



## Inside this Issue

About us	2
Message from UKDN admin	3
From the UKDN shop	4
Find of the month—coin	6
Find of the month –artefact	8
Sam Moorhead special article	10
AD410 The end of Roman Britain?	
UKDN members roman finds	22
Photograph of the month	24
Spotlight on Crinoid	26
Funny front covers!	30
Helping in the community	31



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# Message from UKDN Admin

Hi Everyone

Detecting has probably been very difficult for most of us for the past three months, but we can always tell on the forum when the weather goes through a mild few days because all the finds come into the 'Please ID my Finds' section !! Some cracking finds have been appearing in there despite the cold weather. Please do keep them coming.

On a more serious vein it has been noticed that some people have been asking our Finds Advisers for an ID on an item, then popping straight across to Ebay to sell the item complete with Finds ID word for word, with not even a polite word of thanks to the guy who spent his time identifying the item !! This is not on !! Anyone found guilty of this sour practise will be made very aware that we do not condone this at all !!

There are a lot of things going on in UKDN this month. We have launched the long-awaited UKDN shop which will eventually be a one-stop venue for all purchases to do with UKDN merchandise. It's up and running now, simply go to <http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk> and click on the UKDN Shop logo on the right-hand side of the page.

The above web site i.e. <http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk> has now been revamped and is virtually complete. We have set in place systems whereby the web site will be updated on a very regular basis with all the latest news.

Two of our Finds Advisers, Kevin Woodward and Tom Redmayne will be representing UKDN at the upcoming CBA & ICCHS Conference on Portable Antiquities: Archaeology, Collecting, Metal Detecting in Newcastle on the 13th-14th March, we wish them both well and thank them for offering to represent us at this important event. Kevin and Tom will be talking about the development of Internet communities and their impact on the hobby, as well as other issues. We'll look forward to hearing their experiences at the conference and of course any news that may come from it.

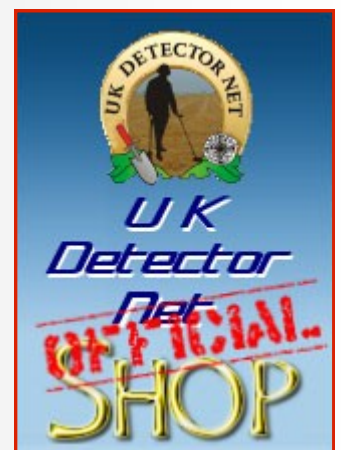
This coming Thursday we will be having another of the very popular UKDN Lottery Nights. You'll get an email reminder, when you do, simply pop across and enter your chosen number.

The server move went extremely well so much so that Karv is confident that not a single post was lost during the transition.

Good Hunting to you all and roll on Spring !!

Kind regards from

Brian & Mo' and The UKDN Team



## UKDN email account

### GET A UK DETECTOR NET EMAIL ACCOUNT FOR JUST £5 PER YEAR

We have been asked so many times if we could do an email account to go along with your UK DETECTOR NET account that once we completed the move to a better server we thought we would take it on-board.

So, for a small annual fee of £5, you can have your own email address which will be slanted towards your favourite forum and be accessible from the internet too !!

So, you can have [username@ukdetectornet.co.uk](mailto:username@ukdetectornet.co.uk) This e-mail address is being protected from spam-bots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it and be able to go on the web anywhere in the world and pick up that email.

Your username must be all lower case and contain no spaces.

Go the UKDN Shop at [www.ukdetectornet.co.uk](http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk) - let us know the username you want, don't forget that it's got to be one word - no spaces and get your email account today.



## UKDN Caps NOW AVAILABLE !!

They have been a long time coming but we have them now i.e. the UKDN caps. We have ordered 20 of them and got them at a special introductory price. After adding postage and Paypal fees we will sell them for just £11.88, £3 of which will go towards our server fees. They are here now and can be delivered as soon as you have paid your money.

To pay by Paypal please go to [www.ukdetectornet.co.uk](http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk) and click the UKDN Shop link on the right-hand side.

If you wish to pay by cheque then send cheque/PO for £11.50 made out to UK DETECTOR NET, to Mr B Cross, 52 Stonehills Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5UL

We are not sure at what price the next batch will be !!



Today's Model—Tom Redmayne in his UKDN cap



# Reproduction Coins Package

Museum Reproductions run by Brian and Mo' Cross since the mid-1990's specialises in copying coins and artefacts for metal detector users and collectors. Most of our business is done via our web site at <http://www.museumreproductions.co.uk> but.... periodically we have surplus stock that has lost its identification label and consequently would be very time-consuming to place back into its respective slot in the storage bins.

In conjunction with UK DETECTOR NET we are offering these coins to metal detector users and collectors for a knock-down price and, at the same time, help to raise money for the forum server.

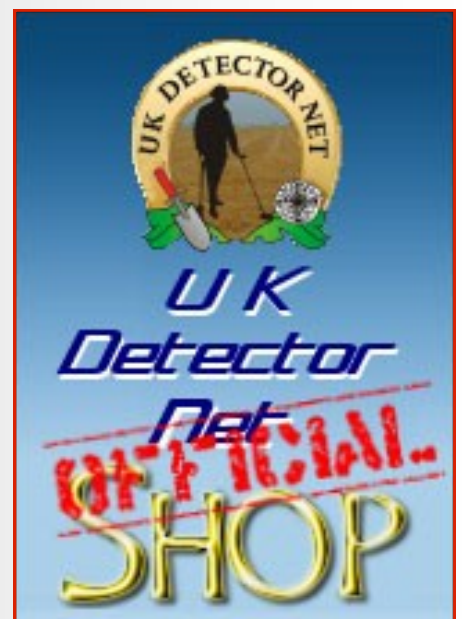
These will be ideal for putting in a frame and giving to a farmer or landowner as a gift or a demonstration of what those Roman grots you have given him would really look like.

Normal price for the coins on show here is over £13 plus postage fees. We are offering them for just £10 + £1 postage.

The coins on show may not be the exact coins that you get for this price but they will be very similar and will consist of one gold stater, one silver stater, two Roman silver denarii, one silver Roman siliqua, one Saxon silver sceat and one silver hammered penny of King John. Normally they will all come in small grip-seal envelopes with a small yellow descriptive label attached. Some of these will not have the yellow descriptive label. All are reproductions and will be marked with a stamped letter "R" or the word "COPY"

These reproductions are really useful in that, if you have never seen or felt the above coins before, you can have a good idea of what they look and feel like.

To get yours today, go to the UKDN Shop click the Paypal button and we'll have them winging their way to you asap





# Find of the Month Coin - Saxon Type 'H' Sceat

## By Ossie (Chris Osborne)

Anyone who knows me will tell you I'm a person that has more than my share of luck, whether it is alongside the river in pursuit of the elusive silver salmon or more recently searching the fields for another type of silver, I must admit I do seem to be lucky beyond what is due through hard work.

Recently the owner of a farm I had been searching for years passed away and the new owner was not keen on me detecting there any more and as much as I tried I couldn't get him to change his mind. The farm was in a part of Dorset where it is extremely difficult to get land to search, most of it owned by large estates, The National Trust and of course farms that already have their own resident detectorists. After many months of talking to farmers that I knew, from working on farms myself in this part of Dorset, I just kept drawing blanks for various reasons and to be honest I had resigned myself to working the beaches and the odd rally for the rest of my days.

Then my lucky streak kicked in when a chance meeting with a farmer turned to gaining permission to search his few acres, that were used up until recently as pony paddocks, and I was chomping at the bit to give them a go.

Two days of random searching on these twenty acres of paddocks were a little disappointing to be honest, so I decided to leave my Sovereign at home and stick with the Etrac. I also decided to change the way I used to work the field to a more strict grid pattern starting on the far boundary, away from the footpath that I originally thought would have been the hot spot. Working across the field the Etrac went crazy with background mineralisation pretty close to my new starting point for the day, which was encouraging, I thought to myself.

Going slow and concentrating was taking me about an hour on the round trip back to start point but I was determined to stick at it for the day, going steady and seriously searching the ground digging any reasonable signal. Then out of the blue came that lovely rounded, clean and low tone that I had been waiting for and I knew it was the first hammered coin from this field before I had even dug it. In fact I just stood there passing the coil over the signal repeatedly and changing settings, sensitivity etc. to see how the signal would be affected.

After eventually digging my much abused low tone I found myself squinting at a tiny silver disc that I must admit I did not recognise, even though I have had a couple of Sceatta from my other recently lost farm. After popping my find, wrapped in a piece of tissue paper, into the battered tin that houses my golden Virginia, I carried on searching methodically until the cold north wind got the better of me and headed back to the warmth and cup of tea that was waiting for me in my car.

First things first though, I just had to have a closer look at my new discovery, through the magnifier I keep in my car. Wow I thought another Sceat, not that I'm an expert but I recognised the Wodan head that is similar to one I had found a few years earlier.

Over the moon, not just because of this find, but the hope that there might be similar to be found elsewhere on the field and also my legendary luck had at last returned.

May I take this opportunity to thank all who entered and voted in the UKDN Find of the Month Competition.

Thank you, Chris.







**Ossie (Chris Osborne)**





# Find of the Month Artefact - 1st Century Dragonesque Brooch

## By Roto-op (Alistair Mcpherson)

The first snow fell on the 19th of December after a couple of days of hard frost , rendering the ground undetectable . So day after day I arose looked out of the window and to no avail more snow had fallen . Xmas came and went as did the new year and still no respite from the white stuff. I awoke on Friday the 22nd January to the sound of rain hitting off my window, looking out a thaw was on but would it last !. Next day the ground was softer but with still quite a lot of slushy snow lying about, but off I went to my favourite field but it was still as hard as Vinnie Jones so back home I went.

On the Sunday I decided to try again, after walking about on the field I decided that most of it was detectable. But after a couple of hours not much had turned up, so I decided to try where the ground was still a bit firm. After a couple of swings the GMP gave a very positive good signal and scooping out a spade full there was a lovely little annular brooch, missing its pin but its my find of the day I thought, and with frozen feet I started heading for the field gate. Then the GMP gave a iron spit with a good thump straight after—changing the direction of the swing gave the same signal, so I thought, give it a dig then back to the car.

The first spade full turned up a big square iron nut, so after chucking it into the hedge I gave the hole a perfunctory sweep and there was a second signal, so I lazily dug another spade full and sticking out of the spoil looked like a copper alloy pin, so plucking the pin from the soil and to my surprise there was a fantastic brooch attached. After returning home and doing some research and the helpful comments on this forum I realised that it was a dragonesque brooch.

After contacting the National Museums of Scotland it appears that this brooch is the most northerly dragonesque brooch found to date The nearest other example is from Traprain Law in southern Scotland and maybe a local variant or a previously unknown type.

Cheers, Ali.

**Roto-op  
(Alistair  
Mcpherson)**







**1st Century Dragonesque  
Brooch**

**Treasure**  
hunting

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

# AD 410 – The End of Roman Britain?

Sam Moorhead



Image from the [portableantiquities' photostream](#) on flickr and used under creative commons license



# AD 410 – The End of Roman Britain?

Sam Moorhead

AD 410 was a momentous year in Rome. We know that in August of that year Alaric led his Goths into the city where they plundered for several days [Fig 1]. Although it did not bring an end to the Roman Empire, it marked a turning point for the fortunes of the Western Empire. From now onwards the provinces of the west gradually slipped from Rome's grasp until in AD 476 the last emperor of the Western Empire, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed by a barbarian leader [Fig 2].

[Fig 1].



[Fig 2].



[Fig. 3]



### ***But what about Britain?***

Precariously positioned on the north-west extremity of the empire, Britannia became increasingly isolated. In the middle of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, vast fleets of grain ships were plying the North Sea to feed the Roman army on the Rhine; there were many luxurious villas across the Province; various industries, such as the potteries, were flourishing.

However, by 410, those days were gone. Ancient writers suggest increasing resentment amongst the British elite and in 407 the Britons even promoted their own emperor, Constantine III (AD 407-11). However, he swiftly moved across the Channel, with most of the Roman field army of Britain, to stake his claim to the Western Empire, and to combat the barbarians who had crossed the frozen Rhine on New Year's Eve 406: the Vandals, Burgundians and Suevi had now joined the Goths within the Empire, and the Huns were not far behind. Constantine III had moderate successes against the barbarians, but much of Gaul was effectively lost. Constantine chose the city of Arles, near Marseilles in southern Gaul, as his capital because he had the other western emperor, Honorius (493-423) in his sights. [Figs. 3 & 4]

[Figs. 4 ]





Constantine III's coins are the last to be found in Britain in any quantity; but many scholars do believe it was during his reign that Roman Britain collapsed. [Fig 5]

For many centuries it has been thought that the emperor Honorius (493-423) had written a letter to the leaders of British cities in AD 410, telling them to organise their own defences. The source of this information is now believed to be corrupt, but there is other evidence suggesting that the Britons rebelled against Rome at around the same time. It is possible that the British elite was fed up with paying taxes when the Roman authorities were not providing adequate protection against marauding Saxons, Picts (from Scotland) and Scotti (from Ireland). It used to be thought that the Coleraine Treasure (silver coins and hack-silver; Fig 6) on display in the British Museum was loot taken back to Ireland by the Scotti; now it is suggested that it might have actually been payment to Irish soldiers who were serving as mercenaries for the Romans.

[Fig 5]



[Fig 6]



[Fig. 7]



Amongst the objects in this haul is half of a late-Roman silver ingot, inscribed 'From the workshop of Patrick'. [Figs. 7-8] This is an apt reminder that it was at this time that St. Patrick was captured by raiders and taken over to Ireland.

[Fig. 8]



Whatever the exact details, we can argue that around AD 410 Britain ceased to be a functioning province in the Roman Empire. However, this did not herald the end of Roman culture in Britain; indeed, I bet that many Britons still regarded themselves as part of the Roman world, even if not under direct political and military control from Ravenna (now the capital of the West). [Fig 9] Indeed, there is much evidence to suggest that, in some ways, Roman Britain continued to function until at least AD 430.

[Fig 9]







[Fig. 10]

When St. Germanus of Auxerre arrived to combat Pelagianism (a very British heresy hatched by Pelagius!) in AD 429, he met city elders at St. Albans which was still operating as a Roman urban centre. [Fig. 10]

In around AD 450, it is possible that the Britons made an appeal to Aëtius, the last great Roman general to serve in Gaul, suggesting that some Britons still regarded themselves as part of the Roman Empire.

A study of late Roman coins (many recently recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme) suggests that there was a serious attempt to maintain a gold and silver currency, possibly until around 430. [Figs. 11-12]



[Fig. 11]

[Fig. 12]





Over 15,000 such coins were found in the Hoxne Hoard in Suffolk in 1992. [Figs 13-14]

[Fig. 13]



[Fig. 14]





It is even possible that low value bronze coins were also used; how should we explain the presence of small coppers of Valentinian III, dating from 425 to 435, at sites such as Wroxeter, [Fig 15] St. Albans and Richborough [Fig 16]? Richborough Castle is a fascinating site which I believe might have continued to have had some form of official Roman presence beyond 410. Historians and archaeologists are also discussing the nature of the Anglo-Saxon invasions – had many Germanic people already settled in Britain before 410? How many Anglo-Saxon invaders actually came with the likes of Hengist and Horsa? What happened to the British population as the nation became English? To what extent did Latin and Roman culture survive in western Britain and amongst Christian communities in the Celtic lands? How can advances in DNA analysis help to untangle our ancestry? When did Roman Britain really end?



Fig. 16]



These, and many other questions, are being discussed this year at a series of events across the country. There are major conferences at the British Museum (13-14 March) and in Cardiff (30-31 October) as well as many other regional symposia. There is a two day festival at Old Sarum (19-20 June) and excavations of late Roman deposits will be carried out at the military sites of Vindolanda, Caerleon and Binchester. To find out more about all of these activities, go to [www.410.org.uk](http://www.410.org.uk) where further details are available. It is hoped that by the end of 2010, rigorous debates across the land will have advanced our understanding of Britain as it entered the Dark Ages.

What is really important is the contribution made by detectorists who are recording with the PAS. I will be writing a couple more articles for the UKDN this year, the next one on the 730 odd late Roman *siliquae* recorded on the database – these and other coins are opening up a whole new horizon for late Roman Britain. However, it is not just coins that are important. Late Roman and early Saxon brooches and buckles provide essential evidence for the dark period of 5<sup>th</sup> century history in Britain and I hope that we can present you with an article on research in this field. [Figs 17-19].

***I look forward to talking to many of you this year, whether it be at clubs, finds days or on rallies.***

[Fig. 17]





[Fig. 18]



Sam Moorhead is National Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman coins, Dept of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum. With David Stuttard, he has just written *AD 410 – The Year that Shook Rome*

(British Museum Press, £9.99; due early March 2010).

## Figures

Fig. 1 'Romans fending off the Goths', etching by Johan Winckelmann (1782) © British Museum

Fig. 2 Gold *solidus* of Romulus Augustulus, struck at Milan, AD 475-6 © British Museum

Fig. 3 Gold *solidus* of Constantine III (AD 407-11), struck at Trier © British Museum

Fig. 4 Gold medallion of Honorius (AD 393-423), struck at Rome around AD 404 © British Museum

Fig. 5 Clipped silver *siliqua* of Constantine III (407-11) struck at Lyon. © British Museum

Fig. 6 The Coleraine Hoard, Northern Ireland (early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD). © British Museum

Fig. 7 Silver ingot from the workshop of Honorinus, late 4<sup>th</sup> / early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Found in London. © British Museum

Fig. 8 Silver ingot from the workshop of Patricius (Patrick) found in the Coleraine Hoard. © British Museum

Fig. 9 The ancient walls of Ravenna © David Stuttard

Fig. 10 View of St Albans Abbey through the circuit wall of Verulamium © Sam Moorhead

Fig. 11 A clipped *siliqua* of Honorius, struck at Milan, AD 395-402. © Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig. 12 A clipped *siliqua* of Eugenius, struck at Milan, AD 392-4. © Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig. 13 Some of the 15,000 gold and silver coins from the Hoxne Hoard. © British Museum

Fig. 14 A body chain, bracelet and pepper pot from the Hoxne Hoard (early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD). © British Museum

Fig. 15 View of the bath complex at Wroxeter Roman town. © Sam Moorhead

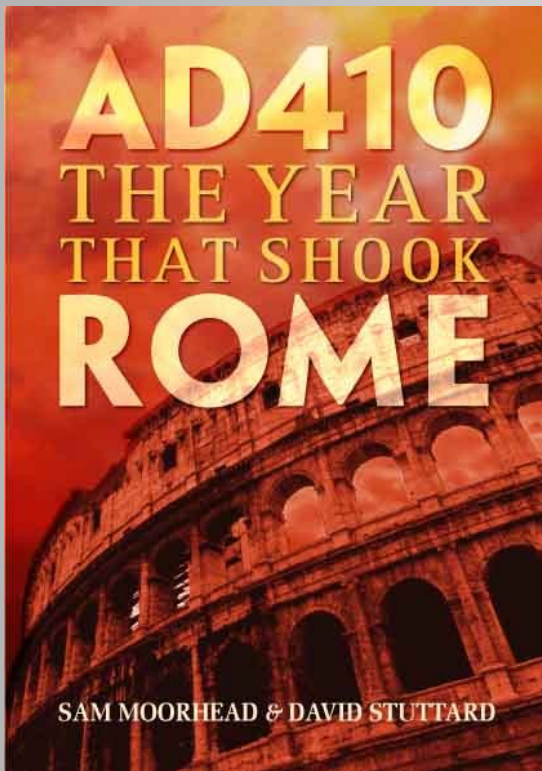
Fig. 16 View of the west wall of the Saxon Short Fort at Richborough. © Sam Moorhead

Fig. 17 Early Saxon Brooch found in Norfolk (PAS NMS-D54B11) © Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig. 18 Late Roman / Early Mediaeval buckle found in Kent (4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) © British Museum

Fig. 19 Late Roman buckle found in Somerset (late 4<sup>th</sup> – mid-5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) (PAS SOM-D07208) © Portable Antiquities Scheme





# AD 410

The Year That Shook Rome

*Sam Moorhead & David Stuttard*

**A compelling chronicle of the forces that laid Rome open to attack and tore the empire apart, this book offers a fresh perspective on a defining moment in Western history.**

On a sweltering night in August AD 410, the unthinkable happened. The Goths swarmed into Rome and sacked the city. The calamity shook the empire to its core. Ever since, historians have struggled to fathom the reason *why* Rome fell, but few have told the story of *how* it fell.

This gripping book uncovers the key factors that contributed to Alaric the Goth's capture of Rome: mass migrations, military incompetence, civil war, court intrigue, economic decline and religious bigotry. It also explains the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, including the loss of Britain, around AD 410.

Published to coincide with the 1600th anniversary of the sack of Rome by the Goths, and of the departure of the Romans from Britain, *AD 410: The Year That Shook Rome* explores the inexorable chain of events that culminated in the collapse of the empire. It is an epic tale of imperial folly and court intrigue, of honour and duplicity, heroism and cowardice, all brought vividly to life with dramatic storytelling, interwoven with contemporary histories, letters and testimonies – many newly translated.

As the drama develops, key players emerge into sharper focus: Alaric, the fiery but honourable leader of the Goths; Stilicho, the gifted but over-reaching general; Honorius, the weak and vacillating emperor; Olympius, the Machiavelian court eunuch; Galla Placidia, the intriguing *femme fatale* – all play, or fail to play, their parts, often with devastating repercussions.

The dramatic story is richly illustrated throughout with evocative sites and iconic objects, many drawn from the vast collections of the British Museum. *AD 410* paints a vibrant and illuminating portrayal of ordinary individuals grappling with an extraordinary crisis at this major turning point in history.

## The Authors

**Sam Moorhead** is National Finds Advisor for Iron Age and Roman coins in the Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure in the British Museum. A frequent lecturer on Roman topics, he has worked on excavations of Roman sites around the Mediterranean and is the author of *Pocket Explorer: The Roman Empire*. **David Stuttard** has taught classics and published and directed his own translations and adaptations of Greek tragedies, which he has directed in the UK and in classical theatres in Turkey and Albania. Author of *An Introduction to Trojan Women*, he has edited numerous books on Greek drama. His version of *Lysistrata* will be published by Duckworths in 2010, and his reconstruction of Euripides' *Trojan Trilogy* was premiered at the British Museum, where he also gives regular talks.

**Published March 2009**

184 pages, 88 colour illus

ISBN 978 0 7141 2269 4 PB £9.99



**UKDN Members**  
**Roman Finds**









# Photograph of the Month Competition

## Winner Coenwolf (Jeff)

Kestrel and vole taken with a canon 40d plus canon 400mm L series prime lens, hand held. Taken at Parkgate on the Wirral at high spring tide on the marsh



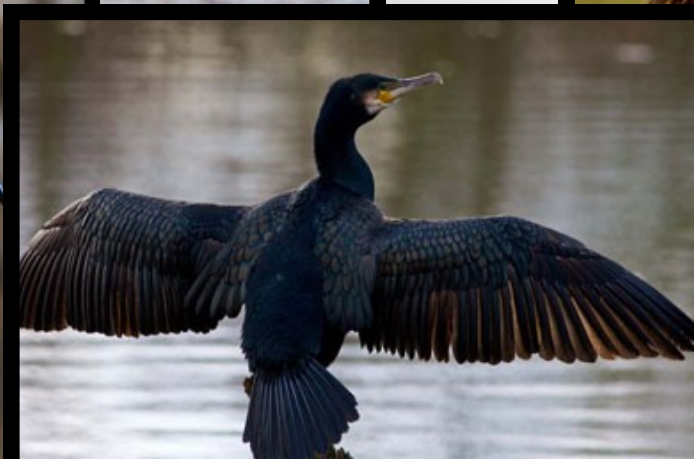


## Jeffs tips

The secret with bird photography, especially with small birds, is not to go looking for them - but rather get them to come to you.

I always carry a bag of bird food in a pocket. Look for where the birds tend to gather and then sit and wait for them to appear—after putting some seed down of course.

Look for a natural hide - if there's nothing available, even the your car makes a good hide. Birds are used to them - just sit still and patiently and the birds and other creatures will come for food - simple but effective .



# Spotlight on crinoid - Patrick

Hi everyone and just to apologise for not formally introducing myself for so long. I have been using this extremely useful and informative site for sometime and find it of great interest. Thanks to everyone that has helped id some of my finds and viewed my finds and given great advice.

I started metal detecting as a child 30 plus years ago. Since a young child I have had a passion for the natural world and history, particularly local history. This was passed to me with ease from my parents and my grandparents. My main interests as a child were fossil collecting and metal detecting. I have lived all my life in Dorset and have the excellent Jurassic coast to collect fossils from. I have a massive collection of fossils and I now specialise in Marine Reptiles from the Kimmeridge Clay. I now professionally collect, prepare and record all my finds which is extremely time consuming but necessary and rewarding in the end.

Fossil hunting is now my main passion however I do devote a certain amount of time to metal detecting as it gives me so much pleasure, similar to that of fossil hunting.

When I was young we, (my parents and brothers and sister and many members of our large family) went out to the New Forest for family outings which often involved using our metal detectors, basic C Scope ones. We generally found military items bullets and Bombs!! But also badges and buttons – some from America and Canada as soldiers from these countries were stationed here before going of to war. We also detected the local beaches and parks often with some good results of Jewellery. I remember my parents selling a Gold Ring I found and I was able to up grade my detector to a C Scope 990B which had a meter which at the time I found of great excitement.

As I went into my teens I joined the Stour Valley Metal Detecting Club and began searching on my first ploughed sites and found a few Roman Coins which I still have to this day. As my teens progressed the normal happened – I lost my interest in detecting and discovered the world of partying and girls! But as I matured into my later 20's and 30's my interest soon was revived. I had luckily kept all my finds but have thrown my books so had to repurchase these – an expensive mistake.





# Spotlight on crinoid - Patrick

Down the left are some pics of the Pliosaur (Giant Marine Reptile that lived in the times of the Dinosaurs - Jurassic period) Skull I have found in Dorset. I have the complete skull but the mounting of it is not complete so the pics are not of the complete skull. On the right are images of a complete Pliosaur Skeleton to show what it looked like and a reconstruction pic of a Pliosaur that shows how it probably looked.







# Spotlight on crinoid - Patrick

I tried to join a metal detecting club again without any success – huge waiting lists and you had to provide a set amount of land for the club to dig on before they would let you join! I was very disappointed. I then decided to write to about a hundred farmers in the area with what I thought was a very pleasant letter; informative and sending them full information on me and my interests and providing information on the hobby. As far as I remember I had two replies! Both saying no. Very disappointed again!

The next step I took after a few years of being hacked off about not getting any permission was to go and see the farmers in person. This proved the best method. They get to meet you and with a bit of persuasion I eventually ended up with a few good sites. This land I gained at that time is the land I still detect today plus a few more and they have been very productive sites.

Detecting as an adult is very different to as a child – go anywhere you wish and have no concerns about anything! Very different now – you must get all the correct permissions and have them in writing and far less places to go. I remember detecting along the edges of fairways on Golf courses with loads of Golfers about - with no worries or embarrassment at all!!

I have been a member of the FID (Federation of Independent Detectorists) I guess for about 20 years. I am now also a member of the Weekend Wanderers Detecting Club which is excellent and it is great to get out on some new sites and meet new people with the same interests, mainly in the Hampshire area.

When I began serious metal detecting as an adult I bought myself a Garrett, can't remember the make and then progressed to a Minelab Explorer – wow what a detector – hard to set up but my find rate did improve. My current metal detector is an XP Gold Maxx Power which is a totally different detecting experience which I hated at first. I was talked into buying one by some friends who had been using them for some time and said they were brilliant. It took me ages to get used to it but now I love it. It is brilliant for hunting out the small finds and I am now well used to hearing all the iron and mineralization etc beneath the coil.

A bit more about me – I began work as a Tree Surgeon and progressed to being a Landscape and Arboricultural Officer in a Planning Department of a Local Authority for the past 20 years which I do enjoy – it gets me out the office inspecting trees and landscape schemes etc. I could not do a job stuck in the office all day.

I am a member of a few Geological / Archaeological Associations which do great lectures and field trips and it is always great to learn more.

Thanks again.

Patrick.



# Spotlight on crinoid - Patrick



The South-Lancs & Cheshire Metal Detecting Club has been in existence since September 1978 and for a long period in the 1980's and 1990's the club newsletter was written by both Brian Cross and John Fargher. The front covers were designed by Dave Berry, club member and resident artist. The newsletter front cover became a classic of good humour, hobby relevance and fine design and each month the club members looked forward to what Dave was going to put on the cover. Many club members could see themselves captured by Dave and featured on the cover, Brian & Mo' for example, courting at the time, often saw themselves below a heart carved in a tree or Brian would be featured wearing Wellingtons on the end of suspenders.

Dave has kindly given us permission to feature some of the classic covers and for this we thank him.

**Cover Explanation:** It doesn't need one really, never seen this happen but I bet it has .





# Helping in the Community

## Brian and Mary Booth

### 4 helps!

#### No1

##### Emergency Call Out - By Boothy

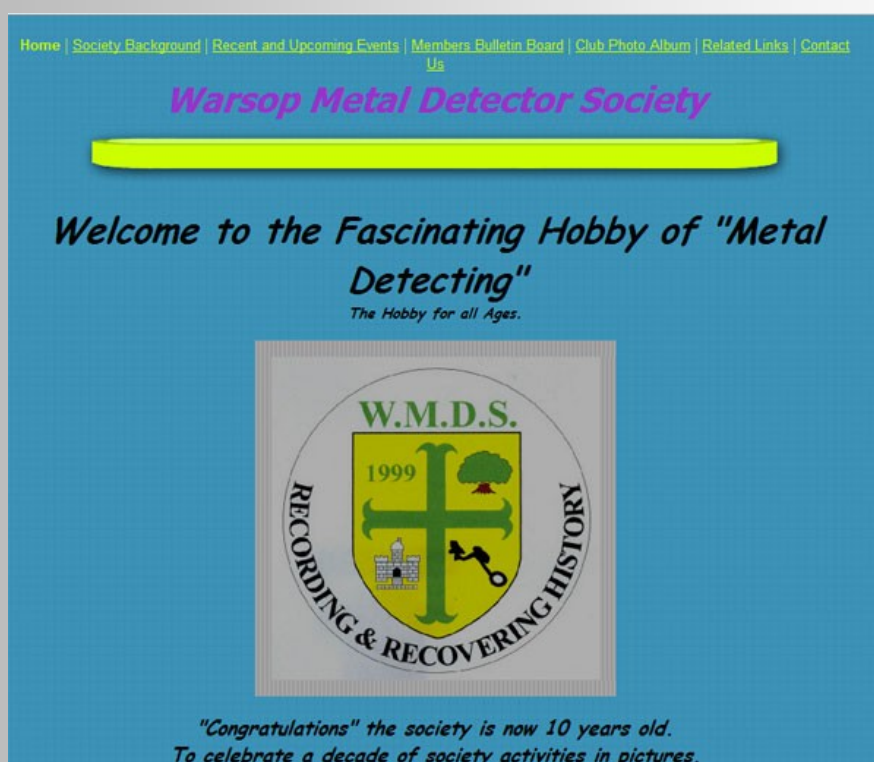
On Thursday 7th January a telephone call for help was received from Mrs Bealby of Broomhill Grange Farm, Edwinstowe. The farmers wife sounded agitated and informed us that the only set of ignition and other keys belonging to the trusted Land Rover had been lost. It appeared that Mr Bealby slipped down in the snow the previous evening after garaging the Land Rover, fortunately he was not injured but next morning realised the keys were missing.

Mary and I visited the farm and were shown the approximate location of Mr Bealby's fall in about 8 inches of snow. We started the search with Mary using her Tesoro Rapier, I decided to use our Fisher 1265X because of the excellent all metal mode, we searched the large area around the farm garages without any success apart from a selection of screws, bolts and washers. Moving further up the farm-yard towards the virgin snow the Fisher gave me a positive signal and upon investigation there were the lost keys in the soft snow.

We returned to the farmhouse to present the lost keys to Mr Bealby, it was a pleasure to see a very happy farmer reunited with the keys, there were hand shakes and congratulations in appreciation for all our help. We are certain that once again for all our efforts in finding the keys, will keep the Warsop Metal Detector Society in an excellent position when we next apply for permission to search the many fields around the farm.

Brian and Mary Booth.

Website; <http://warsopmds.co.uk/newsite/>



# Helping in the Community

## Brian and Mary Booth

### 4 helps!

#### No2

Brian and Mary have been in the metal detecting hobby since 1975, they were founder members of the Mansfield Detector Club and 1999 formed the Warsop Metal Detector Society. Over the years they have organized many rallies including the famous "Robin Hood" and other charitable detecting and holiday events, their latest rally was for the soldiers serving in Afghanistan when they filled 45 Shoeboxes with treats and necessities.

They were both very touched by the letters they received from the soldiers in Afghanistan stating how much they appreciated the gifts from home.





# Helping in the Community

## Brian and Mary Booth

### 4 helps!

#### No3



METAL detector fans Brian and Mary Booth definitely struck gold when they set out on a mission to help devastated Radio Nottingham presenter Frances Finn.

For the Warsop husband and wife team leapt into action after hearing how Frances had lost a treasured ring while playing football in a women's football match on The Carr's recreation ground in the town recently.

And within minutes of beginning their search, Brian and Mary were stunned when their detectors honed in on the piece of gold jewellery.

"It was unbelievable," said Brian. "I couldn't wait to tell Frances - when I rang she was joyful and shouting and I was really excited."

Delighted radio star Frances this week told Chad newspaper she was thrilled to get the gold ring back and was overwhelmed by the kindness of Brian and Mary.

"The ring is so important. It was given to me by my grandmother when I passed my GCSEs and it had never come off my hand since," she said. "I was devastated when I thought it was gone for good — but thankfully Mr and Mrs Booth had the facilities to help me."

To show her gratitude, the BBC presenter visited Brian and Mary at their Warsop home to present them with some 'thank you' gifts — and then recorded a half hour session all about metal detecting, which was broadcast on her show last Wednesday.

Brian and Mary have been interested in history and detecting for more than 30 years and play an active role in the Warsop Metal Detecting Society — and their hobby has also seen them help other folk find treasured items, including recovering items from a stolen safe and keys stolen from a church.

# Helping in the Community

Brian and Mary Booth

## 4 helps!

### No4



**"Another Successful Search For Lost Rings".**

The secretary recently received a telephone call from a very distraught lady asking if anyone from the society would be so kind to take a look on a grass field outside their home for two rings that her husband had lost whilst grooming the pet dog.

Brian and Mary Booth visited the address and was shown an approximate area where the rings may have been lost, over the past few days since the rings had been lost many people had attempted to find the items without success.

Brian and Mary started a systematical search of the area and within 15 minutes one ring had been found closely followed by the other one. The look on the lady's face when presented with the lost rings was a joy to behold, after "Hugs" "Kisses" and a few "Tears" the lady could not thank Mary and Brian enough for their efforts.