

The UKDN



ISSUE 12 August 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting

Featuring:



Finds of the month

Adam Daubney—Is it a medieval candlestick?

Tom Redmayne — Finds Advisor profile

Scratchiem — Helping in the community

Puffin — Under the spotlight

Red Rocket article — Brian Cross

JBM — Grass Roots

And much
more.....

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World Of Responsible Detecting



Welcome.....

To the 12th edition of UK DETECTOR NET's very own newsletter.

The detecting season is just about to start, the first fields are actually being cropped as we type this out. The UKDN forum is already filling with pictures and stories of great finds being made out there in the newly-cropped fields.

We have had a few small changes of staff, as always due to other commitments. We try never to forget that those who give up their free time to help moderate UKDN or help identify finds, do so by giving up their time willingly and for no gain except the reward of knowing that they have helped us keep running smoothly. When they can no longer do this because of changing work or home commitments then we have accept that and simply thank them for the time they have given us.

Such was the case recently with Leadlumps and Durham Dave both of whom stepped down because of changing commitments. We said "Thanks" on the forum and repeat those thanks here.

Baldric became a new moderator and his introduction is within these pages. Tomredmayne became a new Finds Advisor and he has given an account of himself within these pages. Both are welcome additions to an already great team.

A massive software upgrade is planned very shortly and some great additions will be introduced. We have been waiting for this software upgrade and are confident it will go smoothly. Thanks in advance to Karv for this one.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter and will welcome your feedback on the forum. Brian, Mo' and The Team

The front page picture this month features nellythefish—winner of the artefact of the month.

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August 2008

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FOR BRAND-NEW GOLDMAX POWER

Hi Everyone,

The UKDN Team are proud to announce that from 1st September until Sunday December 14th UKDN will be selling raffle tickets at £5 each for a brand-new Goldmax Power, Retail Value approx £669 !!

This prize has been very kindly donated by Regton Ltd and I am sure we would all like to thank them for their generosity.

Tickets will be taken singularly i.e. £5 buys one number NOT a strip of numbers and will be taken from a brand-new book of 1000 numbers starting with number 1 for first £5 received. Each ticket sold will be recorded on the forum.

Payment can be made by numerous methods including cheque/PO/ cash by post, or payment by Paypal. Paypal payments will incur the small Paypal admin fee so the actual Paypal payment will be £5.37

The draw will be made on 14th December and the ticket will be drawn by someone not part of UKDN. (more to follow soon).

The prize will be shipped out to the winner the following day.

Brian & Mo', have pledged that all monies raised by this raffle, after raffle book and prize postage costs, will be put in a special "Prize Fund" and will be used to purchase further prizes for UKDN fun events such as more raffles or lotteries. Monies will not be used for any other purpose except UKDN. You will receive an email the day the Christmas Raffle begins with a link to the thread containing more details. Please do not send any monies until the raffle commences on Sept 1st 2008.

We hope you take part and enjoy the fun.



Find of the Month

- Coin

St Edmund Memorial Penny

detectavin63 (Vince Butler);



Treasure hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

I'm Vince Butler, I live in Norfolk, which is where the coin was found on a new site that has also produced 2 Tealby's, Roman bronze and silver coins, other hammered including Eddies and Lizzies, also Roman artifacts, Saxon/Viking strap-ends, plus other artifacts from different periods.

We have also picked up loads of pottery, including Samian, Thetford and Ipswich wares to Medieval pottery. All this in just three sessions as the field was only shallow ploughed. I was using my trusty Minelab Explorer II, which I wouldn't be without, with the standard 10inch coil.

The coin was found on the surface after getting a crisp signal, as soon as I saw it I knew it was Saxon/Viking so I called my detecting partner Damian over and we saw it staring up at us. Damo ID'd it virtually straight away, as the month before I had found a St Edmund coin in two bits. Cheers for the id's mate, I knew there was a reason I went tectin with you. Happy hunting to everyone out there, you never know what the next signal will be.. Vince.



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Find of the Month

- Artefact

Saxon Chip Carved Gilt Mount

nellythefish (Steve Nelson)



Treasure hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

We all heard the saying "All things come to those who wait!!", but if some one would have told me I would have a rare Anglo Saxon mount in my find pouch by the end of the day I would of thought they where dreaming! (well that's the polite version!).

The day started like any other club dig, I was waiting for Jason our land finder to pick me up, when he arrived he told me the dig had been moved to another field, as the farmer didn't want us in this field as he was testing some new machinery. I was a bit disappointed as the new field had provided very few finds, but having said that it was just nice to get out and do some detecting.

We soon arrived on site to be greeted by other club members of the Freedom Searchers and Jason broke the news about the farmer testing his new toys, which went down like a lead balloon. We finally started to do some detecting but time soon past with very little to show for my effort.



It was around lunch time as I was heading back for a tea break when I got a faint signal on my explorer II, I started to dig and checked my hole to find the signal had gone, I then checked my spoil and got a lovely sound, I gave the soil a gentle brush and to my amazement there staring back at me were two little faces, I then showed the find to some other members and we all agreed it was a super Anglo Saxon mount and I can tell you things do come to those who wait and in the most unlikely places too!.

The rest of the day past very quickly and no more finds where reported, I would like to thank Doug Goddard of Empire Antiquities for his help in dating my mount and for the photos.

Stephen Nelson.....a Freedom Searcher.

August 2008



Looking After Your Finds

Steve -B

There is no denying that we enjoy one of the best hobbies around with its many levels of participation from casual detecting for fun, to those that detect to a much more serious level, however, no matter your personal level of participation the hobby to presents us all with certain responsibilities.

We all love to display our finds, either imparting as much information as we know about the item or indeed seeking more information from others, without doubt, the vast majority of the public invariably show a keen interest in our 'little treasures' however humble they may be.

However, one of our main responsibilities is the long term after care for the coins and artefacts that we have found. The way we store and display our finds has a very definite effect on its long term welfare.

Although cleaning finds and storing finds do relate to each other, this article does not include information on cleaning finds as this is a wholly separate subject and is dealt with in a different article.

Labelling

Whether displaying finds or in long term storage, it is paramount that each item is properly labelled and that the label is kept with the find at all times. The label can contain information such as the PAS record number, your own numbering identification system or a brief description of the find, where and when it was found.

Displaying Finds

Finds tend to be kept in a variety of containers from purpose made wooden display cabinets and display trays such as the Lindner series, to biscuits tins and cardboard boxes. In some instances such as with the Lindner tray this is fine in the short term for display as they do help protect the find from direct contact; in other cases this is very inappropriate for the long term storage of finds.



remember to wear disposable latex gloves or to if possible use rubber tipped tweezers to carefully lift a find.

There are some simple steps of advice that can help protect your finds while they are display.

One is limit the amount of physical contact that is made with the find, as oils and salts present on our skin can attack the find. If a find is to be handled then try to





Looking After Your Finds

Steve-B

Accidents do happen; most of us drop things at times. Try to ensure that when handling finds that this is done on a stable surface with some kind of soft material in place for the find to land on should it be dropped, some of the finds we make are a lot more fragile than they first appear.

Storing Finds

In respect of the long term storage of finds we need to be aware of the two main factors that in the main can be detrimental to the finds over a period of time, these are 1, Air and 2, Moisture. The presence of both contributes to promoting corrosive effects on metal objects.

Unless we have access to a large budget it is virtually impossible to ensure that our storage facilities are 100% protected from these two elements, however there are steps we can take to reduce their effects.



Different metals corrode at different rates for example gold will show little or no corrosion while copper and its alloys and iron more often than not present us with more complex problems. Copper alloy can present a damaging form of corrosion known as 'Bronze disease', this is indicated by outbursts of a powdery green substance, and if this is present it will require immediate treatment. (If in doubt, always seek expert advice from your local FLO).

Containment

The help provide as air free an environment as possible a suitable airtight container such as those used for food storage are recommended.

Silica gel is used to absorb any small amount of moisture that may be present in the container, the gel can either be purchased for this purpose or the little bags found in a lot of packaging can be saved and reused (once it has been adequately dried and ready for reuse).

An indicator strip will show the current levels of moisture content and will indicate when the gel needs to be replaced or refreshed by drying.

We have now created a suitable environment for home storage. However having created this environment, we do not simply start turving our finds into the box en masse.



Finds need to be separated and labelled individually. Each find should be placed within our storage environment in its own separate, labelled bag. Polythene grip bags with the white write on strips are ideal. The bags should be perforated with a hole punched for ventilation.



Each bag should be labelled with a permanent black marker with its reference code either directly onto the bag or on to a suitable polythene label such as the 'Tyvek' label.

The find will need to be protected within the bag with a slip of polythene foam or acid free tissue. I was surprised to discover while researching this article that materials such as velvet, felt and some rubbers can emit sulphur which will lead to the tarnishing of finds, so all materials used must be neutral and acid free.

More fragile finds should be kept in their own clear plastic box within the storage environment and cushioned to protect them.

On a final note it is worth considering what will happen to your collection both in the short, mid and long term. Your interests, hobbies and life style may well change in the long term we all face the inevitability of leaving this mortal plane. Others in your family may share your interest or appreciate the importance of your collection, so please do ensure that you make suitable plans for its placement.

More in depth information on storage together with a list of suppliers can be found on the Portable Antiquities Service's website at

<http://www.finds.org.uk/conservation>

If you have any doubts on this subject then please contact your local FLO for further, expert advice.

Steve-B



Just done my bit for the community

by Scratchiem (Mary)

A while back, when showing some of my finds to colleagues at work (a secondary school), one of the secretaries thought it would be great if I could go into the local primary school to show some of my 'Roman finds' to the pupils who were currently studying the 'Romans'.

So a date was fixed, and in the mean time I collected as much Roman pottery as I could find and gathered together all my Roman coins and artefacts. I had no idea on how to 'pitch' the talk or what the pupils wanted to hear as I have absolutely no experience of 7 year olds.

Fortunately I met up with the class teacher last week and she said the class were going to Corinium (Cirencester) Museum the day before my talk - so they would be familiar with all things Roman :). She also thought they would be really keen to actually experience the metal detecting bit as well as touching the coins and artefacts.

Well today was the day. I cleaned my 2 machines, gathered up all my interesting artefacts and coins and with absolutely no experience of sitting in front of 28, 7 year olds, boldly did my bit for history, archaeology and metal detecting.

It was good fun and the kids loved it. I gave them all a piece of Roman pottery to keep and take home. I talked about the different types of coins and brooches, and let them hold and 'feel' the real thing. We then went out to their playing field where they tried out my machines (me throwing 2p's and 5p's about for them to find).

I think my Exp11 and DFX were almost as tall as some of them, but they all had a go.

We didn't actually dig anything - they just had to find the coins.....(which of course they could keep).

The teacher wants me to come back again in the summer for the kids to actually 'dig'. They have some flower beds which can be 'planted' with artefacts of various kinds. When we finished the session, the teacher said that I might come back so they can do some proper 'digging'.....well you should have seen their faces,. pure delight and excitement.

So I have done my bit to further the study of history, the hobby of metal detecting and, just like the hobby itself, I enjoyed every minute of it :)

Scratchiem (Mary)

Spotlight on..... Puffin



The Man Behind the Puffin

"Come on, your coming shopping to Birmingham with me". "Oh! Mom, do I have to!" I hate being dragged around shops even today. "Come on, if you're good, I'll take you to the Museum". We always ended up at the Museum, I did not know it at the time, but it was setting the seeds of my keen interest in history.

My name is Barry Carpenter, you all know me as Puffin. Having been brought up in small Worcestershire village during the 60's and 70's, trips to Birmingham always ended in a real expedition. As I grew up, these trips became fewer and finally stopped just before I went to art college. Finally, as I finished the course the early 80's recession got underway. To cut a long story short I spent too many of my early years on the dole. Time spent job hunting, walking and exploring the Worcestershire countryside, fostering my love of being out doors.

Eventually I found a job in a shop looking at three walls and a view of Mothercare across the High Street. Drove me mad at times, so I took up several hobbies, one of which was growing and showing Bonsai Trees. This is how I met my future wife, Wendy. I also took up family history, ending up starting a small Family History Club. This satisfied my growing need for all things historical. One thing led to another and the club grew to become a branch of one of the largest family history groups in the country. I also became involved in setting up a group called, The Worcestershire Local History Forum. A body that brought together all Local History groups, Archaeologists and Museums at a county level. I liked this group as I managed to talk to all sorts of interesting characters, getting behind the scenes at the county records office. Kind of cool, when casually, you get handed a letter written by Prince Rupert. After 23 years, several R.H.S. Awards for Bonsai, sitting on five committee's both Bonsai and History related and covering an average 10,000 hobby miles a year, the time had came to move on. So I married Wendy and moved north to a village just outside of Walsall. Dropped all the clubs and groups but still maintained my interests.

Spotlight on..... Puffin

Wendy and I had been rebuilding a 1978 VeeDub camper van (<http://www.devonmoonraker.co.uk>) in our spare time, so we decided to take a year off work and travel around Britain.



While in Devon I picked up a copy of Treasure Hunting, I was thinking to myself, 'Hum, this looks interesting', but as we were living on savings at the time, I could not follow it up with a machine.

Spotlight on..... Puffin

The year off sadly came to an end, so we started to look around for something to do, resulting in our own Taxis business. I was still buying the Magazines as they are a corking good read. While walking through a local supermarket Wendy spotted a metal detector for sale, I ended up with it for Christmas. A National Geographic, Chinese super machine with an amazing 2" depth. This lasted a good 4 months before I upgraded to a Maplins Pro with the £60 in small change I'd found.



At this time I was detecting in a 7 acre community wood, pulling out more rubbish than finds and nothing older than 1911. The local warden gave me black bags for all the bottle tops and beer cans I pulled out.

Last October things were picking up, I soon realised that the Maplins machine, wasn't built for the kill.

I walked into Regton's with a pocket full of cash and an eye on a Trident 2. An hour later, walked out with an XP adx250 and a head full of Nigel's words of wisdom. I joined the XP Forum, next thing I had an email off Jimmytheferret inviting me to join the Bloxwich Research and Metal Detector Club. The nicest and most helpful bunch of metal detectorists outside of this forum.

Joining a metal detecting club has opened up a great way of getting onto the fields without having to go knocking. The other

benefits include monthly access to the FLO, a finds I.D. Library and detector talks with hands on help with your machine.



What have I found so far? Well not long after I got my adx250, I took it on a camping trip with my VeeDub mates. Plucking up courage I asked the campsite if I could have a go in the corner. Third hole was a very nice Lizzy 6 pence, my first hammered and it was the first time I had detected in a field! Since then my best coin so far, a very nice Henry II penny, was followed by a Philip and Mary groat and a James I Irish Shilling. My best non-coin artefact must be a rare medieval bronze strap swivel followed by a much corroded early medieval strap end. I do have one

object going through the Treasure process, that's a fragment of 16thC silver bodkin.

Some days, when the weather is playing silly buggers, detecting can be a drag, until something nice like a hammered coin turns up. What a kick I get from recovering objects that may not have seen the light of day for hundreds of years. But I always end up with a smile plastered across my face no matter what I find.



Spotlight on..... Puffin



I'm a strong believer in recording my finds, I needed a way to do this accurately, so added a GPS unit to my kit. With this I record find spots to 10 figures and I've worked out a way to display the find spot and route data in Google Earth. With a little editing, I import it into an Excel spread sheet, so that I can sort and print various lists of my finds. Every item is bagged, with a reference number, I.D., find spot to 10 figure grid Ref., Parish and find date written on the front, this nicely cross references everything. I also stick a name and address label on the bag, that way I can save time for Duncan Slarke, our local FLO, when he comes to a busy club meeting.



I've only just added an XP Goldmax power to my kit, but as yet, not used it anger, as the club takes a short break while the crops are in. Jimmytheferret, who organises the clubs two weekly digs, just needs a little recovery time, after all his work during the winter season. What about the future, well I'm looking forward to the harvest, so that we can get back to the fields. Meanwhile I have a friend who always wanted to "have a go". Luckily she has a few contacts with local landowners via her job as a Warden in Sutton Park. She has asked one for detecting permission, a manor house, but all the finds will have to be handed over to their own on-site museum. Personally everything has to be put on hold for a few months, as; at the time of writing this I'm awaiting major surgery. Hopefully this should sort out a few health problems, which will make my time in the field even more enjoyable. If you ever see a green and white camper on a detector dig, come over and say hello. Ho, hum, bring on the harvest!

Puffin.



Grass Roots - A few thoughts for beginners to our hobby

By JBM (Jerry Morris)

I often read and hear about the new detectorists frustrations with regards to trying to obtain land to detect.

Yes, there are rallies and clubs all of which have their place in our hobby but there is nothing like having your own land with permission to explore to your hearts content.

I would like to offer a few points that may help you and they come from personal experience.

The first farm always seems and is perhaps the hardest to obtain for many reasons some of which are due to personal shyness or reasons which you may wish to keep to yourself.

Many of us don't like to knock the farmer's door from cold but my advice is to bite the bullet, its so often more rewarding than writing a letter even if you enclose a stamped addressed reply envelope.

When you have done your homework on the land area that you would like the opportunity to detect on don't forget to take a visit to the local reference library as this will pay dividends when you visit the farmer and will give you personal confidence.

When you do make a visit to the farm in mind, make sure that you look neat and tidy as first impressions count a lot and try to make it at an early evening time when the farmer has more time to talk to you.

Remember that this is the farmers home and very likely his pride and joy often handed down to him from previous generations.

Tell him that you are not just a metal detectorist but a local history researcher and that you will show the finds to him as, don't forget, in law he does own them.



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Offer to do him a family finds box with items identified and listed for his family to enjoy and hand down to future generations.

Yes, you would like to keep half of the finds for your own collection and you will find that many farmers don't mind you keeping most if not all that you find.

Make a point of letting other locals know who you are and what you are about and as time goes by they will stop and talk to you.



You may well get requests from them or their neighbours for help once they know who you are to find items that they have lost.



Please remember that while finds are important to us we all show them around and then lock them away, but without land we are lost so the more generous you are with your finds so will others be in return by offering more land.

Grass Roots - A few thoughts for beginners to our hobby

By JBM (Jerry Morris)



After a while 50 acres can become 500 acres and eventually some detectorists have thousands of acres of land.

I made a box up for the village school as the children love a hands-on history lesson especially with items from their area

Remember some children go home to Dad or other members of the family who may own one of the other village farms and we are then soon off on another detecting site .

If you can get a couple of friends who you can really trust and I mean really trust then work as a team each trying to get a farm a few miles from yourself and the amount of land that you will obtain will soon multiply.

As I said earlier its all about trust and I well remember a farmer who I had shared my finds with coming out into the field and sitting on a bale of hay with me.

“Jerry,” he said “this is not my only farm I have 2 others

as my family have lived and farmed in the area since Elizabeth I times.”

That afternoon I obtained many hundreds of more acres which I passed over to our club

Knowing that plenty more would come along by just being honest and playing the game.

What happened, yes another farming family give myself and friends an invite to their home it's all about trust and sharing.

The same farmer asked me to do a talk to the local history society and those attending were astounded by what I was able to show them with a hands-on evening about their general village area.



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Grass Roots - A few thoughts for beginners to our hobby

By JBM (Jerry Morris)



I hope that this now long in the tooth detectorist has given you a little help with this article, the tips within it certainly have worked for me and my 2 detecting buddies and should also help you.

I have shown a few of the finds that our trio have found to wet your appetites, all from farms obtained by face to face contact with our farmer friends.

Jerry Morris. WHRADA,SHRADS & NCMD



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World Of Responsible Detecting



We have been asked to feature some of the old Red Rocket articles written by Brian Cross and published in The Searcher magazine.

We will publish an article every two issues and hope that you enjoy this series of articles that began way back in June 1990.

Please excuse the quality of the photographs as these have been taken of the originals printed in the magazines. Brian tells us that each article was written in such a way that the reader would gain one lesson in metal detecting from each article. This is the third Red Rocket article and hope you enjoy the series.

the
searcher

Originally reproduced in The Searcher magazine

We have our fortunes told at the Appleby Horse Fair

Since last Christmas Mo' has been busy making silk cushions, lampshades and other such "pretties". What started out as an experiment has begun to keep her very busy during the weeks when she is not working. Most of our friends and relations have now got some of her products adorning their bedrooms or bathrooms, ... and they make excellent sweeteners for farmer's wives!

However, by early June she had a fair bit of surplus stock. We decided to sell it off at a car boot sale or fair where we might combine this event with a bit of detecting or research.

Joining the gypsies

The ideal opportunity came along in June – the Appleby Horse Fair is held in that month. We had just missed the event when we went to Appleby in 1989 and had regretted it. This time we decided we would visit this fair and sample the real atmosphere by taking part. We'd hire a stall on the site.

Appleby Horse Fair is the gypsy event of the year. It has been held in or near the small Cumbrian town of Appleby for centuries. Gypsies from throughout England, Ireland and Scotland spend weeks travelling to this fair from as far afield as America!

We had to admit that after speaking to locals in and around Appleby during our last trip we were rather apprehensive. We were told tales of riotous gypsy behaviour; smashing up pubs, bareback horse riders running down people in the streets and vans being turned over on the fair field. It didn't help when certain members of the South Lancs. and Cheshire metal detecting club expressed the view that it was nice to have known us and that we would all meet again in that artifact-rich detecting land in the sky!

August 2008



To Scotland first

As no crops were due to be lifted at this time we decided to combine the trip with our first ever visit to Scotland. We spent two days in Dumfries and had the time of our lives, especially in a pub called “The Hole I’Th’Wa”. We visited the museums and other such places of historical interest. One friendly Scot promised to take us to meet local farmers if we came that way again. This Scot was sure he knew where numerous treasures were lying waiting to be found. All in all, we found the Scots absolutely brilliant!

In and out

We arrived back in Appleby to a scene of chaotic “organization”. Fair Hill (note the name), a short way outside of the town and the modern venue for the fair, was packed with hundreds of gypsy caravans of all shapes and guises.

The hill was a quagmire after recent heavy rain and we joined the queue of vans, horse-drawn and motorized, waiting to gain entrance to the field. More vans were attaching themselves to the queue every few seconds and judging from the many we passed on the way to Appleby, there were a few hundred yet to arrive.

We got in, drove along the muddy tracks looking for a place to park, and ended up at the exit! We tried again and did the same! Once more we went onto the field and found this time a parking place. We were shifted by a lad who promised us that if we stayed there his Dad and his friends would soon move us! We went out again!

A second time we parked only to be moved by a couple of screaming gypsy women. It was pouring with rain and we were conscious of the fact that the many “bobbies” at the exit may have begun to wonder just what we were up to because we’d come through that exit so many times.

Another chance

We drove to the town, stopped for a beer in a pub teeming with travellers, and decided not to try for a place on the fair field. The travellers were looking after their own and at such an event we couldn’t really blame them. In the town we experienced the uncanny coincidence of a chance meeting with Edna Johnson, and Irene and Alan Howarth from the Lune Valley Club. We agreed to rendezvous later in a pub just out of town. Whilst there we watched the gypsies racing horses along the streets and washing them in the river.

We discovered that the field adjoining Fair Hill was also to be used for traders’ stalls and so arranged for Mo’s stall to be erected on that field on the Sunday. We then met Edna and Co for a glass or two, and learnt much about the fair from this meeting.



Fair Hill, the modern site of the fair, is almost unworkable.. The ground was tipped on during Victorian times and the amount of modern trash on top of this is incredible. Only a very patient and hard-working detector user with a machine specially suited to such conditions could hope to rescue anything from this site.

But we did learn that the grass verges for many miles about this site are well worth trying. Mike has already had a number of good finds from such areas, including one nice gold ring. But a word of caution to anyone thinking of trying the land immediately about Fair Hill – Mike has a caravan almost next to Fair Hill and most of the verges about the site have been well covered by him.

We believe that, because of their life-style, travellers invest much of their savings in gold. Never in all our lives have we seen such splendid, huge gold rings, necklaces and bracelets. Everyone from the youngest to the oldest was adorned with gold. We saw teenage girls wearing three and four gold sovereigns on separate chains about their necks.

Thinking back to the antics of the teenagers on the river banks we have to admit that probably the best site of all in Appleby is on the banks of the river or preferably in the water. We would love to hear of the exploits of anyone who has ever tried sifting or dredging the bed of this river in the town.

Unique atmosphere

Our visit to Appleby ended on that Sunday evening after our day of selling cushions and lampshades. We had seen many sights and experienced an atmosphere unique to this special event. We had seen horses being sold at the roadside for thousands of pounds, had seen travelling women buying fancy crockery costing many hundreds of pounds for their ornate vans, and had seen jewellery in quantity we are never likely to encounter again.

We had met and spoken to many people, some of whom had spent weeks working their way to Appleby. From there the next attraction was Scotch Corner and another big meet. It is apparent that some travel from one event to another throughout the summer in much the same way that their ancestors had done. Many excellent finds must lie on and around all these sites which could be the subject of a rewarding re-search programme.

A few weeks later found us travelling along the M62 to visit Mal & Jean Jubb. We arrived just in time to join a barbeque with Ann and Wilf Butler where Mr (Magicman) Jubb performed his trick of making hammered coins appear from brass containers. Brilliant stuff!

Our first search area the following day was a grass field adjoining a small Roman site. This field had not been ploughed for a few years and as it had been well detected on, we did not expect too many finds.



The one hammered

The day was hot and finds few and far between. Mal and Wilf using White's detectors found a few Roman bronze at depths we couldn't hope to match. Then Mo' showed us all how it was done by finding a Scottish 20 pence piece. This coin turned up completely out of the blue as they usually do. What made the find even more uncanny was that when she had problems with her machine about one hour later, we discovered that one of her batteries was in the wrong way round!

The rest of the day was spent in the usual slow searching with little result until Brian found an Elizabeth I half groat without sufficient detail surviving to make a recognizable picture. But we had kept up our intension of finding at least one hammered coin each trip!

We met up with Wilf the following day and spent most of the time closer to the farm house – with little joy except for the occasional battered Georgian coin and one half-crown. Wilf promised to get us some rabbits here but no bunnies materialised that day!

We now had one full day left for detecting before we had to be home so we decided to work our way back slowly looking at some sites we'd researched.

Two of these sites were medieval moated sites. These would have been used mainly during the 13th and 14th centuries. The bulk of such moated sites would have been fortified manor houses or similar.

Time running out

However, one was still under crop, even the surrounding fields were unavailable. The landowner of the other led us a merry dance for, after nearly two hours, we had still not tracked him down. We gave up on this with the time almost at noon.

We were now desperate to get on one piece of land for the few remaining hours of our short break. Not far from Sheffield we called in on an area where research had pointed to activity during medieval times. We had identified a rather large church standing in a small village that had seen little modern development. Ideal conditions we always think.

Unfortunately, much of this land was under crop and we ended up calling in at the first farm which appeared to have available land, slightly out of the village.

The first available

The farmer was very friendly and had never been approached by detector users before. We explained just what we were about and he was happy to grant us permission for the rest of the day.



We set about searching the two fields we had without knowing exactly where to start. Four hours of searching on the first field produced little except the usual scrap so with early evening approaching we crossed into the second.

Here we were rewarded with quite a number of Georgian coins and a nice Victorian sixpence, always a satisfying find! Georgian bronze in numbers is also welcome because it does show activity before modern times.



The brooch, Roman or Medieval?

One unusual artifact was found by Mo. The reverse shows two lugs and the remains of a pin. The object appears to be an acorn design with a ducks head. We have tentatively dated it to the medieval period. But some detectorists have suggested that it could be Roman, the Romans being particularly keen on ducks' heads.

Local exchanges

We returned to the farmer with night falling fast. He was fascinated by our hobby and when we mentioned we would be calling in at the village pub, he said he'd see us there later.

The remainder of the evening was spent describing our hobby and the finds we make, good and bad, to most of the village it seemed. We learnt a great deal about the immediate area and made many friends. We're due to go back there early in the Spring and are sure to be taking the Red Rocket and our detectors.

In the October edition of the UKDN newsletter we shall tell the tale of our going south to Deal and joining up with friends at the Deal Rally. Afterwards we gained our own permission and made some rather special finds. Don't miss the next Red Rocket story in the October edition of the UKDN Word.

Finds Advisor Profile – Tom Redmayne

Hi, I'm tomredmayne, real name Tom Redmayne: I was never very inventive!

I am 46 years old and live with my partner and 7 year-old son close to the coast in North Lincolnshire although I was born and grew up in Lancashire on the family dairy farm. I'm still in the industry, as commercial manager for a national dairy company now.



Growing up on the farm, I used to spend a lot of time as a youngster digging about in the old farm dumps unearthing old bottles, horse harness, pottery and all sorts of things I couldn't put a name to.

I was always a great reader, and would spend hours in the library trying to identify things I found, as well as asking some of the older generation farmers that we knew. I found it fascinating to find out what some of these odd objects were used for.



Finds Advisor Profile – Tom Redmayne

I suppose that's where it all started, this curiosity for finding lost or discarded things and trying to find out what I can about them. This curiosity also extends to my family, and I have been researching the family tree for 25 years now.

I didn't get my first metal detector until 2005, a White's Classic II, and the first thing I found with it was my mother-in-law's wedding ring which had been lost in the garden 22 years before. Now that earned me some brownie points!

I was hooked immediately, and it was like being a kid again finding all sorts of weird and wonderful things and wondering what they were and how they had been used. My great advantage now was that I had the resources of the internet to draw on as well as a huge number of reference books on identifying finds.

My passion for books has never left me, and I am slowly building up my own little reference library to help identify my finds and, hopefully, shed some light on other people's finds if I can.

I have always recorded all my finds with the PAS and the help and advice given to me by Adam Daubney, my local FLO in Lincoln, has been invaluable. He has been particularly helpful with educating me on identifying the different pottery shards and worked flints that I find around here and I am now building up my own collection of both.

I now use a Minelab Quattro, and have some wonderful land to detect on right on my doorstep here in Lincolnshire. I have quite a few objects still on my "wish list" many of which I see posted on the forum. It's a great place for inspiration!

And there you have it, that's me really and I look forward to helping out wherever I can along with the rest of the team.

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Moderator — Baldric (Owen Baldock)

Baldric otherwise known as Owen Baldock. I am just 52 and I have been interested in things historical since I started secondary school. During the summer holidays I and a couple of mates from school were invited to assist at an ongoing dig on an Iron Age hill fort South of Tonbridge in Kent, the spark had been ignited and although I went on to pursue a totally unrelated career as an electronic research engineer I still kept up my interest by visiting museums and historical sites at any opportunity.

Luckily for me my ever suffering wife shares my interest in history, and also shares my other hobby interest touring around and attending rally's in our 1936 Ford 8. I'm not quite sure how I actually got involved in metal detecting, it sort of happened! Having started out with a £90 Chinese special I got addicted, and it did find my first proper find of a Tudor button.

Well I had to get a proper machine after that and purchased a Troy 3, which I still have and use, but I also went mad and purchased a Troy 5 as well, this is my main machine and it has served me well. We joined our local club Mid-Kent about 5 years ago and within a very short my wife Chris became Membership officer, and at the next AGM I will become Chairman for my sins. So that's where I am now and having been invited to become a Moderator on the forum I feel quite privileged to help in the running of this excellent forum.



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