

# The UKDN WORD

World Of Responsible Detecting



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# Message from UKDN Admin

Welcome everyone to the July 2010 Edition of The Word, the UKDN's very own on-line newsletter/magazine. As we write this it is fairly obvious looking at the crops in the fields that some of them are going to be coming out very very shortly. When they do then watch the UKDN Forums for the pictures of some fabulous finds coming out of the ground - it happens year in, year out !!

As reported for the past few months, banner advertisements do now appear within UKDN. But these do not change nor are they those annoying pop-up adverts. All we ask is that you support the traders who have taken up the banners by clicking on the banners and purchasing this way.

As part of the 1600th anniversary of the removal of the Roman state from Britannia this year (410 AD) we'd like to encourage all our members to record their Roman finds, in particular with the PAS, through your local FLO. What a great way for all of us to make a great contribution to the Roman history of these Islands. In September we're going to have a specific Roman month on UKDN with all sorts of things going on to educate and stimulate interest in 400 years of Roman rule.

We'd like to ask anyone if they have anything they feel they could contribute to please do so by contacting one of the staff members or the Newsletter team, be that an article, a 'best Roman find', or an idea of something we could do on the forum during September? We'd like to make the Newsletter a bumper offering by getting as many of our membership and beyond involved; so if you have any contacts then please do get in touch with us.

We are still looking for contributions from members or from members clubs so spread the word and ask your club to submit something, maybe about the club itself or a quick breakdown of last months competitions. All contributions will be accepted. Its **YOUR** newsletter so why not use it?

A new UKDN free Lottery will be run next Thursday so watch out for the bulk email.

Hopefully your fields will become free in the next month or so. Looking forward to seeing you on UKDN

Brian, Mo' and The Team

# Message from UKDN Admin

We reported last month that you may be seeing the occasional banner on some of the UKDN Forums.

We are pleased to report that several Dealers and Manufacturers have taken up our offer and their banners now feature within UKDN. This is a huge relief and will go a long way of relieving our constant battle to raise the money to keep UKDN free to the end user - YOU !!

Regton's banners appears on both "Discussions" and "Please ID My Finds", Whites banner appear in "Detector Talk", Minelab's banner will appear in both "Pictures of Your Finds" and "Chit Chat" whilst UKDN new boy Evergreen Detectors have taken up the space in "Notice Board"

Obviously these dealers will be monitoring the number of people who click onto their banners so we ask all UKDN members..... if you need a product then click on the respective banners and purchase through the web site. In this way these dealers and manufacturers will see that UKDN is bringing them the business.

## Welcome to Evergreen Detectors

UKDN is pleased to announce that a new dealers has come on-board—Evergreen Detectors. Owner Tim Kennett told us that being present on UK DETECTOR NET should give his company the raised profile he is after. Evergreens' banner advert appears at the top of Notice Board and we ask that you click it to show your support and see what Evergreen has to offer.

We hope that Tim will be happy with what UKDN can bring to his business and tells others about us.



# Find of the Month Coin—**Edward the Confessor Penny**

**By Chris Hall**

As a member of the Weekend Wanderers detecting club, the dig at Crawley that was announced for Saturday May 22, 2010 was a must. Although I had searched these fields with the club before, I hadn't had the chance to use my new Deus there. I knew that some amazing finds had been made from the Crawley site, but good finds were getting harder and harder to make. It was a question of putting up with the lack of too many signals with the real hope that something special could surface! For me, it did!

Having spent an hour or so on the field nearest to the car parking area with nothing more than a few buttons and other odds and ends to show for my efforts, I decided to move onto what the club members called 'the top field'. My very first signal on this field sounded very sweet, and I was hopeful that it was something worthwhile. When a small coin surfaced with the first turn of my spade, I couldn't believe my luck as it had a definite Saxon look to it! To say I was delighted is an understatement, as I had never found a Saxon coin before in 25 years of detecting! At first, I thought the coin was a contemporary forgery as it was so light and appeared to be thicker than other Saxon pennies I had seen.

The coin was identified in the field by a fellow detectorist who had found an identical one (also his first) just a couple of weeks earlier on another site. I took some photos on my iPhone and texted them to 'Steve T' on one of the detecting forums. Within a few minutes he had positively identified it as a penny of Edward the Confessor dating from 1048 -1050. The wonders of modern technology never cease to amaze me! It was possible to narrow the coin down to that extent as it's an example of the small flan type, Spink reference 1175 (B.M.C. II).

The Deus is by far the best detector I have owned. Since first using it in January 2010, I have found 23 hammies, a gold sovereign, a Gallo Belgic stater, a Mark Antony denarius and many other coins and artefacts. My initial thoughts about the coin being a contemporary forgery were unfounded, and a glance at the Spink catalogue explained all. The notes in Spink confirm that there was "considerable weight fluctuation within and between the types. This was unaffected by the smallness of the flan, rather the coin might be thicker to compensate."

Although some members of the Weekend Wanderers club groan when Crawley is named as a dig venue, I was certainly pleased that the site is still in use and I will look forward to my next visit to the fields that have been very kind to a large number of detectorists over the years. **Chris Hall**







**Treasure**  
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING  
METAL DETECTING MAGAZINE



# Find of the Month Artefact—**17th Century** **Spur**

## By **Padge (David)**

The field where this spur was found has been fallow for a year and with only one crop of wheat the year before and many years of lying fallow before it, has remained largely undisturbed for many a long time. As a result, I have been able to search the field at leisure and, over the years, have found coins and artefact's ranging from Roman (coins, brooches and spoons), Saxon (strap ends, stirrup mounts, brooches, pennies) through the Middle Ages (coins, strap ends, gold finger ring) right up to date. I thought I had found it all,.... But don't we all?

This day I had fortunately had a full days pass from my wife so I spent a few hours gently wandering about at leisure, randomly picking lines to follow. As a result, I was taking things slowly and paying particular attention to what my GoldMax was saying to me. I was walking across the old plough line and sticking to a particular line as I had already picked up a musket ball and a couple of harness rings and I didn't want to spoil my luck.

A faint but positive signal made me stop; now I pick up an awful lot of Eley pennies (old shotgun cartridge bases that is) and thought this was another but the signal didn't sound quite right. I have a small shovel 10 inches deep and so dug down to that level. Nothing in the waste so I checked the hole again and got a belting signal, one of those that herald something interesting; definitely not the bugling of lead but also not that sweet crystal ringing of a silver coin.

So I removed another spade full of soil but I still was getting a signal from the hole. Just before I was about to plunge the spade in again I noticed a dull green object, only about an inch long, that had been disturbed by the last spade full. I bent down to lift it out thinking 'strap end again' but pulled out a 'y' shaped object mostly covered in soil. Heart races as I brush off the dirt and see what looked like ring and dot decorations; heart beating faster now I brushed all the soil off and could see it was a spur, some silver and gold gilding showing but the decorations were superb.

Once home and still thinking Saxon I uploaded a few photo's and I was only mildly disappointed with the I.d. As 17th Century. It's a shame it is not complete but the break is very old so I have decided that it broke whilst in use 400 years ago by someone from the landed gentry, or whatever passed for landed gentry in the 1600's!

**David**









# Find of the Month Artefact—**1st Century**

## **Votive Mini Axe**

By **Tinner (Christopher Phillips)**

Although we haven't got much land to detect on at the moment, the standard phone call went out to my dad on Sunday morning "Get your gear ready, I'm coming over!" On arrival we mused over what was available to us. We are lucky that some of our land incorporates a large dairy herd which has lots of pasture and grows a large amount of silage maize. We decided to try one of the silage maize fields as in the past it has produced a few interesting artefacts.

With the maize just breaking through, this gives a great guide for parallel detecting in blocks and seems to concentrate the detecting into a much neater pattern. This still didn't stop dad wandering all over the place - as usual - trying to find a hot spot.

As I had taken a corner of the field, I decided to do approximately 50m strips up and down, working out from the fence. The normal buttons and cartridges came up, and fairly near the end of the session I received a nice clear signal from my e-trac. This I dug. At first the signal was fairly deep so I took a second spadeful to find the object was then in the spoil heap. Thinking it was going to be a small coin, I then used my Garrett probe to search the spoil where to my delight I noticed a very small bronze artefact which I recognised straight away as a small votive axe. I shouted up to Dad to come over and have a look at what I'd found. He was very pleased for me.

As this was getting towards the end of the session, we decided to quit while the going was good and headed home for a cup of coffee. I was then able to gently rinse the artefact and take some clear pictures to post it on the UK Detector Net site.

I will hand this in to Katie Hinds, the FLO, when she drops off our last lot of bits.

Chris







**Treasure**  
hunting

BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING  
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Photograph of the Month Competition

**Point Press & Pray**

Winner—**Chalkers**



## **Sydney Skyline**

Camera used :  
Canon Ixus 970IS



## Photograph of the Month Competition

### **DSLR Camera**

Winner— **Puffin**



Sunset, Shell Island Beach, Wales.

Canon EOS 450d 18-55mm Kit Lens.

You can view more of Puffin's photos here on Flickr

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/barry\\_carpenter/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/barry_carpenter/)

## Photograph of the Month Competition

### **DSLR Camera**

Winner— **Ceasar**



A wasp emerging from its nesting pod

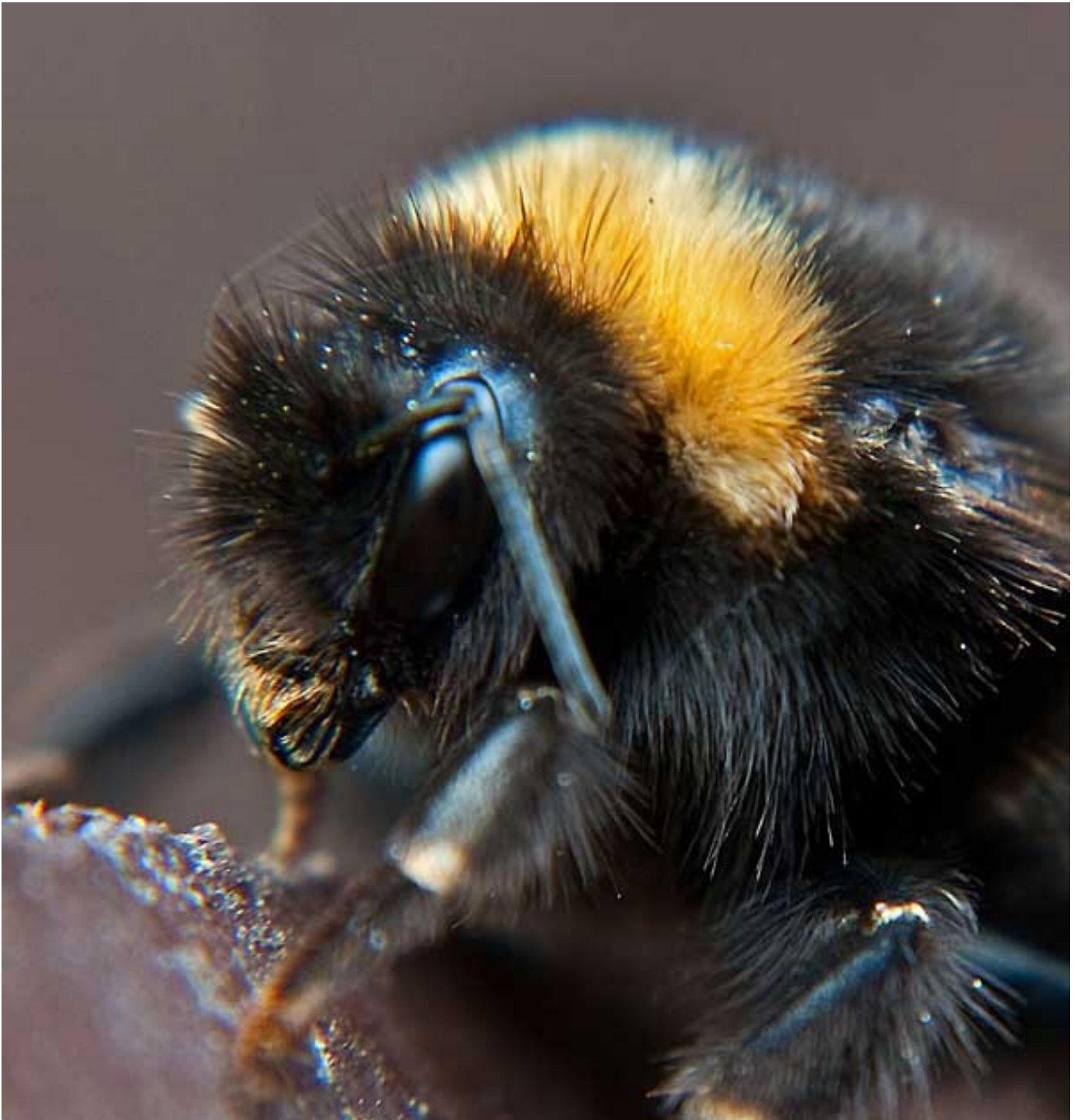
Camera used:  
Olympus E620



Photograph of the Month Competition

**DSLR Camera**

Winner— **Squonk**



Bumble Bee

Nikon D90 with 18-105mm kit lens  
fitted with +4, +2 and +1 close up filters

# **In defence of a castle**

## **A Civil War skirmish in Gloucestershire**

Rarely in the course of metal detecting can you have what I call the 'perfect storm' by way of certain elements coming together that make history, historical documents and archaeology come to life in what I would consider such a small area!

Over the past four years I have been part of a team from the University of Bristol who have been undertaking a research excavation in the market town of Berkeley, South Gloucestershire. The research we have been undertaking has been in pursuance of what is an Early Medieval double Minster site; that is two monastic houses (Churches and ancillary buildings) situated within a monastic enclosure.

Documentary evidence shows that there were at least two churches on this promontory site over-looking the Severn Vale, though there is circumstantial evidence that there were possibly four churches at one point or another! During the Middle Anglo Saxon period of the ninth and tenth centuries there were potentially two churches for monks and nuns, the later described as a nunnery.

The nunnery predates the Castle and was part of a known Anglo Saxon hamlet called Beorclingas (*ingas* often referred to a religious site or community). Nunnery's in those days were often used by the unmarried or widowed daughters of the ruling class, certainly not what we would consider frugal or a life of hardship or continual penance as is so often depicted for everyone who lived there; that kind of monastic life did exist, but more so toward the High Medieval period between the late 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Although the remit of the research is looking for this minster site, that does entail a lot of other local history as you might imagine, especially as at the end of the promontory on which Berkeley stands there is a Norman Castle built in stone which dates from 1153 AD.

The castle has dominated the landscape since that time, indeed documents reveal that the castle was built from the remains of the monastic site which was closed by Earl Godwin after the nunnery was brought into disrepute around 1043 AD; although there is some evidence that nuns were still on the site centuries later when a receipt was processed which included the garments for some nuns. Berkeley Castle is the longest continually held family seat of any one family in the UK, with over 800 years of continual use, so you can imagine the historical significance of the site and surrounding landscape



**(Fig. 1). An aerial map showing the confines of the monastic site.**



As with all archaeology you start at the top and work your way down through the stratigraphy or layers built up after six thousand years of constant use. Although I was there to excavate, it was also part of my remit to detect the spoil heaps and mark any significant finds within the trench itself. If one thing has proven more than a little useful to being involved with this excavation it's the fact that I have found upward of 95% of all metal finds, proving that the lack of a metal detector on an archaeological site is nothing less than throwing away really good information onto the spoil-heap!

Using my trusted Minelab Explorer II (and Minelab Etrac this year) meant I could tell from my screen what exactly I was passing my coil over which saved a great deal of time and of course finds. The top soil in the area where we were digging was from a Victorian/Edwardian kitchen garden and very much full of modern finds, from ubiquitous grapevine wall-pins to coins dating back to George 1<sup>st</sup>. The first year proved mildly productive with some 30-40 special finds (these are finds considered to be man-made from any material, excluding pottery or stone); remembering that in those days gardens were always double dug, so material was fairly mixed up for at least 18-24 inches down. Within this group were some musket balls, the first clues to what would later turn out to be a Civil War skirmish site that had up until then only been mentioned in the pages of books and other documents

**(Fig. 2). Picture of the first trench**



In 2008 the 'Special Finds' recorded jumped from 30-40 to well over 120 including some nice Anglo Saxon artefacts, one being a possible Aestle (monastic page turner) from the 8<sup>th</sup> century and of national importance as there is no parallel to it .

**(Fig. 3). Picture of 8<sup>th</sup> century Aestle.**



Within the 2008 detected finds were some more musket balls and a couple of pistol shot (pistol shot were used mainly by the cavalry, muskets used by the infantry). These details became clearer later, but go to show that you can tell a story from finds that at first seem insignificant!

Now the site of our trench in the Paddock is situated on the west end of St Mary's church which in historical maps of the 17thC shows an early medieval lane leading up to a stone cross which sat outside the west end of the church, this was called St Michael's Lane and until we started excavating, and found it, had not seen the light of day for some 400 years



**(Fig. 4). Picture of St Michael's Lane in trench.**





In the west end door of St Mary's church there is still evidence of the Civil War in the form of cut loopholes for muskets, and further evidence by way of impact holes that can be seen in the surrounding stonework. What has not been clear is what has happened between the high Street at the bottom of the slope leading away from the church and the church itself some 50-80 metres uphill to the east from the High Street? During the first year of excavation in the paddock some peculiar discoveries were made in the form of a row of 23 skeletons of men, women and children.....peculiar because they had a wall built over them which was some 10 feet high! It seems that in the 1750's the Berkeley family who owned the paddock decided to build a wall around it, but in doing so they either took back some land that was theirs or they, let's say, had a bit of a land grab, because all the skeletons were pinned to the ground at waste level. From what we can tell all these skeletons are Post Medieval in date and will be laid to rest on the other side of the wall in the churchyard that is now some 4-5 feet above the ground level in the paddock. Around all these skeletons were found lots of disarticulated bones with skulls which did not make a lot of sense at the time, other than they were a product of the walls construction with the digging of footings

**(Fig. 5). Picture of skeletons pinned under the wall.**





During 2009 we peaked at around 240 special finds from all periods and all types of artefacts and coins, in particular I found an Anglo Saxon sceat on the spoil-heap along with a couple of copper alloy Saxon clothes hooks which was good evidence of the early use of the site we'd been looking for. During 2010, Kevin Haughton (Karv) joined the team and made a really positive contribution finding some nice artefacts including a Saxon buckle pin and a musket ball among others, but the number of finds diminished as we came down onto the Anglo Saxon levels as you would expect. I discovered another continental Porcupine type sceat, 695-740 AD, and a superb 10<sup>th</sup> century strapend on top of a cobbled surface; also detected was another 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century strapend in a trench we were digging in the Edward Jenner Museum garden the other side of the graveyard .

**(Fig. 6). Some of the Anglo Saxon coins and artefacts discovered at Berkeley.**



By time we had completed the 2010 season the running total for musket balls and pistol shot stands at:

**2007** – 5 musket balls, 11 pistol shot;

**2008** – 6 musket balls, 1 pistol shot;

**2009** – 11 musket balls, 4 pistol shot;

**2010** – 8 musket balls, 6 pistol shot.

That means that overall we have found 30 musket balls and 22 pistol shot, a total of 52 altogether, some whole, some impacted. Other Civil War finds include buckles, buttons and a couple of powder flask covers, one in excellent condition. When you consider the size of the trench and the fact it's located well below the church I would say there are many more of these projectiles left in the ground!

As stated earlier, under the wall we discovered many articulated skeletons, but just down-hill of them there was a real confusion of the archaeology with scattered bones and skulls in no particular order at all, this as I have mentioned was thought to be due to the digging of footings for the wall which still stands there today. With each consecutive year we've managed to excavate down through the layers and finally this year we came down to what was considered to be natural a metre or so behind where the skeletons had lain. In the natural a change in the colour of the red soil was spotted and what looked like the cut of a ditch was fairly clear, so the fill was dug out over the course of a week.

The one thing you need in these types of features is some dating evidence and that's what started to happen. Firstly as we dug down we came across a small depression which contained two skulls; right next to one of them was found a musket ball. There was no evidence of trauma on either skull and it seems that they were a part of the process of the filling of the ditch rather than evidence of what went on within the ditch when in use. When the ditch was finally excavated to the bottom fill I ran my Etrac over it and had two good signals, one a musket ball, the other a pistol shot

**(Fig. 7). The Civil War ditch after it was excavated.**





What we had found was a defensive trench dating from the Civil War period protecting the ground in front of the church which itself was a defensive position. Now the importance of the church is clear when you see that from its roof it overlooks the castle, so its protection had serious strategic implications; whoever held the church would hold the castle....and this is what panned out when the church was finally taken; a cannon was taken onto its roof and part of the castles curtain wall was destroyed in the ensuing encounter between the Parliamentarians' attacking the Royalist within the castle.

The castle remained in the Berkeley's tenure, but it would take an act of parliament, event today, to have the curtain wall replaced as that was a condition of its continued use given after the war ended and why the castle remains pretty unscathed from that time.

Drawing this altogether with historical documents we can read that Berkeley Castle was a satellite garrison to the city of Bristol under the command of Prince Rupert. We even know that it cost £6000 a month to keep the garrison manned, a considerable sum in those days with much of what was needed being requisitioned from local taxes, the surrounding countryside and local markets! Indeed, one document describes from 1643 the complaint of the royalist Governor at Berkeley to Prince Rupert that he "could not send soldiers out to requisition supplies, because the country people would simply 'knock them down'. Furthermore, he said, they had even mounted a combined attack on a troop of royalist cavalry and 'killed six of them'".

It seems that even the mild old country folk could only take so much in the end and they often banded together in groups called 'clubmen' or 'peace-men', local people who would stand together to defend their property from legalised military looting!

Survival of the neighbouring community became a huge issue as the war went on with the approach of enemy forces who intended to either create a siege or an assault on a garrison. The town of Malmesbury in Wiltshire for instance changed hands six times during the war, putting the local villages in a constant state of jeopardy as it was no longer a case of being concerned about submitting to a call for supplies or taxes, but a case of the loss of their very homes, barns, churches being at stake.

This was because they were seen as potential weakness in the line of defences which required a clear, open ground to be established. In Berkeley this was also the case, but there is no actual record of what was removed other than within our trench we did find the remains of a medieval house that had been stripped down to the very last course of stone, leaving us the outline of the building and little else **(Fig. 8)** So military necessity, therefore, often resulted in a scorched earth policy around the garrison as suburbs outside the walls were razed to the ground.

**Fig 8, Picture of the Paddock building.**



So from documents of the time, which can be very contradictory sometimes, we can glean that on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1642, 'Preparations were made for the defence of Berkeley Castle'. By February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1643 things get a little confusing as Prince Rupert captures Cirencester to east and the parliamentary garrison at Berkeley leaves on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, in what can only be described as a tactical manoeuvre to either retreat or go and attack Prince Rupert at Cirencester? What we do know is that they re-garrisoned the castle on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February through a Lieutenant-Colonel Forbes. By 26<sup>th</sup> July 1643 Prince Rupert had captured Bristol leaving Berkeley left very much left to its own devices, falling to the king's army on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1643, a Captain George Maxwell becoming the new Governor at that time. Moving on, a new royalist Governor was sent to the castle in the form of Sir Charles Lucas who continued in post until the end game of the war was played out. By June 1645 Fairfax's New Model army was camped at Chipping Campden and Northleach some 25 miles to the east, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June a regiment of horse was sent to blockade Lucas at Berkeley Castle, whilst Fairfax moved westwards in pursuit of Goring's army. Things finally came to a head at Berkeley after Prince Rupert lost Bristol on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1645; a Col. Rainsborough then besieged Berkeley Castle, taking it by storm!

It is this final action that was the cause of the skirmish that took place and started in front of St Mary's church and caused the death of some 40 soldiers, another 90 being taken prisoner later on.



It is this same encounter that we now find evidence of in our excavation, both the Musket balls of the infantry, but also of the pistol shot from the regiment of cavalry that were sent to besiege the castle in September 1645. The finds, the defences, the places involved are all still there and now coming back to resplendent life again! **(Figs. 9-10). Just a couple of the many musket balls found at the University of Bristol's Berkeley excavation, one whole the other impacted.**

**Petethedig  
(Pete Twinn).**



**The Post Hole Interview with Club Secretary Phil Du nning of  
York and District Metal Detecting Club - 11 June 2010**

Thanks Erin for giving me the opportunity to put forward my personal thoughts on the questions you have raised. [Click here to visit the Post Hole Website](#)



**How long have you been a metal detectorist?**

I've been a metal detectorist for about 8 years now after working in the Electricity Supply Industry in the Design of Protection and Control Systems and in Project Engineering the installation of control systems at Substations for the National Grid Company.

**What first got you interested in the hobby?**

I saw it mentioned on the Internet and bought a magazine. There is little ploughed land available near where I live so I joined the York Club who have outing organisers who obtain permission to detect on local farms. The members pay to attend each outing, the proceeds over the years have been given to over 30 charities.

**In your opinion what is metal detecting about compared to how it is presented in the media?**

I think the media is misleading people as to what the hobby is really all about, resulting in 'treasure hunters' instead of 'history hunters' buying detectors. People who buy detectors for finding treasure (which is legal), are not necessarily interested in saving our history for future generations which is the ethical aspect to the hobby and is so important.

I wish the media would present a properly balanced view of the hobby and attract more people who want to contribute to the history of our country. [Click here for my views on pages 18 and 19](#)

**How important is metal detecting to the study of the past?**

More important than some of the archaeologists, detectorists and general public realise, we are all somewhat illiterate until informed on this specialised subject. Metal detectorists are now an essential part of a team on archaeological digs and come into their own at flagging up new sites due to high concentrations of finds and can determine the location of battlefields and troop positions by the fall of shot and items lost during the battle.

[Click here for battlefield survey methodology on pages 25 to 29](#)





Recording find spots to 6, 8 and 10 figure National Grid References (NGR's) benefits our heritage in many ways;

Domestic utensils and surface pottery remains show areas of occupation.

Tools, worked or repaired objects and materials show the location of workshops, technologies and resources used in manufacture, patterns of production, the geography of local and overseas trade and communication.

Artefacts compete to be the only existing complete example and the most fully recorded example. Their format, design, function, use, wear and repair show us how they changed over the years.

Jewellery shows us the dress style of the area and period. Coins show us how the Emperor or King dressed and even how he wore his hair. Even the humble **grot** or **brooch** can show us the date of a particular site and places where trade took place.

Votive offerings, weapons, musket balls and grave goods, show us how and where our ancestors worshipped, fought and died.

A concentration of objects found in a small area might lead to a new archaeological site such as a settlement, temple, fort, workshop, burial/cremation, battle ground or market place etc being discovered, or show where a hoard was buried.

Another advantage of finding objects in a small area is to be able to date the site (made easier by dating any coins found), so dating other objects found in the same area that previously were undated. Dating objects on one site assists in the dating of objects on other sites too.

Knowing where nothing is found is also valuable 'negative evidence' for the FLO.

Detecting finds throughout Britain are daily adding to and even re writing our history for the benefit of future generations.

**There is a code of practice which recommends how to go about metal detecting but it is voluntary, do you think this should be enshrined in law and why?**

I think it would be impossible to Police if made compulsory.

Since the setting up of the **Portable Antiquities Scheme** (PAS) over 568,000 objects have been recorded by over 17,000 people, the vast majority being detectorists. The number of PAS recorders is steadily growing due to PAS outreach.

I particularly appreciate and welcome the visits of Liz Andrews-Wilson to our Club (PAS Finds Liaison Officer), and Sam Moorhead (specialist on Iron age/Roman Coins). Liz takes our finds to the Yorkshire Museum, identifies, weighs and measures them, records them on the database and returns them to the Club free of charge. Anyone joining the Club **MUST** agree to record with PAS.

**How would you recommend going about getting involved with the hobby for first timers**

I would recommend joining a Metal Detecting Club such as York and District, the advantages of this are that land is available, you can make new friends and get help along the steep learning curve.

Clubs are often invited to get involved in Community Archaeology Projects for example the York Club has just completed a survey at Heslington where the University Campus is being extended. The survey, headed by Steve Roskams and Cath Neal was attended by 16 of our members who between them put in 36 man days detecting of which the Club is very proud.

**[Click here for information on getting involved in archaeology](#)**

Alternatively a forum like **UK Detectornet** (UKDN) can provide vast amounts of information about the hobby which can be studied at your convenience and you can make on line friends too. The site is dedicated to promoting Responsible Metal Detecting and fully supports the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).



**One of my concerns**

The present system of surveying land prior to construction of roads, supermarkets, estates, university complexes etc, allows only a tiny percentage of a site to be surveyed and the vast majority of detectable metal finds to be covered in tarmac or built on. Also many Battlefield sites are unprotected and at risk from the plough, chemicals etc.

There is an army of metal detectorists willing to help with surveys and confirm battlefield locations and unlock their history, please let us help more, we have Club members ready and willing to do this free of charge.

**Please record your finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme  
for the benefit of future generations**



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



# Imitation Spade Guineas

By Tim Storer

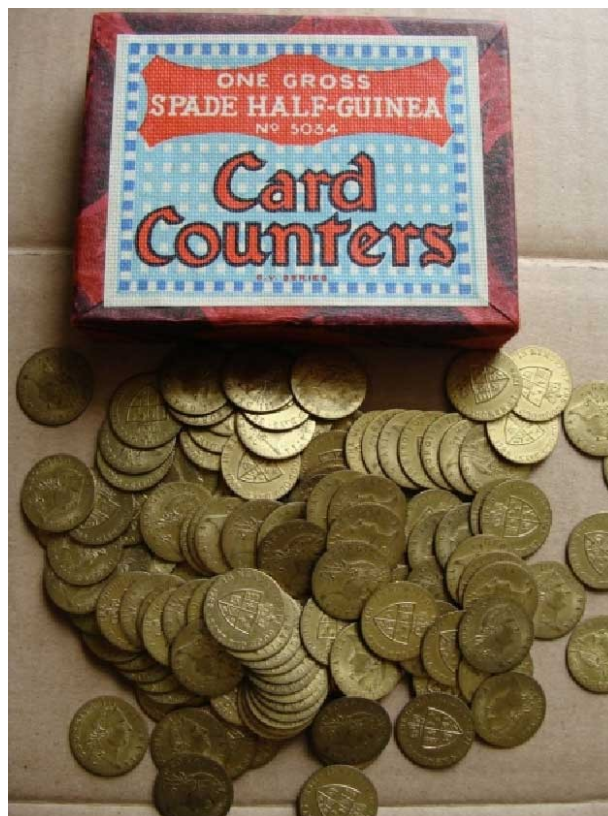
I first became interested in these tokens (if that is the right word) after finding a couple whilst out detecting. I initially thought that they were forgeries but decided that they were too thin to fool anyone so looked for another explanation. After a bit of Googling I came across a listing for a book called "A Thousand Guineas" by W. Bryce Neilson which was published in 2003 by Galata Print.

It took a while to get a copy as the publishers had gone away on holiday for a couple of weeks and had closed up shop. As the book title says, there is an extensive series of over 1000 different varieties of the Guineas including halves and later adaptations. Unfortunately the book has very few illustrations but does have quite good descriptions. It describes their use as gambling pieces, stage money, fob pieces, jewellery, advertising pieces etc.

Although many were pierced by the recipients, they are also known to be manufactured with the holes readymade. Unlike coins, this rarely detracts from the value and condition is not the overriding factor when collecting them.

They mostly depict George III but there are also a couple of dozen for Queen Anne. They come in bronze, copper, copper gilt and silver gilt and they were mostly struck in the 1800's, during the reign of Queen Victoria.

I have also seen examples produced in the early 1900s and as a rule of thumb, the better quality, the earlier they were made. To be described as an Imitation Spade Guinea they must normally have either the bust of King George III on one side or the spade shield copied from the original Guinea. They often came in boxes of one gross although the advertising pieces could come in any quantity





These pieces were never intended as forgeries unlike earlier examples it would be hard to mistake them as Guineas. The Counterfeit Medal Act of 1883 put an end to producing coins that could be mistaken for the original so these tokens had completely different legends, scalloped edges, very thin blanks etc and were easy to spot for what they are. However, they can still give the detectorist a heart flutter when he turns over soil and sees one lying there.

As stated earlier, condition is not high on the list for collectors of this series. Even examples that have been in the ground for a number of years can be collectible if they are rare enough. As such, they can be purchased for a few pence upward to £100 but I rarely see one go over the £20 mark. The box pictured above recently sold on ebay for just under £50 which works out at around 30 per token. All those in my collection were bought for around £1 or £2 although there are a couple that I have gone up to £10 for. Hardly a king's ransom! Here are a couple of examples from my collection:



# Silver advertising Thimbles

Whilst I was researching the topics of silver British Placename thimbles and Thimbles with Slogans, I noticed a smaller grouping of silver thimbles with adverts and so my quest for information about Silver advertising thimbles began.

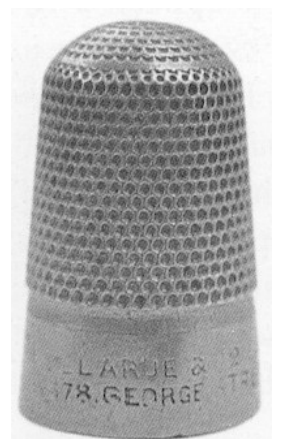
Previously I thought that general products being advertised on thimbles were in the majority, with a few silver thimbles advertising jewellers. Exactly the opposite is true. The jewellers thimbles are the most prolific, with 98% being for English jewellers. At the beginning of the 20th century James Walker a London jeweller, began to give a silver thimble to couples who purchased a wedding ring: these were marked with James Walker wishes you luck. The most commonly seen jewellers' advertising thimble is for James Walker the London Jeweller.

Recently a precursor has been found to the James Walker advertising thimbles. Made by Griffith in 1921, is only has the term Walker.

**Henry Griffith & Sons** [HG&S] of Birmingham are the primary makers of the English silver advertising thimbles, tho you will notice that there are other maker's marks. Where I have specified no makers' marks, the maker is HG&S. The other makers' thimbles would have been made by HG&S, but the wholesalers registered maker's mark was used instead. A dead giveaway is that the words 'The Spa' appear on the band (thimbles only made by Griffith) or when the size mark is between 13 and 18. Griffith was the only English thimble maker to have his thimble sizes corresponding to the millimetre diameter. So even tho the thimbles have the maker's mark as **JWLtd**, **N.G.** or **N.G. Co.** these would have been made by Henry Griffith & Sons, using the Chester assay office, where the JWLtd mark was registered. According to Holmes there was a close association between the firms of Griffith and James Walker. The N.G. mark was registered in Birmingham in 1916 and this is for Northern Goldsmiths Company.

**James Fenton**, another Birmingham thimble maker, made no thimbles for English jewellers but there are two examples of his made for Australian jewellers. I wonder if the **Hester Clarke** jewellers thimbles from 1976 were also a giveaway?

The general products as advertisements generally pre-date the jewellers' ones. I have included information from Zalkin or Holmes about how one qualified for some of these free thimbles. I have only found one example of an US jeweller. It is most gratifying to notice that a few of the jewellers or the general products being advertised are still in business.





# Silver advertising Thimbles

If they were offering a free silver thimble back in the 1900-1920s, then they still deserve to be in business in the 21st century!! Silver advertising thimbles were at the top end of the range with the bulk of giveaways being made of aluminium and plastic. My only source for silver advertising thimbles made in the United States is Gay Ann Rogers. Do you know of any other USA silver adverts on thimbles? They certainly pre-date most of their English counterparts.

There is a small niche collection within the advertising thimbles theme - those with ship or ocean liner silver thimbles. The Pacific & Oriental [P&O] Shipping Line had five liners on the route between England and Australia in the first half of the twentieth century and there were silver thimbles made by Henry Griffith & Sons lettered in relief with the name of the ship. It was the era of mass migration from Europe to Australia. These were produced much later than his placename and jewellers advertising thimbles, being made post-World War II until he closed his business in 1956. The sixth ship thimble illustrated, was probably made in Germany.

The lettering on advertising jewellers thimbles is usually small, as there are such long names and/or addresses to fit around the thimble band. The shorter the name the larger the print. The lettering is in relief and in upppercase, often over a striated ground on the English thimbles.

I have ignored any of the punctuation used in the advertisements.

**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**



## Learn more about Silver Advertising Thimbles

— [www.thimbselect.com](http://www.thimbselect.com) —

Build and share your knowledge about thimbles - new topics added regularly

### THERE ARE 31 "LEARN MORE ABOUT..." TOPICS

[Brass Advertising](#) | [British Placenames](#) | [British Royalty on Thimbles](#) | [British Silversmiths](#) | [Charles May](#) | [Christmas](#) | [Coalport](#)  
[Dorcas Thimble Boxes](#) | [Easter](#) | [Gadgets](#) | [Francesca](#) | [Hallmarked Thimbles set](#) | ['Mother'](#) | [The World's Greatest Porcelain Houses](#)  
[Roval Albert](#) | [Roval Crown Derby](#) | [Roval Worcester Handpainted Thimbles](#) | [Roval Worcester Decal Thimbles](#) | [S + H Foscett](#)  
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Click on a photo to see a bigger picture

### Silver Advertising Thimbles

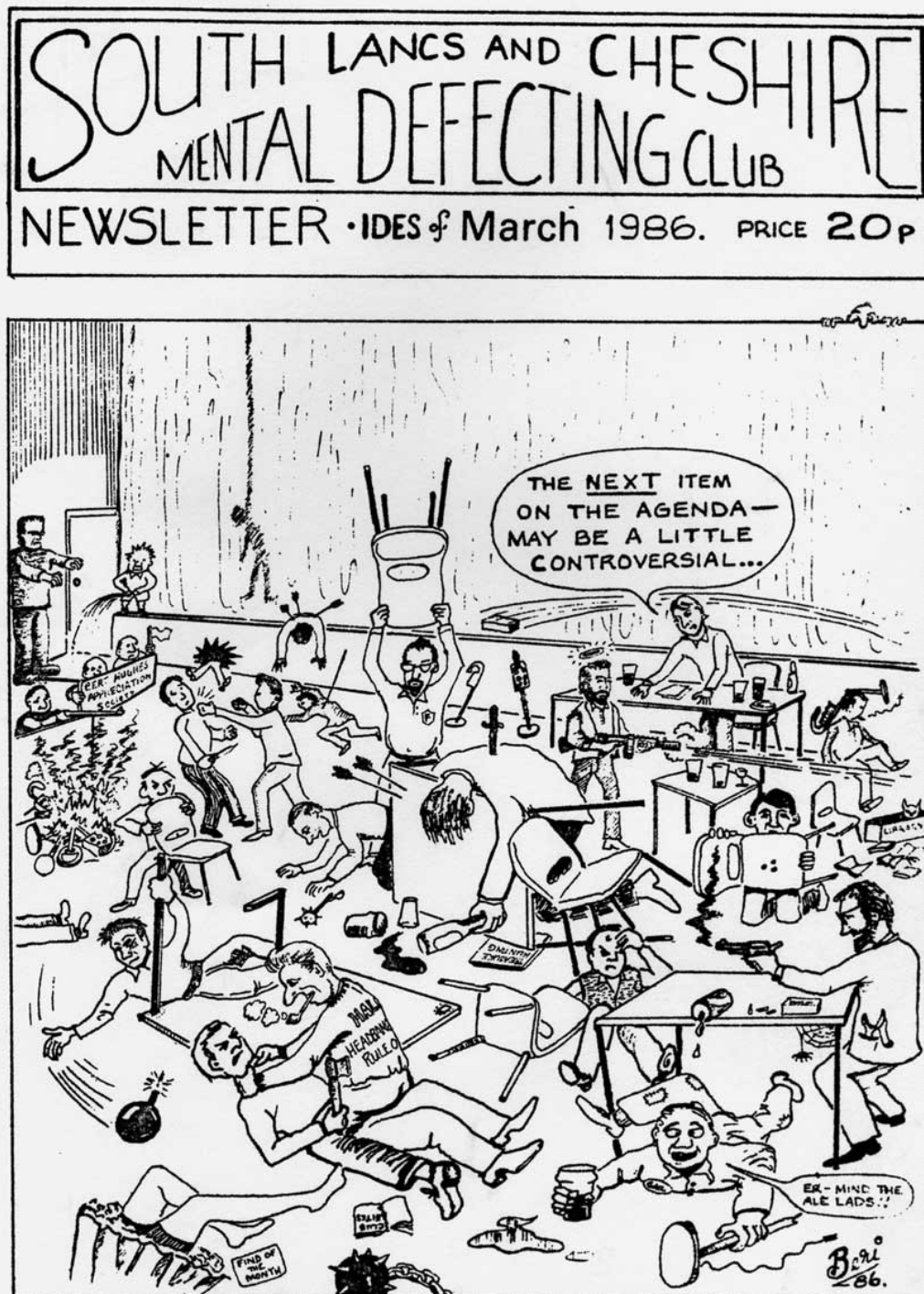
[INTRODUCTION](#) - [JEWELLERS' ADVERTISING THIMBLES](#) - [SHIP ADVERTISING THIMBLES](#)  
[OTHER ADVERTISING THIMBLES](#)



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: Wow, from over 24 years ago. If I remember correctly Dave got his inspiration for this cover from a particularly heated committee meeting where we discussed expelling a member !!





## 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.