



Merry Christmas!

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Message from UKDN admin

Hi Everyone

Well, it's that busy time of the year i.e shopping, eating, drinking and maybe detecting.... Wonder what order you put them in !!

There are a lot of things going on in UKDN this month. For a start we have our Christmas Raffle, there is a feature elsewhere in this newsletter but suffice to say we have four great prizes for you including a Garrett Ace 250 !!

On 1st December we launched our new Platinum rank and many of you will be donating and swapping over to that. See last month's newsletter or the article on the UKDN Forum Notice Board.

This coming Thursday we will be having another of the very popular UKDN Lottery nights. You'll get an email reminder, when you do, simply pop across and enter your chosen number. Please don't reply to the email with your number, you need to log in and post it.

Sometime this week we will be revamping the Photography Section, that's always worth a quick peep. Why not look in when you are next visiting.

Detecting is likely to be difficult this coming month, what with the recent weather, the forecast cold spells and, for most of us, the dreaded Christmas shopping.... We hope you do manage to get out detecting and that you share your finds with your friends on UKDN.

Have a very happy and great Christmas and, of course, a Happy New Year

Kind regards from

Brian & Mo' and The UKDN Team



UK DETECTOR NET CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2009

Here it is, the UK DETECTOR NET CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2009. Buy a ticket at just £5 for a chance to win a brand-new Garrett Ace 250 (value approx £175) or one of three Garrett Pro-Pointer Probes (value approx. (£83 each)), just in time for Christmas, Retail Value approx £425 !!

These prizes have been purchased by UK DETECTOR NET itself from Regton Ltd and we thank Nigel Ingram at Regton for offering them to us at the best possible price. The draw will be made on 15th December and the ticket will be drawn by Nigel Ingram of Regton Ltd. The prizes will be shipped out to the winners the following day.

Tickets can 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. Numbers will be allocated ONLY when monies are received.

Multiple prizes will not be allowed to individuals.

Payment details can be found on the forum at the following link:

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=4&t=92952&hilit=raffle>

Brian & Mo', have pledged that initially monies will be raised to repay the cost of the prizes and any postage costs incurred. Any excess will be placed into UKDN and used to help pay the server fees. Monies will not be used for any other purpose except UKDN.

We hope you take part and enjoy the fun.



Henry VIII Half Groat

by Atky (Alex Atkinson)

I was kindly invited for a days detecting by one of my metal detecting friends, to one of his farms in the Gloucestershire area. In the past this farm had produced Roman coins and artefacts along with Medieval hammered coinage.

The main field had recently been deep ploughed, the only downside it wasn't rolled though. It was flat in places but mainly quite rough. We set off detecting with great enthusiasm hoping for some good finds.

The first part of the day was pretty quiet with not many finds surfacing. The rain started to come down heavily so we took cover for half an hour. The rain eventually stopped and the sun came out, we set back off detecting.

Not long after the rain has stopped, I got a nice signal with the XP GoldMaxx Power. I dug the hole and out popped part of a purse bar, the first one I had found. The day went on, my friend had a few Roman bronzes and another friend had also found a very nice silver Siliqua.

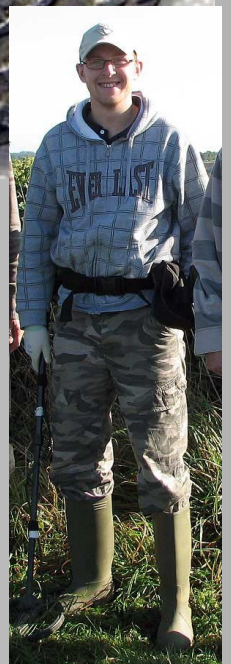
Towards the end of the day the finds started to become few and far between, so I headed back to the spot where I found the purse bar. After half an hour of searching the area I got a clear but faint signal along one of the ridges.

I proceeded to dig the signal, I dropped the clod down to the side and swept the hole again and the signal had now gone. The signal was now loud and clear over the clod. Bit by bit I removed parts of the clod then out popped a hammered coin, could this be from the purse bar I thought?

I didn't recognise the coin at first, I wiped away the soil and looking at me was Henry VIII. The conditional of the coin was excellent on both sides. I was chuffed to bits with this find. I searched the around the immediate area with no more success.

Hopefully by the time of our next visit the field will be flattened and hopefully more of this possible purse drop will be found. On the way home I identified the coin as a Half Groat of Henry VIII, minted by Archbishop Edward Lee (1535-41).

Atky.



Saxon Gold & Silver Polyhedral Pin

By Dino - UK (Gerry)

The field that produced this superb pin has been one of my favourites for the last 10 years, during which time it has produced coins and artefacts from Celtic, Roman, Saxon, Viking and Medieval, in fact virtually every period up to and including modern losses. The field is always productive and has won me the FOTM for coin on two occasions now. Located on the Norfolk / Cambridgeshire borders the soil is very light and preserves metals very well.

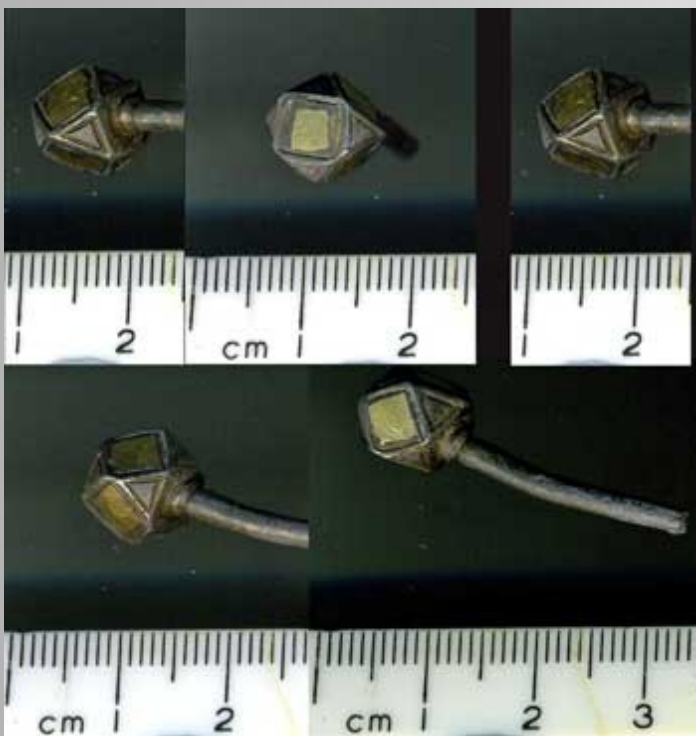
The field rises up from what would have been marshlands to a beautiful Saxon church and from in front of this church I have had several Saxon coins and artefacts now, but nothing to compare to the condition of this latest polyhedral pin.

On the day I found it, I had been detecting the lower areas hoping for another of the Celtic gold that I have had the pleasure of rescuing from the dirt there, but it was not to be, so I moved to the area by the church where I have found Saxon seats in the past.

After a few small copper alloy targets I was rewarded with the pin, as I crumbled the sandy soil off and I saw the glint of gold I realized I was in possession of another treasure item.

I would like to thank everyone that was as thrilled about the find as me and voted for it.

Gerry.



Find of the Month Artefact

David Booth—Torc of the Town



It's not everyday that you find the paparazzi camping outside your house hoping for a glimpse of you but that's just what happened to David Booth when news of his amazing find was breaking in the media.

Luckily David has caring neighbours and when they were asked "*is that David?*" as he walked into his house they said "*no*" and he escaped being snapped by the freelance photographers.

Not your usual experience for a Safari Game Warden more used to dealing with the public and the animals in his care at Blair Drummond Safari Park near Stirling in Scotland.

I caught up with David recently in his office at the Safari Park to find out what this find has meant to him and how he has been coping with his new found "fame".

Despite the pressure we have seen recently placed upon finders of highly publicised "treasure" by the media – for instance Terry Herbert (Staffordshire Hoard), David seems to be remarkably laid back and at ease with dealing with the whole experience. Perhaps this is due to his regular dealings with the media which comes with his day to day job at the Safari Park – what-

ever it is he seems to be enjoying every moment which comes from his spectacular find.

And so he should.

David has lived here for about 16 years since moving here from Larne in Northern Ireland with his parents and has always had an avid interest in local history and archaeology.

Like many places in the central belt of Scotland there is a rich visible history in the area and gives the people there a sense of past. Metal detecting is something he had wanted to do for a while and he decided after his birthday in August to take the step and treat himself to a Garrett Ace 250 Metal Detector, which he bought online from Evergreen Trade.

After practising around the house and garden; when he had some free time five days later he drove to some land he had arranged permission to detect on and as they say the rest is history.

He switched his machine on by the car and within a few steps on the unploughed land he had a signal which on his screen indicated "5 cents" and when this signal was dug it would propel David on a new and exciting adventure. And on his very first outing with a machine he has only just bought.

What David had uncovered were four gold Iron Age torcs which would excite the archaeological team at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh as well as detectorist's across the UK.

When he took them home neither he nor his partner Carolyn could quite believe that these were the genuine article and David started to Google online to find out more information about torcs.

As a novice David knew little about what he should do with these finds but he found the Treasure Trove website online which gives advice to finders in Scotland about what to do when you discover old items when metal detecting. He filled in the online form and sent it off to the Treasure Trove at the National Museum of Scotland with a photo of the torcs attached. The Museum read the email the next morning – and were in David's office within three hours!

To say they were excited about David's discovery would be an understatement!

Archaeologists have since excavated the area where David made his find – they found it lay in a pit within the circular footprint of a large timber round-house. No other artefacts or remains were found. David was invited along to this to see what was happening and was allowed to do some scraping as well on the dig.

The museum has kept in constant contact with David about his finds, providing him with details of analysis done and information about the torcs.

For David this has been the most exciting and fulfilling experience and he is full of praise for the way he has been treated by the archaeologists involved with the find and the excavation.

He is still out detecting, so watch this space





Image copyright National Museums Scotland

National Museums Scotland thought's on David's find

David's find is the most exciting discovery which has come through Scottish Treasure Trove for years, and is one of the most important Iron Age hoards from the country. I was stunned when I saw the pictures, and even more amazed when I held the jewellery for myself.

It is a privilege to work with these amazing finds. Gold is always rare, especially in the Iron Age, but this is particularly interesting because it brings together an unusual mixture of types. The hoard dates to between about 300 and 100 BC.

There are two ribbon torcs, made of single delicately twisted ribbons of gold. These are a Scottish and Irish type - and this find finally resolves the long debate over their date, proving they are Iron Age.

Along with them was half of a very ornate tubular torc, in two fragments. This is a classic south-west French style, and shows the long-range connections which were available to people in the Iron Age.

Perhaps most unusual, however, is the final piece in the hoard. It's a hybrid - an Iron Age style of torc, with braided hoop and looped terminals, but made by someone trained in Mediterranean workshops, who used delicate filigree and tiny gold balls to decorate it, and linked the terminals with a fine chain. This casts new light on the links between societies north of the Alps and those in the Mediterranean. Was this a diplomatic gift to a powerful local leader? Or a craftsman moving from power centre to power centre, plying his trade to local elites? The find raises lots of questions, and will keep us busy for a while!

What makes the hoard even more important is the way in which the archaeologists and the metal-detectorist have worked together.

David's behaviour was textbook - he reported the hoard as soon as he found it, and we have been able to work with him and the local landowner to understand why the hoard was buried. It's not enough just to find such marvellous objects - we need to understand their setting if we are to understand their historical significance fully.

People very rarely just "lost" things - they would bury them deliberately, for safety or as religious offerings. If we excavate around the findspot, we can try to get closer to these long-dead people and their lives.

In this case, we struck lucky - the hoard was buried inside a large circular wooden structure, about 11 m in diameter. There's none of the normal domestic waste which you find in house sites, and I suspect this is probably a shrine, with the gold buried as a dramatic and powerful offering to win the favour of the gods. This is still speculative! - we have more digging to do, and lots of analysis of the results, but thanks to David's cooperation we've been able to find out much more about this marvellous find.

It shows for me how important it is for archaeologists and detectorists to cooperate - for together, we find out far more about the past than either can discover alone.

I can certainly say that my picture of the Iron Age will never be the same again after this find."

Dr Fraser Hunter

Principal Curator, Iron Age & Roman Collections

Dept of Archaeology
National Museums Scotland

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/>



David Booth the finder of the Torcs

For those of you south of the border in England, you may not be aware of the difference in what Scottish metal detectorists have to do with their finds. In England with any finds you make (which are not Treasure finds) the bottom line is it's up to you whether you record your finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and you are free to keep your non Treasure finds - however your colleagues in Scotland have a completely different system they have to work to. The finds they unearth don't belong to them, nor to the land owner, but to the Crown.

In essence they HAVE to report any finds by law, and hand these finds over to ascertain whether a museum wants them. The Scottish metal detectorists have no ownership right to finds unless these have been disclaimed by the Crown. This ensures that finds are often on display in local museums.

There are a number of bodies which are involved in the Scottish Treasure Trove System - the main ones are:

The Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR) - decision-making, administration

The Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) - operation, expert guidance

The Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) - administration, implementation

National Museums Scotland (NMS) - facilitation

This is what the metal detectorist in Scotland has to do when they make a find:

Report the find within 30 days either to the TTU or to a local museum

Provide as accurate a location as possible for the findspot

Make sure you don't clean the find improperly

Most portable antiquities must go to the Treasure Trove Unit for assessment - they will advise you what to do.

What happens next:

- When a find is claimed, the finder receives a letter to that effect from the QLTR. The letter also invites the finder to communicate any information relevant to the assessment of the payment to the TTU or to waive any possible ex gratia payment allowing any museum to have the find.
- After the find has been valued and allocated to a museum, the QLTR write advising the finder of the amount of the ex-gratia payment, which museum it's going to and also the offer of a finders certificate. The QLTR's decisions are final.
- If the item is not required it will be returned to the finder with a certificate advising its unclaimed - the finder has to keep this as long as the item is in his/her possession - if the item changes ownership the certificate must be passed on to the new owner

Useful Links

Types of portable antiquities which will ordinarily be liable to claiming for the Crown <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04114930/20>

Information for finders

<http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/html/finders.asp>

The Treasure Trove website

<http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/>

The Treasure Trove Code of Practice (pdf file)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04114930/31>

Treasure Trove Annual Report 08-09 (pdf file)

<http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/downloads/ANNUALTTREPORT08-09.pdf>

Current Treasure Trove cases

<http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk/html/currentcases.asp>

Metal Detecting, Scheduled Monuments and the Law in Scotland

Sally Foster

Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland's updated guidance leaflet on metal detecting, scheduled monuments and the law is proving to be very popular at conferences, not least because of the enormous public interest generated by recent high-profile finds in Scotland and England. This short leaflet is also available to download from the Historic Scotland website. Existing metal detectorists will find it a handy reminder of the position in non-legal terms, as well as the differences north and south of the border. It can help us all to ensure that we protect archaeological sites and monuments while promoting responsible metal detecting. It will also provide an important extra stocking filler for people lucky enough to receive their first metal detector for Christmas!

Historic Scotland updated its guidance on metal detecting in February 2009. This leaflet – part of a redesigned series that includes new guidance on scheduled monuments and historic wrecks – is for landowners, occupiers, managers of archaeological sites and monuments, as well as detectorists themselves, and is also aimed at those using metal detectors for work purposes.

For example, you can find guidance on how to check what is scheduled (i.e. nationally important ancient monuments protected by law) so that you can plan your work to avoid such sites. There's also a reminder about seeking permission from landowners and checking with them if there is any other reason why metal detecting may not be allowed on part of their land. In addition, there's a brief introduction to Treasure Trove and its reporting requirements.

A key reason for updating the guidance was the feedback that we had received from the metal-detecting community about the earlier leaflet. We involved these key stakeholders in its redrafting, and several of them provided us with images we could use, or allowed us to photograph them specifically for this purpose. The feedback to date has been very positive.

Future steps include working with stakeholders, not least metal detectorists, to develop a Code of Responsible Metal Detecting in Scotland, building

on the model that already exists for England and Wales, as well as best practice guidance in relation to battlefields.

You can request hard copies of Metal Detecting, Yes or No? Metal Detecting, Scheduled Monuments and the Law, from hs.inspectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. We can also supply a series of information cards that provide information about different types of Scottish monuments and why they are important.

Click on the image below to access the pdf file



Metal Detecting Yes or No?

METAL DETECTING, SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND THE LAW

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Combating Nighthawking: Reducing the Threat from Illicit Metal-Detecting

Wednesday November 18th 2009-11-23

Held at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

By Peter Twinn (petethedig).

The meeting was chaired by Sir Barry Cunliffe, Interim Chairman of English Heritage.

The day began with an assurance that English Heritage was looking for solutions to what was a difficult subject to tackle and that all the discussion for the planned day was to only revolve around the specific threat of Nighthawking and nothing else. Sir Barry Cunliffe made it very clear from the outset that responsible metal detectorists were not being targeted in any way and that in recent years the development of good relations between the vast majority of archaeologist and metal detectorist should continue.

There is a Nighthawking issue that is worst in some parts of the country than others, and this needs to be addressed.

He praised the PAS as a "fantastically successful scheme", in conjunction with the 'Code of Practice' and the 'Rally Guidelines'. Sir Barry stated that on all his excavations he has detectorist's working with him in partnership and encourages this across the board where people would wish to work together for the benefit of all, recording finds, and therefore our heritage.

He was keen to make sure that this report was not used in any way to "bash the hobby", and that good progress was being made in the light of where we've come from in the past. He finished by pointing to "what we'd all like to achieve, both metal detectorist's and archaeologist", which was a better working relationship through partnership.

Dr. Peter Wilson: English Heritage (Strategy).

Dr. Wilson summarised some key points to the report and wanted to add to what English Heritage could bring to the table in partnership to helping create a solution to this issue.

Dr. Wilson was clear that Nighthawking would never be totally irradiated, and that a distinction should be clearly made between those who hawked and those who had a genuine interest in the past.

Dr. Wilson made a very clear statement that "English Heritage has no plans for wanting metal detecting banned".

This was as clear a statement as English Heritage has ever made, and was good to hear at the outset of the day. He stated, "That cooperation benefits both parties", citing the Cumwhiton, Cumbria, the Staffs Hoard as good examples. Dr. Wilson said that Nighthawking was "theft by a few of the Heritage of us all".

He spoke about the impact on landowners, with the damage to their land/crops and trust, as well as the actual loss of artefacts! The damage impacts on buried archaeology, both the material and its context. Dr. Wilson highlighted the main areas of Nighthawking are in Eastern and Central England, this due to the fact that the richest sites are normally found here. 'Honey Pot' sites suffer repeatedly with a third of Nighthawking taking place on scheduled sites. Roman sites in particular suffer badly, including 'core areas' just outside these monuments.

Policing and prosecution

The following points were made:

- Low priority crime
- Not a recordable crime
- Only 26 sites resulted in legal action
- There was a lack of awareness
- A lack of response from police, which resulted in under reporting
- For repeated offences there was no effective deterrent
- Lastly there were derisory punishments.

English Heritage was looking at solutions to these issues. At this point we were introduced to Mike Harlow, the legal director of English Heritage.

Mike Harlow, Legal Director, English Heritage.

Mr Harlow looked at the issue of heritage crime and the issues surrounding it. He stated that what was needed was "a sustainable working relationship between the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, local authorities, English Heritage and various other interested groups". This should not be about *"hot air, acronyms, logos etc, but something that works for all. People need someone to deal with, someone they can go to!"*

Mr Harlow then looked at the problems and picked up on a reoccurring theme that this crime was not seen as a policing priority, not an enforcement priority for local authorities and a lack of understanding about the impact of this crime. He stated that there was a lack of awareness of heritage crimes, *"no real understanding of what has been lost!"*, and *"it's not doing any harm with no one going to do anything about it anyway"*.

What can be done?

The following points were made:

- Raise awareness of the nature and impact of the crime
- Produce impact statements to courts and the Crown Prosecution Service
- Raise the profile to dispel the belief that the crime is not enforced
- Talk direct to the interested bodies so they are made aware of the law

...and in practice?

- An understanding between the prosecuting agencies
- Ongoing regular liaison
- Standard impact statements
- Direct liaison with interested groups to discuss impact

Who is going to do this?

English Heritage are taking a police officer on secondment for a year, his/her work starts in the spring of 2010.

Next came Chief Inspector Mark Harrison of the Kent Constabulary with Dr. Andrew Richardson, accredited police volunteer/Finds Manager, Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Chief Inspector Mark Harrison, Kent Constabulary

Practical measures and success on the ground.

Chief Inspector Harrison spoke about what Kent has developed for the million plus population it has to deal with, much of it rural. He spoke about how people were coming in from France, Holland and even Sweden to commit heritage crimes. Kent has 1000's of scheduled sites as well as the many unknown ones, but he does have eight officers to deal with these crimes, a luxury not seen in many other parts of the country. In Kent their liaison has and is creating a point where:

- People know who to talk to – a point of contact
- Bringing in practicing archaeologist has been a significant move that has really helped.
- There have to be officers and archaeologists in each county, with awareness and training available

There should be a partnership approach

- Inspector of Ancient Monuments
- Historic Environment Field Advisers
- The Portable Antiquities Scheme
- The Arts and Antiquities police unit
- Wildlife and Environment Agencies
- The farming community
- Landowners and the business sector
- Metal detecting groups

In Kent they have room to raise the confidence of communities and know that the vast majority of detectorists are law abiding throughout the 10 clubs they liaise with. Many of whom have become the "eyes and ears" in stopping these crimes occurring. Indeed in Kent they have accredited volunteers, some from within the detecting community.

The Dr. Richardson went on to look at some case studies where the Kent police dealt with a Nighthawking crime from a site. This highlighted some issues that needed to be addressed, especially treating the hawked sites as crime scenes which did not happen very often.

This showed that training was needed, with the need for photographs, fingerprinting and DNA being sought for where possible. The Chief Inspector concluded by saying the English Heritage is not a prosecuting Authority, but the police are. What was clear is that these crimes cannot be dealt with in isolation; the police need to be made aware and trained.

He did state the police do have prosecuting tools at their disposal such as the Proceeds of Crime Act, as well as the use of ASBO's and asset seizures, which were already in use. All these tools are good, but they need to be centred on clear leadership.

Dr. Michael Lewis the Deputy Director of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, Helen Shipsey of the Landowners Association and John Browning, representing the National Farmers Union.

Spreading the word: Engaging Landowners

Dr. Lewis started by stating that under common law any artefacts found on privately owned land is the property of the landowner, which is *Common Law*. Unless there is a verbal or written agreement in place. To walk onto that private land is to break a *Civil Law*. Some landowners are reluctant to report Nighthawking, mainly due to the varying response from the police and from the **Crown Prosecution Service** unwilling to proceed with any action.

Dr. Lewis stated that better guidance was needed for landowners, talking about the benefits of metal detecting, why archaeological finds should be reported and the need for written agreements; he also made a point about what a landowner should do if they discover Nighthawking on their land.

He believed that it would be good for landowners to have a single point of reference for guidance, with a consistent approach from the police. Dr. Lewis believes like the majority of us that tougher fines and sentences' are needed as a deterrent as well as a sanction.

From his experience the following points were made:

Police

- Should use the theft Act
- Most were ignorant of heritage legislation
- That Nighthawking is not a recordable crime

- That intelligence (Intel) records should be made
- That landowners need to get the details of the police logs to make sure any Nighthawking is registered as a crime, thus giving a better all-round idea of the Nighthawking problem

Dr. Lewis said that landowners should be encouraged in the pro-active pursuance of the prosecution of Nighthawkers.

Helen Shipsey, the landowners representative.

Helen Shipsey stated that the damage caused by Nighthawkers is far greater than is often perceived and that the mundane instances of Nighthawking need to be addressed. She said if there was now a need for requiring written permission before going on privately owned land? Helen spoke about the prohibitive cost for civil prosecutions and that when used they were not always successful.

John Browning, the National Farmers Union representative.

John Browning is a farmer from Icklingham, Suffolk, and featured in the Nighthawking Report, a man whose livelihood has suffered greatly from nighthawks until more recently after some good cooperation with his local police force.

John stated that he is not anti-detecting, but he is anti Nighthawking due to the huge costs incurred by him.

He stated that the country is "*one big safe*" with archaeology having one key and metal detecting having another. John made it clear that the actions of the nighthawks were like taking Semtex (explosives) and destroying the safe (historic record).

He stated that the damage being created was not just from the plough soil or pasture, but down through archaeological contexts. He believes the law is impotent and that there needs to be a specific offence for Nighthawking, with a unified robust approach to policing and prosecution of those found.

Dr Sally Foster, Historic Scotland.

The View from Scotland.

In Scotland the system of recording is totally different to the rest of the UK stated Dr. Foster. All finds must be reported under the law and that there was different access to the details of what was scheduled north of the border.

In Scotland they're currently looking at new legislation that will remove '*ignorance*' as a defence for being caught digging on a monument that is scheduled. She raised the issue of any problems for the public accessing best practice guidance, but commented on the partnership they formed with the Scottish section of the NCMD in producing some guidelines.

She brought up the issues surrounding battlefields, which for them was a "*new area*" that needed looking at, and finally about what Historic Scotland does about public access to what is protected and what is sensitive information regarding sites of interest.

In Scotland there is an issue of reaching out to detectorist's not attached to a club so they may miss out on the guidance. Through this there may be a failure to report finds. There are areas such as the Antonine wall where Nighthawking has taken place, but measures are being put into place to counteract these.

In Scotland the non reporting of finds and Nighthawking are much the same thing, *both* are illegal. Cross border detecting is also an issue with finds not being reported by detectorist's who return to England, some declaring their finds to local FLO's which puts them in an embarrassing position.

Dr. Andrew Rogerson, Norfolk County Council

A local perspective

Dr. Rogerson talked about metal detecting in Norfolk where they have 4.5 people who are recording 53,000 records for the historic record. The earliest record of Nighthawking was from the late Tony Gregory in 1976, but there has been sporadic recording of such instances since. Nighthawking is a low priority crime, but some people have been prosecuted over the years.

Norfolk does have a Police Constable set aside to deal with the Nighthawking issue, and there is certainly more Nighthawking taking place than was in the Oxford Archaeology Report! Finally there are sites in Norfolk where legitimate metal detectorist are being spotted in a field which are later visited by the nighthawks. Dr. Rogerson

stated that, "there is a common heritage, but that must include all detected, recordable material".

Dr. Peter Wilson, Portable Antiquities 'Lead', English Heritage

A way forward

Dr. Wilson was the final speaker for the day and looked at 'a way forward' with some recommendations that English Heritage were proposing would move things along.

Recommendation 1.

Provide clear guidance to relevant authorities on the impact of Nighthawking.

- Heritage Crime Initiative key here
- EH seek to develop closer working relationships and the Police
- EH and the Police develop joint training on Nighthawking issues - a Heritage Crime training package for Police, Heritage Professionals and other relevant Groups (eg Local Heritage Wardens)
- Getting the individual Police Services on side and making them more aware of the 'heritage impact' of Nighthawking, rather than solely focussing on the potential financial value of looted material
- 'Getting it right' with ACPO and individual Police Services should make it easier to develop the profile of the issue with the CPS, Magistrates etc and provide opportunities for training

As powerful a tool as the National Nighthawking Survey has proved to be we still lack clarity on the overall scale of the problem – repeatedly we are told that under-reporting is the norm.

- EH is considering a proposal to fund a study of a 'hot-spot' area and an apparent 'low risk' area to try and test the validity of the conclusions of the national survey and attempt to access more detailed data, preferably direct from landowners/tenants
- A longer term aspiration is to fund a pilot study of Maritime Nighthawking/illicit diving and the impact on the Marine Historic Environment.

Recommendation 2.

Provide more information for landowners on identifying Nighthawking and what to do when they encounter it.

Recommendation 3.

Develop better ways to find out what is happening and establish and promote a central database of reported incidents of Nighthawking.

- A potential legal minefield
- What do you record:
 - Convictions?
 - Allegations?
 - Reports of damage?

Recommendation 4.

Publicise the positive effects of responsible metal detecting and the negative effects of Nighthawking.

Recommendation 5.

Ensure the PAS is fully funded, so links between archaeologists and metal detectorist's are further strengthened.

EH has funded contextualisation projects, including:

Staffordshire Hoard
East Leicestershire Hoard
Cumwhitton Viking cemetery
Ringlemere Cup

Lewes Anglo-Saxon cemetery (EH conservation).

Recommendation 6.

- ALGAO (Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers) key with respect to projects undertaken as a result of PPG16 conditions
- EH has a role particularly with regard to:
 - projects it undertakes in house,
 - projects it funds or otherwise supports, and
 - the conditions that it recommends with respect to Sites and Monuments Consent applications.

- EH can also seek to influence the site strategies of organisations operating outside the PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance) system, such as local excavation groups and university-led research excavations.

Recommendation 7.

Implement changes recently introduced in Europe which increase the obligation on sellers of antiquities to provide provenances and establish legal title, and urge eBay to introduce more stringent monitoring of antiquities with a UK origin offered for sale on their website.

PAS have more than made a start here by monitoring eBay, but they and we are all constrained by UK law.

Attempts to get an amendment in the Coroners and Justice Bill to impose a duty on those trading in antiquities to produce documented provenance have failed, but it is clear from debate in the Lords that our colleagues in APPAG will return to this issue.

Partnership

ALGAO, APPAG, CBA, CLA, EH, FID, IFA, NUF, NCMD, PAS, (ACPO), UKDN.

British Archaeology, Current Archaeology, Treasure Hunting, The Searcher, Mainstream Media

Archaeologists, Detectorist's, Rally Organisers, Police, Members of the Public.

Dr. Peter Wilson finished with the following:

Grasping nettles:

Why doesn't EH support pre-emptive surveys by responsible metal detectorist to make site unattractive to Nighthawks?

English Heritage are currently proposing to use metal detectorist on 3 sites that are seriously under threat from Nighthawking, the site will have a joint investigation over a number of years to see if the controlled metal detecting survey actually diminished the instances of Nighthawking from the plough-soil. This is a proposal at the moment, but there are serious efforts to try and establish whether such controlled surveys can help save and finds that may have been lost otherwise.

Sir Barry Cunliffe closed the day with a question and answer session which was very helpful in focussing on the main issue of the day.

Red Rocket—Brian hits gold at last



It wasn't long since our last trip when the Red Rocket was once again struggling to climb the Pennines over to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Readers will remember that last year we had gained permission to search a field that had produced much in the way of medieval buckles, hammered coins and Roman and Saxon artefacts. A few phone-calls confirmed that the crops were well out everywhere and should be so, on this field.

We also had a number of other fields to search so this was the one trip that we were really looking forward to, so much so that we had set out as soon as Brian came home from his night-shift.

We made steady progress and, before seeing the farmer, we were unable to resist a quick look at our 'special' field. We couldn't believe our eyes, for despite seeing hardly a single field with a sign of a crop left while driving 120 miles, this field still had the wheat stalks lying in strips waiting to be collected. We felt like approaching the farmer and asking him if we could borrow his machinery. We would have collected the crop for him!

Still, we went to see him and he gave us permission to search between the piles of crop. We're bound to find a few bits we thought, even though it's stubble in between, because there had been many signals last year.

Sad to say that was not the way it was. The stubble was very high and very stiff and although we were determined, nothing of age or interest came up despite our persevering for quite a number of hours. Our

excitement had been dulled from a sharp edge to something rather flat.

Enquiries with the farmer told us that this field wouldn't be available during this trip but could be the next time we came, if it was during the next fortnight. We'd have to work on that.

We settled down, opened a bottle of "Falling down juice" (whisky) and discussed what site to go to next day. We elected to try a couple of fields on a farm where, on an earlier trip, we had found a couple of Roman bronzes and a small fibula in the space of an hour or so. We bedded down for the night hoping for better things the next day.

We were lucky with the weather again for this next day began like the previous one with very hot sun. Finds were few and far between despite our having had so much success here the previous year. However, Roman activity was proven when Mo found a Roman fibula. Despite being rather the worse for wear it was a Roman artefact.

The next few hours until early afternoon produced little, the heat was getting to us and we decided to have a break and then to try on the field where Brian had found four hammereds on one of our very first trips in the Red Rocket.

The break was short because our second day was half-way through and we'd found nothing special yet.

For hours we walked the productive areas of this field without finding a coin. Then Brian found a Queen Anne sixpence dated 1708, unexpected but very welcome.

Spirits were getting a bit low and we were aware that we were giving in to "site hopping" as we set off for another field in another area of Roman activity.

This was a large acreage and the Roman material seemed to have spread over a number of fields. We'd only tried parts of each field, for each time we arrived we found only limited parts of the area available for detecting. Hurrying on we drove there and were confronted by a large field open to detecting, one we'd quickly walked over in the past, simply looking for pottery.

Mo was out and gone before Brian was toggled-up. By the time he'd walked a hundred yards Mo was walking back towards him, large smile evident, "I've found the place and picked up these", showing Brian a George III shilling and a Roman silver denarius. We jumped up and down for a bit and gave each other a quick hug. "I'll catch you up" shouted Brian as Mo walked back to the spot where she'd dumped her machine.

When Mo had gone just a few yards, Brian was pulled up by a good signal. Flicking the soil back he froze. Lying on the surface was a gold disc!

Brian grabbed it in his fist and not daring to look again shouted to Mo "Quick, come and take a gander at this".

"What is it, gold?" Mo shouted, this time running back. After having just found a Roman denarius all she could think of was that Brian had found a Roman gold. Without looking at the disc Brian handed it over to her making various excited noises.

"You've got yourself a lovely Queen Anne gold guinea," pronounced Mo. This lovely find is in perfect condition, although, later that



night Brian did manage to find some minor scratches on it with a 30x glass!

This was Brian's first gold coin in almost fourteen years of detecting. It had to be said that it turned up in the most unexpected of places. Why was it there? Could it be the contents of a purse? Isn't it strange that only an hour or so ago Brian found a sixpence of the same Queen?

We searched and searched that part of the field but nothing else turned up except a Victoria silver threepence and some grotty Roman bronzes. We came off the field when it was pitch-dark and decided to see the farmer the next day.



Gold Guinea similar to the one found by Brian

We had no worries about the farmer. The coin was nice to have and if he wanted a half share we wouldn't mind paying him. We could also make him a copy of it. As it was, the farmer was 'something else'. His first reaction was one of joy. When we asked him if he would like us to share the find with him his response was, "Hey, you've worked damned hard for that these past few years, out there in all weathers, walking up and down. No lad, you keep it."

We've since made him several copies and bought him a bottle of whisky.

The remainder of that day was spent walking up and down that same field. No more guineas were found and we presumed it to have been an isolated loss. Someone must have been sorely hurt when they found that coin was missing for we figure it was probably worth about one month's wages in 1713: one twelfth of a year's earnings.

We'd now spent two whole days on this one field and, to be honest, we were becoming rather bored with it, even though it had turned up a gold coin. Perhaps a determination to get the most from time available gets the better of patience, and once moving on has produced the goods, it is tempting to think that another move will be just as effective.

We drove about quite a bit looking at fields we'd worked last year. Few were in stubble and already some had been seeded! Then we remembered a field we'd popped on to two years ago that showed promise but we hadn't had the time to search it for more than an hour or so. Remembering the story about Archie on the last trip we decided to spend a day on this.

It was quite a drive away but luckily when we got there it was available. We were equipped and away with minutes.

Targeting technique

The field was very loamy and full of air so we knew that signals wouldn't be coming from great depths. In fact, it turned out that the field was very quiet even on 'all metal'. We turned our discrims down to try to locate areas of past activity by looking for concentrations of iron. Once we had found these we would work them slowly hoping for the odd non-ferrous signal. This is a tactic we often use on quiet fields.

It paid off, for out of one small area Mo extracted some sort of chape – but is much wider than the usual sword or dagger chape, it has been suggested that it is for a Roman broad sword. Once again we would appreciate the assistance of Searcher readers.



Chape for a Roman broad sword?

Other fields were worth covering but they would have to wait for the next trip, five days away. Readers may wonder how it is that we can manage to get away so often. One or two, on meeting us, have been surprised to find that we are not a retired couple! Brian works unusual shifts – four twelve hour shifts and then six days off! Sounds great, but it's not that brilliant when you remember that he has to work throughout the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day and gets no holidays. All his holidays are built into those six day breaks.

Five days later the Rocket was back in the area. We could give it only a few days as we had quite a lot of work to do back home including a reproduction of a coin.

There were two finds of note, both by Brian on this occasion. The first was extracted from a field of very stiff tall stubble, so high and difficult to work that we were surprised we found anything at all. This object appears to be some sort of clasp, for the hook on the back looks very similar to that on medieval clothes fasteners. The face is very simple in representation even though it looks slightly evil. It was gilded at one time.

The second find was a Saxon brooch on another field about a mile away. This was the only object of note to come from this field although last year Mo pulled out a tiny medieval buckle here, and Brian, a half-groat.

The brooch is large and although slightly damaged it is still a nice find. We continued to work hard until it was dark and time to drive the Rocket home. We had persevered for two days and although we had a few finds, we were disappointed we had no hammered reds, which we tend to count when gauging the success of our trips.



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How to decipher Medieval seal matrices by Kev Woodward

One of the most popular finds a detectorist makes is a seal matrix if the comments and volume of replies on the forum are anything to go by. Why is this so? Probably because they are such personal items to the person who lost it and the research potential that they have for finders who like to get the most from their finds. If, like me, you try to find out as much information and knowledge as possible from your finds then the seal matrix can keep you active for many an hour. Trouble is where do you begin with finding out how old they are, or what the legend may represent and most important of all, what does it say and mean? The latter is where most of the pitfalls lie and I hope that this article will aid any lucky finder in the future to get the most from their find. I have included a list of some of the more common names and legends at the end of this short piece which I hope you will find helpful and be a reference for the future.

What were they used for?

Seal matrices were used to make a unique impression into molten wax to authenticate legal documents and letters that the owner wished to be associated with. The fact that a person owned and used a seal matrix showed that they were a 'free man' a social standing to be aspired to.

Dating from the shape of the seal matrix

As with most things in life different styles come and go as far as fashion is concerned and seal matrices are no exception. Certain styles can be assigned to centuries through surviving documents with the seal impressions still attached and also from matrices dug from secure contexts on archaeological digs. Without getting too involved in the detail you will not be far out with the following guidelines.

Round and flat – 1150-1350

Vesica shaped (oval with pointed ends) – 1250-1400

Conical – **1250-1700** (there are many variations in the style of the suspension loops which can date them more closely – see http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ceejays_site/pages/SealMatrix6.htm for examples). Other examples are shown below; please bear in mind that styles lasted over a long time so dating matrices should be carried out using shapes and lettering to ascribe a date range.



Late 13th-14th century



14th – mid 15th century



16th century

Lettering styles

Roman lettering – generally used before and up to 1200

Lombardic – 1200-1400

Black letter – 1350-1500

Reading the legend on personal matrices

Most, but not all, personal matrices start the legend at the 12 o'clock position and usually with a cross. Following this, if it is a personal matrix, there usually appears a letter 'S' and an apostrophe. This will stand for 'Sigillum' or 'Sig' which all mean the same, 'The seal of'. The name of the owner will follow on from this letter 'S'. During medieval times most people were usually known by only one name (which we would call a first name or Christian name) so to elevate confusion the profession of the owner or their father's name was also put into the legend. The father's name will be separated from the owners by the word 'FIL' (sometimes just F') which is Latin for son or daughter. To illustrate an example, I found a seal matrix in Norfolk a few years ago with the legend S' GILBERTI FIL GILBERT CRISP which translates into 'The seal of Gilbert son of Gilbert Crisp'. It was interesting to find out that Crisp meant 'ginger' and that Gilbert's father would therefore likely to have been ginger haired!

Central motifs

The most common motif shown on seals (especially lead ones) is the fleur-de-leys. There is a vast array of other motifs which was only limited by the engravers imagination and skill. There are many different animals, usually associated with hunting or heraldry, and also many religious themes such as the Lamb of God, the Pelican in Piety, Mary Mother of God and the head of John the Baptist.

To test your newly acquired knowledge try deciphering the three seals shown; I have made the first one easy and the others get harder. Answers are at the end of the article, good luck!



Some personal names found on seals

ADE	Adam	IOCABI	James	PHILIPPI	Philip
AGNETIS	Agnes	IOCA	James	PHYS	Philip
ALANI	Alan	IOH'	John	RADVLF	Ralph
ANDREE	Andrew	IOHANIS	John	RICARD	Richard
DVGALLI	Dougal	IOHANNIS	John	ROBT'	Robert
GALFRIDI	Geoffrey	IOHE	Joan	ROBERTI	Robert
GILB'	Gilbert	IOHIS	John	ROGERI	Roger
GILBERTI	Gilbert	IONE	Joan	ROGI	Roger
HAWIS	Avis	IORDANI	Jordan	SIMONIS	Simon
HENRICI	Henry	MATHEVS	Matthew	STEPHI	Stephen
HUVFRI	Humphrey	MORS	Maurice	THANNEL	Nathaniel
HVGONIS	Hugh	NICHOLAI	Nicholas	THOME	Thomas
IEHANE	Jane	OTONIS	Otho	TRICIS	Patrick
IO'	John	PATARICI	Patrick	WILLELMI	William
IOANE	Joan	PETRI	Peter	WILL'I	William
CAPL'	Chaplin	LECE	Lece	SARRE	Sara
ALICIE	Alice	WALTERI	Walter	IVLIANE	Juliana
SYMONIS	Simon	MARGIRIE	Margery	EMME	Emma
STEFANI	Stefan	MATHEI	Matthew	SVSANNE	Susan
GODFRI	Godfrey	ISABELLE	Isabel	MICHAELIS	Michael
AGNET	Agnes	PIETER	Peter	INGRITHE	Ingrith/Ingrid
MATILDE	Matilda	VXOR	Wife of		

Some common legends found on seals

A BON DROIT = With justice	IESVS NAZERENUS = Jesus of Nazereth
ACCIPE FRANGE LEGE = Take, break, read	IGNOTTA NOTO = I write of things unknown
ALAS IE SV PRIS = Alas I am caught	IHC EST AMOR MEV = Jesus is my love
AMOR VINCIT OMNIA = Love conquers all	LECTA CELA NEC REVELA = Read, conceal, do not reveal
AQVILA IOHIS = Eagle of John (the Evangelist)	LEGE TEGE = Read, keep secret
AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA = Hail Mary full of Grace	LEL AMI AVET = You have a loyal friend
A VOTRE SANTE = To your health	LEO FORTIS = I am a strong lion
BRVSSET LISET ET = Break, read, conceal	LEO PVGNAT CVM DRAGONE = Lion and dragon in combat
CAPVT IOHANNIS = John the Baptist	LITERA SCRIPTA MANET = What is written down is permanent
CAPVT SERVI DEI = Servant of God	MATER DEI MISERERE = Mother of God
CLAVSA SECRETA TEGO = I hold secrets	MATER DEI MEMENTO MEI = Mother of God remember me
CREDE MICHI = Believe (in) me	PRIVE SV = I am private
ECCE AGNVS DEI = Behold the Lamb of God	SECRETA GERO = I keep secrets
ESTO FIDELIS = Be faithful to the end	SECRETI NVNTIVS = Messenger of the secret
FAMA CITO VOLET = Fame flies swiftly	SIGILLUM SECRETI = A sign of secrecy
FORTVNA FORTES ADJUVAT = Fortune favours the brave	SIGNO SECRETA SIGNO = In this sign I keep secrets
FRANGE LEGE TEGE = Break, read, conceal	SOHOV = Soho (a hunting cry) – sometimes repeated
HONORIS CAVSA = For honours sake	SOHOV IE LE VOI = Soho I see it
I CRAKE NUTS = I crack nuts	SOHOV IE LA TROUVE = Soho I have found it
I KRAK NOTIS = I crack nuts	SOHOV ROBEN = (a hunting cry)
ICI REPOSE LE LION = Here lies the lion	SV PRIVE = I am private
IE SVI METE = I am mute	SVM LEO FORTIS = I am a standing lion
IE SV REY DE BEITES = I am king of the beasts	SVM PELICANVS = I am the Pelican (of God)
IE SV SEL DE AMVR LEL = I am the seal of loyal love	TENET LA FEY = Keep faith
IE SVY D AMVRS = I am a seal of love	VADE MECVM = A constant companion
IEO SVI LEAVS AMYS = I am a loyal friend	WACE ME NO MA = Wake me no man
IESVS MERCI = Merciful Jesus/Thank you Jesus	

Answers to seal legend test.

S'THOMAS D' WATHE – The seal of Thomas de Wathe

PRIVE SV – I am private

S'PET.F'HENRICI – The seal of Peter son of Henry

Seals

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Seal Matrix



Heraldic Seals



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Bibliography;

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Internet Archive, CJ's Metal Detecting Pages, richardiii.net, thesealmaker.com, waxseals.com, history-box.co.uk, The Strong Collection, briantimms.net, en.wikipedia.org.wiki, asv.vatican & lewis.dur.ac.uk

Please support UK Detector Net & record your finds with The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) for the benefit of future generations & the hobby.

Broughty Castle from the sands

By Corinne Mills

Four miles to the east of Dundee city centre lies the seaside suburb of Broughty Ferry. It was once regarded as the "richest square mile in Europe" because it was home to the wealthy jute barons who built Dundee's textile fortunes and can trace its origins back to the 15th century fisher folk who built their homes around the harbour close to Broughty Ferry Castle.

In 1454 King James II gave permission to build a small castle here at the mouth of the River Tay. It was probably in the form of a tower, similar to the one you see today, surrounded by a walled enclosure. The castle was built by the Gray family, who were to own and occupy it, except when displaced by the occasional invading English army, until 1666. It has faced many sieges and battles especially from the English invaders over the years and now houses a museum.

This photo was taken from the sands to the west of the castle just after sun set—the town on the opposite side of the River Tay is Tayport.

For the camera buffs amongst you the exif data can be seen here

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/corinnemills/3990568163/meta/>

More of my photos can be seen on flickr—click on the image of me below to view them



UKDN FUN PHOTOGRAPHIC





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

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.