

The UKDN

ISSUE 6 FEBRUARY 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

WORD



INCLUDING....

FIND OF THE MONTH

FIND OF THE YEAR 2007

SPOTLIGHT ON DEMMY

GRASSROOTS BY GEORGIAN TIM

UKDN NEWS

AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!





Welcome...

To the 6th edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter

Doesn't time fly? It certainly doesn't feel like six months ago when we announced that UK DETECTOR NET was bringing out its own newsletter. We were all a little concerned at first wondering whether it would be a success as we all do when embarking on a large project.

Thankfully, as we prepare for our 6th edition, we can state that the UK DETECTOR NET newsletter has been very well received. Each of the last three editions has been downloaded over 500 times and our plan is that we intend these figures to keep increasing as more members become aware of it.

Whilst we are in editorial mode we must thank all our members for the terrific support UK DETECTOR NET forum members have given to our campaigns to keep the PAS funding to be kept in line with Inflation. Our UKDN E Petition, at the time of writing, has 1874 names on it and it is likely to hit the 2000 names mark and become one of the top 100 petitions in the whole country.

Our letter-writing campaign has gone tremendously well proving that on-line communities and forums such as ourselves can have an impact on how we live our lives and how others rule over us. We have got many MP's signing up to the Early-Day Motion 566: PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME and have obviously made some people sit up and think and others to take notice of what our members have had to say.

The team on UKDN would like to thank you all for your continued support.

This is the perfect opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to this sixth 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!

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

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February 2008



UKDN NEWS

Did you know.....

That almost everything posted for the past 11 months is still on the UK DETECTOR NET server? Did you know that the forum section "Pictures of Your Finds" now contains, at the time of writing, 27,795 posts in 2,988 threads !! and reaches a staggering 100 pages !!

"Please ID my Finds" although only started in July 2007, contains over **10,680** posts in 1,595 threads. It stretches to over 54 pages of content !!

"Chit Chat" contains 19,112 posts in 1,668 threads and so on and so on.

"So what?" you may say.

Well, before Karv and ourselves moved the server last March, 11 months ago, some of the above forums had an automatic prune which would remove stuff after JUST 14 days. This meant that if you searched for stuff just a few weeks old, you could find that it had been automatically removed after this short time span. This was always a shame and something we are glad to have overcome.

Now, you can search the forum for whatever search terms you wish e.g crotal bell, church field, medieval buckle etc, etc and find a mass of stuff posted by other members **from almost 12 months ago to the present day.** Try it and see !!

What of the future? How long can UKDN keep this stuff on-line and available to us all? It amounts to many many MB's of info and space. Karv tells us that he thinks it could be possible for us to archive all posts for the foreseeable future.

What a cracking asset that would be for UK DETECTOR NET.

Treasure Hunting Magazine to Sponsor Coin and Find of the Month

The Admin Team are pleased to announce that Treasure Hunting Magazine will be taking over the sponsorship of the above competitions. They have agreed to donate the prizes of an annual subscription to both the winner of the Coin of the Year 2007 (Romanrich with an Anglo-Saxon Thrymsa) and Artifact of the Year 2007 (simonthesearcher with a medieval gold ring decorated with precious stones).

Treasure Hunting Magazine will also give a subscription to each winner of the Coin and Artifact of the Year 2008 which will be voted on next January i.e. Jan 2009 We shall be including a Treasure Hunting Magazine banner on the Find of the Month pages within the UKDN newsletter and also on the forum section for Find of the Month.

The competition is for current UK finds only and you must have been a member of UKDN for three months before you are entitled to enter.

If you find something special try to take a picture before handing your precious find to the FLO or club.

IF YOU WIN! we will need a high resolution picture emailed to petethedig please with your name/username/ both with a county where it was found for the inclusion of your find in the Treasure Hunting magazine and the UKDN Newsletter next month!

If you do not wish to have your Coin/Artifact printed then please refrain from entering this competition. Many thanks and good luck!



The recent campaign on behalf of the Portable Antiquities Scheme against the proposed funding freeze and the very public criticism of the Central Office by Roy Clare has prompted an unprecedented amount of publicity—the following are the plain facts of the current situation and tell you how it could affect you and your local FLO

In The Plain Facts:

- In 2004/05, when PAS received HLF funding, the total budget was £1.343 million and it was £1.396 million in 2005/06. In 2006/07, after DCMS took on direct funding, the budget went down to £1.262 million and is now £1.3 million in 2007/08.
- All partners contribute a 5% cash contribution towards posts.
- In 2006/07 BM was able to use underspends of HLF and DCMS funding accrued between 2003 and 2007 totalling £110K. In 2007/08 PAS has survived by (a) living off expenditure made in advance at the end of financial year 2006/07 and (b) through partners adding more than the 5% contributions, but they have indicated that they cannot do this beyond 31 March.
- Frozen funding of £1.3 million means cutting up to 5 out of the current 50 posts: PAS is a front line service and the Ministers have affirmed that the purpose of the SR was to protect front-line services.
- PAS needs £1.49m to carry on at current level. This year's budget was set in 2003 and is too low. Many posts have been regraded with substantial increases in staff costs: the partners are subsidising these extra costs this year but made it clear they won't renew contracts unless full costs are met. Increased need is nearly all due to rising staff costs and we rely on the partners' co-operation to renew contracts: if they don't think they're getting enough, they won't renew.

Consequences of £1.3 million funding next year:

- Three posts have been ear-marked for closure.
- The half-time York Finds Liaison Officer was to be transferred to Teesside where it is desperately needed, as currently only 1 FLO covers the whole of the North East region from the Tees to the Scottish border: that is not possible with £1.3 million.
- The consortium of partners in Oxon and Berks, currently covered by 1 FLO, has written to say they won't provide cover for East Berks unless an extra half-time post is funded, so there will be a gap in provision of PAS in Berks.
- There will not be enough money to fund FLOs' travel costs which means they will have to cut down on their visits to metal detecting clubs and means Treasure process will be slowed down, as they won't be able to bring finds to London more than say twice a year.
- Outreach activities will suffer with loss of Education Co-ordinator post and there will be no money to pay for materials for small displays or publicity material needed for Finds Day events etc., nor to pay travel expenses for volunteers.
- There will be no money for development of PAS website, nor for the archaeological illustration of finds, essential if they are to be published in scholarly publications.
- Regional newsletters will cease being published (currently each of 5 regions publishes one a year).
- PAS is already making all possible efficiency savings: eg saving £20K by producing a single combined Annual Report on Treasure and PAS, instead of separate ones; scrapping newsletters; saving £15K on maintenance costs for database.
- In 2007/08 the BM is making a cash contribution totalling £66K to PAS and provides contributions in kind worth around £250K

Sunshine between the Showers



The title of this small article perfectly describes the weather in 2007 but also sums up my detecting forays. It really has been a case of everything or nothing from one outing to the next. It always amazes me how you can find a few hammered silver and some nice artefacts one day and go to the same site the next day and find absolutely zilch.

I have been using a total of four machines this year, all of which have performed well and all are totally different in set up and usability. You know when you have been at the detecting game for a while you can pick up virtually any machine and get to know it within a couple of outings.

My biggest surprise when using these machines was with a unit that has been around for a very long time. I have only been using the Lobo ST for a couple of weeks but I can already tell it is one of the most sensitive machines that I have used on my sites. It came with so many recommendations; Sal, Saxonman and the appropriately named LoboLad to name just a few people. Thank you everyone, it is just as good as you all said it would be. I have the Lobo control box mounted onto one of AndyUK's straight shafts, together with a 10"x12" DD Hot Coil. I have found two cut halves with the Lobo on a field that I have hammered with the detector for over 15 years. The Lobo is not a deep seeker of hammies but its sensitivity is second to none.

As most of you know, my hammered silver count is sitting on 72 at present. Some of you will think that this is a healthy or even hefty figure, while others will be scoffing at such a punitive tally! Personally I am very pleased with the total and as I work from January to December I hope to increase that figure before the year is out.

I've always said that to achieve a high hammie count you need a good site and a good machine and you have to put the time in. Also, not forgetting a good technique; if you leave your coil six inches above the ground level and swing too fast, you're not going to find the small stuff. I have probably found close to 500 hammered silver in my detecting career and yet I still get a buzz when I see that greyblack disc in the spoil.

Out of the 72 found this year, most are the usual Edward I penny (not that I am complaining of course!) but there has been a lack of memorable coins. I suppose the most notable include a very nice continental type Sceatta and a good example of a Scottish David II Half Groat. My personal favourite though was a Newcastle mint Edward I penny – anything from the home toon always goes down well!

Continued





Spotlight on
UKDN member Demmy

Sunshine between the Showers

I have been detecting for over 25 years starting off with a C-Scope TR200 at the age of 10 and even back then with a basic machine I can remember finding George III silver coins and umpteen copper pennies. I worked my way through the C-Scope selection buying them out of my mum's Freemans catalogues! Do they even still sell detectors in home shopping catalogues????

It was a C-Scope CS2M, and if I remember correctly 1989, that I found my first silver hammered coin. I recall the discovery like it was yesterday; it was a very clipped but complete Edward I penny of the Canterbury mint.

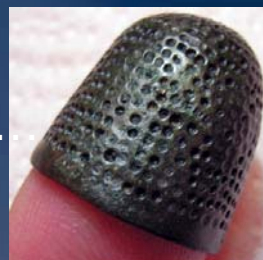
That coin really got me hooked and since then I dread to think how many hours I've spent in the fields.

I have loved every minute of my time detecting – the good and the bad days - and I've said it before, "I think Carlsberg must have invented metal detecting – probably the best hobby in the world!"



Demmy

Keep the coil to the soil.



Grass Roots

OLD POSTCARDS by Georgian Tim (Timothy Storer)

We have all seen them, the (mostly) men hunched over the tables trawling through piles of postcards at collectors fairs. Large wads of notes are then handed over for those flimsy bits of card which are then secreted away and then they move off to the next table for the same ritual. What possible use can the cards be to the average hardworking detectorists? In fact, with the right card they can lead you to some very productive sites with just a little research. Also, thanks to eBay, you don't even need to buy the cards in question as it can be viewed for free.

Don't just look at the front as the back can be just as informative. A card from a niece to her aunt in the next town saying that she will be with her in time for the village picnic later that day hints at a long gone standard of postal service and a social gathering where items can be lost. A message about catching the Friday cart to Bath tells me that there was a regular cart service from the village that took passengers. Where was the pick up? Was it a regular meeting place for other things? Can it be searched? Another that tells a friend how the local cricket match was the last to be played on the field before it was returned to farmland and the new pitch brought into use. This one should set the alarm bells ringing as a Victorian/Edwardian cricket field should be rich in finds and is now just another farmers field so search permission can be sought. O.K. it is not as good as a grid reference but it is enough information to get the search started.

On the whole the front of the cards will be your main source of information. The card shown below is a gem as it shows the land in use as a sports field and should be easily traceable from the clues in the picture. The church would be the first point of reference followed by the terrace of 4 houses. If they are still standing then they should be easily findable. Maybe you will be unlucky and it has been built on but you will never know until you look.



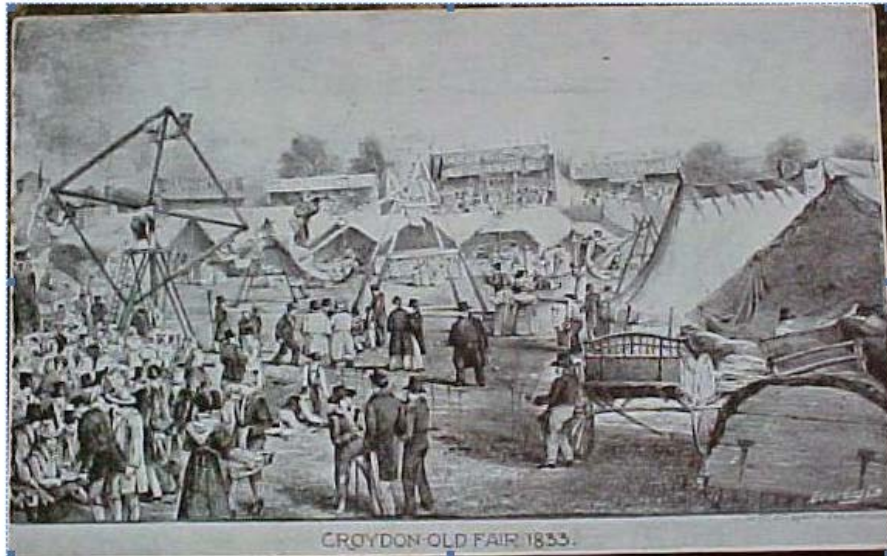
Grass Roots

OLD POSTCARDS by Georgian Tim (Timothy Storer)

The next picture is of Croydon fair and shows that a fair has been held since 1833.

There are very few clues in the picture but local research should produce some results. Losses at a fair would have been numerous especially when the ale started flowing.

Chances are that this site is well known or built on but there are many more out there that have been forgotten.



The third card depicts a horse show.

It is obviously at a place called Kington and the location may be found by identifying the hills behind it.

Money would have changed hands through betting, refreshment stalls etc so chances of losing coins would have been high, not to mention other items.



Beach postcards are probably the most prolific and the final card is of Mablethorpe beach.

Popular areas of beaches moved according to the facilities and landscape so what is a dead area now may well have been teeming with activity in the past. Most beach detectorists stick to the current popular spots and leave other areas alone as I found to my profit on a recent holiday.

I don't know this beach and it may well be the same areas in use today but you never know.

Georgian Tim



February 2008

Helping in the Community

Farmers plough part

By quattro man

It all started with a visit to the farm that I detect on to give the farmer and his wife, Colin and Edwina a Christmas gift for their support in allowing me to detect on their land. Colin said he was glad to see me as he had lost part of his plough and asked if I would look for it for him. He said he had every confidence I would find it. **Ha ha.**

So at 11 am on the 27th December I met up with Colin, who had a bucket in one hand and a fork in the other (never did find out what the bucket was for). As I got my wellies and set up the SE, one of the farmers lads informed me he had already tried to locate the disc with a borrowed detector without any luck. He said he had every confidence that I would be able to find it with my state of the art detector.

It dawned on me then, that these guys were expecting me to find it, and that all the attention was focused on me. You can imagine what was going through my head at that point. If I couldn't find it I was going to have some very disappointed people. So the challenge was now on. So off the four of us went, and the bucket, to the field where they thought the disc was.



It was only then that I discovered the field was the most iron infested area that I have ever detected in. After about 45 minutes and 4 large holes later and no disc I was getting concerned to say the least. I then remembered that Trigger had stated on the forum about using the 'learn' facility of the SE to find it, using a similar disc. Twenty five minutes later we had a very promising signal on the SE, I said to Colin try here, well I have never seen a happier guy as he started digging I could hear him muttering "Yes, Yes, Yes this is it boys I can feel it hitting the fork". As he dug down to about 8 inches he shouted "Oh yes Alan, you have found it." He had a big grin on his face. Well at that point I was happy and relieved 'I Had found it'.

The disc was in an upright angle and Colin said that if the tractor had driven over it, it could have sliced the tyre. With the replacement cost of anything between £600-£1000 this was the reason why it was important that it was found.

So with Farmer Colin's thanks and best wishes ringing in my ears it was a very successful way to end 2007.

quattro man.



Five swords, five years on.....

David Marchant - South Cave weapons cache



The South Cave Weapons Cache was found in September 2002 by metal detectorists Mick Carr, Patrick Walby and John Connell, on agricultural land at South Cave, East Yorkshire. Initially one scabbard tip was recovered, but on a later visit to the site, two copper alloy scabbards and some Roman pottery were uncovered. Realising the importance of the site, the detectorists promptly contacted the Humber Archaeological Partnership, who along with conservators from the York Archaeological Trust, carried out the excavation and recording of the cache.

Following a detailed assessment of the finds and some initial conservation by HAP/YAT, issues of ownership & valuation had to be resolved. Ultimately, East Riding of Yorkshire Council was successful in an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to purchase, conserve, display and publish the finds. The total project cost was £174,000, of which 75% came from HLF and the rest from the Council. The actual purchase price was £95,000. The conservation and analysis of the cache was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeology Service. (MOLAS)

The cache includes 5 iron swords, contained within their decorated copper alloy scabbards. Each scabbard has distinct decoration. The sword handles were made from a mixture of metal and organic materials – such as elephant and whale ivory, antler and horn. It is very unusual to find these parts surviving. Also in the cache were 33 iron spearheads, each one a different shape and size. The weapons were tightly packed together in a shallow pit and were probably originally tied together. Spear shafts had been carefully removed and the heads wrapped (possibly in animal skin, though this is not yet confirmed). The whole cache was covered with pieces of Roman amphora (storage jars).

Ploughing has damaged two of the scabbards, but the cache has generally survived in good condition. Now conserved, the scabbards show large areas of the original metal surface. Iron Age weapons are always rare finds, so a discovery of this kind is of international importance for the study of Iron Age weaponry and metalwork. The cache was probably buried in about 70AD, around the time of the Roman conquest of this area. The reason for the burial is not known – an after battle ritual or a secret arms dump for the local Parisi tribe are just two possible explanations.





Five swords, five years on.....

David Marchant - South Cave weapons cache ... continued

An extensive education programme has followed the purchase of the finds – children's workshops, lectures, a Celtic Life day with costume re-enactors and loan boxes for schools. A replica sword and scabbard is being commissioned for use with teaching school groups.

The swords will go on display in the Treasure House at Beverley, in May 2008. A temporary two-month exhibition to accompany the permanent display of the weapons will look at the conservation process and other aspects of local Iron Age archaeology. And why so long, I hear some of you cry? Because conservation is a tricky process. Getting that right and designing the case to ensure these finds are secure and stable has been no easy task.



Throughout this long process, I've tried to involve both the finders and the farmer at each stage. Without them none of this fantastic material would be available for the public to view. They've taken time to talk to me about the finds, provided me with additional material for the display and supported the various events. I can't thank them enough.

By the way, images of most finds from the cache can be found at our online collections site - <http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/culture/museums/collections/>

I will update images as I get new ones through from the conservators.

My thanks to MOLAS for the conservation images and to Mick Carr for the excavation photographs.

Dr. David Marchant is Museums Registrar with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. (and is Doc Dave on the forum!)



Regional article

The Age of Debasement

The following coins are

No. 1 Alexander III penny Early type 2nd coinage. REX SCOTTORVM note the two Ts in Scottorvm.

No 2. Billon penny of James I Edinburgh mint.

No 3. Extremely rare Robert III debased penny Aberdeen mint

No 4 Two shilling James VI (I of England) Almost identical to the English half groat



I don't think a week goes by without someone on the Forum finding a Scottish coin. In the main they are pennies of William the Lion or Alexander III with the odd David II and Robert II thrown in for good measure.

The picture is the same on the Scottish side of the border, coins of David I, Malcolm, Robert I and Alexander II are extremely rare finds. The reason for this is I think obvious, coin production during the reigns of William the Lion and Alexander III must have been substantial although it amounts to a fraction of what their English counterparts were producing at the time. To give you an example of this for every 20-25 English hammered pennies that I recover I will find one Scottish.

How many of you have noticed that Scottish coins found in England after the reign of Robert II are extremely rare. The man responsible for this phenomena is Robert II's son and heir, Robert III as he was the first Scottish monarch to start debasing the silver penny. Up until this point Scottish and English silver pennies were of the same weight, silver content and value and were totally interchangeable. English coins being readily accepted in Scotland and vice versa.

The term debased is used by numismatists to describe the silver pennies of Robert III but by the time of his sons' reign James I of Scotland 1406-1437 the penny was debased further and officially called billon. This debasement continued over the centuries and by the time of James VI (I of England) the intrinsic value of an English silver penny was 12x that in Scotland. A good example of this is a common find that appears regularly on UKDN the James I half Groat (2d) its Scottish equivalent which is almost identical in appearance had the unbelievable value and title of Two Shillings (24d)

It was not until the reign of Queen Anne 1702-1714 and the act of union 1707 that things got back to normal and a silver 6d was worth just that on both sides of the border.

The debasement that started over 600 years ago is the reason that Scottish currency quite wrongly is still sometimes frowned upon in England to this day.

by Demmy



Archaeological Survey - Holme on Spalding Moor - November 2007



York and District MDC with archaeology students Chris Bevan and Preston Boyles

Background - The archaeological research design was centred around searching for evidence of iron-age and Roman settlements - http://www.thisisyork.co.uk/display.var.1835934.0.archaeology_student_finds_roman_remains_in_garden.php

Britain's largest iron-age slag heap excavated at Moore's Farm in 1985, containing 5 tonnes of Iron, enough to make 800 sword shaped bars of trade iron; <http://www.learndev.hull.ac.uk/foulnessvalley/archeo.swf>

The Foulness Valley or 'The Valley of the First Iron Masters' as it is known <http://public-repository.epoch-net.org/publications/VAST2005/shortpapers/short1055.pdf>

Further Reading - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasholme_Logboat
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/adldata/cbaresrep/pdf/071/07104001.pdf>



Field Walking

17 members took part in Field walking, 5m sq grids. Finds included clay pipe bowls, river stones and green glaze medieval pottery. Each of the squares had been GPS'd and the finds for each square were bagged.

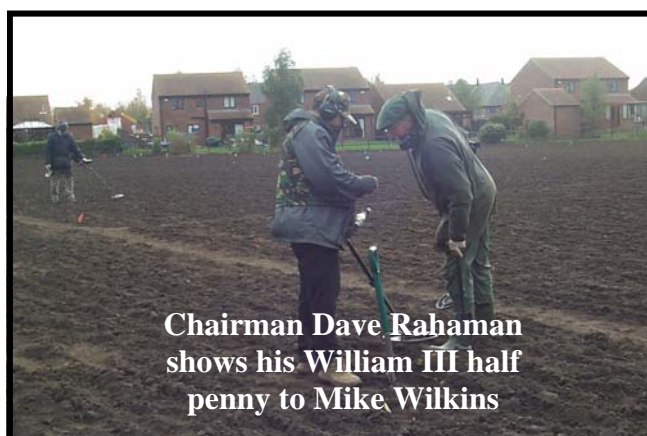


Ready for the off

The ground was quite mineralised and the field contained lots of modern iron, a signal virtually every sweep and eventually it was agreed to detect with some discrimination as very little progress was being made in the all metal mode. Pinpointing was also very difficult as many of the targets were tiny and many signals disappeared altogether as you dug them. Finds included part of a Roman coin, a hammered Eddy or Henry Groat, George I half penny, an immaculate William III half penny, part of a decorative bracelet and some iron slag.



**Secretary Phil Dunning
with iron finds**



**Chairman Dave Rahaman
shows his William III half
penny to Mike Wilkins**

The results of the Survey will not be known until next year when all the information has been studied. One thing that came out of it was the interest shown in identifying the pottery we found and the archaeologists agreed to give us a talk on the types of pottery found at a future date, this would be of benefit to us all as it leads to more understanding and enjoyment of the hobby. A short field walk on the adjacent field showed it was littered with pottery of all ages and we look forward to the possibility of detecting this field too. It is clear that working with archaeologists is a means of acquiring access to land and finds that otherwise would not be available, all the finds get fully recorded and a good time is had by all.



**Preston Boyles, Ellie Cox, Phil Dunning
& Chris Bevan**



**Dave Rahaman
& Chris Bevan**

See also the Osboldwick Project <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/185935324X.pdf> & the Battle of Fulford Survey <http://www.battleoffulford.org.uk/> for other Projects by York & District MDC



C Scope Skid

FINDS OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2007

Find Of the Month Artefact December

Lamb of God Seal Matrix

C Scope Skid (Justin Brown)

After the first foray on the farm my hopes were high as our very own Corinne Mills had accompanied me and I had found a little hammered half penny, along with a few musket balls and buttons.

So on arrival I started my search in the field that the hammy had come from in the hope that others would come to light, but to no avail, I had found a few bits and bobs but decided to give the adjacent field a try, it was just the other side of a track that is used to get from one part of the farm to another.

This was where my luck was to change, as up came the first hammered of the day, a Lizzy I penny.

At lunchtime I met the farmer (David) and handed over a bottle of Scotch for him as a Christmas present, we had a chat and I showed him the Lizzy penny and with some time remaining before I had to be back to pick the children up from school, I decided to return to the field with my 3mx (my weapon of choice at the moment) to see what else I could locate.

Plodding back to the rough location of the penny find, sweeping the coil low as I went, I got a real nice, crisp signal. On digging out about a spade full I swung the search head over the hole, no bleep so the find had to be in the spoil and so it was, I bent down and broke the soil apart to reveal a lovely medieval seal matrix, it was complete and had a hanger loop.

I'd only ever found one other Matrix before and that had been a broken example. With the penny and the matrix safely tucked away I didn't expect the day could get any better, but it was nearly Christmas and I was to get three early gifts that day because not twenty paces on I found a goat (my first) of Edward III I think.

That was one of the best days detecting I've ever had, if not the best. The matrix depicts the Lamb of God, has a good crisp inscription and will be in the safe hands of Laura Mclean our local FLO as of Friday 11 of January. So as soon as I receive it back I shall post all the details up on the forum for all you guys and girls to read.

Find Of the Month Coin December

Dobunni Quarter Gold Stater of Corio./ 10BC-AD1 / spink 387

Ashmantle

Had a great day out on one of my Roman producing fields, right at the end of the day as the sun was falling, out popped this beauty, my first Celtic coin, which when you live up here in the North West is a fantastic find.

Turns out its also a rare one with only 14 being recorded.



UKDN Find Of The Year 2007

Winner of Artefact of the year 2007



1st with 34 Votes - **simonthesearcher** with a Medieval Gold Ring decorated with precious stones. (Ring Images by permission of Portable Antiquities Scheme)

Winner of Coin of the year 2007



1st with 30 Votes - **romanrich** with an Anglo Saxon Thrymsa



Portable
Antiquities
Scheme

www.finds.org.uk

This month, I want to bring you a lovely little story of intriguing finds that has come from Ros Tyrrell, FLO for Buckinghamshire.

She told me about an interesting find made by Karl Shippey. Karl, a patient and thorough detectorist records his finds with Ros but this little group stood out as unusual both terms of their rarity as a hoard of tokens, (rather than coins), found together and hardly worn, in a little pot.

It is not only that they were found as a group and not as the single token finds that we are all used to seeing that made them interesting but it was also because of the personal and social history attached to them.

You can see that the names are quite clear on them; we have Matthew Bishop, Christopher Clifton and Thomas Burgess. Ros researched these traders and found out that Matthew Bishop was a trader based in Winslow. This token dates to the 1680s but we know that he was producing his own tokens from at least 1666.

Christopher Clifton only appears in the records as the brother of Nicholas Clifton, who was based in Stony Stratford. We know that Christopher was a local businessman and that Nicholas was a churchwarden in the town in 1653. Thomas Burgess, also from Stony Stratford is recorded as marrying Anne Green on the 10th of October in 1627 and being buried in the parish in April of 1696.

The fourth token in the group has the initials DS in the centre and IN WINSLOW as the legend. DS are the initials of Daniel Sayer. The arms on the token are of the grocer's company so presumably that's what his business was. During the 17th century, Winslow was a thriving market town. There is still a grocer but now it's a chain convenience store!

Incidentally, the find spot for these tokens was probably just under half a day's walk away from both Winslow and Stony Stratford and shows the area that the two market towns served during the late seventeenth century.

Token coinage flourished after the Civil War because official coinage, especially small change, was in very short supply so enterprising businessmen and traders, in this case grocers, made their own! They worked in a way that was much more like coinage and much less like the tokens that we think of and use for shopping today and were made in response to, or maybe because of the opportunity presented by the shortage of every day small change during and after the English Civil War.

Do you have interesting tokens in your collection; have you done research on seventeenth trade in your area?

Ros and I were wondering what a grocer's shop from this period would look like- would it have a frontage like the later Georgian shops, or look more like the shops of the Medieval period? If you have any ideas or have seen and contemporary representations of shops from the seventeenth century, let us know at the PAS!

Ceinwen Paynton and Ros Tyrrell

Starting Out:

Looking after your metal finds

Are you prepared?

- Before you start out, it's a good idea to create a system for numbering your finds, and recording the find-spot.
- Keep anything you find safe by having the right bags, markers, and other materials with you.
- Know how to recognise an important archaeological find and, when you do, what action to take and when to ask for help. Sometimes scraps of metal which look like rubbish are actually fragments of important archaeological objects! Please report it to your local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO).
- Have a look at the Treasure Act so you are familiar with the law on Treasure (see <http://www.finds.org.uk/background/treasure.asp>).
- You might want to keep the contact details for your local FLO handy in order to report your finds (see <http://www.finds.org.uk>).



Found metals? – Dry them out*

- Most metal objects benefit from a dry environment. Take the finds you want indoors and leave them to dry out unwashed on a tray lined with white kitchen roll. Avoid putting finds directly on the radiator as this might dry them out too quickly and cause them to crack.



- Have you thought about using a 'DRY BOX'? Contact your local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) to see an example. Your FLO will also be able to show you how to maintain a moisture-free environment and halt corrosion.

For more information about dry boxes and for details of suppliers see www.finds.org.uk/conservation

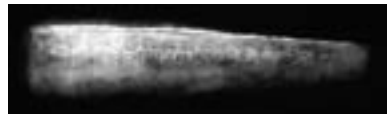
*If you can you see anything attached to your object, such as wood or textile, it might be better not to dry it at all!

Remember: take Advice Before Cleaning

- Most things you will find need no treatment other than dry storage.
- Conservation isn't just about cleaning and caring for your objects, it is about looking after your records of find-spots and other data as well.
- You may easily reduce the value of a find by 'conserving' it yourself. Make sure your find is not an important archaeological object first before cleaning it.
- If you are unsure about what you have found your local Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) will be able to help identify it for you.

Finding out more

- Very occasionally your FLO may ask an archaeological conservator to make an X-ray image of your find in order to see through the layers of soil and corrosion, or examine it under a microscope. This could help identify the object and the materials used to make it.



This iron lump was X-rayed and turned out to be an inlaid knife

- Hidden decoration, organic remains (e.g. textiles, leather, and wood) and manufacturing techniques may also be revealed.
- You may even find out something about the life of the object such as use, wear, damage and repair.