

The UKDN

The World Of Responsible Detecting



ISSUE 41

JANUARY 2011



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Coin I.D

The Value of
Belonging
to a Club

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new 8.5 x 11 DD
Coil on the
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UKDN CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Results

The UKDN Christmas Raffle was drawn in the afternoon of December 16th 2010. A total of 97 tickets were sold raising a total of £485. After costs of £237 UK DETECTOR NET has raised a total of £248 for the BBC's Children in Need charity.

The results have been announced on the forum but here they are again.....

Winner of the Garrett EuroAce metal detector was Tinman336 with ticket number 118. He has since written to us expressing his joy at getting a surprise Christmas present.

Although UK DETECTOR NET purchased this prize we thank Nigel Ingram at Regton Ltd for offering it to us at an excellent price.

Old Git John kindly offered a prize of a metal detecting book of the ticket winners choice up to a value of £25. The winner of this great prize was Baglady with ticket number 187.

Next prize was an Eagle Eye Probe purchased by ourselves. This prize was won by FQM with ticket number 132. This winner has also expressed their thanks on receipt of the probe.

Final prize winner was Johnag4004 who won the Site Research book purchased by UK DETECTOR NET.



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Happy New Year from the Team at UKDN

As we write this the weather is still freezing and its obvious that not many of us are getting out into the fields - all the more reason for you to browse and spend some time on UK DETECTOR NET Forum.

Within the next few days we will be having our Find, Coin and Hoard of the Year competitions so why not jump to the Finds Competition area and cast your votes in the Polls which will be set up very shortly if they haven't already been done so.

What great finds have been made in 2010. This hobby and the people practising it never cease to amaze us. 2010 proves again that there are still lots of spectacular finds to be made and one never knows just what that next signal might be.

The forum itself continues to grow in membership and is running very smoothly.

Thanks to all involved in keeping UKDN what it was during 2010, there are so many of you that we will not attempt to name you all suffice to say that if you have helped in some small way then.... THANKS !!

We wish you all continued success and happiness in 2011 and hope you all make some cracking finds in 2011 and share them with us at UK DETECTOR NET !!

New Section



For some time there have been plans to create a new section within the Image Gallery of the UK DETECTOR NET Forum so that unidentified finds and coins could be looked at again.

So, on week beginning 20th December we created a section entitled Un-identified 'Mystery' Finds. The section has the following description.... "This section is for those finds that have not been identified straight away and can include any detected artifact or coin find."

There will have to be degree of policing of this section by the UKDN Moderators and Finds Advisors as we don't want forum users placing finds in there that haven't been looked at properly and over time.

But, it has been agreed that if a find or a coin is proving difficult to identify conclusively then the Moderators or Finds Advisors can place it in this section so that the object or coin can be looked at again more closely.

To this end we ask that you do not post your items in this new section but instead ask a Moderator or a Finds Advisor to place it there if they agree that the object cannot be identified conclusively. We are sure that by creating this new section some finds will be successfully identified at last !!

UKDN Diamond Supporter

DIAMOND

***Believe it or not UKDN became
eight years old in late September
2010. Thanks to you all for mak-
ing it what it is today.***

Within the bowels of the forum's operating system is a ranking system which enables the forum owners to put a ranking against a users name. On registering for UKDN all users are ranked as a Registered User !! During the past couple of years some members have wanted to donate towards the running costs of UKDN and so, to acknowledge their contribution, we changed their rank to - UKDN Supporter on receipt of a donation.

However. some members want to contribute year in, year out and so now, since September 28th 2006, we felt we needed to acknowledge that continued commitment to UKDN and so created further ranks such as — UKDN Supporter Bronze, - Silver - Gold and, last year — UKDN Supporter Platinum.

A donation, however large or small, will get you a ranking and in this way, some people who have only been members for one year, have moved up the rankings. On December 1st we will introduce a new ranking of "UKDN Supporter – Diamond" and anyone donating after that date who is already a Platinum will move up to Diamond. If a member is a Registered User, a UKDN Supporter or a UKDN Supporter – Bronze, Silver or Gold then they will simply move up a rank. We will now only move members up one rank per year no matter how many donations they make.

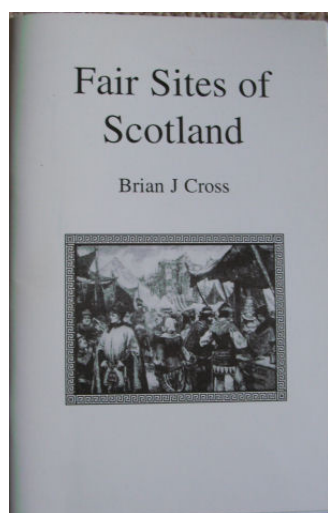
Next year we will introduce "UKDN Valued Supporter" which will honour the support that member has given to the forum.

***There will be no further rankings
after "Valued Supporter".***

All donations are recorded privately and are checked over by a respected member of the forum. All donations will be used for the purpose of paying for the forum server and associated running costs.

We hope this helps you understand the ranking system and how we have tried to acknowledge your support of UKDN.

***UKDN still remains free to all end
users***



Fair Sites of Scotland by Brian Cross

Written by UKDN Forum Founder Brian Cross this book researches all the Cattle, Sheep and Horse fair sites in Scotland. It is an excellent research tool for any detectorist intent on discovering some of these highly productive metal detecting sites.

Originally sold for £6.50 + postage Brian is offering these books to UK DETECTOR NET for a one-off price of £6.41 including postage and Paypal fees.

All the proceeds i.e. £5 from the sale of each book will go to the server costs of UK DETECTOR NET.

Coin of the Month

Coin of the Month - Edward III Noble *By StuE*



Detectorists often tell of strange premonitions or slight inclinations that guide them to a particular spot or give them a feeling that this will be the day. Friday 26th November 2010, ten years after returning to detecting, wasn't at all like that! This was my first outing after a four week trip to visit my son who lives in Sydney.

The temperature and season change did nothing to help dispel the last dregs of jet-lag and I took longer than usual to climb into my gear. By the time I had re-opened the boot of my car for the umpteenth time to retrieve a forgotten item Roy, my detecting buddy, was across the other side of the familiar and uninspiring field. We had detected it many times before and a couple of hammies over several years had been the highlight with Georgian pennies or maybe a bullhead sixpence being the normal best find of the day.

...the solid high pitch of something nicely conductive.

I clicked the sensitivity knob of my GMP and turned it just above the twelve-o'clock position. I would increase it to two-o'clock when I knew I had my ear tuned in again. After the normal long pause the ready beep sounded and I lowered the search head to the rotted stubble until the harness took the weight.

I had swivelled through no more than a dozen flat arcs when the occasional iron grunt was replaced by a the solid high pitch of something nicely conductive. Automatically I pinpointed the target let go of the GoldMax and used both hands to dig about four inches into the ground. A lump of aluminium, too thick to be from a can, heralded another rubbish clearing session ahead.

...the second 'good' tone almost identical to the last.

I contemplated marching away from the road towards Roy where the scrap usually thinned out but decided I may as well de-

test my way forward. Another twenty feet and the second 'good' tone almost identical to the last. The pinpoint was obvious with such a clear signal and I was just inserting the spade when I spotted the likely target, a regular curved edge, most likely man made. I bent down to prise the wet earth and stubble away registering the gold colour. A button no doubt but this was looking a little too large; a milk bottle top?

I'd been there before. Good grief, it just might be. I didn't yell or jump about dancing as I have done with lesser finds, I simply picked it up, brushed the larger lumps of crud off and then placed it back as near as possible to the find position and took three photos with my mobile phone. All the while letting myself accept that not only had I finally found my first gold coin but that it was a very nice hammered, most likely a golden Noble.

***No way, this was too nice
and I would never be able to
concentrate.***

After recording the spot on my gps and placing it in a poly coin bag I wondered whether or not to carry on for the next two hours and nonchalantly drop it in Roy's hand at the end of the session as we sometimes did to each other with a nice hammy. No way, this was too nice and I would never be able to concentrate. So across the field I trotted to enjoy some of the foulest language I've ever heard from my normally very polite friend. I loved every insult most of which I had directed at him almost a year ago to the day when he had found a gold stator, the first gold coin either of us had found in around eight years of detecting together.

***All these factors will increase
your chance of good finds***

So what can be learned from this to help others in their quest for that elusive first gold. Lots of research? Finding the ma-

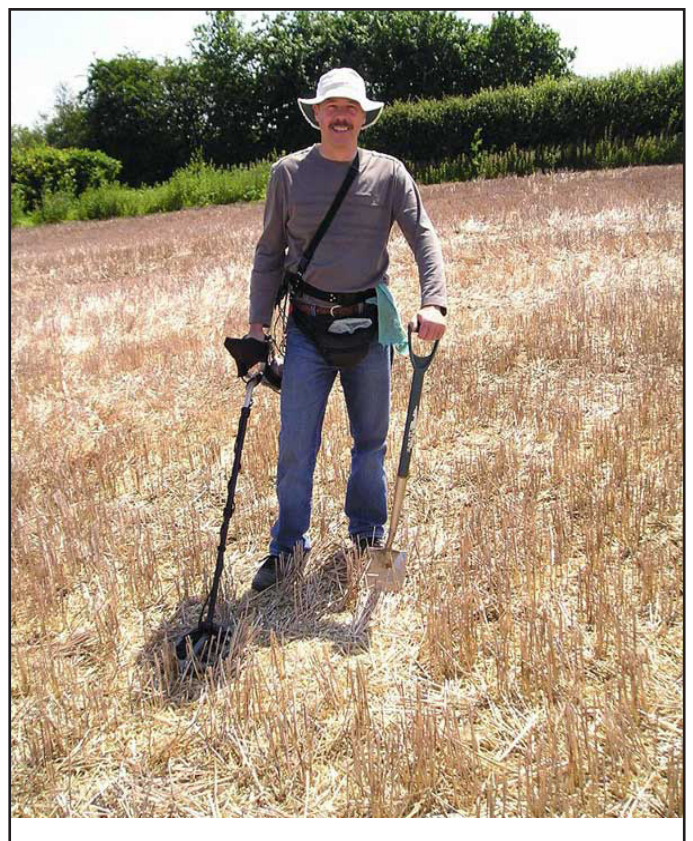
chine you are most comfortable with and learning to use it properly? Developing your technique to the highest level possible?

Getting maximum depth and/or covering the maximum amount of ground most thoroughly in the minimum time? All these factors will increase your chance of good finds but in this case no research was done, a child's toy could have located it, probably used by a child, and as for covering lots of ground efficiently it was the second signal of the day found within about ten minutes of starting!

No, all this find can teach you is the age old truism that you have to be in the right place at the right time and that's not going to be sitting snug at home.

Details of the coin can be found here:-
<http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/show-records.php?product=28572>

StuE.





***Bryan Robinson (Bryan162)
won with his sword ring which
dates to 5th - 6th century A.D.***

Sword rings, usually made from silver and decorated, are thought to have been attached to the hilt of a sword for symbolic reasons, rather than being used for suspension. They may have been given to warriors by royalty, in return for loyal service or for swearing an oath of allegiance. Fixed in such a prominent position (the hilt itself being a symbol of power) these rings could easily have shown the bearer's allegiance to a king, or have been displayed as symbols of status.

Bryan's sword was identified by UKDFD and Bryan would like to thank the staff there for their help in making the identification.

The UKDFD Reference number is 28273

<http://www.ukdfd.co.uk/ukdfddata/show-records.php?product=28273&cat=all>

It was only the third time out since returning to detecting and everything was perfect ie the journey to the site, the weather was warm but not too hot and the site potential was great as two hammered gold coins had come off the last time the club was here.

where the two gold coins had been found

After a coffee and a chat it was time to hit the fields. Most people were heading for the first field, but me being a dreamer, headed for the field half a mile away where the two gold coins had been found even though it had been well searched. Switching on and heading up the hill I had my first signal. "Whoopee a rusty nail" not the best start to kick off with. Still, always dig an iffy signal I say.

Having detected for four hours following my usual pattern of diagonally walking across the fields and having found just a few buttons and a thimble I decided to change tact for a while and picked an area in the centre of the field.

I had a faint beep in the earphones

Working this area up and down over a thirty pace grid my finds rate increased even though they were just buttons and two small buckles. Looking at the time and seeing that there was only an hour until the dig finished I decided to detect my way back up towards the cars. Walking faster than I do normally I made my way towards the next field when I had a faint beep in the earphones, stepping back I received a strong signal and digging down popped out what I thought was a small bearing.

On closer inspection I could see that it was silver with a stamped pattern on one side so I put it in a bag and then worked my way back to the cars. I stopped to show Richard my finds and see what else had been found. Just my luck as another hammered gold had come from the first field.

my first Saxon find

After a quick discussion with a few members I showed them the item, the best we could guess at was ring money. It was only when I got home and entered it on UKDFD that it was identified as a Saxon sword ring, my first Saxon find and to say that I was happy was an understatement and the fact that it is quite rare made it all the more pleasing.

Lady luck played her part on what was a great days detecting ie perfect day, good company and a great find to top it off !! Many thanks to Richard and Gill at Central Searchers for all their hard work and a great site.



Meteorites – By Oldgitjohn

About 18 months ago, whilst out detecting, I got a cracking signal from a piece of “rock”, weighing about 2.5 kilos., and magnetic.

I had a feeling that it was meteorite, and took it to a local university department, and was told that it was slag. I kept it until a few days ago, when I gave it to a neighbour, who collects crystals as well as other stones.

She showed me a report sent to her after she had shown it to a friend, who is an astronomer, who showed it to someone who collects meteorites.

The report effectively says that, my find IS INDEED a meteorite, which in all probability predates our solar system, and that it is a valuable item, due to its rarity as far as Cornwall is concerned. It goes on to say that, “with provenance”, its value would increase considerably. I am the one who can provide the provenance.

The strange thing is that, it is one of two, found in the same field, over a year apart, but only about ten feet apart in distance. The

first one weighed in at over three times the weight of this one, and, I gave that away too.

At present, I am unable to post any pictures, but, I would say that, if you find a “lump” of stone with your detector, take it home, try putting a magnet near to it, and if the magnet sticks to it, check out what you have.

My latest research shows this one to be valued at about £1800, without the provenance, which is going to prove the rarity. As far as I can see, meteorite groundings are non existent in Cornwall, according to the world’s leading mapping database on the subject.



Photo by kevinzim - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/86624586@N00/10188485/>

Testing the 8.5 x 11 DD Coil on the Garrett Ace 250

By Bob Dixon

Here is my report and initial tests of the new Garrett 8.5" x 11" DD PROformance search coil, fitted to the Garrett Ace 250. Most 250 owners will be using the standard coil, and much of this report is a comparison between that and the new DD coil.

The build quality is very good, and the new coil seems to be a strong design. It is a good fit onto the lower stem, and there is no drooping or need for any coil support. When first fitted it looks enormous, compared with the standard coil. But the biggest surprise is the weight, or to be more correct the lack of weight.

6.5" x 9" (No Coil Cover) = 454gms or 16oz

6.5" x 9" (With Coil Cover) = 515gms or 18.2oz

8.5"x11" (No Coil Cover) = 468 gms or 16.50 oz

8.5x11"(withcoilcover)=514gmsor18.2oz



So for all of its extra size, the new coil come in just a fraction heavier than the standard coil.

Above are some pictures of both coils side by side.

Now onto some air testing of the two coils. I know many of you will not agree with tests done in this way, but they have been done to provide a comparison.

Below are some pictures of the targets used in the test. These include UK and US I tried to keep the test between the two coils identical, and as fair as possible.



The tests were done on a wooden surface, away from any metals or electrical

interference. I ran the targets past the coils at a normal sweep speed, and not whipping them to achieve better results. I only recorded good two way signals. The 250 was set in the All Metal mode, and each coil was tested at sensitivity settings of 4 and 6. It should be noted that the DD coil suffers more from electrical interference than the standard coil. But I have found this to be a characteristic of all the DD coils I have used in the past.



Below is a table showing the test results.

Garrett Ace 250 Coil Comparison Air Tests (All Metal)				
	6.5 x 9 Coil		8.5 x 11 Coil	
	Sen = 4	Sen = 6	Sen = 4	Sen = 6
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
UK Decimal One Pence	6	8	7	9
UK Decimal Two Pence	7	9	8	10
UK Decimal Five Pence	5	7	7	8
UK Decimal Ten Pence	7	8	8	9
UK Decimal Twenty Pence	7	8	8	9
UK Decimal Fifty Pence	8	9	9	10
UK Decimal One Pound	7	8	9	10
UK Decimal Two Pound	8	9	9	11
Pre Decimal Penny 1960's	8	9	9	11
Pre Decimal Half Penny 1960's	7	8	8	10
Georgian Cartwheel Penny 1700's	8	9	9	11
Hammered Silver Groat 1400's	7	8	7	8
Hammered Cut Half 1200's	5	6	5	6
Small Roman Bronze 4th Century	6	7	7	8
Roman Silver Denarius 4th Century	6	7	7	9
Wheat Cent 1957	6	8	7	9
Nickel 1941	6	7	7	9
Dime 1964	6	7	7	8
Quarter 1943	7	8	8	10
Half Dollar 1964	7	8	8	10
Bicentennial Dollar 1976	8	9	9	11
9ct Gold Ring	7	8	8	10
Sterling Silver Ring	7	8	8	10
Pull Tab	7	8	8	10
Bottle Top	7	8	8	10
Crotal Bell	9	10	10	12

The Value of Belonging to a Club

By scratchiemm

A few years ago I had to give up my passion for golf on account of a back injury. My good friend then said 'so what hobby are you going to do now?' I thought I had plenty of hobbies, but none that would take me outdoors and give me some sort of exercise.

So I thought long and hard;
I have always been interested in history;
I have always been good at finding things.
So what better a combinationmetal detecting.

In those early days I knew absolutely nothing about anything, didn't even know anyone who possessed a metal detector, let alone professed to be a detectorist!

I knew NOTHING!!

I researched the types of metal detectors, but knew nothing about gaining permission on the land or indeed anything about the types of finds one could expect. I knew NOTHING!!

Yet I decided to take the plunge with a 'top of the range' detector. My thought being that if it didn't work out at least I could sell it on ebay!

The detector arrived and I was eager to go...

Uh, Oh, I didn't have any permission anywhere!

In the mean time, before the detector arrived I had been searching everywhere on the web for anyone close to me and managed to locate a website within my county.

I emailed one of the people on the site about a cannon ball I had found as a child and as luck would have it, he replied. We swapped several emails and when I said I was just taking up metal detecting he suggested we meet up and invited me to a dig with his partner. They were looking for the remains of a 2WW plane crash.

That was my first ever proper dig and although I didn't find much, I learnt a lot from them by just watching how they went around searching.

They didn't invite me to anything further other than a 'meeting' with the local FLO.

I was hooked...

By that time I had secured my first farm which proved to be replete with Roman coins. So when I turned up to my first meeting with a few Roman grots I really got into what detecting was all about... exchanging stories, showing finds, identifying obscure bits of metal.

I was hooked...

At the meeting there were the two guys I had gone digging with, plus a few other like minded detectorists from the locality. A couple of months later they decided to form a club. I signed up instantly.

Five years down the line and our club is flourishing. We have digs every fortnight and meetings every other month. Our ethos is strongly linked to the reporting and recording of finds and to the camaraderie engendered through our digs and meetings. We have our own private forum on the internet, so can keep in touch

with everything that is going on. I produce a bi-monthly newsletter covering all club digs and finds and our club chairman uses this to persuade new landowners to let us venture onto his land.

In the five years I have been detecting, I don't think I would be as knowledgeable as I am today without the benefit of my club. I'm not sure I would have been able to go out week after week on my own without the back up of detectorists and now friends who can instantly identify some coin or artefact.

moan that you have found 'bugger all'.

I do enjoy lone detecting, but I enjoy more the group environment where you can show off your finds or moan that you have found 'bugger all'.

I am a twin and throughout my life my twin brother hasn't been in the slightest bit interested in my hobbies and likewise

I haven't been particularly interested in his. We have different lives, but through detecting we meet up weekly/fortnightly. (I introduced him to the hobby and the club).

Our united passion for the hobby means we can dig together, meet up on club digs and spend a lot more time together than we would have done otherwise.

The club scene doesn't suit everyone, but I know from my experience that it is a great way to get started in this fabulous hobby and if you are fortunate to have one, then it is a great way to get lots of different land to dig on, to discuss the latest detectors, to learn how to identify hammereds, to show off finds, to learn the difference between a long cross and a short cross, to spot an obvious Roman grot or a blank Georgian, plus to make great friends, and in my case stay close to my brother.



It's just an old Vicky Penny!

Ever since I first started metal detecting I have always found old pennies and ha'pennies. These have mainly been on parkland or recreational areas but I have also found my share on farmland also. It is fair to say that many of these coins have seen 'better days' but there are occasions when the soil conditions have been very kind and the coins have come out the ground in excellent condition.

Post hammered ha'pennies and pennies (excluding Maundy) come in three different metals: copper, bronze and tin. It is the bronze coinage that was first introduced in 1860 that I'll look at in a bit more detail. The composition back then was 95% copper, 4% tin and 1% zinc, although it has differed slightly over the life of the coin. The weight of the coins, however, between 1860 and 1967 did not alter a great deal. The penny averaged 9.45g and the ha'penny 5.66g with a diameter of 30.81mm and 25.47mm respectively.

Heaton also assisted the Royal Mint during 1874 to 1882 and for several years during the reign of King George V. You can often distinguish these coins by the letter H next to the date. Another company that helped produce pennies was Kings Norton Co. Ltd. These offered their skills during the years 1918 and 1919, and have a KN by the date.

Extremely collectable coins

These coins can be extremely collectable. In fact there are collectors worldwide who just collect pennies and ha'pennies. The most collectable ones are the Victorian period. During this period many different dies were used and it is not uncommon to find a date of a penny, which could have anything up to six variable die mixes of the obverse and reverse of the coin. Some of the variations are extremely minor.



When the copper coinage was first introduced all the coins were minted in London. However during the years 1860-3 many coins were minted in Birmingham by engineering firms Messrs Ralph Heaton & Sons and Messrs Boulton and Watt.

These can be anything from a colon missing or extra leaves in the wreath. There are also coins that have low tides and high tides in relation to Britannia. Just a slight difference in the die type can make a huge difference to a collector.

Some of these coins (even in poor condition) can still be extremely collectable.

a scale of rarity

As with many different type of coin, there is a scale of rarity, as far as ha'pennies and pennies are concerned. This was calculated by Freeman and makes an attempt to estimate how rare a particular bronze coin actually is. An R20 coin is believed to be unique against an R2 coin which may have up to 1 million in existence. It is fairly accurate in its calculations but isn't exact. However a number of collectors do use it to determine how rare their variety is.

It is fair to say that metal detectorist's don't go out looking for old pre-decimal pennies and ha'pennies, in fact for many these are the last thing that they would wish to find.

However as can be seen from above, a 'Vicky' penny, need not always disappoint. Just like any other coinage there are rare dates and varieties, and hopefully more will come to light in years to come. The vast majority will sadly be nothing more than scrap to a serious collector but there are exceptions. Next time you find a Victorian Penny, think before you put it in your scrap bucket.

Treasurehunterste Dec 2010



With almost 500 members visiting every single day and 100's of new posts every day it is so easy for you, the members of UKDN, to miss out on some very interesting posts. So, each month in the magazine we will bring to your attention some posts that you might have missed like.....

Did you see the pink snow mentioned in the link below?

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=101612>

Did you see the 46 posts in the "other interests" thread - very interesting !!

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=101668>

Amazing RC jet plane video..Dear Santa - An amazing youtube video of a radio controlled jet that looks and sounds like the real thing. One of the ultimate boys toys .

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=101049>

White Horse or White Dog?? The Uffington White Horse has been caught up in an identity battle after it was suggested it could be a dog.

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=100485>

Enamelled Disc? A find of regional importance but something anyone of us could have mis-identified?

<http://www.forumukdetectornet.co.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=157&t=98847>

***UKDN Fun Point Press and Pray
Camera
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION***



Point, Press and Pray Winner – Corinne Mills

This wee robin flew through the open door today into the house and I had to rescue it

Camera Canon PowerShot SD770 IS

Exposure 0.008 sec (1/125)

Aperture f/8.0

Focal Length 6.2 mm

ISO Speed 80

Taken using macro settings

UKDN FUN DSLR Camera PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



DSLR Winner – Coenwolf (Jeff Cohen)

The berry eater. A waxwing getting his dinner - after over a 1000 shots of waxwings over the last few weeks, I finally managed to get some that I really liked today.

**Camera Canon EOS 50D
Exposure 0.001 sec (1/2000)
Aperture f/5.6 Focal
Length 400 mm
ISO Speed 400**

Fifteen Years to Find a Hoard!

by Hammered

This story starts in 2005 when one evening I called round to see a friend, a farmer on whose land I detect. He met me with a grin and handed me a very nice Eliz 1 sixpence, "you dont need a detector to find treasure, dad found that on the surface of ***** field between the gate and the tree", I said that it was in such good condition it must have come from a hoard, though I didn't really believe my own statement, the field in question was in the middle of nowhere, and having researched the local area, knew that the field was waste in the medieval period and enclosed in the 1800s to pasture, with no tracks or nearby settlement in its history.



Thinking that the coin must be a casual loss it wasn't until Aug 28th 2009 that finding myself limited as to productive sites to detect on, I made up my mind to give the field a try, the morning was spent getting a few jobs out of the way and it wasn't until late afternoon that I set off with my cs5mx, I aimed to be back by five to get tea ready as the wife was at work. I called at the farm yard to check the exact find spot with the farmer, then off I went across several pasture fields to the arable land. Twenty minutes later I was back. Have you found anything ? I cant even find

the right bloody field I exclaimed, I was now losing interest in the idea of detecting this field, but listened carefully as directions were given again. Off I went, I found the field and spent two and a half hours backwards and forwards between gate and tree, the soil was heavy clay and hard going in the dry conditions, I had forgotten a drink in my rush and it was damn hot, all I had to show for my efforts were two lumps of iron crud!

now my heart was starting to speed up

I was now cheesed off, that was enough I was going. Leaving the area of tree and gate I zig zagged despondently back towards the car... Double bang! Wow a Eliz 1 sixpence in good nick, pleased that I had found something for my efforts I walked on, bang and



up came a James sixpence, now my heart was starting to speed up, two steps and a James shilling.

by now I was a giggling idiot

I rang the wife in a state of some excitement, I told her I may not make it home in time to make tea I may have a purse loss. Within ten yards I had 30-40 coins, by now I was a giggling idiot and had to sit down and have a fag break.

It was dark by the time I located the source of the coins ie two earthen ware Ryedale type broken drinking vessels at a depth of 8 inches, and had some 200 coins in my finds bag, the final total for 2009 was 689 coins of Ed 6th, Mary 1st, Eliz 1, James 1st, Charles 1, and Phillip 4th Spanish Netherlands, the latest coin 1641-2. 2010 produced another 42 coins and I'm sure there will be more next year. My hopeful theory is that whoever hid the hoard may not have put all his eggs in one basket, I just hope it doesn't take another fifteen years to prove it. Good luck everyone and recheck those barren fields.



UK DETECTOR NET CLOTH BADGES



Design is as the photo complete with your username. Cost is £7.50 including postage. If you require one then click the Paypal "Buy Now" button on the UKDN Shop page or send cheque/PO made out to UK DETECTOR NET, to Mr B Cross, 52 Stonehills Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5UL

Badge creation is now very fast. Go to

http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=84:ukdn-shop&catid=53:latest-news&Itemid=18

This Months Identification

A PENNY OF EDWARD I

December has been a very difficult month for most of us and finds have been few and far between so, to start off this regular ID slot I have gone back to a November find, and chosen an Edward I penny of my own to show the basics of identifying these types of coins.

This is the coin in question, and is an Edward I class 10cf3 London penny.

So where do we start to get to this ID?





Firstly, the coin is 18mm in diameter which suggests it is a penny rather than a half-penny or farthing.

Next, the reverse shows a solid cross with no space in the centre of the arms and the cross reaches to the outer edge of the coin. This makes it a long-cross coin, and so later than either the voided short cross or voided long cross coins. This solid, long cross was introduced on the coins of Edward I so we can discount any of the earlier monarchs.

By orienting the coin as it is shown, with the C of CIVI just past 12 o'clock, the reverse legend reads CIVITAS LONDON (City of London) so the coin is minted in London.

The style of some of the letters is also important, and the very sinuous, one-piece S

in particular, without a fat, egg-shaped middle and not made up of individual crescents and wedges, is a feature of coins in the later classes.

Next, the obverse (bust side) legend reads EDWA R ANGL DNS HYB so there is a pretty big clue that this is a coin of one of the King Edwards.

This legend is actually an abbreviation of:

EDWARDVS REX ANGLORVM DOMINVS HIBERNIE (Edward, King of the English, Lord of Ireland) but would be too big to fit on the coin so we see the shortened version.

The abbreviation of the legend on this coin is used only on Edward I and Edward II coins so that narrows it down some more.

The legend is also important in determining the class of the coin and the one on this coin is only used on rare coins of Edward I class 6b and 8a and, most commonly, on coins of Edward I class 10 and Edward II classes 11 to 13.

So now we have to look at the real detail to narrow down the monarch and the class.

There are certain standard terms used to describe the parts of coins and the picture below shows the more important ones.



For

London pennies of Edward I classes 6b, 8 and 10 and Edward II, the initial mark is the cross pattée as on this coin so that all fits.

The drapery is also significant, and is formed of two wedges that meet in the middle and have forked ends. This points to Edward I class 10cf or Edward II class 11.

Now, the crown is very important and generally changes with each class of coin.

The outer fleurs are bifoliate, as all pennies from class 10 onwards are.

On the coin above, the ornaments are looking quite ragged and not well-formed. They are meant to be spearheads. The one on the left is particularly misshapen and seems to be hooked slightly towards the central fleur.

This is the clincher, as this particular feature is only seen on the class 10cf3 of Edward I.

So, there you have it, every coin has its own set of features that, together, narrow it down to a very specific time and place of manufacture. If only it could tell us the story of the rest of its life!

Tom Redmayne December 2010

Dr. Geoff Egan

It is with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of Dr Geoff Egan over the Christmas period.

Geoff was the Medieval and, later, the National Finds Advisor - Early Medieval to Post Medieval objects for the PAS. He recently moved location from the Museum of London to the British Museum, where he took up the mantle of Early and Post-Medieval Treasure Co-ordinator.

His outstanding work and contribution to both archaeology and metal detecting cannot be underestimated and his loss will be felt by many, many people.

We at UKDN would like to offer our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Geoff and to say that he will be greatly missed by us all.



Best News Stories from December 2010

Ashmolean Museum acquires a hoard of Angels

The Ashmolean Museum is delighted to announce the acquisition of a spectacular Tudor hoard of 210 English gold angels and half-angel coins, found in the Cotswolds, Oxfordshire. Spanning the period from 1470-1526, covering the Wars of the Roses to ten years before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the hoard is the largest intact assemblage of its kind. It contains some rare pieces, most notably from the reign of Kings Henry VI, 2nd reign (1470-1471) and Richard III (1483-1485).

<http://www.finds.org.uk/news/stories/article/id/202>

Artefacts discovered at a Roman villa near Aberystwyth are making archaeologists rethink the way the Romans lived in the area. The remains of the 4th Century building were discovered at Abermagwr in 2006 and confirmed by excavations in July 2010.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/midwales/hi/people_and_places/news-id_9268000/9268853.stm

Why Frome is still cashing in on the Romans

Last April, a man who hated history at school unearthed the largest coin hoard ever found in Britain. But why had it been buried in a field in Somerset?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/dec/12/roman-coins-frome-metal-detector>

A massive storm that swept across Israel has knocked down part of an archaeological dig site exposing a rare 1,700-year-old Roman-era statue. The headless marble statue of a woman was discovered buried in the sand by a resident walking near the shore in the southern city of Ashkelon.

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/4/20101215/twl-storm-reveals-roman-statue-41f21e0.html>

IRON Age gold coins likely to be worth more than £4,500 have been declared treasure trove.

Now the rare find could be placed on permanent display at Canterbury's refurbished Beaney Museum if a successful bid is made by the city council.

The nine "Stater" coins, dating back to between 50 and 60 BC, were discovered in a field at Chartham between September 2008 and February last year by David Villanueva of Whitstable and Carol Smith.

<http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/where/whitstable/Iron-Age-treasure/article-3028176-detail/article.html>

A Soldier's Christmas

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree, I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep
in perfect contentment, or so it would seem.
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eye when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
and I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

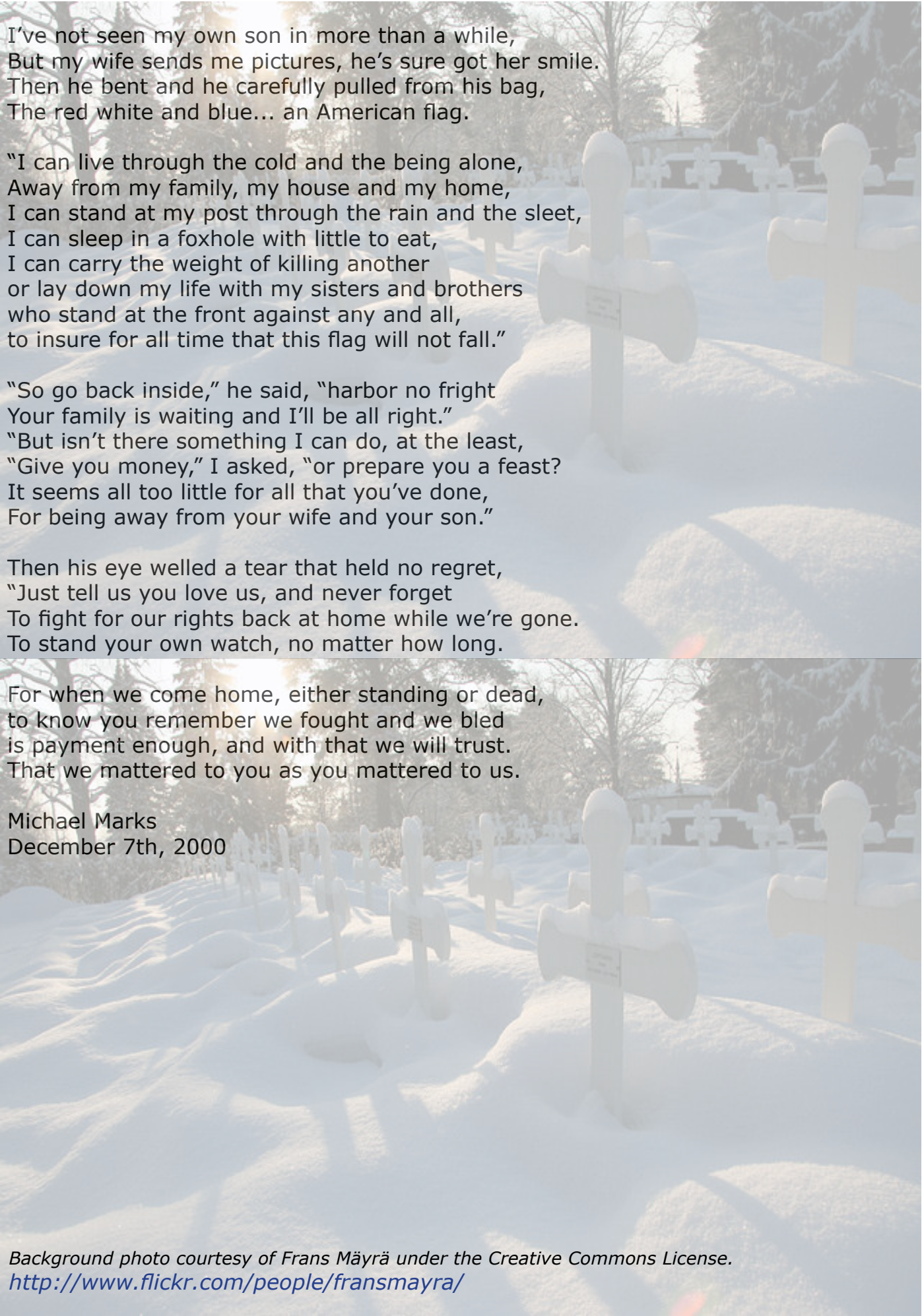
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts,
to the window that danced with a warm fire's light
then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night"

"Its my duty to stand at the front of the line,
that separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"
then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.



I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red white and blue... an American flag.

"I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home,
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat,
I can carry the weight of killing another
or lay down my life with my sisters and brothers
who stand at the front against any and all,
to insure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone.
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead,
to know you remember we fought and we bled
is payment enough, and with that we will trust.
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

Michael Marks
December 7th, 2000

Background photo courtesy of Frans Mäyrä under the Creative Commons License.
<http://www.flickr.com/people/fransmayra/>

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 magazines 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 detectorists 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.