

The UKDN

WORD



Issue 39

November 2010

World Of Responsible Detecting

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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>

View online

<http://en.calameo.com/books/00012160634bfe9ad3f0c>

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.

Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome to the very latest edition of the UKDN Word. Once again another tremendous effort by the Team and another great read.

Metal detecting has been in the media again recently with the publicity surrounding the Corby Garrett Roman Helmet which sold for £2.3 million at auction, then the £320,000 reward being offered by the Treasure Valuation Committee to Dave Crisp for the Frome hoard (52,000 Roman coins), not forgetting our very own Dave Booth who has been awarded £462,000 for his discovery of four gold Iron Age torcs in Scotland. In the main, bar the Corby Garrett Helmet which seems like a less than straight forward find (especially all the detail surrounding its provenance and find-spot), the publicity has been great for the hobby and such publicity can only improve the public perception of our great pastime. Certainly the two David's have shown themselves to be good ambassadors who have handled the pressure of the media's insatiable appetite very well.

Of concern to UKDN is the call to changes to the Treasure Act to ensure that items such as the Corby Garrett helmet come under the protection of the Act if and when it is reviewed. Whilst we may agree with such sentiments to protect such finds for the nation what is of concern is that there should be a debate on these changes so that no-one feels disenfranchised and that all voices are heard equally, not just from certain quarters.

We are still looking for more articles for the UKDN Word - so if you have an idea for a series of articles or simply have a detecting or collecting experience you would like to share with your fellow UKDN members and beyond then drop one of the team a quick private message or email. If you feel you can help us improve the newsletter or would like to gain publishing experience then, once again, drop one of the team a line.

Another UKDN free Lottery will be taking place shortly after the launch of this edition so, when you get the email informing you that it is taking place simply click on the link in the email and enter your number in the thread. Its costs nowt and you could win a great book just by taking part.

It is possible that UKDN will be having another Christmas raffle. We will let you have further details in the next newsletter.

Make the most of your field trips as the crops are well and truly planted now, the days are getting colder and the available land is reducing fast. Keep looking in on UKDN to see what others are finding and what they are discussing.

Brian & Mo' and the UKDN Team

Find of the Month Coin—Quarter Noble

By Liz

As we started our annual holiday we put the usual jinx on the weather and there was just enough rain to stop the harvest, I drove around looking for any stubble fields and whilst there were plenty about, there was only one that I had permission for. It is one of the most uninspiring fields that I have ever set foot in, it is only about 15 acres and I have wandered over it on numerous occasions over the years, all I ever found was a couple of Victorian pennies and then last year a nice little crotal bell turned up.

The previous week I had collected my new detector and apart from wrecking our lawn for the grand total of 54 pence I had not been out with it. So, uninspiring or otherwise when the weather perked up a bit, on the last day of August, off I went, it was barley stubble so it was quite short but the straw still lay in rows on top. I thought to myself that it would have to do for today, but seeing the combines working in one of my better fields in the distance cheered me up a bit.

I hadn't been there long when I found a small Mary half groat and shortly afterwards my first ever seal, I could not believe it and promptly decided that my better fields could wait and so I went back again the next day. I drove into the field and parked under the ash tree, bearing in mind the straw was still in the field but the headlands were quite clear, a poor crop I think. As ever I set out along a wheeling, we all have our little quirks and I always pick the left hand side one, then, in theory I never do the same one twice. After about half an hour I found the Regency seal, followed by a thimble and the usual buttons etc.

The top end of the field used to be part of the farmyard, we all know the bit, the scrap yard area, a few years ago it was cleared and incorporated into the field. I always spend time on it until the constant signals drive me away, however I got a sharp signal and flicked a small clod out and there it sat, I looked at it and thought "Hmmm, milk bottle top" then I thought..."can't be...." I knelt down and just looked at it; it was quite while before I picked it up, I think I must have thought that if I touched it, it would disappear.

An Edward quarter noble, I still can't believe it, I have always said we shouldn't give up on a field and this one has proved itself to me, *"uninspiring,"* not any more, I can't wait to go back there!

Liz





Find of the Month Artefact—Bronze Age Spear Head

By Ange

I bought my first detector, a C-Scope CS2MX about 18 years ago – the first time I used it was ... October 2009!! Reason was, where I used to live - west London, there was a great lack of open land, so it sat in my attic for years. We moved to lovely Lincolnshire in 2005. I attended a club dig – the Lindum Searchers – October 2009 and was lucky to unearth a Medieval Horse Pendant. I say 'lucky' as only a few of the lads on the dig found anything and I found it on the un cultivated strip of land around the edge of the field! THAT was enough really – I got 'THE BUG' from that one find.

Earlier this year on a dark February afternoon, I was looking online for a new coat. THEN I thought about it – what's more exciting? A new coat, or a new METAL DETECTOR???

The Metal Detector won.

Within a couple of days my nice new shiny X-Terra 705 arrived, was assembled within moments and taken into the garden. I wasn't ready for the steep learning curve I was about to experience. It was n-o-t-h-I-n-g like the 'push 'n' go' C-Scope I originally had!

let's move forward to THAT DAY in September. Do you ever get the feeling 'Today's gonna be LUCKY' ? Well, Saturday 11th September I didn't get that feeling! The previous day I found a 1-2nd century Roman Brooch on the field along with a couple of other not too interesting bits, so thought that might be my lot.

The next day I arrived on the field early in the afternoon hoping that I just might find another important piece. The first signal was – yep, you've guessed it – a shotty cap. They seem to THROW THEMSELVES at me. I'm VERY good at finding these, I think I'll start a collection. ANYWAY – the 2nd signal, a bit mixed so decided to dig it all the same, and less than 5cm (2 1/2" old money...) I unearthed this pointed thing that looked like an arrowhead. Even to the uninformed me, I quite quickly realised it was too large for an arrowhead. I phoned Pete and reported the find – now I NEVER phone home during a dig, but was quite excited with this.

I carried on Detecting for another 3 hours then returned home. Handing the Spearhead to Pete I powered up the Lappy to do a bit of research of my own. It didn't take long however, looking on the UKDFD database there is an almost identical 'model' recorded. THAT was the point my legs got wobbly. The sheer amazement at finding an artefact that pre-dates the main World religions, when the population of the whole of Britain was less than 100,000, the language completely unrecognisable could we hear it spoken today.

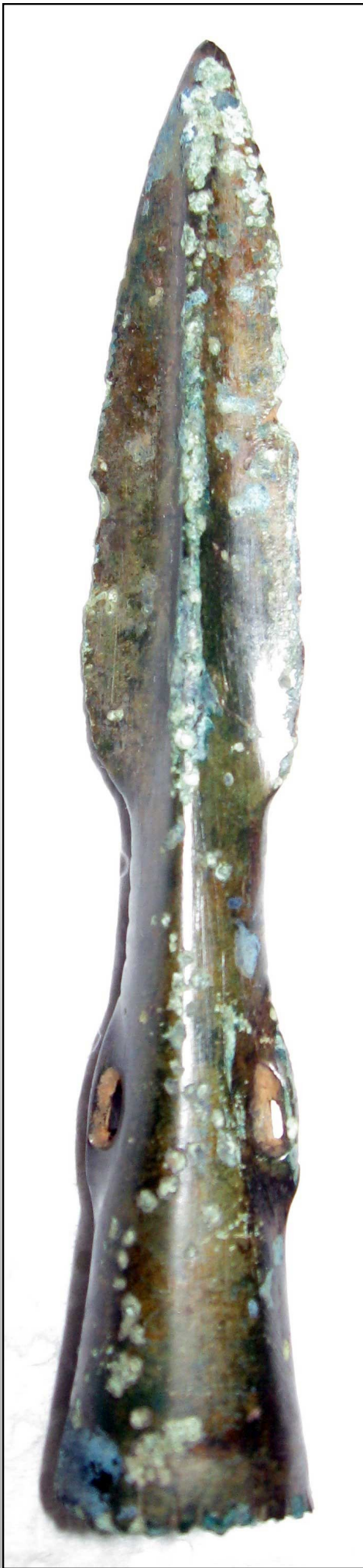
I think I was in shock for 2 days – could hardly get my head around it!

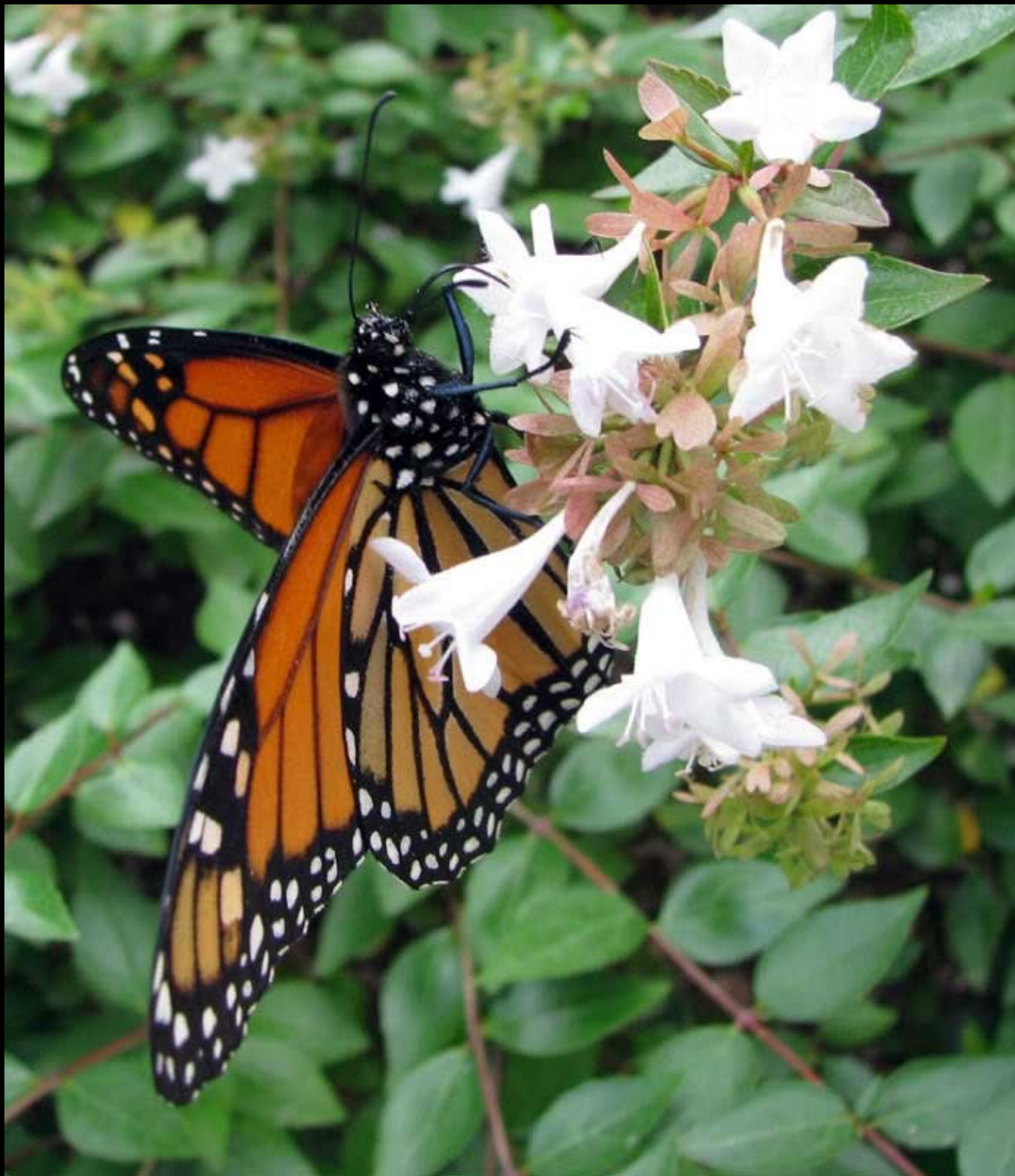
I try and go out every afternoon weather permitting. I don't however, see any LADY Detectorists on the fields! If you're a 'Girl' and are reading this, why not try it out? Truly a wonderful hobby, unless of course you find for example, a UXB – I might tell you all about THAT find some other time. . .

ANGE

X







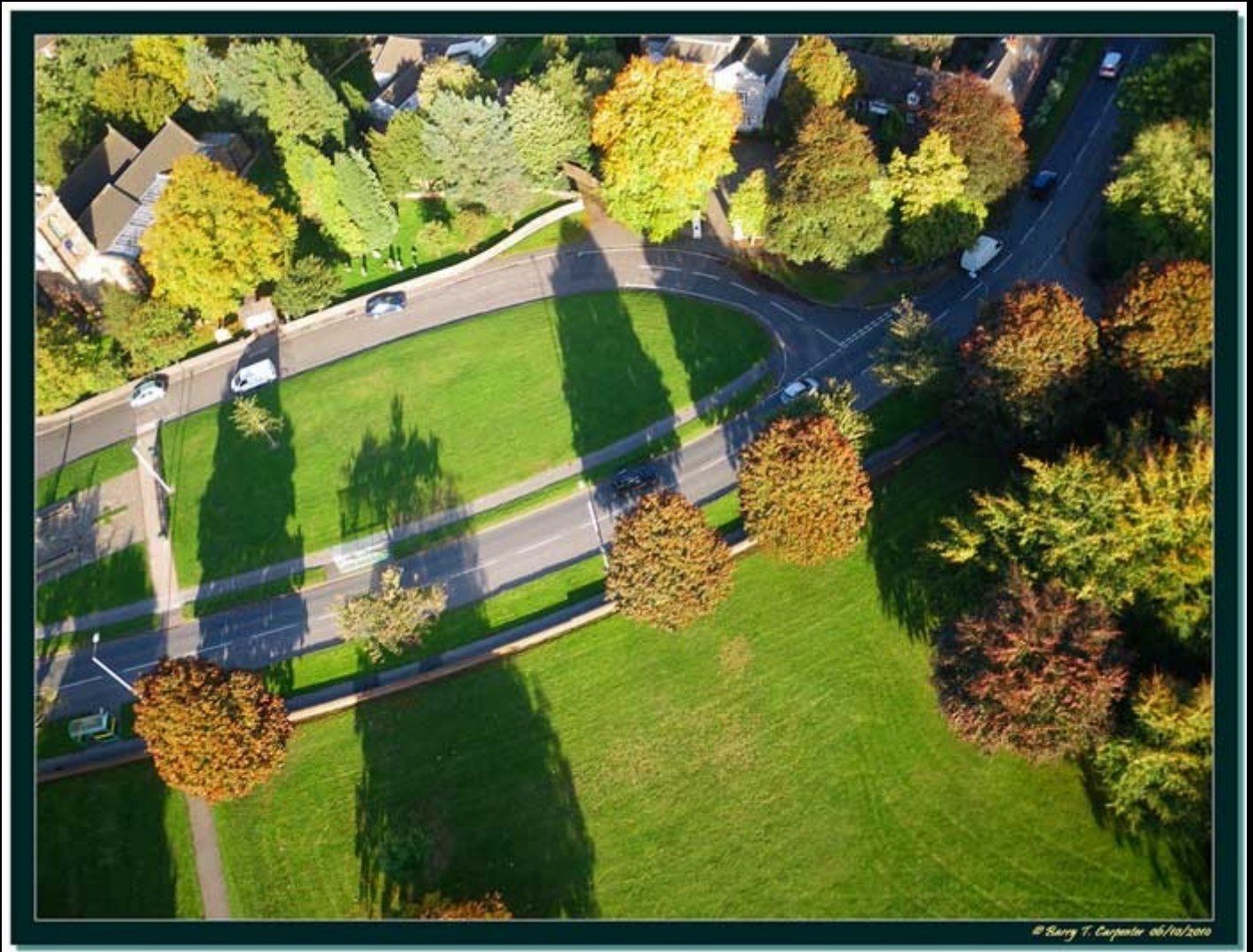
Photograph of the Month Competition

DSLR Camera

Winner—jimmytheferret

Butterfly at the Botanical Gardens Gibraltar

Canon Powershot S51S in Macro mode, hand held



Photograph of the Month Competition

Point Press & P ray

Winner—puffin

Aldridge from a kite

Pentax Optio W80

Promoting the hobby

On Saturday 9th October, Brian and Mary from the Warsop Metal Detector Society <http://warsopmds.co.uk/newsite/> attended and displayed their many detecting finds at the annual Local History Groups Exhibition held at Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

The exhibition was very well attended by the general public who showed great interest in the metal detector finds and making many comments about the Roman Helmet and the Staffordshire Hoard finds.

With the promise of new land to search and the many enquires about the detecting hobby this together with being invited to give talks to the many groups attending the event was well worth the effort of a long and tiring day.

Brian Booth.





UKDN Members

Best Hammies

Henry III Irish Penny Dublin Moneyer Ricard - Tomredmayne



Edward I Class 3g London Penny - PhilD



Henry VIII Groat Archbishop Thomas Wolsey - popsandme



Robert II Scottish Half Penny - PhilD



Beornwulf Penny - johndavies



King John - Donnydave



Henry II Class 1c London Penny - Tinner



Henry Groat - thebarnacle



Edward III Quarter Noble - davie i



Henry VIII - Georgian Tim



Henry VII - Georgian Tim



Henry VIII Half Groat - Treasurehunterste



James I Shilling Spink 2656 - Plodite



Robert of Bethune Sterling - Ewan



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.

Here's another classic from Dave Berry, dating from October 1982

Cover Explanation: I think Dave conjured up this cover after the club paid for a coach to take us for a day out to a field in Lincolnshire that produced dozens of Roman grots.



Dewsbury District MDC Open Dig Re-

Great turn out again on Sunday 26th September at North Yorkshire, I have to say thanks to everyone who turned up. 😊

I must say the dig on Sunday was the best I've been to so far never seen so much quality gear come out of one field don't know what anybody else thought.

Lots of roman coins including a silver denarius and lots of hammered coins and musket balls and a melted gold sovereign and Steve's really nice roman knife or dagger handle I also got a lovely silver William 111 shilling dated 1697 in great condition.

Also the farmer was happy the way the dig was organised and run, he said all holes were filled and no complaints from any one in town, one member was warned to fill in holes properly by a Committee Member after leaving a hole open.

Here are the pic's for the dig that Sunday.







Snowy's Jaws Harp



Club member's Viking Silver Ingot



Steve's Roman Knife or Dagger handle



Andy's melted Gold Sovereign



Sodbuster's William III Shilling 1697



Metal Mark's Lizzy sixpence 1574



Mark's Hammered



Mark's Hammered



Andy's Roman



Andy's Roman reverse



Sodbuster's Roman Denarius



Eric's Hammered



Sandra's cut Half



Dennis's Roman



Paul's Roman



Essex Hoard

By Ian Richardson

Treasure Registrar, British Museum

At the Portable Antiquities Scheme's headquarters at the British Museum, members of the 'Central Unit' can be forgiven for becoming more familiar with their computers than they are with their trowels. Many of us studied archaeology at university and in past lives have been on digs as far afield as Romania, Palestine and the Outer Hebrides. So it is with a mixture of excitement and jealousy that we hear of the exciting accounts of Finds Liaison Officers who are out in the field getting their hands dirty. Recently, however, we were given the opportunity to help excavate a newly discovered Bronze Age vessel and its contents from a field in rural Essex.

We jumped at the chance.

Laura McLean, the Essex FLO, had had an assortment of Bronze Age axeheads and other implements reported to her by Mr Humphreys, one of her local detectorists. Shortly afterwards, Laura was visited by three more gentleman, regular searchers of the same field, who had coincidentally come across more items from this scattered hoard. Most intriguingly, they had located the rim of what appeared to be a large ceramic pot at the bottom of the ploughsoil. Indications were that the pot, or what was left of it, contained ancient metalwork. Lucky for us, the finders decided to rebury the pot and call for archaeological help.

In this they had made a wise decision, for Laura has the experience of having excavated Bronze Age hoards in the autumns of each of the last few years. She and her colleague at Colchester and Ipswich Museum, field archaeologist Kate Orr, needed only a few more willing diggers to get underway, and this is where we came in. On a crisp but sunny Tuesday morning in early October, three members of the Treasure team - Janina Parol, Caroline Barton, and myself, Ian Richardson - took a short train ride out to Essex to lend a hand.



Caroline and Janina



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More of their images are viewable on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/>

All four of the finders had arranged to accompany us on the dig, with the farmer and his wife also looking on with interest. A 2m x 2m grid was marked out around the site of the pot, and excavating this square was to be our primary focus throughout the day. The detectorists marked areas in the square that gave off strong signals, and these were paid particular attention as we mattocked through the first layer of turf and then worked our way more carefully down through the ploughsoil.

As expected, this level of earth had been churned over so many times throughout history that no signs of any ancient features remained, though there were plenty of small copper-alloy fragments and ceramics that emerged and were carefully bagged. A few of the pieces were more recognizable and one of the stronger signals turned out to be an incomplete miniature axehead. In the meantime the backfilled soil from around the pot was removed and the hole widened as we simultaneously examined the vessel and its context. After reaching the bottom of the ploughsoil we noticed that the earth surrounding the pot and falling away to one side was of a different consistency to the rest of the trench and charcoal-flecked. This was the first indication of the feature in which the pot had been placed so many years ago.

Such was everyone's excitement that there was no mention of a tea break until almost noontime, when the farmer appeared in his van with a boot full of hot water and plenty of cups for tea and coffee. After slurping down the much-appreciated refreshment, Laura tackled one of the other 'hot-spots' in the trench, which turned out to be a tight group of small bronze axeheads that had been ritually broken prior to burial. Janina and Caroline continued the meticulous removal of small quantities of soil from around the pot. It was quickly clear that much more than the rim of the vessel survived. We could see that the pot was largely intact, but that a swipe by the plow sometime in the past had fractured it and tilted it to one side. The blow had not been enough to disperse all of the contents, as inside was visible an intriguing collection of tell-tale green, but it had been strong enough to severely weaken the vessel and make it unlikely to be able to stand on its own. For that reason, as more of the supporting soil was removed from its outside surface, the vessel was wrapped periodically in cling-film. Finally, as the bottom of the pot was approached and the outline of the feature more clear, we used the opportunity of a lunch break to precisely measure out and plan the relationship of everything in the trench.



The measurements taken and with evening fast approaching, we commenced with the momentous occasion of lifting the pot from the ground. Thankfully the operation went smoothly and the vessel remained in tact and was safely deposited in a container for transport back to the conservation lab. The rest of finds were carefully stowed away in their bags and everyone chipped in to backfill the trench. At the end of the day, looking back out across the field from the roadside, there was nothing to indicate that mere hours beforehand the site had been a hive of intense activity.

The finds are now with the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service and are undergoing post-excavation analysis, with the pot due to be further excavated in the lab. Local professionals are, like the finders and the farmer, enthusiastic about this hoard and the information it holds for late Bronze Age activity in the area. Members of UK Detector Net support a responsible approach to metal detecting which calls for finders to be aware of the significance of the items they locate and to contact archaeologists for assistance if necessary. Speaking for the team from the PAS Central Unit, we enjoyed the opportunity to take part in an excavation borne of just such behaviour (despite the stiff backs we all had the rest of the week).

We will endeavour to provide updates on this case and encourage interested readers to look out for updates on the Portable Antiquities Scheme blogs at www.finds.org.uk.

Ian Richardson





There is also a video of the dig which has been produced by 360 production which you can view below.