooch supports the Wroxeter example and the alloy studies in changing previous views about this brooch type.



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Detectorists, Archaeologists, Romans and Indians

By Paul (Firesmudge)



There has been many a debate on the subject of Detectorists working with Archaeologists and vice versa, it is one of the debates that have raised a few eye brows and plenty a temperature. It has sparked arguments and in some cases developed mistrust and also a certain amount of indifference to each party. My experience has been a positive one having worked closely with a number of archaeologists both on excavations and also detecting surveys.

I have had a detector for well over 10 years and also had an interest in doing the Time Team stuff as well as detecting, digging in trenches etc.

I have made some good friends on both sides of the fence and learned a lot from both-granting me the opportunity to indulge in a hobby that crosses the divide of the professional academic and the keen amateur. You could say one foot in the trench and one foot walking on it.

In 2005 I had the opportunity of helping with a detecting survey on a scheduled Roman Fort not far from me. There was talk on the forums about it and quite a few detectorists were involved, who turned up during the two week period of the survey. The survey was been done primarily as a Geophysical survey to plot the underground structure and layout of the fort. The archaeologist (David) had the foresight to apply for a licence to use detectors and was granted permission from Historic Scotland - so it was a green light to go on a site under supervision, that otherwise would have been out of bounds for us legal detectorists. The weather favoured us as most days were dry with even brilliant sunshine on a few days, fantastic for September. I was surprised as to how many folk made the journey to assist on the survey. Some folk I knew, but many were new faces, all with a common interest - the past. Just shows the power of the forums.

We were given a short brief of do's and don'ts, then it was pick a grid in the field, turn on and get searching. It was not long before stuff started coming up and signals were blowing folks

headphones off. The strange thing which goes against most detectorists search style is that when doing a survey such as this you should dig every signal even the dreaded iron. Why dig the dodgy signals you may ask? Well, the answer is simple; we are not just looking for the treasure but also the trash, as we are trying to paint an accurate picture of life and activity within the fort. What were they doing? What have they lost or thrown away? Why is that object here? What and who came after them? A scatter of nails can be considered worthless to a treasure hunter, but to an archaeologist they may show a building like a Fabrica (forge, workshop), therefore the iron is just as important as the gold. So many questions need answers to give a clear picture to enhance our understanding of the site - the answers simply lay beneath our feet.

After a quiet start, Roman coins started to appear along the Via Principalis, the forts main street. These coins help date the site. Others were turning up under what would have been the Barrack blocks, where you could imagine a soldier watching with dismay, uttering Latin swear words as the coin fell from his hand to vanish forever below the wooden, slatted barrack block floor into the building foundations.

There were a lot of "trash" items, along with some hammered coins and a fantastic Bronze Age socketed axe, all handed over, logged with GPS readings and recorded on the overall site plan. Listed below are some of the items recovered by the small army of keen enthusiasts:

13 Roman coins / 1 Hammered coin / 31 post Medieval coins / 5 Miscellaneous items / 12 Illegible coins

Those of you who attended were a credit to the hobby and the archaeologists were grateful for your help and impressed by your behaviour and honesty. You all made some great finds and should be proud of your achievements and the willing donation of your free time. Your attitude proved that we are not all out under the cloak of darkness, raping the fields for profit, but a responsible group of skilled people, with a genuine interest in preserving our heritage.

Since this survey I have helped on a number of smaller projects and one large scale survey in late September 2007. Due, to the sensitivity of the large site, the curse of night hawking activities and licence restrictions, places were limited for detectorists. There will be future projects where I should be able to recruit more willing volunteers to assist in the never ending quest for historical knowledge. Because of my relationship with David, I have recently been appointed voluntary "Metal detecting co-ordinator" for the project. Sounds a grand title but basically means when required I organise detectorists to assist in David's or his wife's surveys.

A metal detector to me is just another tool, which when brought together with the academic knowledge and tools of the professionals can help understand the past for the benefit of future generations, when used to search for the history of our much invaded land.

There will never be a total amnesty between the two parties, as with any group, personalities and working practices will clash which will further cement the barriers that divide us.

My view is that we need each other and we can work in harmony, breaking those barriers that keep us apart, sharing each others knowledge and skills - but others may see it different. You make up your own mind from your own experiences.

I recall a couple of Native American sayings that sum it all up:

"If you do not know where your people have been, then you will not know where your people are going."

"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave".

Paul (Firesmudge)

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

December 2007

Lindsey Bedford (Linz)

I have always had a deep fascination with history and throughout my childhood been an avid collector of 'specimens', fossils, crystals, treasures and precious bits and bobs unfeelingly labelled clutter, rubbish and tat but tolerated by an understanding family. However, being born and growing up in the Roman town of St. Albans history featured a lot with school visits and family outings from a very early age.

My dad helped as a very willing volunteer with the excavations of Verulamium in the 50's and his tales and memories made a deep and long lasting impression. He occasionally came across archaeology on site visits too as an architect and I remember fantastic accounts of finding a Roman well and a Roman child's skeleton and toy in a lead coffin just outside the city walls.

It wasn't until much later however that I came to metal detecting. It was whilst trying to encourage my (then) young son to have the slightest interest in anything at all that the first metal detector entered our household. He was given a Radio Shack special but even the thrill of finding lost treasures didn't float his boat. It was assembled, used twice then assigned to the attic for about four years with his other whim toys. It next saw the light of day when I decided to have a play with it and was instantly hooked. I took it around the small garden at the school where I then worked and found modern coins, toys, rubbish and enough silver foil to roast a very large turkey. It was enough though to trigger my imagination and get me leafing through the magazines wondering what was within my grasp if I upgraded from the toy machine. Needless to say it was not long before I bought my first proper metal detector, a Whites Class II and was joining the Sunday Club digs run by Leisure Promotions in and around Newbury.



My first non-modern coin was a dump issue George I halfpenny and I was thrilled. It took months and months to find my first long sought after Roman coin and it used to frustrate me terribly when I heard people complaining about only finding grots all the time. I joined several other clubs including my local Wessex Club, Oxford Blues, Coventry Moles and 3 Counties. These clearly provide me with huge opportunities to detect different locations and meet lots of fellow detectorists (nearly all men however!) at club digs and rallies.

The first hammered coin, a Lizzy sixpence, didn't fall to me for well over a year and was a truly memorable day. These days I drive a Laser Hawkeye and am very happy with it being so light and straightforward to use. My one and only treasure find to date is a lovely sixteenth century gold gilt posy ring with THINKE ON ME inscribed around it and I was delighted when the British Museum returned it to me. Another memorable find was an Iron Age brooch dated to about 250 BC and pictured in the PAS annual report 06. I do try to record all my finds either with UKDED or PAS and feel I'm doing a service to our heritage by recording and rescuing these fragile items from damage or obscurity.

I am very fortunate in that I teach at a private school, once a large family home, with extensive grounds where I am able to detect. Also, the headmaster owns the farm surrounding the school. We have the understanding that everything I find around the school I put into a display cabinet and the children can use and handle the artefacts to help bring their local history to life. They love it and I get huge satisfaction from knowing it's firing their curiosity and enhancing their learning. Like me they are developing a respect and sense of awe that these items belonged to real people hundreds if not thousands of years ago and only me and them have touched them since. A win win situation for all concerned.

Continued on next page

I wrote this little poem after hearing another detectorist utter the words 'only another bloody musket ball'

Another Bloody Musket Ball

A beep to the left, a beep to the right
I wonder what's down there just out of sight
I bet it's another bloody musket ball

Light streams in from all around
I can't believe that I've been found
I'm roughly plucked from earth packed tight
Then rubbed and held up to the light

Sod it, another musket ball

When I last saw sun and last was free
It was August, sixteen forty three
I had only existed but one day
One day too long some might say

If I could speak of what I saw
I'd tell of terror, smoke and gore
A young man's face etched with fears
Streaked with blood, smudged with tears
Of whizzing trees, grey earth and sky
A blur of life as I did fly
A flash of gold around a head
Then red and red and still more red

If I could speak of what I heard
I'd tell of curdled screams not word
Of blasts from guns, of trumpet chords
The clash and scrape of bloodied swords.
Of prayers to God, whimpering, pleading
Screams of horses mortally bleeding.
Clanking armour, missiles flying
Shouting, swearing, hard men crying.

If I could tell of what I felt
I'd tell of a leather bag and belt
A trembling hand, fumbling fingers
The musket barrel, a heat that lingers
An explosive blast, a rushing storm
A steely impact then wet and warm.
Then nothing more, no noise, no tears
For the next three hundred years. Until.....

A beep to the left, a beep to the right
Maybe a touch fanciful and maybe I need to get out more but it doesn't hurt to think a bit before we throw away
any history we are lucky enough to discover. Living near Newbury, not far from the sites of the battles, maybe
my musket balls were used for hunting but then again.....



—Lindsey Bedford

DETECTING IN 'GOD'S COUNTRY' BY KERNOWKID

The Metal Detectives of Cornwall can be categorised into three basic groups:-

1. Beach searchers
2. Land searchers
3. Beach and Land searchers

Pure Beach searchers (of which I was one for 10 years)

There is a multitude of areas to search on both the north and south coasts of Cornwall. The beautiful beaches of the Duchy attract thousands of visitors in the summer season so losses of coins, jewellery and other valuables are prolific. A serious beach detectorist can more than recoup the cost of an expensive machine with lost coinage alone in just one season.

The advantages of beach detecting are that the finds are replenished every season and you are not restricted by crops being planted as land detectorists are and beach searching is an all year round affair with winter weather removing of shifting sand to expose older losses. In one afternoon in an area smaller than a tennis court I found over 400 coins after the winter weather had done its work.

For me the big disadvantage of beaches is the lack of ancient coins and artefacts. In 10 years of pure beach detecting I was lucky to find one hammered gold, one hammered silver and one Roman bronze. These finds made me hungry for more so I made the transition to the next category of Cornish detectorist.

Land searchers

The inland Cornish detectorist is by far not a spoilt beast! Nature or God has placed Cornwall at the extremity of the United Kingdom. It has never been a highly populated area and being fairly narrow and almost surrounded by sea it does not have vast areas for growing staple crops.

Bronze Age finds have fallen to a few lucky detectorists - mainly axe heads of one type or another. One club member about two years ago unearthed a large folded gold strip dating to this era and I was lucky to find bronze rapier fragments dating to 2500BC.

Iron Age finds have been even rarer; I am not joking when I say that all detector found items dating to this time could be held in one hand. In 2005 a scabbard mount circa 100BC - 100AD was unearthed, which is so far unique to the British Isles; brooches of this period have been found and myself and 'StaterDave' have been fortunate to find a single stater each - the first in Cornwall for 250 years!

Romano-British finds are by no means common but are found. The vast majority of finds are in the form of coins mostly bronze or copper, and a few silver have steadily surfaced. Brooches both complete and fragments have been found and these tend to be the standard fibulae Colchester derivatives. Not for us any umbonate, trumpet or animal types I am afraid!

If our club had a shield for best early Saxon finds in Cornwall, I would first laugh - then once I could speak, tell the treasurer to get our money back from the trophy shop. You know those little brass signs you sometimes see in pubs saying "on this spot in 1876 nothing happened" well, change the dates, stick one on the Cornish border and it would be about right. Someone must have been living here at the time and they must have lost something but at the moment I like to think of them being eco-friendly and everything was made from wood.

The late Saxon/Viking age is another non starter as far as detector finds go, I know of a Viking penny which was found in the St. Austell area about three and a half years ago. Also, a broken Anglo-Viking zoomorphic buckle was found on a club site this year and a stirrup mount was found on Marazion beach about seven years ago. Last year myself and 'StaterDave' each found an Edward the Confessor cut half.

It gets a bit better when we come to the Medieval age, silver hammered and artefacts surface on a regular basis, though not to the point where we are down here tutting at another worn long cross penny as we toss it in our grot box! I would say we are on a par with the rest of the country in that Edward 1st and Elizabeth hammered are the most common finds with a sprinkling of other reigns. Gold hammereds are very rare finds anywhere, but a few have surfaced both on land and on the beach in Cornwall. Buckles tend to be the most common artefact but high status medieval items such as horse pendants, rings, buckle brooches etc. are a bit thin on the ground. Crotal bells are another item high on a Cornish wish list I have only seen one complete example that was found in Cornwall.

So spare us a thought as you unearth your second Iceni silver unit of the day in some Norfolk field or you have just discovered the pin is intact on your umbonate brooch in Kent.



Open your eyes for more metal. by staterdave

My interest in eyes only finds started when, after rekindling metal detecting for about the tenth time in twenty or so years, I stumbled upon a large scatter of flints in a field I had avoided for years, foolishly thinking it was away from any habitation.



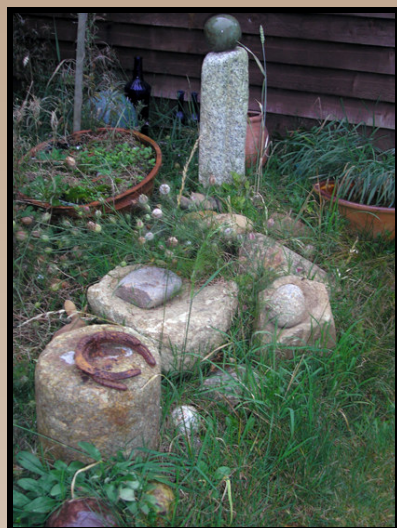
My sum total previous to this was a wishful thinking broken arrow tip and a scraper, and at the point of walking into that field, I could not of dreamt about the discoveries that lay ahead in the next three years in both types of searching. The field mentioned was on the top of a river valley and had just been harvested of potatoes and a lot of rain had fallen recently which now looking back, had made my introduction to flints a lot easier, leaving them more exposed and shiny. Just like detecting the better the ground conditions the better the finds rate an almost blank field can be transformed with several days of rain. The initial searches didn't produce much at all and it was not until half-way across that I started to notice a lot of flint pebbles and flakes, it was then that it clicked that they were foreign to the soil and not brought up in sand from the beach as there

were far too many, having no underlying natural flint.

Soon I had a bag full, picking up every piece I saw and the more I picked up the more my eyes tuned to the colour and the shapes of the flints resulting in ever decreasing sizes and more varied tools including scrapers, cores and blades. Looking back at the finds with the knowledge I have now they covered a period of several thousand years from about ten thousand to two thousand BC. I think I spent a good two weeks of spare time going up and down the rows and was eventually rewarded with a barb and tanged arrowhead and a heraldic horse pendant, which at the time was my oldest MD find by far. Both finds along with the best scraper were framed and presented to the farmer at Christmas as a way of saying thank you which then resulted in more land and now with my eyes tuned more flints and MD finds including the medieval losses I had desired for years



After a visit to the library and reading some old recounts of local antiquarians and their finds from the 1800s which gave precise locations, my next area to target for permission was apparent. Again the high ground was in favour and flints were abundant, particularly at the bottom of slopes and more so on south facing ones or anywhere near water. It was then that I started to notice the bronze and iron age pottery and slowly much like the flints your eyes tune to it the more you look. I realised that if you are finding flints then habitation more than likely continued into the bronze age then possibly Iron age and if the pottery suggested that then why not Roman, Saxon etc. as every-thing needed for survival was already in place. If you can spot the pottery your MD finds rates will increase, the medieval being easier than the previously mentioned (BA/IA) with many metal and coin losses to be found amongst the fragments. Look for biscuit or grey coloured unglazed wares or greenish glazed fragments, the brighter the green the nearer to Tudor anything white or vivid colours will be much later.



Finally its not just flints and pottery to keep your eyes open for, other finds I have made have been beads, clay pipes, rubbing stones, whet stones for sharpening or polishing and various amounts of worked granite, including a garden roller from a stream in the middle of a village. Others have been various in size and use,

including a complete large saddle quern which predates the rotary form so likely to be bronze age at the latest. This came from a field that the hedges were made from hand-sized stones, leaning against one after being ploughed up it stood out like a sore thumb, due to it's size. Rocks that farmers have cleared during ploughing are always worth a look for signs of being worked and may indicate dwellings at one time, often being placed around telegraph poles or in one corner. I recently recovered a couple of mortars for crushing or pounding tin ore, or grain and also the saddle quern by this method. Basically look for anything that has a regular shape, differs in colour, shape, size or texture or is not natural to your soil.

Both bits of treasure this year have come from fields that produced nothing else, metal wise, from that period (Bronze age or Roman), but the eyes only finds told me that use had taken place during those periods and flints from prior use made my searching worthwhile which was why I persisted and was eventually rewarded.

So open your eyes rather than walk over it, your metal detecting find rates will increase if you can see the signs of occupation. You will have belief, and hopefully your dreams will be fulfilled too.



The Educational Value of Archaeological Finds

by Kurt Adams Finds Liaison Officer for Avon and Gloucestershire

In 2004 a remarkable treasure find was reported to me under the 1996 Treasure Act, the finder had discovered an enormous coin hoard dating to the 4th century. Hoards such as these are almost always discovered by metal detector users, which makes this find all the more unusual because the finder discovered the hoard whilst digging a pond in his back garden. As the FLO for Gloucestershire and Avon I have been in the fortunate position of been able work with this hoard from the start of the treasure process to the end and then beyond as an educational resource.

The hoard consists of about 11,460 copper alloy Roman coins most of which dated to the 2nd quarter of the 4th century which would date them to the end of the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337). The two of the commonest coins within the hoard are a pair of Commemorative coins of Constantine the Great. These were struck between AD 330-335 and represent one of the most frequent types of Roman coin found in this country.



The first type has a female helmeted bust facing left on the obverse with the inscription CONSTANTINOPOLIS, this is the personification of the city of Constantinople. The reverse shows the winged figure of Victory standing on the prow of a ship, this refers to Constantine's naval victory over his rival Licinius at Chrysopolis near Constantinople in AD 324.

The second design celebrates the city of Rome. A female helmeted bust facing left personifies the city of Rome this is surrounded with the inscription VRBS ROMA. The reverse has a she-wolf suckling the twins Romulus and Remus, this is a reference to the legendary story of the abandoned infants who were reared by a she wolf and went on to found the city of Rome.



On the lower part of the coin there are a number of letters which tell us where the coin was minted. Most of the coins display the letters TER or PLG which informs us that they were minted in either Trier in Germany or Lyons in France, but some have come from as far away as Antioch in Turkey displaying the letters ANT. Many of the coins within the hoard are in excellent condition and may never have been in circulation. The coins were contained within a Severn Valley ware pottery vessel that may have been made in or around Caldicot. This vessel is thought to date to the end of the 3rd century AD, and when buried the vessel was covered by a makeshift sandstone lid.

Although hoards of this date are not uncommon, they tend to number no more than several hundred coins. This means that the Thornbury coin hoard is all the more remarkable and makes it the third largest hoard of its

type behind the 22,500+ coins from Nether Compton, (Dorset), and 17,548 coins from Bishopswood (Herefordshire).

Often when dealing with these artefacts, it is easy to look no further than the material interest and not see the true potential of these archaeological finds. Finds such as these have the ability to capture the imagination of adults and children alike and act as a springboard to focus peoples' minds and facilitate learning. Therefore, when a find enters a museum's collection, it becomes much more than just another object in a draw. It is potentially a very valuable educational resource.

Continued on next page

For instance, since having the hoard in the museum staff have pushed the educational value of this hoard to as many groups as possible particularly aiming at children in key stage 2 and 3 of their education. One of the activities was a creative writing excise targeting Key Stage 3 students in an attempt to use the hoard as the basis for creativity within literacy. Also there have been a number of schools workshops within the museum all centred on the hoard and what it could tell us about the Romans. Plus a series of lectures and other events, some aimed at adults, have been carried out during this particular round of educational activities, all using artefacts to stimulate the learning process. In total the amount of people that have benefited from these activities and museums collection have not been in the hundreds but in the thousands.

The example above, although based on a coin hoard, saw the use of many aspects of the collection from mosaic floors to fragments of pottery, which were all used to engage the children's imagination in order to educate and illustrate the Roman period. It is important to understand that no object in a museum's collection is ever just 'locked away'. The museum is a resource that is available to the public in much the same way as a record office whereby artefacts can be viewed and studied, even when not on display. This is where a museum's true value lies in its educational capability. When an artefact is donated to a museum, it contributes to the archaeological record and the education of the local community in so many ways and is more accessible in comparison to something that is kept in a bucket in a garage or sitting on a bookshelf at home.

The hoard, including its clay vessel and sandstone lid came under the 1996 Treasure Act and was therefore reported to the local corner and taken to the British Museum. The hoard in all its glory can now be seen in Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery where it is on permanent display.

Kurt Adams has been the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officer for Avon and Gloucestershire since 2004. Anyone wishing to contact Kurt for further information about the PAS, or would like to record some finds, then he can be contacted at the City of Bristol Museum on 0117 9222613 or Gloucestershire County Council on 01452 425705, Mon-Fri.



**Nummus of
Constantine the Great**



Vrbs Roma





Western Historical Research and Detecting Association.

by Jerry Morris (JBM)

Our Club WHRADA was founded in the 1980's and is running at full strength these days with a healthy waiting list despite our increasing the membership level to 45.

We also have other categories to suit all our members, who for a number of reasons are unable to detect as often as they would like but still wish to be involved with the club and the hobby.

WRADA Raises money for charities including the Local Hospice even raising money for China Bears Rescue - all worthy causes.

Co-operation with area museums and through our FLO Kurt Adams has never been better and recently Kurt and Jerry Morris spent an evening giving a talk to South Gloucestershire Heritage Forum.

The Heritage members were very pleased with what they heard and had the opportunity to have a hands on session with the finds that we placed on display.

The club now has computerised records of members finds thanks to Steve Hutchings and some finds are presented to the farmers to show our appreciation for their hospitality to our club.

Recently Mark Sayers our Vice Chairman recently gave the members a very professional evening tuition on map reading and use of a hand held GPS - this is something that very often gets ignored and helps detectorists from finding themselves straying off site.

The finds tables always have some beautiful entries and some of these have also been donated to museums for future generations to enjoy.

Our Committee members and helpers have really bonded the club together and deserve a mention - Steve Hutchings the treasurer and finds records office, Barrie Brown the museum liaison officer and our Sites Officers Maggie Bowen and Paul Burke, our vice chairman Mark Sayers/NCMD rep and PRO Lorraine Stanley.

I have included a few finds that our members have submitted to our FOM competitions for you to see.

A club dig takes place each Sunday although recent animal diseases have made life difficult for Farmers and ourselves as their guests.

Our Farmer friends have been invited to our annual Xmas party which gives us another chance to say thank you - as without their hospitality the hobby would not exist.

We have always had a waiting list for new members but generally speaking from the date of application to becoming a participant on site is about 12 months.

Jerry Morris
Chairman.



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