

The UKDN WORD

World Of Responsible Detecting



Inside this Issue

Message from UKDN	2
Photograph of the month	3
Find of the month – coin	4
Find of the month – artefact	6
Learn about thimbles	8
A cautionary tale	10
Introduction to beach hunting	13
About us	18



Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome to another monthly edition of The UKDN Word, our 33rd consecutive issue! The weather has been glorious in recent weeks with the snow a distant memory for most. Spring seems to have come late, but most of the fields have been planted up, so we'll have to have some patience now until July or August for the harvest. Some of the finds we've seen this Spring have been up to the usual high standard, so well done if you managed to find something very memorable, or just find anything at all.

The UKDN Word has been a source of much enjoyment for many of the membership, indeed beyond, but we're still in need of more material please? Indeed, if you feel you'd like to be a part of the Newsletter Team then please contact Corrine, PhilD or petethedig, we'll be glad to hear from you! We're looking for people who have any publishing skills or who can write or gather stories that will be of interest to our membership and beyond; anything to do with the hobby or the wider heritage or historical interest. If you feel you can offer us a story, no matter how long, we'd love to hear from you. Our thanks go out to those who have contributed and especially to Corrine and PhilD who magically pull the whole thing together each month.

Just to mention that the new PAS database seems to have bedded in really well, the first impressions have been more than a little positive and this will hopefully result in both a higher use, especially as it has the facility for you to record your own finds and the ability to see all your finds in the landscape using Google Earth! All we can do is reiterate our sentiments from the last Newsletter and congratulate Dan Pett for a job more than well done!

With the General election drawing near let's hope that whoever ends up in power sees the benefit of the PAS and its contribution to our National historic record, made through the many thousands of hours of detectorist walking up and down the countryside of our great nation in the main.

For those who are recording their finds in the field can we remind you that UKDN does now supply finds bags with the ability to write on the finds information like the find-spot. They're great for storing your finds in too, especially if you hand them in to be recorded with your local FLO! With the hot summer days coming on, we also have UKDN baseball type caps available so don't miss out and get stocked up ready for the summer. Just go to the top left hand side of any forum page and you'll see the UKDN Shop, if you're not a member of UKDN then use the email address to contact us!. All monies raised go toward the upkeep of the site and makes sure UKDN remains free at the point of use.

Brian Mo & the Team

Photograph of the Month Competition Winner—**Donnydave (Dave Watson)**

Storm looming



Well done to Donnydave

The Storm Looming image was
taken by him using his Sony
Cybershot H10

Find of the Month Coin—**William I Penny**

By **dicktec**

The field the coin was found on had been detected by me while it had been cropped, stubble, disced then reset with rape so in probably for 2 years it hadn't been ploughed, within the 2 years I literally cleared it of signals in certain areas, so the day the coin was found I was running my T2 as hot as could handle it, all the bigger targets had been found so I was after the iffy and very faint signals.

I started searching an area that I had searched that many times, I knew every piece of it like the back of my hand but the day before I had pulled a little roman coin out so this had given me hope that there was more to be found, the area was that small I just kept hitting it from different angles and I was having a little success.

After about an hour I decided to detect the other side the hotspot which was behind a large tree that I used as a marker, within a minute I got a cracking signal!, I dug down and instantly saw it was an hammered, I wiped the soil away and saw the bust, then the heart started pumping, I thought I had found a Saxon penny, something that had eluded me in 13 years of detecting and had become a bit of an obsession, after about 10 more minutes I had had enough, all I wanted to do was get home and get the coin books out.

When I got home I put it under the tap, opened the Spinks and realised it wasn't Saxon but a Norman William I penny.

Good luck all.





Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Find of the Month Artefact **Penannular Brooch type G**

By **Donnydave (Dave Watson)**

The Sunday after finding a gold coin that I thought was Saxon but still yet to be positively ID'd, we decided to go back to the same field, we have had parts of Saxon brooches but never a complete one, I found four roman coins one a large thick one and one tiny only 10mm diameter, I noticed Dazz about 20 yards away on his knees examining a freshly dug hole, when I got a really nice loud signal, and just in the first spade full out came this nice brooch, I thought at first it was a silver Saxon one, I am still not sure what material it is made from, I am waiting for an ID through the FLO, but I have had a letter from Peter Spencer who at first thought it was Germanic. But he was kind enough to do some research for me while in the University and this is his report:-

A similar brooch to the one you found is illustrated in "hanging- bowls, Brooches and the Anglo-Saxon Connexion" by David Langley (British Archaeological Report number 22,1975). Your brooch is a type G and could date from as early as the 5th century AD (hence its Germanic look). A number have been found in southern England (taking a line across from roughly the middle of East Anglia) but a type G brooch would be a very rare find indeed for Yorkshire.

It just goes to show that our humble little pastime can have an impact on our history, you just do not know what will come up the very next signal.
Donnydave



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE



Treasure
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE

Learn more about Thimbles with Slogans

I have always been fascinated with slogans, mementoes, inscriptions, mottoes or keepsake messages on thimbles, with sayings using the language of love. It was only when I acquired my first MIZPAH thimble, that I began to look at these thimbles with lettering around the rims, more closely. Mizpah is a Hebrew blessing "May the Lord watch between me and thee whilst we are absent one from another". [Genesis 31.v49]

Go back in time, when women were closely chaperoned, to the Victorian era and picture a young man in love. How was he to plead his love? A gift of a thimble with a word or phrase was not too personal and if it was accepted, he knew he could then pay suit. So we get a glimpse of this bygone era and its manners with these unique themed thimbles. Some of these tokens of love were given when parting and there may be several sad stories attached to a few of these messages. The messages on the 17th century thimbles have now passed into oblivion.

By sheer serendipity when paging thru von Hoelle, on p296 I noticed his list of these inscriptions for the first time. So that's where this listing began and then I included those from Holmes from p180 and Zalkin p83-5. Di Pelham Burn produced a list of brass messages in the May 1999 issue of *At Your Fingertips*. I have now tracked over 134 different slogans or mottoes. Where there is no photo, I have included where the reference was found.

My perception of slogan thimbles was that they were Victorian and made of brass with a few made of silver. Now I know they were made mainly of silver, closely followed by brass. The thimbles are mostly English and produced mainly in the Victorian era. French has always been associated with the language of love, so there is a small collection of French slogans, followed by those in German and Spanish, with one or two in Italian, Norwegian and Dutch. I have included slogans from all countries, all periods, in all languages [including a rough translation - if I have gone wrong, please help]. The only example I have not included is for 'Souvenir' which tho very prolific, doesn't have the romantic implications of this thematic study. The most popular slogan is FORGET-ME-NOT.



Learn more about Thimbles with Slogans

The material ranges from silver to tombac and brass but I have only seen two gold slogan thimbles [not many were made in case she didn't accept his thimble?] At the other end of the metal spectrum, I have only come across a few of aluminium and one plastic slogan thimble. Many of the brass thimbles were late 19th C and probably made by England's Charles Iles. As most of the silver thimbles were made pre-1884 when hallmarking for thimbles came into force in England, it is nearly impossible to know when these thimbles were made or who they were made by. The lettering is usually in upper case, plain letters, but Gothic lettering was also quite popular.

I have also included the gold REGARD thimble - there is no lettering, rather the setting of six gemstones around the rim spells out the word Regard. Recently a 2nd one of this type emerged with DEAREST, created using 7 stones, tho no lettered message.

With this subject already being such a big one, I have not included many slogan thimbles from the late 20th century [ie the Franklin Mint set], nor those made in reproduction. These replica thimbles of the 20th century are made mainly of pewter, tho there are a few in silver, like those made in 1986 by Charterhouse Mint. Political and advertising slogans are also out of the scope of this small study.

In the Museum of Sydney, Bridge Street Sydney, there was a display in 1999 of base metal and brass thimbles excavated from The Rocks area. Where these thimbles have a message, I have noted this with the description.

I notice that on some of the early silver thimbles - from 16th century - the slogan is lettered upside down. Was this so that the sewer could read the message whilst she sewed, as the message would be facing her?

Three facets of Victorian life were FAITH - HOPE - CHARITY. This darling little boxed brass set of thimbles by Charles Iles, has a set of these values or slogans. Traditionally these also had symbols: faith by a cross - hope by an anchor - and charity by a heart.

Click on the image to see more images of thimbles on Sue Gowans website—thanks to Sue for allowing UKDN to use this in our newsletter—more next month!

Learn more about Thimbles with Slogans

— www.thimbleselect.com —

A Cautionary Tale or never mind the Bullocks - By Coreservers & DIOZ

It was a balmy late spring evening, Myself and my then detecting partner Paul, had just acquired a large 5000 acre farm near to where we lived. Unfortunately it was 99% under crop at this time so we were limited to an area of around 20 acres of water meadow.

The week before we began, the farmer's wife had nearly run into a herd of 12 young bullocks heading down the lane near to the farm, and had let her husband know. The farmer and his Brother had gone out and rounded the bullocks up, and herded them into the water meadow, which was bounded on one side by good fence and the other by fence and the natural barrier of the river.

Paul and myself had been on there a couple of times in the evening, and had had no trouble at all with the beasts, they'd just wandered by nonchalantly, heading for the water hole at the far end. The water hole was behind a line of plane and rowan trees, so once they were round there you could not see them. Initially the meadow had produced nothing much older than Georgian jewellery and rough coins, and we'd nearly given up, but the previous trip had produced a hammered coin, in the middle part of the field.

So it was we headed back there this evening. We began at the further end of the field as the herd was milling about at the gate we normally used. So we began detecting around the waterhole. All was going well, not much coming up, then Paul shouted over, he'd found a really nice Victorian half crown. I'd had a couple of farthings and a George 5th penny. We moved into the larger middle area of the meadow, and noticed the herd moving towards the waterhole, behind the trees. They gave us a few looks and moved away.

I got a big deep signal and knelt down to root the spoil out of the flapped hole. When out of the corner of my eye I was aware of Paul moving very quickly. My initial thought was "he's swinging far too fast" and I stood up to ask him what he was doing. Then I saw it, or should I say them... 4 of the bullock were charging, heads down from behind the trees directly towards us. Paul was sprinting full pelt for the riverside fence. I joined him, grabbing the detector and shovel, I headed full steam for the same fence.

Paul grabbed a fence post and managed to clear the top wire. I however am less nimble (and slightly rounder), and managed to catch the crotch of my nice new green army combats on the top wire, Which of course was barbed. The bullocks seemed to sense the amusement of this and stopped charging. I was hanging upside down with barbed wire tearing my trousers into a skirt, and my skin was being nicely flayed.



Paul was up a rowan tree and was not for moving. One of the bullocks then walked over to where I was hung and promptly licked the sole of my boot. It then wandered away. As it did the final threads holding me onto the fence gave way and I rolled a turn down the river bank, into a patch on nettles. Which don't do upper thigh skin much good either.

We decided to end the evenings detecting, and once the herd had moved off to the far end we used the waterhole trees as cover to make good our escape. Once out we saw the funny side of it. I posted a brief report of the escapade on here, and DIOZ wrote the following poem.

It ended up as a large part of my best man's speech at my wedding 5 months later.



An Ode to Corey - 25/06/03.

"Bo**ocks!"...I heard Corky cry,
As I waved my 'find' in the air.
"Don't be like that!" I said in reply,
"you know you find your fair share!"

"BULLOCKS!"...his cry was now louder,
And I heard him correctly this time,
And joined him as he raced past me,
With a bullock not too far behind.

Well as self preservation quickly dispelled
Any thoughts of Mick Dundee,
We ran through that meadow like Benny Hill's girls,
Until an escape we could see.

Now between us and safety was a barbed-wire fence,
Which Corky cleared with ease,
But now it was my turn, an my life passed before me
..as jelly drained into my knees.

"Over that fence?"..I questioned myself,
As my fitness was somewhat awry,
But my decision was so plainly obvious,
..it was over that fence or die!

So with my heart in my mouth, an my fate in my hands,
(as well as my trusty detector)
I headed towards that barbed-wire fence
Like an Iraqi Army defector.

I got one leg over..I was almost there,
Safety was oh so near,
When a ripping sound..and a tug on my crotch,
grabbed me an heightened my fear.

The crotch of my combats was well hooked on the top,
my Dock Martin was stuck on the middle wire,
as that charging monster suddenly propped,
an just stood there....breathin fire!

Well I straddled that wire with precarious balance
as his death charge he did commence,
but with a final yank..there was an almighty rip!
..and I was safely over that fence.

Phew! ..the relief swept over me,
an as I stood there my anxiety settled,
until I realised I had no crotch in my pants
and I was up to my bo**ocks in nettles!

Now the moral to the story..I'm sure you'll agree,
when we come to the end of the day,
no matter just how successful we've been,
..there is always a price to pay.

An introduction to beach detecting.

The Barnacle.

Over the last 25 yrs I must have spent 1000's of hours detecting the coastlines of the UK and some parts of Europe. I have even lived in the back of a van for several seasons to enable me to be hot on the trail of the next find, over this period I have tried to learn and understand the beaches.

I have now come to the conclusion that we cant understand them, they will change without warning, one day they can strip right down, gully's can form and finds can be abundant, and the next day its all gone, one thing that we can be sure of is why so many treasured items were lost and are still waiting to be found. I believe we have not, nor ever will touch the tip of the treasure chest that is held within the sands, to understand this we must look back in time to the Victorian era when holidaying on the coast was a national event, the newly formed railway network gave access to the coast for the wealthy and poor alike, although they rarely mixed, the wealthy would head for places such as Llandudno and the working class would go to Rhyl or Blackpool, they would flock in the hundreds of thousands, when the large mills would close for the annual holiday. Everyone would be set for a great time, they would wear their best jewellery and finery as showmanship was all the rage, dancing on the piers, walking along the prom or swimming in the sea. The ladies would be drawn into the sea by horse and carts so they could enter the water without being seen, usually in a different area to where the men would swim. Rings would slip easily from cold hands as the body tries to conserve heat by sending as much blood as it can to the internal organs to keep the torso warm. Beaches were a far different place to what we see today.

I often pick up old postcards to see where the bathing areas were, as with many beaches today, it is hard to visualise how popular they once were, postcards can also pick your spirits up when your on a deserted, barren beach with the wind and rain bashing down you can remember why you're there and what it is you are searching for.

In order for you to be successful you must understand the tide, the tide works on a very predictable cycle, a rule of thumb that I usually work to is to get to the beach about 2.5 hours after high tide, and once you have your gear sorted follow the tide out. I have seen some great tidal prediction software on the Internet that takes all the hard work out of predicting or knowing when the best tides are for any beach.







victorian rings



college ring



stripped beach





Gully opening up

I have noticed there are two types of detectorist on the beach, the coin shooter that works the top of the beach after all the modern losses, most machines can be used in this area but if your not going to venture far from the dry sand its best to have an id detector like a whites xlt, Xp Deus or the new v3 so you can discriminate between finds. You will not find much jewellery here just the odd modern loss. That's unless a good storm washes a step on the beach and uncovers all the old finds, but then you will find your machine might not be up to the job. The second detectorist will bypass this area and go straight for the low tide line, they will be armed with either a pulse induction or a multi frequency machine that can cope with the wet sand. This is the area that most of the rings are found but they can be deep so be prepared to dig.

You will need 3 main items to find the goodies on the beach. The First is a detector that will work on both the wet and dry sand that you can run at a good sensitivity without loosing any depth, my preferred machine is the Minelab sovereign xs2a pro. I have had it adapted with an extension from the reject / all metal mode switch that allows me to flick with a toggle switch between the 2 modes. I always search in all metal listening for the v faint changes in threshold, I then flick into reject if it nulls it's rejecting, if the signal is still good its worth digging but if you have no change in tone your picking up a signal that's deeper than the reject will work. So its worth taking a plug out then rechecking, once you locate an area with deep finds, work slow pick out the faintest of signals as the higher density items like gold rings will generally be a layer down from the coins, gold will sink until it hit's a hard layer that rarely gets disturbed, usually on beaches this consists of a thick brown or black layer of sand If you're picking finds from this you're in the right area and its only a matter of time before you are rewarded.

The second item you need is a good spade, finds can be in thick clay, stones or sand that runs like water as you try to dig When working wet sand I try to make sure I get the find out on the first dig, as once the water fills the hole it can become a hard task to recover the item, only time and experience with your machine will give you the knowledge to know how deep and how to pinpoint your machine.

The third item you need is patience you can go for months without any finds just the odd coin but keep focused and keep learning where the hot spots are, I always look for markers on the beaches for example posts, rocks or sea breaks so you can judge at a glance how low or high the sands are, a good idea is to take a camera and pick a fixed point such as a post or wall take pictures from this point of the beach on every visit to see how it changes, this way time can be saved working fruitless areas and more time spent after the goodies

good hunting

About us

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

Visit the forum

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

Contact UKDN

enquiry@ukdetectornet.co.uk

UKDN newsletters to download

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

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

UKDN aims

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

UKDN actively works towards the following aims:

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