

The UKDN

World Of Responsible Detecting

Issue 21

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Message from UKDN Admin

Hi Everyone

Welcome to this the latest edition of the UKDN Word. Another brilliant edition absolutely brimming with the sort of reading material that you have all come to expect from our newsletter team, and what a fine job they have made of it too.

We were going to write that its been a quiet month for detecting finds and stories but the weekend of 25th/26th April produced a plethora of gold finds on the forum. We had members posting up half guineas, French and Portuguese gold coins, gold rings and a gold stater. Great to see our members getting out and finding the good stuff and better still seeing them posting the finds on UKDN for all to see. **Brilliant stuff !!**

Don't forget that if you have been a member of UKDN for over 3 months then you too can put your great finds in the Find and Coin of the Month competitions.

At the end of June we are planning a big UKDN Auction (our 5th) for you. The purpose of this is to raise funds for the server and maintenance costs. Despite what you may hear and read on other forums and media, Brian & Mo', who own UKDN, need to raise over £1000 per year to pay for the server costs. Rest assured that despite what others may say, no-one is making any fortunes out of UKDN. The auction will go towards raising the sum required and you will be able to see exactly how much it raises. Donations of goods and services for auction would be much appreciated.

Our technical Team is still working on software upgrades and hope to announce a new launch soon.

On Thursday 7th May we will have another free lottery which will close on Sat 9th May. You will, of course, be notified by email about the lottery as long as your email address is correct in your profile. Please check it otherwise you will miss out on announcements such as the above.

Best Wishes from Brian, Mo' and The Team.

FOM**Artefact****Winner of the March Artifact was yesma with his Iron Age Lynch Pin**

I have only been detecting for two years. However, having been a member of Taynton Metal Detecting Club for most of that time I have enjoyed plenty of advice and guidance, good company and, most importantly, plenty of land.

Last Year the club held a rally on one of our farms which resulted in significant Saxon, Roman and Medieval finds. Following the rally, we carried out systematic searches on a number of the fields, producing more interesting finds missed by the 400+ rally searchers.

The rally site spanned two sides of a valley. However, the north facing fields were not as productive as the South facing and had not been the subject of the survey. Several of the fields had featured in club digs and could best be described as 'quiet'.

I had spent several days searching a couple of the quiet fields and moved to the last field.

*"more
interesting
finds missed
by the 400+
rally
searchers"*



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

FOM

Artefact

With a rather pessimistic feeling I walked onto the field and made my way across its 300m width. Not one signal. I remembered some talk of walking round a field and then doing the diagonals to try and find a hot spot, so off I went. Taking most of the morning, I made my way round the four sides of the field, digging three shotgun cartridges and a roman grot. I stopped for lunch and wondered if it was worth doing the diagonals. The sun was out, the field was freshly seeded and as the farm was on the market we were soon going to lose access, I realised there would not be another opportunity and off I went.

Making my way across the field not one signal until I reached the far corner. Then a great signal and up came an almost complete Roman brooch. I was stunned. The best brooch I had found and in such an empty field. I almost went home there and then but decided to do the other diagonal and started off towards the other corner. I had gone only 10 metres when I had another signal, this time not as clear. Given the lack of signals so far I gave it a dig and up came what I thought was a Roman terminal of some sort. I knew it was a good find but at this stage I was more impressed with the brooch. There was a fan shape at one end with some sort of design, surrounded by engrained dirt (red enamel!). A rusty iron rod was sticking out of the other end, which probably caused the poor signal. Perhaps the end of a dagger or sword I thought. I did complete the search along the other diagonal and also carried out a systematic search around the area of the finds but had no more luck.

*"The best
brooch I had
found and in
such an empty
field"*

Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

FOM

Artefact

Very happy I went home and put the Roman thing I had found on the UKDN forum. It was very quickly identified as an Iron Age Lynch Pin. I had never heard of one before, so getting quite excited searched the web and discovered how rare and significant a find it was. It's waiting to be seen by our FLO and has already been recorded on UKDFD as well as featuring on our club website.

These sorts of finds make me think about the circumstances of its loss. Did the Roman wearing the brooch crash the chariot he had captured? Why was the Chariot in this field? Where is the other end of it?

Great Hobby!



*"Great
Hobby!"*



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

FOM

Coin

Winner of the March Coin was Ocker with his Corieltauvi Gold Stater

- Gold stater of the Corieltauvi
- inscribed VOLISIOS DVMNO-COVEROS
- Spink 416



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Spotlight on:

Vince Butler (detectavin63)

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Hello to all on UKDN, my name is Vince Butler (detectavin63), I'm 45 and from Leicester but now living in glorious Norfolk, I'm a committee member with Norwich detectors club and I work in retail.

I started detecting about 6 years ago with a basic Black Knight ID detector, with which I found the usual bullets, tin cans and junk, then a member of the club lent me a C Scope 5mx and I started finding a few interesting bits and my first hammered's thanks go to John and Christeen.

Then about 4 years ago I got the chance to buy a Minelab Explorer II which I still use now and would never change, and that's when my detecting life really took off, finding so much stuff in a month I put between 3 and 5 display boxes on the tables at the club monthly meeting..I'm very lucky with the land and the farmers who are very accommodating as to myself and my detecting partner damo12 accessing the fields in most conditions.

I have had some really good finds over the past 4 years including an Eadgar penny of portrait and cross type and Thetford mint, (shown below) also a nice Henry II penny, an Eadmund memorial penny, a Cnut penny, plus lots more cracking hammered's.



Spotlight on:

Vince Butler (detectavin63)

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I've also been fortunate enough to find some notable artifacts including a number of quality seal matrix's, one being the counterseal for the Abbott of Robertsbridge Abbey reading, + **CONTRAS' ABATI DE PONTE ROB'I**, which was in Sussex (shown below) details of which can be found on the Robertsbridge website which is well worth a look at.

see <http://www.aboutrobertsbridge.org.uk/Robertsbridge%20Abbey.htm>



Spotlight on:

Vince Butler (detectavin63)

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Other nice finds include roman and Saxon, including a very rare Viking tortoise brooch which has got all the experts very excited indeed, also a roman belt buckle with Celtic style swirls and swastikas on, that has been cut down and re-used as a strap end during Saxon times, (shown below).



Spotlight on:

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Vince Butler (detectavin63)

I love getting out as often as I can no matter what the weather and some of my best finds have been made when raining, I also love picking pottery up from my sites and have quite a large collection from all periods I never tire of finding pot, and my advice to anyone that doesn't already pick it up is start doing so and get it recorded with your local FLO as a lot can be learned about a site just from pottery alone.

Well that's me in a nutshell, I hope you have found this article in some way interesting and encouraging to go out there and spend time in them there fields swinging the coil against the soil,

Happy hunting to you all...

Vince.



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

PAS

As you may have guessed already I am a big fan of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the many and varied finds I have recorded with them from this site would include, small pieces of CBM, dozens of rim shards of varying styles, materials, and dates, and by now over 400 hundreds metal objects such as, a weighing balance, spindle whorls, loom weights, coins, brooches, pins, finger rings, toilet implements such as nail and ear cleaners, bronze locks, personal adornments with a military function, bronze apron mounts strap ends and belt sliders, late Iron Age and early Roman chariot or cart fittings (terrets), a bronze bowl and even tribal staters, (Iron Age) coinage of the Corieltauvi and much more. All of which have over time encouraged the archaeologists to take a much more detailed look into this now quiet piece of Lincolnshire. Something of interest that may concern current archaeology is the fact that a desk top archaeological survey was conducted for this very field that contains this very site before I came. Its result, "no known archaeology" this survey was completed just a few years before I started to detect here due to an impending pipeline. It's a pity no one came to field walk as you can not miss the pottery, but I suppose that's why it's called a desk top survey!

In the spring of 2004 Adam Daubney, FLO for Lincolnshire, miraculously managed to secure some end of year funding which enabled a limited but nevertheless detailed archaeological dig on site using the PAS data base of my recorded finds to assist them. It was a fascinating experience to be allowed to be part of the dig and work with the archaeologists, and was in fact the main catalyst for my present status as a mature Heritage degree student; Adam was my referee/sponsor. It was also encouraging to witness how the recording of my finds matched up perfectly with the buried archaeology.

A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

The main problem we encountered during the dig was the inclement British weather; it was wet, in fact so bad that one of the main trenches filled level with freezing cold clear water within an hour of being dug! We couldn't afford pumps so it was abandoned.

The trenches that were dug and recorded turned up some wonderful pieces of Roman pottery some of which, according to the report, may be well worth illustrating and publishing at a later date. There was also evidence of much burning, and strong hints of metal working.

The results of the dig corroborated my recorded finds that the main part of the settlement site seemed to be on farm C with a small section spreading across the boundary hedge to farm A. The fluxgate gradiometer survey showed a possible kiln area on this small section and it would appear from what we now know this was indeed a pretty accurate survey.

Individual detector finds on the other the farms have also been excellent, including farm B which to date I have hardly mentioned. In fact two of the most impressive brooches found by me in this area are from farm B where I also found a tiny but impressive silver Sceatta, (coin) series C, Apa, no annulets, and from the Saxon period. The two brooches were cruciform types, quite large, and again Saxon in date, the smaller one of the two was found very close to the boundary of farm C! This may indicate the presence of a nearby Saxon cemetery but further investigation will be necessary.

Still away from the main site; a small zoomorphic knife handle in copper alloy turned up a few fields away and is almost certainly associated with that site. It has a stylised bulls head and as the bull has religious connotations could in fact be votive.

A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

Also a large and elaborate cosmetic grinder in bronze with two loops and a ribbed back; these very personal objects seem to be unique to Britain. Another find of note is the marvellous late Iron Age skirted terret ring (chariot fitting).

Further away the village site has also been brilliant and turned up two wonderful associated finds, a 7th century Anglo-Saxon "hilt ring" and a jewelled silver gilt "pyramid mount". I was filmed at the time by the BBCs Hidden Treasures Series handing them over to Dr Kevan Leahy at the North Lincolnshire Museum; this was in part to demonstrate the importance of recording with the PAS. These two Saxon finds went to a coroner's inquest and were declared treasure under the 1996 Treasure act. They now reside in the Collection at Lincoln.

Returning to the Roman site the diversity of coins and brooches on the pasture field of farm C, plus the discovery of the Romanesque columns and the results from Adams dig lead to what is possibly an important site. As already mentioned the bull's head knife handle may well be ceremonial or votive in nature, we know that damaging an object is often part of the votive ritual and may help explain why a few of the brooches from the main site appear to have been deliberately bent. The individually found Iron Age coins could again have been votive. A Roman silver ring with the faint inscription TOT for the Celtic deity Totatis could also mean this site has religious meaning and likewise the small female head.

Yet the majority of the finds shout both "domestic" and "settlement". While discussing the subject with Adam he told me that although there may have been a temple or shrine associated with this site, sadly we may never actually find it.

A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

The first dig has proved this site is undoubtedly Roman and largely domestic with possible "cottage" industries on site, and it was discovered only by following a long trail of metal detected finds from the village road. Long after the dig it continues to intrigue me and the stone columns could they long ago have graced the skyline of this gentle rise? Only time will tell.

I have since learned of four more, all reused as entrance or gate posts to properties in the same village as Farm C, and appearing to be matching and from the same source. I have of course photographed them for the record, but have also been told of a long ago demolished Georgian manor house in the vicinity. Would Georgian builders have recycled building materials from earlier times? As productivity was high and labour cheap, I doubt it. Therefore are these stone pillars nothing more than red herrings? We will soon see.

In early 2007 Adam Daubney (Finds Liaison officer) for Lincolnshire phoned me with some unbelievably good news. Channel 4's Time Team was looking for interesting archaeological sites to film for their 15th series. The programme was to be broadcast in the spring of 2008 and would the farmer and I be interested! I said yes for myself on the spot, and promised to get in touch with the landowner a.s.a.p.



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

TIME FOR THE TEAM

After liaising with the farmer and gaining permission to film on his land, the director and various members of the production team came to Lincolnshire to view and assess the archaeological potential of the site. They had already received images of finds from the PAS (Portable Antiquities scheme), plus a copy of the Pre-Construct Archaeology's dig report and geophysical survey. These were from the previous dig that Adam had organised. It appears the last thing they need is to start filming and find absolutely nothing, and when one witnesses the production process first hand and considers the staffing, equipment, and logistical costs you can see why.

With filming looming a meeting was arranged at a local hotel in Lincoln, it was a kind of briefing really which included a PowerPoint presentation of maps of the site and discussions of potential problems that might accrue. It had been such a frantic race for me to get there on time because of exam commitments in York that same afternoon, that when I was asked where I thought the actual site might be (and I did know) to this day I can't recall what I said! Most of the team were present except Mick Aston, who I think was ill, and I didn't actually see Tony Robinson but he could have been around somewhere. I recall thinking to myself do I really need this pressure at my age!

A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

“LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION”

While I found the actual process of filming quite fascinating, I can give little detail about it, as most of my time was spent metal detecting the spoil heaps as they opened up the trenches. It was also my job to search the trench bottoms, to do all of this efficiently (time team dig big trenches) I was asked to bring a friend or trusted assistant which I did. His name is Ken, a retired bricklayer from Lincolnshire, who has made some excellent finds himself and knows these fields pretty much as well as I. Nowadays when detecting he doesn't venture too far from his vehicle, but if he had been detecting these same fields in his younger days it could be him telling this story now and not me.

Metal detecting apart, Lucy asked me if I could do a small interview about my favourite finds with Guy de la Bedoyere (Roman specialist) and Helen Geake, (Saxon) although pleased to be included, I was to say the least, a little bit nervous.

Guy and Helen were great and very professional putting me at ease immediately. That said we did three or four takes which seemed really weird as you have to keep repeating what you just said and yet still look interested or surprised, very odd indeed. It's a shame after all that trouble that it was cut from the final version as I think it would have been good TV.

During the dig I found a couple of Roman coins in Phil Harding's spoil heap one bronze radiate and a rather nice silver denarius which was whisked away from me pretty quickly. Ken the other detectorist also made finds and at one point got a telling off for doing a bit of freelance detecting near the hedge while off camera.

A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350



A Detecting Story—Part 3

kally22350

This sounds a bit harsh on land we have permission to search, but is because of the agreement we have to sign before the start of filming which wavers any rights we might otherwise have had to any finds that we might discover, I think the farmer signed a similar agreement! The high point of the programme for me was strangely not the dig itself as I had been fully involved with Adams earlier excavations on site and actually allowed to dig as well as detect!

It was the restoration of the bronze bowl I had discovered years earlier that I found the most fascinating. Time Team's conservator Brigid Gallagher who was brought in as one of the many specialists was very approachable, finding time to explain the main points of the process to me during lunch breaks and the lulls between filming.

All in all it was a great experience that I wouldn't have missed for the world, and the food, that was something else, the catering was perfection, oh, and not to forget the loos, truly the plushest portables in Christendom.

The various ideas that the team had about the archaeology during the dig, and its eventual outcome, were of course to me, not totally surprising.

Although metal working on some scale was evident. I am not wholly convinced about the recycling of building stone on this site, as there is so precious little of it. The painted plaster could in fact be from a yet to be discovered Villa so in my court the jury is still out, but we will see, this is undoubtedly a complex site.

kally22350



wonderful penny of Cynethryth

My name is Clive Nobbs (meandmydreams) and I live in Sussex with my wife Linda. I have 2 grown up daughters.

I have been detecting around 6-7 years and my story revolves around a recent find of a wonderful penny of Cynethryth who was the wife of the 8th Century King Offa of Mercia. Cynethryth coins are rare finds and examples like this with portraits are extremely rare.

I found the coin whilst detecting in November of last year and my first reaction was to put a call over the walkie-talkie for my 2 colleagues to come over and have a look. I remember sitting on the ground in a bit of a daze but at that time I had no idea the coin was that rare!

When I got home the research revealed the significance of my find and so it was time to visit the land owner. We discussed the coin and together we decided to put it up for sale and so begun a series of visits to dealers and auctioneers in London.

I could not believe a value of up to £2000 was being suggested! See <http://www.coinlink.com/News/ancients/the-2000-penny/>



wonderful penny of Cynethryth

It was at this point that frankly the disappointment began to sink in, I had made a find of a life time and it was about to slip from my hands. I was however, duty bound to settle my arrangement with the land owner and this is what I must do.

The sale is made a little easier by focusing on why my colleagues and I were there in the first place. As you will realise from the text that follows, we are researching a particular project for a local land owner and the amazement at finding this particular coin left us all shocked and clearly in uncharted territory.

Saxon finds are rare around here and when they turn up it is such a wonderful surprise. Here are my 2 examples found locally, the penny of Cynethryth, wife of Offa and a hanging bowl mount.



wonderful penny of Cynethryth



wonderful penny of Cynethryth

About us

The Sussex Pastfinders group was formed 3 years ago with a simple brief; to further the understanding of our local history through metal detecting; field walking and the accurate recording of finds (see the feature on our group in the May 2009 issue of The Searcher).

Background to the find

A local research project was begun in Sussex to create a tangible record for the particular area in question. This project style is now pretty formulaic as we have carried out a number of such projects.

Research is carried out with the help of the local library service, the internet, and our growing personal libraries and we always consult local people.

After the site had been researched, we began with field walking to look for pointers to a suitable starting point. Once this had been established, we fired up our trusty Minelab's and GMP's. The detecting then begins on an area for example where there is a prevalence of pottery finds

ALL qualifying finds are recorded with PAS using 10 point grid references. The importance of accurate find spot information and recording with the PAS cannot be overstated. GPS equipment has become relatively cheap and is highly desirable, We carry one each.

The artefacts found, are plotted on overlay maps to observe pattern of occupation. It does require a fair bit of discipline to ensure equal coverage of the entire target area. This is especially so where finds diminish, because human nature will tend to make one concentrate efforts where desirable finds emerge at the possible detriment to quieter areas.

Our owners and tenants are of course kept fully informed at all times with regular updates and a show of our finds.

Finally the project includes a report which is produced in a very professional way and presented as a permanent record of our work.

© Clive Nobbs April 2009.

Finding the Time

Tom Redmayne

Back in May 2008, I was detecting a new site for me. There had once been an old house and large grounds situated there according to the tithe maps and old OS maps for the area.

Plenty of small bits and pieces started to come up; the usual broken buckles, buttons and so on. A sudden, huge signal had me digging down about 8 inches and dragging out a big chunk of folded lead. It had a couple of holes showing and some iron staining around them but wasn't too interesting other than that so into the pocket it went.

Later that day, I dumped all the bits into the sink to rinse them off, including the lump of lead. Once brushed clean with a toothbrush, it didn't look any more interesting than before!

I have, however, had folded pieces of lead before that turned out to be unique Roman curse tablets so I gently unfolded this one with the help of some bamboo chopsticks.

Time to be surprised again! The inside was marked out all over with lines and Roman numerals, highlighted in red. It was obvious that this was a sundial of some sort, or part of the face of one anyway.

The first
piece to
be found



Finding the Time

Tom Redmayne

I started to research sundials on the internet to try and learn more about my find and discovered that there is actually a British Sundial Society who's members research and record all the sundials known in the UK.

I contacted the chairman, Chris Daniel, and sent him pictures and some details of the find. He was very interested and, because of the crude design, initially thought it was very early, 16th Century possibly!

He asked if he could write an article about the sundial for his own magazine and I agreed. Time went by without any more being done about it until, in September 2008, I invited a group of detectorists over for a day on the old house site. Some nice finds came up until, right at the end of the day as we were all heading for the cars (doesn't it always happen like that?) one of our group, Dave Chadwick shouted across the field from where he was digging the biggest crater you've ever seen!

He was holding in his hand two pieces of lead. Both had lines and marks on them, outlined in red. They were more pieces of the sundial! The really exciting part was that one of the pieces had the date May 1688 engraved on it.

Dave's
two pieces
with the
date on



Finding the Time

Tom Redmayne

Dave and the rest were heading back to Lancashire so Dave, kindly, let me keep the pieces to put with the first. When put together, the whole date could be seen; May 30th 1688.

I immediately contacted Chris Daniel and the pieces were sent to him to photograph and record. He has now written his article for the BSS magazine and has allowed us to reproduce it here.

Chris and the BSS are interested in all sundial finds, and I asked him to mention to his members and in the article that we detectorists are a large and active group of people who are probably unrecognised by them as a potential source of information on new sundial finds.

The BSS website can be found here.

<http://www.sundialsoc.org.uk/>



Finding the Time

Tom Redmayne

"Chaddy"
Happy
detectorist!



The three
pieces re-
-united!



A LINCOLNSHIRE FIND

Christopher St J. H. Daniel

In early May 2008, whilst wandering through the fields of Lincolnshire with a metal detector, looking for clues of the area's past inhabitants, Tom Redmayne came across a curious piece of lead in the ploughsoil of the field. Taking this somewhat twisted piece of metal home with him, he carefully cleaned it, revealing crudely engraved numerals and radiating lines that resembled a part of a sundial. Indeed, this is exactly what he had discovered and so officially recorded his find with the Finds Advisor of the government's Portable Antiquities Scheme, who endeavoured to date the piece. Fortunately, a few months later, on the 29th September, whilst several members of the metal-detector group, to which Tom belonged, were looking in the same area, another part of the sundial was found. On this occasion, it was discovered by his friend David Chadwick, who generously donated the fragment to Tom. More fortunate still was the fact that this piece bore the inscribed date '1688.' Shortly after this, a third piece of the dial was found, making three fragments in all; but still with parts of the 'jigsaw' missing.

Examination of the sundial fragments confirmed it to be the remains of a so-called 'garden' horizontal dial, cut as a square dial-plate, measuring approximately 133mm x 133mm (5¼ in x 5¼ in), from a sheet of lead of about 2mm (one tenth of an inch) thick. This has been crudely delineated from the centre of the dial, but scored from an inner ring of approximately 45mm (1¾ in) in diameter, evidently with seventeen hour-lines, with Roman numerals denoting the hours from 4am to 8pm. The half-hours are also indicated by 'pin-hole' like indentations. The numerals lie within a chapter-ring or hour-ring bounded by two circles, the inner circle having a radius of about 57.5mm (2¼ in), i.e. a diameter of 115mm (4½ in) and the outer circle having a radius of 65mm, i.e. a diameter of approximately 130mm (5.1 in). Thus the borders of the hour-ring are about 7mm (3.1 in) apart

A LINCOLNSHIRE FIND

Christopher St J. H. Daniel

Evidence of iron oxide staining along the area of what would have been the 12 o'clock hour-line indicates that the gnomon was almost certainly made of iron, probably being triangular in shape with a base length of 57.5mm (2¼ in), a perpendicular height of 77mm (3 in), and a length of 97mm (3.8 in) along the polar axis. The gnomon would probably have been about 3mm (⅛ in) to 5mm (0.2 in) in thickness; but there is no evidence to show that any allowance was made for this dimension in the delineation of the 12 o'clock hour-line. Two circular holes of about the same diameter (c.5mm), one below the date '1688' and one between the 5pm and 6pm numerals, appear to have been punched through the lead-work at some time in the past; but they are not part of the sundial's construction, probably being due to a farm implement.

Determining the latitude, for which the sundial was constructed, by measuring the angles of the respective hour-lines, was not possible, due to the damage of the dial-plate and the distortion of these lines. However, the circumstances of the find, the fact that the dial-plate was made of lead and not brass, the simple but crude delineation of the dial, and the style of the engraving all indicate that the instrument was manufactured locally. Thus, the latitude of the sundial, the basis on which a 'fixed' sundial is constructed, may reasonably be assumed to be that of 53½° North. The date of the sundial is not in question, since this is clearly shown in the southern sector of the dial-plate by the inscription "May the 30th" with the year "1688" engraved within a rectangular box. Below this inscription there is the single letter "M," which might have been incised in error by the engraver, or which might have been an intentional monogram. Since this letter is situated in an asymmetrical position in relation to the principal inscription, it suggests that the engraver was about to inscribe the word "May" when he realised that the lettering would be too large and too low on the dial-plate to achieve his purpose. However, this is simply speculation: the letter could, of course, be the maker's own monogram or that of the person for whom the dial was made.

A LINCOLNSHIRE FIND

Christopher St J. H. Daniel

Thus, the question arises as to why this sundial was made and engraved with this specific date. In the 17th century, when the *art of dialling*, i.e. the construction of sundials, was at its zenith, London instrument-makers and instrument-makers in other centres were producing fine brass sundials, well delineated and beautifully engraved, often signed by the maker and quite often dated with the year of manufacture. The very earliest dials of the period, more often than not, had their gnomons set from the centre of the dial-plate, this being also the *centre of delineation*. However, horizontal sundials were soon being made with the centre of delineation being set off-centre, on the 12 o'clock hour-line, to the south sector of the dial-plate, thus giving more space on the north part of the plate for the majority of the daylight hours. Accordingly, the gnomon was moved as well and such sundials were in widespread use well before the latter half of the 17th century.

The Lincolnshire lead sundial is rare in the fact that it is made of lead rather than brass, that its iron gnomon would have been fixed at the centre of the dial-plate, and that the date is crudely inscribed in such a fulsome manner. This suggests that the sundial was commissioned to commemorate a particular occasion, probably a death, by someone who was not well placed to afford a fine brass instrument. Nevertheless, this individual was evidently well educated enough to understand the mathematical art of dialling, at least sufficiently so to draw a plan of delineation, or who knew someone who was able to provide this. Thus, it was an inexpensive memorial, which was probably affixed to the top of a wooden post, rather than being placed on a fine stone pedestal. All the evidence suggests that it was made locally, probably by the village blacksmith, under the direction of perhaps the priest or the squire.

It is interesting to note that there some 4,000 members of the metal-detecting forum in which Tom Redmayne operates and over 50,000 people who regularly engage in metal-detecting in the UK.

Christopher St J. H. Daniel

Medieval Lead Bulla

Written by Dr Kevin Leahy for the BBC History Magazine and reproduced here with his permission

It is difficult to believe that this crudely made lead object was issued by an organisation as sophisticated as the Papal Chancellery.

Still more difficult to understand is how the seal from a letter sent by the Pope should come to be found on a field in Norfolk. Papal seals or 'bullae' are not uncommon finds and the PAS has recorded 130 of them. Perhaps they were deliberately thrown on the fields to avert a crop failure. This particular bulla bears the name of Innocent III, Pope from 1198 to 1216 together with the faces of Saints Peter and Paul.

Dr Kevin Leahy



Findspot: near Banham, Norfolk

Finder: Mr B Mayhew

Recorded by: Mr Andrew Brown, Finds Liaison Officer for Suffolk.

Image: Courtesy of 'Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service'.

Portable Antiquities Record Number SF-75C3F8

Dorset Archaeological Awards



The picture shows members of the Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club and the curator of the Priest's House Museum and Garden.

Dorset detector users and local Museum "highly commended" in archaeological awards

The Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club and the Priest's House Museum and Garden, Wimborne Minster were highly commended in the Dorset Archaeological Awards in March this year. The awards were presented by Professor Mick Aston.

For three years the Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club has been putting displays of finds recovered in the course of club members's metal detecting activities into the Priest's House Museum and Garden in Wimborne Minster.

Club members regularly record finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and also make them available to view by putting groups of objects into the museum.. The finds are chosen, arranged and labelled by the club members in a dedicated case in the newly re-displayed archaeology gallery.

The case is now a permanent fixture of the Museum's archaeology displays, providing a varied and changing compliment to the more fixed display of material.

Dorset Archaeological Awards



The picture shows members of the Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club and the curator of the Priest's House Museum and Garden.

The club and the museum have developed an excellent partnership, providing the museum with a regularly changing display which encourages visitors to return to see what has been added.

The aim is to have the case updated monthly to make it ever more interesting for local people and visitors to the area.

This is a fine example of community engagement and partnership working, demonstrating the benefits of liaison between museums, metal detectorists and the wider public.

The winner of the Dorset Archaeological Award 2009, for an outstanding contribution to archaeology in Dorset, was Dan Carter for his research into the Verwood Pottery industry, runner-up went to Martin Papworth for his PhD thesis "Deconstructing the Durotriges" and the "Farming in the Lym Valley Project" was also highly commended.

The Ian Horsey Memorial Award for a significant personal contribution to archaeology in Dorset was presented to Trevor Steptoe.

Ciorstaidh Hayward Trewarthen

Finds Liaison Officer Dorset

Cult badge from the 15th century



Henry VI (1421-71) was King of England from 1422-61 and then from 1470-71. He was usurped in the War of the Roses by Edward IV (son of Richard, Duke of York). The War of the Roses was long and protracted beginning with the first battle in 1455 at St. Albans where Richard, Duke of York defeated the king's army. Henry managed to regain the throne for less than a year with the help of the Earl of Warwick but was captured at the battle of Tewkesbury, where his only son was killed; he was later murdered in the Tower of London.

This lead brooch is circular in plan with decoration in relief showing the king facing forwards against a diaper background. On the reverse is a loop which was used as an alternative to a pin in the pilgrim tradition. Henry VI was never officially canonised by the Church authorities in Rome. However a cult which was part religious and part political grew up around him in the early Tudor years as propaganda to encourage support for the new regime and also to blacken the reputation of the previous ruling house (the Yorkists). Many pilgrims flocked to his tomb in St George's Chapel, Windsor to worship.

Cult badge from the 15th century

These badges were very popular from visits to Henry's resting place. They can be seen as the last mass-produced favours of the War of the Roses. Similar examples can be seen from excavations in Southwark (Egan; 2005; 207-8, nos. 1149 and 1150). There are not many of these brooches on the PAS database. WMID286 is a well preserved item which shows all the detail clearly. SWYOR-E2D028 is a very similar example, although it is lozenge shaped

SUSS-3C5F86 is another interesting and related item. A circular lead badge with an image in relief on the front showing a head and upper body of a person facing forwards. The person wears a large hat the ends of which extend to below the level of the ears. Held within the hands, at the front of the body, is a bible bearing an incised cross. The badge is directly paralleled by two examples recently recorded from Hertfordshire (BH-6E8184 and BH-6EDFD6). The design is so similar they may be from the same mould. It was suggested for those examples (Egan, pers. comm.) that the design is derived from the badges issued at the shrine of Henry VI at Windsor, Berkshire (see Spencer, 1998, no. 208; and also Egan, 2005, p. 207-8, nos. 1149 and 1150). Egan suggests that the figure depicted may be Cardinal Wolsey, who was a prominent figure in the campaign to have Henry VI recognised as an official saint. The hat and bible certainly indicate that the person depicted was someone of high rank.

These finds give us an insight into life in the 15th and 16th centuries in Britain. It was a period of great turmoil with the country divided by the War of the Roses. The propaganda machine is not a modern invention; it made the dead King Henry VI into a symbol to strengthen support for his party/ surviving supporters.

Frances McIntosh

National Museums Liverpool, Field Archaeology, Dock Traffic Office, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AX

Unusual Find!

We had an interesting but not very old find recently:

A gold dental plate with a single porcelain tooth (c. 1900-1940). Found by a member of one of my clubs (Vectis Searchers).



Frank Basford

Finds Liaison Officer

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service

About us

UK DETECTOR NET was created on September 28th 2002 to bring together responsible metal detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

Visit the forum

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/index.php>

Contact UKDN

enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk

UKDN newsletters to download

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=166>

If you would like to **contribute to the newsletter** please contact either UKDN as above, Phil D via PM, or Corinne Mills at Corinne.mills@ourpasthistory.com

UKDN AIMS

UKDN is a forum for people who are interested in the hobby of metal detecting. UKDN is an online community where members can exchange and share knowledge, their views, discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects.

UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the hobby and some of the wider issues through healthy pro-active debate within the forum and through the monthly newsletter, which is distributed to, and read by, our membership and beyond. The newsletter includes UKDN based news and articles, as well as wider news, debate, and issues of heritage interest.
2. Provide a platform to inform beginners in the hobby of the basic principles in the use of a metal detector, gaining permission, site research, basic heritage law, farming scheme rules and in the 'best practise' for conservation, recording and co-operation.
3. Actively promotes the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting' to all members of the UKDN online forum and beyond.
4. Encourage all UKDN detectorist's to record their finds with the appropriate bodies (depending where they detect); In England and Wales, this is with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in Scotland this is the Treasure Trove Unit.
5. UKDN will actively work towards ensuring the future security of the hobby. We will liaise and co-operate with heritage professionals in a way which is mutually beneficial to all parties whilst maintaining our independence, and we encourage their active participation, either in the UKDN online community or through our on-line newsletter.