

# The UKDN



**WORD**

ISSUE 15 NOVEMBER 2008

World Of Responsible Detecting





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## Welcome .....

to the UKDN Newsletter, our thanks go out once again to all who have written for this months Newsletter, we're sure you'll enjoy it!

We're still looking for more contributors please, we'd love to hear about your detecting or detecting related stories, issues, and articles please! Nothing is too small and we're always ready to offer advice and help if your not sure what you could do.

The Christmas Raffle is coming along nicely with 75 tickets sold so far, pleased do try and support the running of UKDN by supporting the raising of funds to keep the site free at the point of use, tickets to win a metal detector are £5 each. The main prize is a Gold Max Power, very kindly donated to UKDN by Regtons. Our thanks goes to Nigel and the team for their support and of course excellent service! There are also a second prize which has been kindly donated by tomredmayne; it's a brand new, unread copy of Bill Wyman's Treasure Islands book. A third prize of a Bungee Harness has been donated by UKDN itself. Details for the raffle thread can be seen [Here](#) .

On the political side of the hobby, we expect some news of the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Review any time now, we'll post that on the main forum as soon as we have anything released.

Did you know that UKDN has it's own Internet Toolbar? Many of our members find this tool a fantastic help to gaining lots of useful information instantly without having to go and look for it in different places. If you want to see the latest finds from your area via the PAS RSS feeds or any information about the hobby and much, much, more, then download it.....it's free! Look at this link to our Download for the Tool Bar <http://ukdn.forumtoolbar.com/>

Please do continue to show us your finds and add them to the Find of the Month competition which we run for our members. We know our fabulous Finds Advisers are ready and waiting to offer identification for all those great finds that you've dug this past month or so.

Finally, thanks to you for attending and contributing to UKDN, together we all make it a great place to visit, with all the information and help you could ever possibly need in respect to our great hobby and beyond!

Brian, Mo and the UKDN Team.

## Find of the Month Coin—Henry III voided long cross Penny - by tomredmayne

To be honest, this smashing coin came as a complete surprise from this particular site as I was looking for something else at the time!

I have only been detecting on this field since the middle of July this year, and I found a nice Edward II London penny on my first visit along with one or two Medieval buckles and small mounts.

As the field looked like it had potential, I returned to it five days later and pulled out two farthings, one of Edward I and one of Edward II, both from almost the same spot as the penny. This was the start of two months of slowly pulling out a total of 12 Edwardian silver hammered coins from one small area; my "hoard", and that's another story!

The rest of the field wasn't really producing very much, but I was religiously covering it to make sure I hadn't missed anything. It was very early on a Sunday morning, ( I like detecting early morning, as I can get a couple of hours in before the family is even awake!), and I had already found the first eight hoard coins on previous visits. The hot-spot was given another good going over, but nothing new showed so I set off up the field, following a path that was, as yet, undetected. I walked the full length of the field with only a single musket shot and a tombac button to show for my efforts when a lovely, high-pitched, two-way signal registered 25 on the Quattro's meter.

It sounded like a hammered and not very deep either. The first spadeful left it sitting in the clod on the surface, and the first breaking in half of the clod left a wonderfully shiny, silver disc sitting in the palm of my hand. Staring up at me was the crispest, sharpest image of a monarch that I had ever seen on a hammered silver coin. The triangle gave it away immediately as an Irish issue, the first one I had ever found, and what a first! In complete contrast to the grumpy and stern face on the coin, I had a huge grin on mine.

I detected my way across the field back to the car and rinsed the coin with a little water from my drinking bottle. It came up just as it is in the picture, pristine like it had only just been dropped.

The field has produced a few other artefacts now, and a halfpenny of Henry VI as well as some more of the hoard coins, but my Irish Henry beats them all hands down as the one that produced the biggest grin. He'll be my avatar for a while I think.



## Anglo Saxon Gold Finger Ring : slapedd

The ring was found on a Three Counties MDC dig in Essex. We had four fields on the day, three of which were in stubble. I had a 12x15 SEF coil on my Explorer SE, so the stubble was out of the question.

By late afternoon I had heard of a hammered and a Roman grot. Heading back up the field I looked back and saw in the distance an old Church and behind me was the farm Manor House, so I decided to detect in the line of the two. By around 4/30 I had my first good find, an Eddy Penny. Soon after my second good find came, a Lizzy Half Penny made into a love token. As the spot seemed to be a hot spot I stayed for a good hour going over the ground very slow.

Then I hit a nice low tone and pulled from good depth a Lizzy Sixpence. Ten minutes later a member made his way over to where I was detecting and asked me if I found a hot spot and started detecting near me. After five minutes he walked over to me to show me a small hammered he had found as I was in the middle of digging out my own good signal. As he knelt down I had to stop my recovery, he moved away saying my 12x15 SEF coil was not as good as the SEF 10x12.

I then got back to recovering my find and bang in his knee print is the find, as the mud is wiped off I see gold, I shouted over to the Club member to come back. I placed the lump of mud in his hand and said to him "still think my 12x15 is not up to it?" His next two words can't be printed, but he did say its a very old ring around Henry VIII or Lizzy. As I wiped more mud of I said it looked older than that.

When I got back to the car I had a good look at the ring and was sure it was Saxon. Thinking back I wish I had been on my own when I found the ring so as to enjoy the finding more, but I was pleased to have out done the member who had said my coil was not as good has his, sad I know, but his E-Trac with 10x12 SEF was pulling out the goodies.

It's always been a dream to find something of this quality, I hope it ends up in a Museum and not in a collection. The farmer will be pleased with the reward money and it will go a long way in showing the farmer that allowing detectorists on to their land that they can trust, it can be worth there while and be good for our great hobby.

Slapedd.



### **A great day out at Greathouse by Georgian Tim ( Tim Storer)**

In order to raise some money for the Leonard Cheshire Greathouse resident's computer room I decided to hold "A Day Out" on some local fields. The idea of "A Day Out" is to give other detectorists the chance to meet up and swing the coil at a reasonable price (currently £5) without the trappings of a normal rally. I despatched my colleague, Carol, to a local farmer as she has a good success rate in getting permission and she duly came back with permission for 80 acres of stubble. All we had to do was wait for the harvest. And wait. And wait. And wait. Finally, nearly 2 months after the expected date, the harvest was done and a date fixed with the farmer. I like to keep the numbers low but it was definitely a bit slow on the bookings side. Luckily JBM came to my aid and roused out some members from various clubs in the Bristol area and we had 30 people booked.

The weather forecast was wavering between wet or wet and windy but eventually settled on being a lovely warm autumn day. People started arriving about 8 a.m. And were greeted with bacon butties and hot drinks on the terrace of Greathouse. Plenty of time for a chat and to get ready for the day.



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# The UKDN WORD

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A few minutes behind schedule we walked around to the fields and started detecting with everyone dispersing around the fields. At 12.30 we met up back at the house to compare finds and have a bite to eat. There were a few Roman coins, a couple of hammerededs and lots of George 1 onwards. It later turned out that one of the fields was the old village cricket pitch so explained the number of coins in that area.

A few hardy detectorists stayed on the fields until the very end and although the finds were not ground breaking, there were some very nice condition coins. The silver survived particularly well and came up nice and clean which I am told is because of the sandy soil. The bronze coins did not survive so well but some of the later coins came out with a very nice dark brown or green patina. By the end of the day I had seen 3 nice Roman bronze coins, 4 silver hammerededs, a medieval spur, and numerous copper and silver coins from George 11 onwards. The best coins I saw were a Victoria shilling and a Charles II threepence.

Once the fields have been ploughed and settled down I hope to use the fields again. The farmer said that within a month or so of ploughing the field flattens down on its own because of the soil type so should give a good detecting surface. Is there anything left to find? Who knows and the only way to find out is to hit the fields again.

The total raised was £220 which will be used to buy a specialist software package called Grid. This puts a keyboard on the screen and enables people to use a computer with just a mouse. An essential aid if you have very limited use in your hands or arms. There will be a small amount of cash left which will be put towards anything else the residents may want for the computer room.

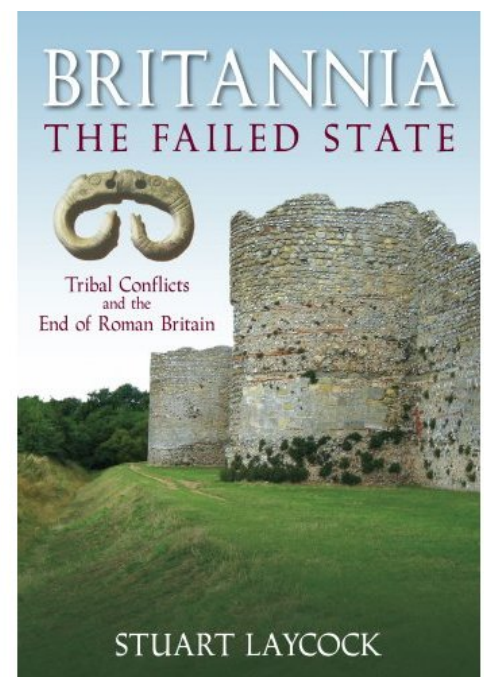
Tim.



A very BIG well done to **c scope skid** who won the UKDN Logo Design for his Footprint (see below) and **Jif** who won the Location of the UKDN logo from a remote island beach, known as Balfour Bay, just off the Isle of Mull in South West Scotland. (see cover page)

Both entries were chosen by Badger, (David Connolly) before he flew out to Jordon, many thanks to him for choosing the winners .

The winners both receive a copy of Stuart Laycocks new book: Britannia - The Failed State: Tribal Conflicts and the End of Roman Britain: Tribal Conflict and the End of Roman Britain



Some of the other entries.....more on these in future issues



Some of the other entries.....



# Spotlight on GAZ



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Hi everyone. My name is Gareth Lloyd and known as Gaz on the UKDN forum. To say it was a bit of a shock to be asked if I'd submit a little about myself would be an understatement!

I immediately thought that I haven't been a forum member for very long, haven't been detecting very long and don't really have a vast finds cabinet groaning under the weight of Celtic gold or Medieval hammered!

What I do feel however is that I represent a good cross section of detectorists.

I am 39 years old and work full time as a construction manager for Leadbitter Construction. I live in Bristol with my wife Michelle and 9 year old daughter Megan.

I do find it incredibly difficult to get out detecting. My wife is a nurse and spends most Saturdays and Sundays working at Southmead Hospital so I have to rely on her using her annual leave or some very close and dear friends helping out having Meg for the day. As you can imagine, it gets quite frustrating sometimes when you love your hobby but have family commitments to contend with.

I have only been detecting for about 10 months. Like so many people, I re-kindled a schoolboy hobby. I think I owned an old Cscope VLFTR770D!!

On returning to detecting, my first 'real' detector was a Whites Prizm IV which I still have as a backup. I then moved onto a Whites M6. I now have Minelab's latest offering, the E-Trac.

In the first months I managed to get permission for some small pieces of pasture farmland. That kept me going whilst being on a club waiting list.

It took me about 6 months but I eventually gained membership to WHRADA (Weston Historical Research And Detecting Association). They have been really supportive and a great bunch. As a newbie, it really opened up the door to access farmland every Sunday for free. There are many people behind the scenes that work incredibly hard in their own time. It is appreciated by all of us who are members.

It was on a club dig one Sunday where I met and who soon became my detecting buddy Des, (UKDN - Animal). We live quite close so manage to share land and driving. It's a good match as we share the same passion for detecting.



# Spotlight on GAZ

Again, like many newbies, I haven't any really significant finds but they are interesting and I always live in hope every time I manage to get out.

These two finds were found on a recent rally at Longbridge Deverill. A part piece of a bracelet and brooch circa 200 AD.



# Spotlight on GAZ

Another favourite of mine was this silver Denarius of Hadrian found on my first rally in Gloucester!



Well, that's me!! I'll keep on trying to get out and keep on trying to find better things. The best of luck to everyone and maybe I'll see you on a rally.

Gaz.

