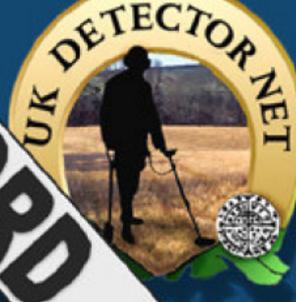


# The UKDN

**WORD**



ISSUE 7 MARCH 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting



**Woodward**  
**Key**



**Dorset**  
**Key**



**Jimmy**  
**the ferret**



**Trys**



**Featuring....**



**Fisher**



**nellythefish**

# The UKDN



ISSUE 7 MARCH 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

Welcome...

To the 7th edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

This is a good time of the year i.e. the daffodils and crocuses are blooming, the weather is brightening up, the nights are drawing out and the finds are appearing on the forum once again. Forum members are getting out into the fields again eager to get do some serious detecting before the spring planting makes those last fields out of bounds.

The forum is running well, we had two short periods of downtime last month caused by the hosting company. All was up and running very quickly with no loss of data.

Membership is over 3300 and growing at a steady rate of about 2 or 3 new members per day. The Admin team are on constant alert and we are keeping out from the forum about 30 spammers, hackers and porn merchants a day.

This is the perfect opportunity to thank those of you who have contributed to this seventh 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.

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## UK DETECTOR NET PM and Email systems

We are all fairly familiar with how the forum runs ie. it is broken down into categories and sections and members can post and reply to topics.

UKDN is a very lively forum with many, many topics and threads starting and being replied to throughout the day and through the night. The forum is such a mine of information ranging from all aspects of metal detecting through to a myriad of countless other subjects.

The phpBB software also allows the forum to have a contact system whereby forum members can email another member or get in touch with another member via MSN, Skype and the forum's very own Private Message system more often called a pm system.

It all works very well and runs silently in the background and, to be honest, the forum would be a much duller place without the pm and email systems.

But, the system can and has been misused in the past and periodically we need to bring it to the attention of the newer members amongst us.

The PM and Email systems within UKDN should not be used by anyone soliciting the buying or selling of goods or services without your permission. If you are approached can you please contact a member of Admin ?

The Team on UKDN would like to make it clear that we do not support the contacting of members using either of these communication lines to buy or sell without the agreement of the member first.

We hope you continue to enjoy all the benefits of UK DETECTOR NET.

# The UKDN



# WORD

ISSUE 7 MARCH 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

## MRTWO



### New Finds Advisor

I'm 54 years old and have been married for 32 years to Heather who is my finds conservator and detecting buddy. I've been lucky enough to recently retire from my work at a research establishment near Ipswich, Suffolk. This give me time to travel a bit, and pursue my hobbies of Fishing, Flying Electric RC planes and of course detecting . I have been a Radio Ham for 25 years, although my station is currently dismantled and residing in boxes in the loft. My username 'MRTwo' comes from a partially restored MkI Toyota MR2 that lives in my garage. I started detecting over 40 years ago when I made a simple BFO detector from a design in Practical Wireless. It could just about find a dustbin lid at 9 inches, but it got me hooked. After a long lay off I used to take my two children out with a Tandy detector. After another break I came too back to the hobby about 8 years ago and have been hopelessly addicted ever since.

As a lad I was a keen coin collector and used to trawl the 'junk shops' in Southend-on-Sea for coins ....any coins! Over the years I've continued to study world coins from 1800 onwards.

Detecting wise, I recall the day I found my first Roman coin. It made such a huge impression on me that I can remember exactly what the coin was and the findspot within a few yards. That's what got me hooked on finding out more about late Roman coinage and the history of that period.

I've been lucky to make a few memorable Iron Age and Roman finds, but generally I get more than my fair share of interesting shaped lumps of lead, ringpulls and foil!

One of the many advantages of being retired is the gift of time to investigate and record all my finds thoroughly. This I find very satisfying as well as part of the learning process.

I am currently studying English hammered coinage A.D 1100-1500. So that I don't have to prefix every hammie ID with the words *'I'm no hammie expert, but I thinks it's .....*'

I felt delighted and honoured when I was invited to be a finds advisor on a forum with so many friendly and knowledgeable members. I wish you all some stunning finds in 2008 and hope you give myself and the other advisors plenty of work to do.

Tony

March 2008

# The UKDN



# WORD

ISSUE 7 MARCH 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

## New Finds Advisor

## Kev Woodward

I became involved with detecting eighteen years ago after trying to break into the seemingly close knit world of amateur archaeology in the Lincolnshire region. The local society, however, had become nothing more than a lecture once a month after having a great history of excavation.

Disillusioned with the local scene I thought that detecting was the only way forward that I could become immersed in finding history. I had always had an interest in historical artefacts but I wanted to find my own not just look at items in the museums or catalogues. Ironically my detecting has lead me into many amateur archaeological projects and my experience of identifying metal artefacts has opened doors to some of these projects as your reputation spreads.

I self-record with the PAS, identify the odd item sent to me via email, sometimes from complete strangers and write up reports etc for two of the projects I am involved in. Experience gained through working with these projects include excavation techniques, research and geophysics - with which I am able to borrow the equipment for private projects.

My favourite find so far has to be the Iron Age/Romano duck ring pictured and a hoard of 39 Iron Age staters. Favourite periods of mine are Iron Age to Saxon, the craftsmanship on some items is amazing. I collect coin weights made in Antwerp (the square ones with the hand motif on the reverse) and Roman seal boxes, on which I am carrying out research and intend to write some articles on. Anybody who has found one that hasn't been recorded with the PAS or UKDFD then I would be very interested to hear from you.

My wife Jenn has detected and excavated with me since we meet fifteen years ago and was one of the founder members and a driving force behind setting up our new detecting club last year in the beautiful Lincolnshire Wolds.



March 2008

Find of the Month - Coin

Trys



## Winner of the Coin of the month was Trys with his Gold Henry VI Quarter Noble

I had been searching the grounds of an early 19th century mansion house for a couple of weeks. Having not found much of interest, and tired of digging up lead, I thought I'd ask the farmer if he knew anything about the history of his land. He told me that the original house once stood at the bottom of the valley, but he didn't know that much about it apart that there was a long gap between the previous and current houses.

So next time I called, I headed straight for the location of the old house. After a couple of hours I had found a few Georgian coppers, spindle whorl, a musket ball and some buttons. I stayed for another hour, but nothing else came up so I decided to head back for the van. Walking at quite a fast pace, and swinging my T2 rather erratically, I had a nice sharp signal showing 66 on the display. I dug down into the ground not paying that much attention, and turned over the clod to see a glint of yellow. I quickly dived down to pick it up for a closer look. By now I was shaking, having never held or seen a gold hammered coin before. I could'nt believe the condition it was in! I then took it up to show the farmer who was just as amazed as I was. This was my first gold coin in 5 years detecting! I've had the coin identified as a Henry VI quarter noble.

Trys - Trystan Johns



Find of the Month - Coin

**T**reasure  
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING  
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

March 2008

Find of the Month

Dorset Kev

—Artefact



**Winner of the Artefact of the month was Dorset Kev with his Gold Medieval Iconographic Ring**

I managed to secure some pasture fields to detect on after helping a landowner friend with some home improvements. I set about detecting this particular field with my dad and after a few visits we had amounted various coins, buttons and buckles dating from the Medieval to the Georgian period.

On this occasion I was detecting alone with rain promised for the afternoon, so an early start was made, after a couple of hours detecting and the customary buttons, buckles and Georgian coppers in my finds pouch the rain started to set in. I was lightly prepared so persevered.

By early afternoon with the rain increasing I was about to turn round and head home when my detector gave a nice crisp signal, thinking I was about to unearth another Georgian copper my eyes were not ready for what I saw as I turned over the plug of earth, there lying on the underside was this perfectly formed gold ring, with gold in my pouch and rain in my pockets I decided to call it a day.

On cleaning the ring at home I was somewhat amazed to see what looked like a saint. On reporting it to the FLO she informed me it looked like Madonna and Child and dating from the Medieval period. Currently it is being recorded and is going through the Treasure Trove process.



Find of the Month - Artefact



**Treasure**  
hunting

**BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING  
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE**

March 2008



# jimmytheferret

When I sat down to write this, I realised something that seemed to have slipped by without much notice being taken. Thirty years (and a bit more besides). Just after the long, hot summer of 1976 was when I first lifted up a C-Scope by its shepherd's crook handle and thought that this seemed like an interesting hobby to be involved with. And now, in 2008, I am still picking up a metal detector and realising just what a wonderful hobby this has been and still remains. These days, however, my armoury consists of a Goldmaxx Power and a Minelab Explorer, two machines that complement each other nicely.

Those early years were spent with a group of friends every Sunday, when we met up and searched the grassy plains and the woodland and streams that made up Sutton Park on the outskirts of Birmingham. Every excursion brought us back home with pockets full of "treasures" to be examined, cleaned, investigated and stored away. We never found anything of great age or historical importance in those days, and the most valuable item would probably be an occasional fifty pence piece, but that never mattered. As far as we were concerned, this was our history that we were finding and every Georgian or Victorian penny, or each army badge or scout woggle had a story to tell.

We kept this up for some years and then I sort of dipped in and out of the hobby as the years went on. There was always a detector handy to take on holiday for beach searching or the occasional wander across farm fields, and each session brought about that feeling of not being the first one to traverse the landscape and of just how many generations had worked the land and had left behind such tantalising reminders of their brief lives.

Some years back I decided that maybe I should join a club and see what this might do for me. A wise choice as it happened. I immediately found myself in the company of other likeminded people, and advice, assistance and camaraderie was in plentiful supply. I found myself able to visit new fields that would obligingly provide medieval hammered coins or Roman artefacts and suchlike, and this enthused me even more than that it had done many years before. It will be no surprise for many people just how much their finds rate will improve by joining a club and assimilating ideas and advice from other members.

I live in Staffordshire, pretty much in the middle of England, and as nice as the county may be, it can never count itself as ever being as rich or as populous as other areas of the country were in former times. It will never lay claim to countless Roman villas or Saxon settlements; wealthy medieval villages are not found in abundance, and Viking objects are commensurate with the provision of rocking horse manure round these parts. Still, since joining the club I have managed a steady stream of hammered coins along with a modest collection of Roman items and many other coins and artefacts from the last 2000 years.



# jimmytheferret

However, as most of you will be aware, it doesn't have to be something of great value or rarity to provide pleasure. I can derive as much satisfaction from digging up a humble beehive thimble as from unearthing a shiny hammered coin. For me it's all about what it meant at the time, and the loss of a thimble could mean the difference between eating or starving for the impoverished weaver of the day. My chance find in the twenty-first century could have been the last rites for someone else many centuries ago.

I have been fortunate enough to recover at least one item that was classed as treasure and is probably my ace find thus far. This came about during 2004 when I managed to unearth a Saxon gold and garnet pendant dating to the seventh century; an object that now resides in the Potteries Museum in Stoke on Trent for all to view. The item itself was only the size of one's thumbnail, but was a square form and was only the third of its kind found in the country and the first ever in Staffordshire, and came up from an area that has no record of Saxon habitation whatsoever.



I have to consider myself unbelievably privileged to have found such an article, but even more important is the fact that I have been able to rescue an important piece of history that had languished unseen for 1400 years and may have been lost for ever except for the intervention of fate.



# Jimmy the Ferret



As far as my favourite coin is concerned, I suppose it would be the gold quarter noble of Edward III that I chanced across not too long back, although my Henry VIII groat runs a close second, and my oldest coin thus far is a denarius of Scipio from 47 BC and minted in North Africa.

As far as our club is concerned, the Bloxwich Research & Metal Detector Club, we do our best to put something back into the community wherever possible. We recently received a grant from Awards For All, part of the National Lottery, and we purchased a laptop computer, digital projector and other items. We have put together a PowerPoint presentation, and I now visit various community groups in the region and give presentations on the club finds and how they relate to the history of their county.

Our club has a thriving membership of around 120, and we try to provide a pleasant social meeting and well-attended club digs. I work as club secretary these days and I also organise the weekly searches for our members. This brings me into contact with our local landowners and enables me to see another facet of the hobby. We're fortunate insofar as we have a roster of supportive and accommodating farmers who provide us with some relatively fruitful land for searching, and this ensures we get high attendances throughout the year. We also foster a good working relationship with our local FLO and we encourage members to record as much as possible, something that can only prove beneficial to all parties.

For the past couple of years I have also been lucky enough to sit in for a monthly slot on the early breakfast show on BBC Radio WM in Birmingham and spend time talking about the hobby, taking calls and answering questions. This has just been put into abeyance due to schedule changes, but I hope to resume this in the near future. It has been a great conduit for explaining how we all go about the hobby and enables me to counter much of the negative publicity that can be generated by members of other anti-detectorist factions.



# jimmytheferret

I like to get to a rally when time permits, although most Sundays are tied up with running the club digs. Occasionally there are rallies within striking distance and I will try to spend a Saturday there whenever possible, as it's always nice to meet up with searchers from other parts of the country. I'm fortunate in that I run my own business, so I can give myself time off in the week if I want to go searching. I just wish I could find more days when spare time doesn't always appear on the rainiest of days, but I suppose that's life.

While writing this article, I also noticed something else – a severe lack of pictures of myself in action. I'm always the one taking pictures of everybody else and their finds on club digs and never seem to get any pictures of myself detecting. I've managed to beg a few from other people and some of you may have already seen me without knowing it. I'm on the front cover of a DVD production from last year called The Complete Guide to Metal Detecting, so many thanks to Steve Timewell for providing some pictures.

I know that I'm probably preaching to the converted, since anybody reading this is, by definition, well entrenched in the hobby, but get out there and enjoy it. This is your hobby, this is your history – make it come alive.

Jim Wall - jimmytheferret



# Grass Roots

## A Wonderful Day by nellythefish

It was 0600 and the alarm shattered my sleep, the room was dark with little light showing through the chink in the curtains, not a good Omen for the day ahead. I dragged myself from my warm bed and gingerly peeked out of my bedroom window only to be greeted by a cold, wet, windy and miserable Thursday morning; it almost made me climb straight back into bed.

However I knew my lift was on the way and much banging and shouting would of course have followed if I was not ready for Frank when he arrived. Frank is my one of my detecting partners and main mode of transport that day for the clubs visit to Roman Field.

Frank soon arrived and we were on our way. Sadly the weather was doing nothing to indicate it was going to change, indeed it proved to be long, wet and muddy day.

Soon we were out on the field, well wrapped against the wind and wet. This field has proven in the past to produce a good number of Roman finds. It is situated some 6 miles outside of Darlington and very close to a small long established village.

Soon finds were falling prey to my Explorer and to the detectors of other Freedom Searcher MDC members. Among these finds were a number of roman brooches; both whole and in part, lots of roman grots and some broken Roman silver coinage, that's not to mention the odd hammered coin. Lunchtime came with all those who attended this mid week dig taking the opportunity to proudly show off the many finds we had between us.

I was feeling particularly pleased with myself having found 6 Roman Bronze, 2 Roman brooches and 1 Roman Silver. Having been so prolific with my mornings finds I was eager to get back out and even the wind, wet and mud could not dampen my enthusiasm. Two more brooches came my way along with 2 more Roman bronzes. I had realised by now that most of the days finds seemed to come from area that ran parallel to a deep ditch that separated this field from small stream. It was here that I concentrated my efforts and slowly started to try and cover the whole area before night time fell, I few more Roman coins being uppermost on my mind.



March 2008

# Grass Roots

## A Wonderful Day by nellythefish

More signals came my way however lots of these turned out to be nothing more than lead and the likes. Before long I thought I had maybe picked an area already over detected and was considering following the rest of the club members who had moved to another part of the field. It was as I was giving this thought some serious consideration that a nice clear signal along with an ideal crosshair display on my explorer had me rummaging through some wet, claggy and muddy spoil.

The target proved to be small and for the life of me I could not make it out because of all the wet muddy slime. However before long a small, beautiful and golden disc sparkled through the grunge, at first I thought I must be seeing things, but after a bit of a wipe on the back of my jacket sleeve a fabulous Celtic quarter stater made it's presence known. I was so excited I could have done back flips the whole length of the field. However I thought better of this idea and instead let all them within earshot know of this great find. We covered every inch of that strip of land for the next 2 hours and whereas more Roman came off there was no more staters. The coin has been identified as a CUNOBELIN QUARTER STATER AD 20 - 43, which appears to be a long way from home.



The club and I have been back to the site some three times since that wet, muddy but wonderful day, and whereas Roman has come off by the bucketful, no more Celtic Gold has shown itself. However we live in hope and I am sure we will revisit the site when the present crop is harvested. Furthermore I am also certain that many more finds will come off and I just pray that more Celtic gold will again show its face, so watch this space.

Steve Nelson

March 2008

# Helping in the Community

I found this ring and I'm over the moon to say the least!!

By Fisher



This ring was given as an engagement ring from my granddad to my Nana. Way back in 1941 they were sat in a field in Gilmorton in Leicestershire about 25 miles from where my Nana currently lives, when they had an argument and my Nana took off her engagement ring and threw it into the field and there it has sat for the last 67 years!!

It was only last week when she was telling me the story and I mentioned that I metal detect when I decided to have ago at finding it, I took some maps round and she managed to pinpoint the field they were in, and the approximate location they were sitting. She even described the ring exactly which surprised me as she is now 88 and hadn't seen it for 67 years.

I went to the area, asked around and managed to locate the land owner, I told him the story and he seemed surprised and very doubtful that I would find it as he said a paramedic used to detect his fields. After umming and arring he agreed and said I could search.

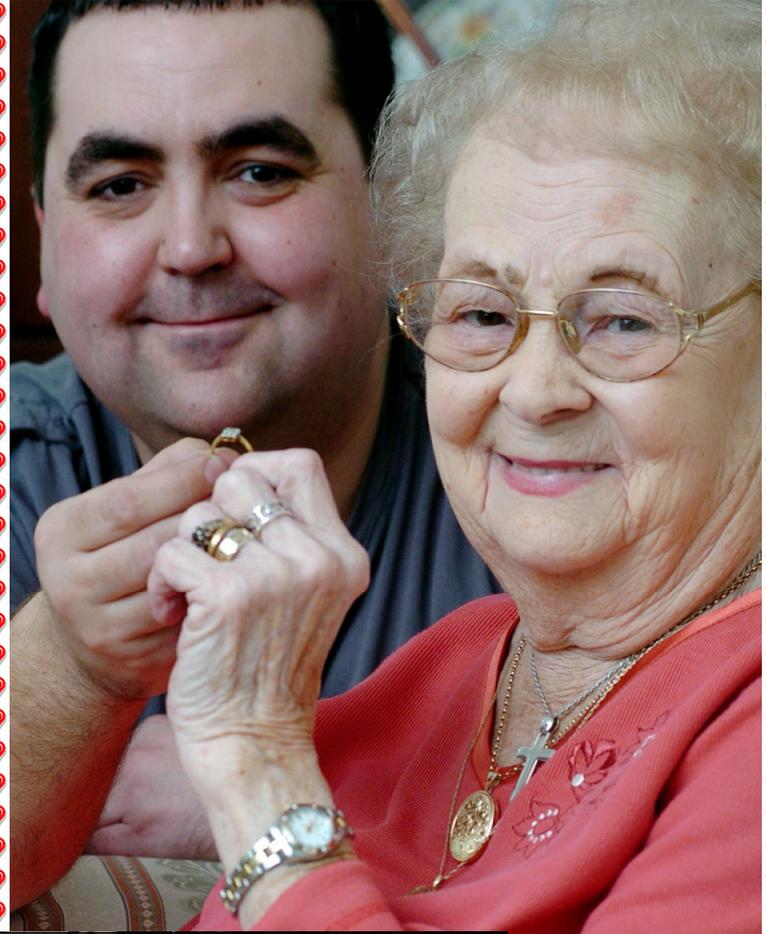
I went back to the field and was thinking that I stood little chance of finding it however after just 2 hours searching out it came, I was absolutely amazed, I still am now.

It was a pretty good throw considering my Nana was sitting down, it was about 30 feet from the hedge where they were sat.

I got back home cleaned it up and took it straight round to my Nana's house to give her, she was over the moon, she just started crying instantly, she about had me in tears too, even my mother rang me in tears

***For me this is a find of a lifetime.***

Fisher - Leighton Boyes.



March 2008

cms



## Portable Antiquities Scheme - Cei Paynton and Rob Webley

This month, I would like to ask you all for some help with a very unusual find. It has been recorded in Hampshire by FLO Rob Webley but as yet, has not been paralleled. An incomplete object cast in copper-alloy, it is 22mm long and 7.3mm wide. It is zoomorphic piece in the shape of what appears to be a bear or a dog gripping a bird. The object is broken just beyond the bird, revealing a trapezoidal cross-section with rounded corners. The back of the creature curves gradually, splitting in to two branches. As far as its art style goes, this piece is Romanesque, which makes it likely that it dates to the 11th or 12th century.

The pair of animals are well moulded with open spaces between their bodies and between the creature's arms. The creature grips the bird with its outstretched arms; it also grips the bird's beak in its muzzle. The bird is upright with head and beak raised. Its wings are moulded ovals and its tail feathers are delineated by incisions. Within each wing is a short curve of silver inlay. The creature is equally well moulded with elbows, muzzle and ears. The eyes and ears are marked further with circular punches; the muzzle features small incisions and removals to represent nostrils. The same inlay runs down the flank from the head to the arm on one side, continuing into the arm; decoration echoed on the other arm.

The flank which retains more inlay also retains more of its incised decoration. There is a line running down the back of the creature with diagonal incisions off it below the head. There are further diagonal incisions below the arm, including one retaining silver inlay on the side on which more inlay has survived. The artefact has corroded slightly, but generally has a dark green patina with the silver inlay quite striking where it survives. The arrangement and varying widths of the branches is unusual and perhaps suggests that they fitted into something, designed to leave only the animals on view.

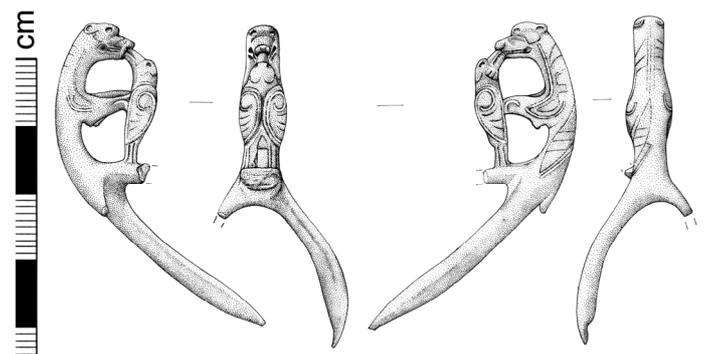
***Have you seen something similar or do have a complete one in your collection? If so, let us know and I'll update readers next time!***

**Cei Paynton and Rob Webley, PAS**



Portable  
Antiquities  
Scheme

[www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)



March 2008



## "Fun and Games in the Sea" by Brian & Mo' Cross

Imagine the scene if you will, the lounge of a busy hotel in Ibiza in April bustling with people preparing for a day out in the sunshine. Weaving through this throng is a man and woman carrying underwater metal detectors and stainless steel scoops AND wearing black dry suits.

"Beep, beep" cry a couple of idiots in the crowd grabbing the attention of all and sundry. Muffled laughter comes from the crowd. Looking straight ahead the metal detecting couple head for the back door which leads to the beach, the sea and solitude.

Once outside the couple look at each other and say the same thing, laughing "Sirry Iriots, Thank God we won't have to do that again till tonight"

That couple was myself and Mo' and for many years we went shallow surf detecting to the islands of the Balearics i.e. Majorca and Ibiza. We stayed in many different hotels and often had to suffer the goading of those who thought that we had been put in the hotel to entertain them.

In the above instance we got into the water and immediately my detector filled up with water and went kaput. I had to troll back through the lobby again with all eyes on me, get in the lift dripping salt water everywhere and go and rinse the machine out and get another one.

And guess what,..... that second machine broke down after about an hour in the water so I had to do it all over again !! Not only that but we were two detectors down after just 2 hours into the holiday.



We don't go anymore, its not easy taking all the gear with you on the flights plus there are a lot of locals who are beginning to take up the hobby. But, we had some fabulous times and some great fun.

On one occasion we went in May and found it far too busy for our liking. We always went during the winter months when it was quiet and hardly anyone went into the sea. Because it was busy in May and we didn't like detecting in crowds we decided to do it in the early evening. Come 6 or 7pm we'd get togged up and get in the sea. This was the life!!

March 2008



## "Fun and Games in the Sea" by Brian & Mo' Cross

Dusk became night and, to our surprise, we found that even when it was pitch black we could still see what we were doing. This was heaven although slightly scary and now and then a big splash would occur right in front of you and you knew that it was probably a barracuda or other big fish after the smaller fish.

We did this for about five nights finishing about 1 or 2 in the morning. One night a bunch of Spanish teenagers came down to the beach with their radios and beers. We could hear them on the beach but they could not see us at all. We just stayed in the darkness doing our own thing.

Later we heard them splashing about, they were swimming now and heading right towards us. All of a sudden we heard them stop, shout something in Spanish and then swim for their lives back to shore. We could picture the scene from their perspective suddenly coming across two dark human forms silhouetted against the skyline. It must have been frightening and scary.

Myself and Mo' have accidentally caught fish in our scoops, Mo' once speared a two foot long silver eel, making her almost jump out of her knickers. I have had my search head grabbed by the biggest octopus I have ever seen and we have been thrown around and out of the sea by angry waves.

Over the years we found lots of stuff but it's the funny moments that stick in your mind. Like the time we were on Ibiza with two other detector users. We were in this bay and the detecting was crap so three of us decided to sit it out, enjoy the scenery and have a few beers in the beachside restaurant. Afternoon turned to evening and then it went dark. Our mate was still out there somewhere obviously trying hard to find something.

The restaurant balcony filled up with diners and then ... he came out of the sea dripping wet wearing a black dry suit and carrying a metal detector and metal scoop. He walked straight towards us all on the restaurant balcony, looked up at us and said "Is this Majorca?" We three almost fell off our seats whilst the diners were gob-smacked, this James Bond type fellow had appeared to have swum across the sea from the mainland and done a left turn and landed on Ibiza instead of carrying on to Majorca. The looks of amazement on their faces is something we will never forget !!

This is what metal detecting is all about, it's not all about the finds and the reward, its about the friendship, the crack and the stories of people doing things that they enjoy together. Long may it continue.



March 2008

# THE CLUB SCENE

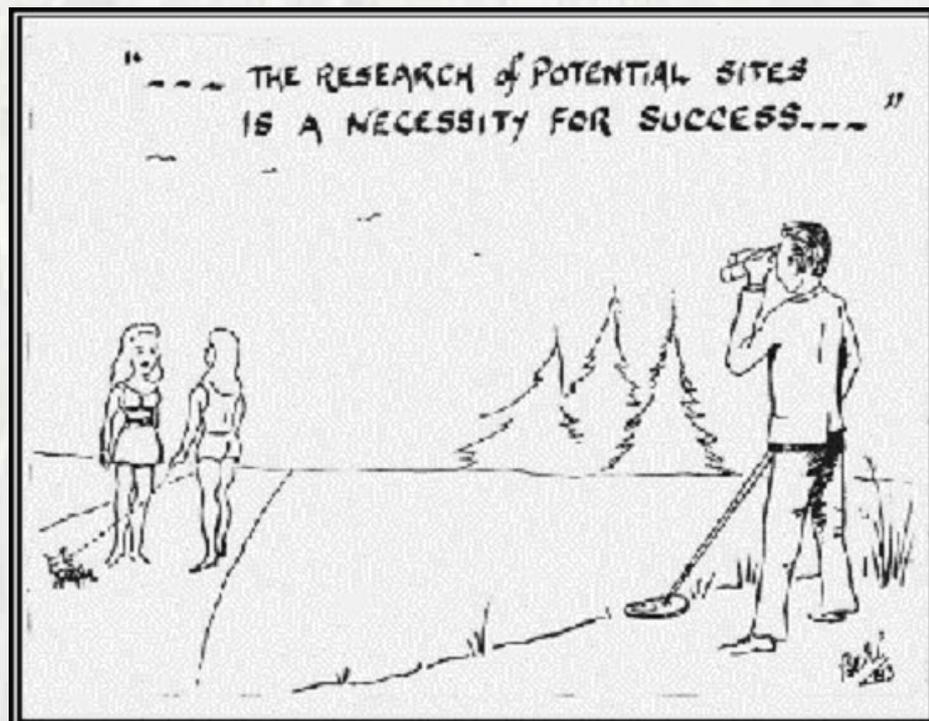
## South Lanc's & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club

The South-Lancs & Cheshire metal detecting club was formed in the autumn of 1978 by Brian Cross to cater for a small circle of friends who had more than a passing interest in metal detecting as a hobby. This coming September it will be 30 years old.

From humble beginnings with three or four people meeting in each other's front rooms, the club has expanded steadily to its current position with a membership of about 80 hobbyists and regular monthly meetings.

With formal constitution, elected Officers and a Committee, the club functions with an acute awareness of its many responsibilities to both its members and the public.

Officers of the S.L & C have been elected to posts regionally on the NCMD Northwest Region, and nationally on the National Council for Metal Detecting. Through their work on these bodies they have been instrumental in helping to gain recognition for the hobby via affiliation to the Central Council for Physical Recreation, and also took part in formal consultations with HMG which led to the introduction of the Treasure Act and the launch of the highly successful Portable Antiquities Scheme.



March 2008

# THE CLUB SCENE



## South Lanc's & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club

The club Officers and Committee do all they can to ensure that the S.L & C is truly representative of the attitudes and aims of all serious-minded detector enthusiasts.

Like most other clubs, this one provides a Free Search and Recover Service which is available to individuals, industry, and local authorities. If Mary Mint loses her bracelet while pottering about in the garden, or Joe Bloggs loses his signet ring when throwing a stick for his dog, a member or members of this club will undertake a methodical search in an attempt to restore the missing object to its owner. Successes in this service have not been confined to items of jewellery. Manhole covers and rodding eyes, buried beneath a park's turf, have been located for Warrington Council. Machine parts, lost in sacks of chemical, have been pinpointed for I.C.I. Tractor and agricultural machinery parts, shed on ploughed land, have been returned to farmers. The club claims an 85% success rate.

Ever conscious of their own good health and fortune in being able to undertake a physically demanding hobby, the members of this club have formed close associations with the local branches of numerous national charities. A two year link with Daresbury Hall Spastics Residential Centre, until they had reached their Appeal target, raised £1,200. We have supported the Warrington branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and our club members raised over £5,000 for this worthy cause. Many other charities have benefited from our efforts over the past 29+ years. Flag days, sponsored walks, garden fete stalls, and club rallies are just some of the ways in which money is raised by club members.

In casual contact with the public, while out detecting or at some fund raising event, club member's are always ready to talk and explain the hobby to those showing an interest. They always suggest, however, that before rushing out to buy a detector, newcomers should first attend a club meeting or two to see what is involved. Such action prevents attics, garages, and garden sheds from being cluttered with seldom used detectors which, because of ignorance, have not lived up to their potential. Guests are allowed to come to meetings.

An element of the more formal club meeting is the club competition. This is divided into four sections. The first two allow members to vote on the best coins (Pre-1662 and Post 1662) found by a member since the previous meeting. The date 1662 referring to the date when hammered coinage ceased. The other two categories relate to finds ie Early and Late Find. The cut-off date for these categories is 1700, therefore we have a competition for finds that pre-date 1700 ie. Pre-1700 Find and those dating from later ie Post-1700.

# THE CLUB SCENE

## South Lanc's & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club

Each member is allowed one vote in each category and must not vote for their own coin or find. All items submitted to the competitions must have been found since the previous club meeting. New members are not allowed to submit items into the competitions until their second month of membership.

All items must be placed in envelopes accompanied by a written description. These details should not contain the name of the finder. Points are allocated according to the number of votes and the places gained.

Ten points for first place, five points for second place and three points for third place. One point for every item entered. Points are added up to through the year to determine the "**Detector User of the Year**".



When the crops are out and land is available, usually during the autumn months, the club will put on a club rally by gaining permission to search several farm fields. There is usually a small charge for this which is either given to the farmer or to charity. Obviously there is no guarantee of good finds being made but it does give the members the opportunity to meet out in the field. Details are usually published in the club newsletter and at club meetings.

One of the primary services a metal detecting club can offer to its members is the provision of sites on which they can carry out their

hobby. To this end several club members act as Sites Officers. During the detecting season ie August until March, one will organise several one day rallies upon which club members and sometimes the members of other clubs will be invited. Normally a small fee of about £5-£10 will be requested from each attending member. This will be passed on to the farmer/landowner or handed over to a charity of their choice.

This then is a brief breakdown of the S.L & C club. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month and are held at the The R.A.O.B. Club at 78 The High Street, Runcorn WA7 1JH. More details on the club can be found at <http://www.slcmetaldetectingclub.co.uk>

March 2008

# On site:

## Recording and Lifting Finds

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To get maximum information from your finds it is important that they are lifted and recorded properly.



- What have I found? Is it an isolated find or part of a larger group? Metal finds may be associated with other objects or materials.
- Removing finds from the plough-soil does not usually disturb the archaeological layers below, but on unploughed land, such as pasture, the archaeology can lie close to the surface. Be responsible when choosing where to detect.

- If you think you have located a previously undiscovered archaeological find beneath the plough-soil, tell the landowner and your Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). The FLO can help to assess the site and (if necessary) can call in an archaeologist to help you dig, lift and record the finds.



- Be very careful if you find fragile objects or objects with traces of organic material. It may be better to leave them in the ground and contact your FLO for help. If you do have to lift them, fragile objects are best lifted together with surrounding earth which is often all that is holding them together. Cleaning the earth off on the field can cause the find to disintegrate. Also be careful to retain any associated organic material such as wood or leather.

## Where was it found?

The location in which archaeological finds are discovered is just as important as the objects themselves.

- Having recorded your find spot on the bag, you can relate that to the National Grid Reference (see [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk) for instructions, or ask your FLO to explain how to do this). We recommend using a hand-held GPS (global positioning system) as a fast way to record find-spot location (your FLO will be able to provide more details).
- It is a good idea to transfer your readings to hard copy such as a map, or a computer database later on.
- You may also want to photograph your finds in the ground with a ruler or scale, or photograph the find-spot.
- Remember: part of caring for your finds is conserving the information about them for future generations.

## Bagging and Labelling

- Once you have found something you want to keep, place it in a plastic bag. Polythene grip-top bags with white strips are best. Your FLO can tell you where to get hold of these.
- You can write the find spot and any other information you want directly onto the bag. Labelling your bags is important if you want the information about your finds to last.
- Permanent black marker pens for bag marking (e.g. Artline® pens) will not fade over time.
- Always bag finds individually for protection and to stop them getting mixed up. It is a good idea to punch small holes in the



bags to provide ventilation and stop harmful condensation from forming.

- Remember, if you are tempted to clean your finds in the field, you risk causing damage, lowering the amount of information they can give us about our past, and reducing any financial value.

## Out of your depth?

Most of the time you will come across single isolated items and in these cases digging up and recording your find is often simple. However, you may be lucky enough to find a large group of objects of significant archaeological importance. These groups can often be complex or fragile and are easily damaged if lifted without special equipment and training. Archaeologists often call in a conservator to help with recording and lifting in these cases.



- If you are unsure of what you have uncovered, contact your FLO for help.
- You might want to take a photograph of the objects in the ground, then cover the object, for example with a plastic bag to act as a marker and refill the hole whilst you wait for help. Don't forget to record the find-spot though!

## Special Environments

- Wet versus dry: as a rule of thumb, keep wet objects wet, and allow damp objects to dry out slowly.
- If searching in wet environments such as river-banks, bogs or beaches, you need to consider what other materials you might find. Ancient and rare organic materials such as wood, leather or even textiles can survive for thousands of years in sealed waterlogged deposits. When brought into the air attached to a metal object, they begin to dry out and can shrink or fall apart.
- If out detecting in these environments it is often best to seal your object in a non-perforated plastic bag straight away with a little water until you can be certain you will not be damaging something important.
- Be aware that anything found in the sea or washed ashore from tidal water must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck (ask your local museum or FLO for details).



## What is the definition of Treasure?

The following finds are Treasure under the Act, if found after 24 September 1997 (or, in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003):

1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.



2. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find. Prehistory ends with the invasion of the Romans in 43 AD.

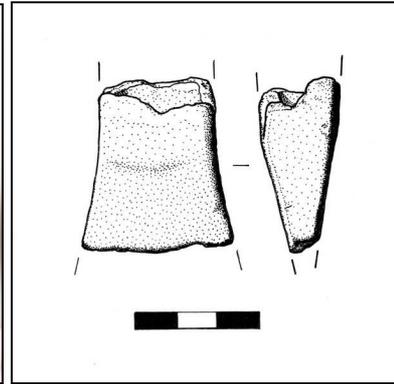


3. All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them). Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:

1. hoards that have been deliberately hidden
2. smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may be dropped or lost
3. votive or ritual deposits.



4. Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.



5. Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category.

**Note:** An object or coin is part of the 'same find' as another object or coin if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground.

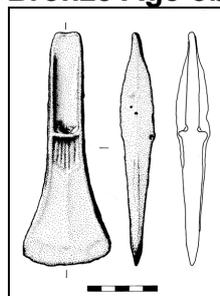
**What should I do if I find something that may be Treasure?** You must report all finds of Treasure to a coroner for the district in which they are found either within 14 days after the day on which you made the discovery or within 14 days after the day on which you realised the find might be treasure. Your local Finds Liaison Officer will be able to help you with each stage of the process.

**What is not Treasure?**

**Single gold or silver coins**



**Single Bronze Age objects**



**Rings under 300 years old**



The enclosed photographs are only a representative sample of what might be considered Treasure.