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the
Membership
of this
Organisation

AMDS Times

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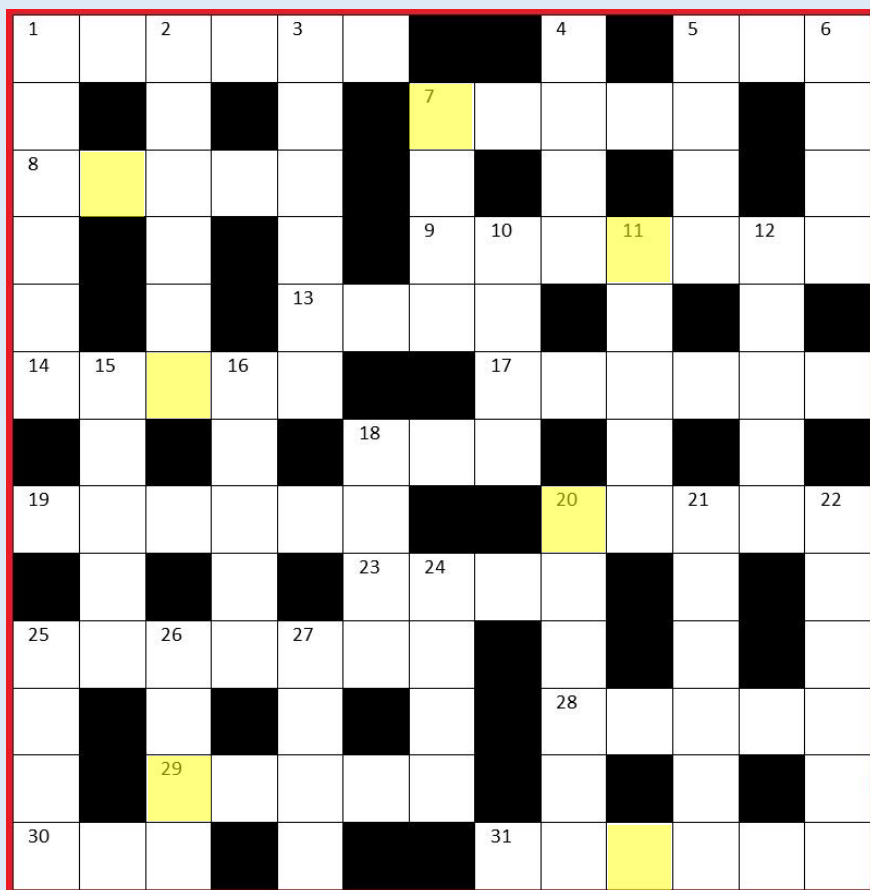
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Prize Crossword created by JOHN WELLS the Chairman of the Midland Federation ARMD for the September 2022 edition.

The **YELLOW SQUARES** will give you a seven-letter anagram. Solve the coin related answer and then email this to Rachel Edwards at membership@amds.org.uk correct answers will be entered into the **FREE** draw and the winner will receive £25. Well done to Simon Felton the winner for our issue 1 who correctly submitted SEMUNCIA.



CLUES DOWN

- 1 Hard aromatic seed used as spice when grated or ground
- 2 A French cake?
- 3 Round metal ring for lining a small hole to permit the attachment of cords or lines
- 4 French military hat
- 5 Endlessly short French cheese
- 6 The answer to this clue is accurate or exact
- 7 Watery health resorts
- 10 English monk and scholar (672-735)
- 11 A long piece of brightly coloured cloth (cotton or silk) used as clothing in India and Pakistan
- 12 Old Testament Hebrew prophet of the 7th century BC
- 15 Large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries
- 16 Dark grey clouds bearing rain
- 18 Mary warship of Henry VIII for 34 years
- 20 A crackling or hissing noise caused by electrical interference
- 21 Seabird with a long stout bill noted for its plunging dives for fish
- 22 The largest state in the United States
- 24 Hundredth of a euro
- 25 Where coin currency is produced
- 26 The periodic rise and fall of the sea level under the gravitational pull of the moon
- 27 Pleasant resort in the south of France

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 A solid lump of a precious metal (especially gold) as found in the earth
- 5 A wager
- 7 Very steep; having a prominent and almost vertical front;
- 8 An offering of a tenth part of some personal income
- 9 A city in central Texas
- 13 Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland
- 14 Very thin, especially from disease or hunger or cold
- 17 A small boat of shallow draft with cross thwarts for seats and rowlocks

18 Eggs of female fish

- 19 A port in Northern Norway
- 20 The 18th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 23 The short tail of a hare, rabbit, or deer.
- 25 A theatrical performance held during the daytime (especially in the afternoon)
- 28 Any of various devices for taking hold of objects;
- 29 Formerly a gold coin of various European countries
- 30 Supporter at golf
- 31 A concave moulding used especially in classical architecture.

Operation Sceptre – making a difference

On the front cover and below is a picture of **Julie Wareham** a nurse and member of the Wiltshire Searchers Metal Detecting Club (WISE). This club was formed five years ago by David Rees, Chairman of the Western Region ARMD and meet on the first Thursday of each month in Calne, Wiltshire.



carrying knives and the latest operation saw engagement with schools and communities increase to higher levels than ever before. Young people must understand that carrying a knife is not the answer, nor does it offer the protection they think it does. It only puts them at greater risk.”

But while Police concentrate on strong enforcement, we must all assist in the long-term work to turn young people away from violence and the Police and other agencies are investing heavily in this initiative to make sure all our kids make it home safe.”

Operation Sceptre is a big part of that Police commitment, and we commend those officers dedicated to making our families safer

Through engagement and enforcement tactics available, other forms of criminality such as supplying drugs were also identified, including the discovery of large-scale cannabis farms.



42 police forces from England and Wales including the British Transport Police, took part in a seven-day crack-down on knife crime.

Operation Sceptre, is a national campaign which takes place twice a year, supporting the work Surrey Police carry out all year round to ensure residents are safe from knife crime in their community. Police officers undertake a range of activities including targeted operations, engagement and education to reassure young people they are safer not carrying knives, and to walk away from harm. Some of the weapons seized during the week, included machetes, swords and hunting knives.

Forces have been using every tactic available including weapons sweeps, using knife searches in public places and events, and also using honesty bins to remove knives off the streets. Nationally, officers seized 936 knives and 8703 were either surrendered or found in sweeps.

Operation Sceptre highlights the continuing commitment of the police to work with the public in preventing young people

Keep up with what's happening in this great hobby with the Searcher Magazine.



“Treasure can be anywhere – you just have to find it. Never give up!” by Dave Nicklin

This article was first published in the Searcher Magazine.



David Nicklin

When Brian Vaughan the Western Region secretary from the Cardiff Scan Club asked me to write an article for the AMDS Times, I gladly accepted the invitation without really thinking what I could write about.

Most detectorists can talk all day about their best finds but for most of us they are nothing spectacular or of significant value.

I set about asking the members of my local club **Heritage Metal Detecting Club (Swansea)** for stories of interesting or unusual finds. Unfortunately, I didn't get much interest, perhaps for the reason above, so my enthusiasm waned to the point I was going to knock the article idea on the head - and then it happened – **a find of a lifetime!!**

However, before all that just a brief history of our club. The HMDC began life in late 2013 when 5 members of the Swansea MDC decided to set up a breakaway club.

From its humble beginnings it grew very quickly and currently has over 80 members with another 30 on a waiting list. We are a small and friendly club which does not want to grow too big. We meet every other Thursday and hold a rally most Sundays, averaging between 40-45 rallies each year.

Although not prolific there have been plenty of Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval members finds over the years. We are particularly lucky to have Swansea Bay on our doorstep and many interesting and ancient finds come off there.

We were missing that one 'wow' find which the Club could celebrate and be proud of but finally it arrived in April this year.

Art has been a member of the club for a number of years and attends many of the rallies and detects his own private permissions too. It was on one of these permissions that the



Artur Bledjer

lifetime find was made. As always it started out as an ordinary outing with his trusty Equinox. He had been to this farm a number of times before and had found the usual detecting coppers and a few silvers but nothing out of the ordinary. Art asked the farmer if there were any other fields he could go on and was offered another farm owned by his father. However, it was not suitable yet and it would have to wait for another day. So, he carried on and was walking back to the fields he had been working and remembered a small 2/3-acre pasture field somewhat overgrown with weeds and rushes. He decided to walk along the edge to the gate when he had a cracking signal. Up came a silver Roman Denarius.



As any detectorist should do, he started to search the area and found a few more stray Denarii. Beginning to think it was probably a small scattered hoard when along came a jumpy signal ranging from 15-38 on the Nox. The Shakespearean

phrase 'To dig or not to dig' (ugh an awful pun I know) was his first reaction but as he had found the previous stray Denarius the answer was obvious. So out comes the sod and there, glinting in the sunlight was another Denarius. A quick check with the pinpointer suggested there was something else deeper. Within a few seconds there sat a pile of silver Roman Denarii. In fact, it was the first time in 2000 years that 50 of them saw the first light of day. A few hours later he had saved 71 Denarii in all. Art informed the farmer who offered to cut the weeds/grass later that day.

The elation and anticipation Art must have felt that night is something I am sure all detectorists dream of – I certainly do. The next morning off he went. By the end of two further days scouring the now cut field his final tally was 96 Silver Denarii.



Art informed the museum authorities and the coroner and handed the coins over to our in-house retired GGAT Archaeologist for identification. The hoard ranges from Nero to Lucius Verus (67 – 166 AD).



At our meeting in May, Art brought the coins in for everyone to admire and look at with pure envy!! It was a real pleasure to see and handle some of the coins before they were whisked off to the Swansea Museum for formal ID and recording.

Sadly, for Art that will probably be the last time he will handle the coins as they will inevitably be declared treasure and for sure will be snapped up by the Museum of Wales or a local museum.



There are a few of morals to this story. We all should know the basics - learn your machine, put in the hours, swing low and slow and most of all, have lady luck on your side.

It can all be summed up by the title of this article which are Art's own words. One other bonus for him is that since finding the hoard he has been offered many more farms in the area to detect.

That should keep him busy for a while.

As for myself, the best I can offer is a hoard of 14 George 5th/6th pennies. Well, I suppose I had better get out there and try again.

Now working together for the hobby and its members with over 40 years' experience, these are the four regions of ARMD.

The Midland Federation

Legise (The Southern Region)

The Western Region

The Yorkshire Region

The Celtic Hoard by Steve Beswick

You know how it is, when you've been detecting for a year or three, you have 'dry' spells, times when good finds are few and far between.

Well, I'd been having one of those Summers, loads of land but not much available due to crops. What pasture there was had been covered and covered again, work commitments had conspired against me getting out as often as I wanted, and when I did get out the finds were scarce – getting the picture?

On one of my detour drives home from work (do you have those – when the best way is past your fields rather than straight home?), I noticed that one particular field that I'd been waiting for was being seeded and rolled – about time!!

This field hadn't turned up much in the past but when out with Barry last year (2009) he'd found a really nice Roman silver right in the hedge-line; not much had come out of the middle of the field, so I'd been waiting to get 'across the hedge' so to speak.

Seeing that it was ripe for detecting, I rang the farmer that evening to make sure it was OK to venture out and, on getting his approval, planned to finish work early the next day and have a couple of hours detecting in the afternoon on my way home.

I parked in the field gate at about 2.00 o'clock and having already changed out of my work clothes into my usual camo detecting gear (got some funny looks as I left work!) I was able to unload, fire-up and start detecting.

I have a habit of detecting the perimeter of a field first (unless it has REALLY interesting lumps in it) so over the next hour and a half I gradually worked my way around 2½ sides of the field, finds being mainly rubbish (car bits and cans) alongside the road, and 3 lead pot-mends along the other hedge-lines. (These fill me with anticipation as I associate them with a settlement, or at least a few people having been there.) There were other finds too, but oddly – no coins, nothing really datable.

If I'm honest I was getting a bit disillusioned – I'd so looked forward to this afternoon and was feeling a bit let down (probably trying too hard) so decided to cut the last corner off the field and detect my way

towards the gate where I could get a drink from the car. As I headed off the detector seemed to go a bit quiet until I was maybe 20 metres across when I got a good repeatable signal. Expecting yet more lead I turned over the spadeful of earth, then waving my coil over it found that the target was there; kneeling (so much easier with my back!) I broke the lump up and waved each handful over my coil. Even before I heard the signal, I caught a glimpse of a small, round, glinting object – do you know that your heart really does stop at times like this, so does your breathing – with the flick of a finger the object was free of the soil and resting in my palm – a gold stater, unmistakable! I'm surprised that the farmer didn't hear me as I shouted "YES!! You little beauty".

Suddenly I wasn't feeling so let down. Giving it a rub, I removed the last few traces of soil and examined it, having been lucky enough to have found one on another site a couple of years ago. I thought I might recognize it as being a 'local' tribe but, no, not like anything I'd seen before – stylized horse on one side, plain on the other, very shiny and very yellow, my Catevullani stater is quite orangey by comparison.

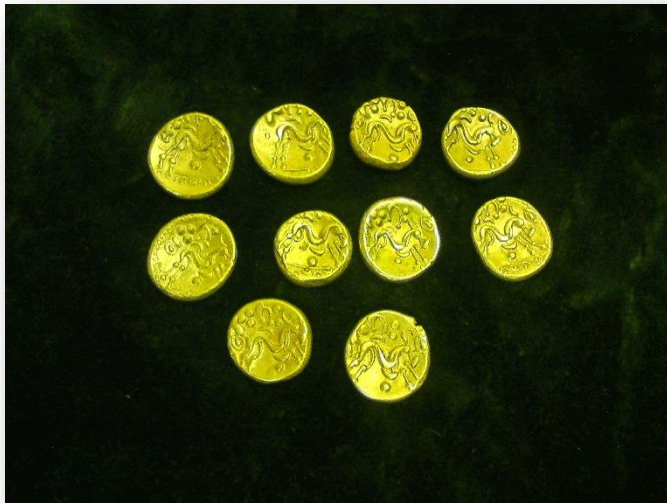
Tucking it safely away I pulled my phone out and texted Colin, one of my oldest mates and main detecting partner, and the man who got me interested in detecting in the first place. All I said was "Celtic Gold!" You can imagine his response..... my phone rang only seconds later and his words are almost unrepeatable – but if I say he questioned my parentage but commented on my good fortune, I'm sure you'll understand.

Suddenly I didn't want to go back for that drink. For the next hour I very carefully worked my way out in gradually increasing circles from the find spot, having built a little cairn of rocks as a marker. My diligence was rewarded with another identical signal, same sound, same numerical indicator, same depth indication – yes, again!! No messing about with text this time – a phone call to Colin ".....Another one!....." " * * * * ". This went on for some time but he eventually calmed down and, yes, congratulations were forthcoming. At this point I thought I ought to ring Sheila, my long-suffering partner and detector widow – more congratulations (accompanied by an excited squeal) and then the suggestion that I don't return until I've got more. I did give it another hour but nothing else turned up so off I went, the hero returns! Now, my other half will have absolutely nothing to do with anyone "throwing a sickie" – I've been

sent to work with broken limbs and bubonic plague in the past, and no sympathy no matter how much I moaned in pain. Yet here she is suggesting I throw a sickie and spend all the next day in the field (I didn't take much persuading) and, guess what, only 4 more coins the next day! By this point I'm not sleeping – What do I do? Who do I tell? When?

The next day, straight after work, another 2½ hours but no more coins. Starting to deflate again, dreams of a pot of coins starting to fade. Still, 6 staters, by now identified using Spink as Gallo-Belgic, Ambiani tribe, dating from between 150 and 50 BC.

During the course of the next week, I returned to the field every day, taking every opportunity to carefully detect every inch of the area. By the end of the week, I had 10 little golden beauties. After three days of no finds, I decided that the field wasn't going to release anymore, the crop was starting to show and I was feeling that I should rest on my laurels and not return until this crop was off and the field ploughed again.



Also, I was off on holiday to Egypt the next day (somewhat reluctantly I can now admit).

At this point I thought it was about time to give the farmer the good news and called his number from my mobile. I asked if he could spare a few minutes, he was a little reluctant, something about needing to take his grand-daughter home.

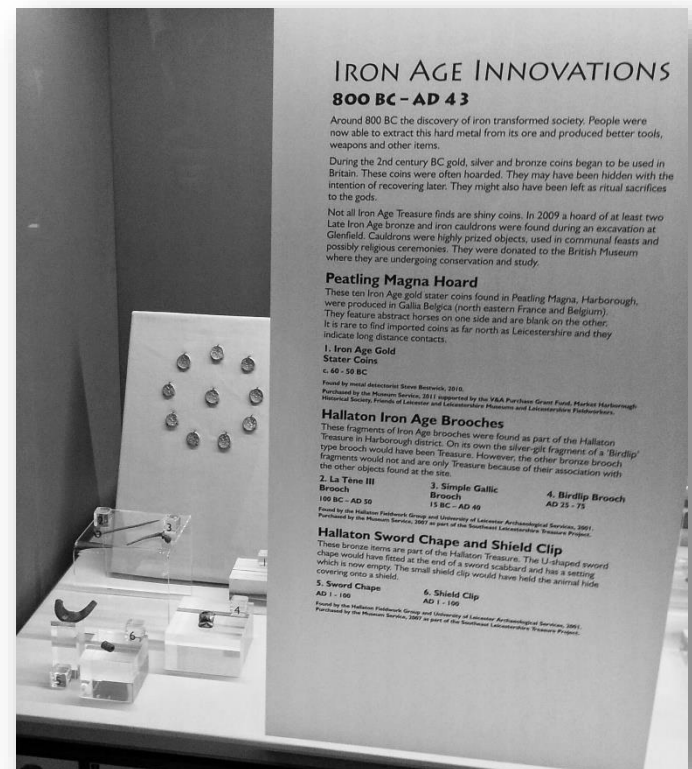
Eventually he agreed to give me five minutes if I could be at the farmhouse in the next 10 minutes. I made it, but only just. Once settled in the lounge with coffee and biscuits (and all his family round me) I passed him a single coin – a quick glance, a momentary look of boredom, and the question “Is

that it?” Tipping the rest of the coins out of the bag I had them in onto the carpet I sat back and enjoyed the stunned silence – then everyone spoke at once, some of it unprintable, but mostly gasps and exclamations of awe. I gave them as much information as I had managed to find out then explained the requirements of the Treasure Act and possible outcomes. As things stand at the moment, we are waiting for the B.M. to make a decision on the future of the hoard and its value.

As for me, I'm just waiting for the crops to come off and the field to be ploughed again – can't wait!

Postscript.

I can't believe it's been almost 8 years since my find of a lifetime, to bring things up to date, the hoard was declared treasure (no surprise there!), after the usual drawn-out delay at the British Museum, the hoard was offered to one of our local museums, Market Harborough, where it now sits alongside the awesome Hallaton Hoard.



As for the field, I visit it every year after the crops are off, sadly it has been contaminated by the spreading of the dreaded 'Green Waste' and although I persevere and dig every suitable signal (and a few less good as well) no more coins have surfaced.

Steve Beswick is a member of the Midland Federation.

Update from the Portable Antiquities Scheme by Prof. Michael Lewis and ARMD



We have now agreed a new 'Vision' for the PAS looking to 2025 (see the PAS website).

This outlines the aims and objectives of the Scheme over the next few years. Besides recording finds, the PAS also looks to work more closely with the detecting community to share knowledge about the past with others: both researchers (such as university academics and archaeologists) and those with a more casual interest in archaeological finds.

We are looking to rebuild the PAS website and database, so it is easier for people to search and learn from. We also want to make it easier for people to record their finds, and there might be new digital tools (like recording apps) that allow us to do that.

Even with these technological advances, it will remain important for our Finds Liaison Officers to continue to meet with finders and see finds 'in the flesh' - handling these finds

Metal-detectorists across the country are making an important contribution to archaeological knowledge by recording their finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).

Last year over 45,000 finds were recorded with the PAS, with over 96% of them being made by metal detectorists. But we need your help to do more, as the PAS does not have the capacity to record all the finds people make.

Ways you can help are bagging finds individually and writing the findspot (at least to an 8-figure grid-reference) on the bag, as well as providing good photographs.

Some detectorists are even undertaking training so they can record their finds directly onto the PAS database (finds.org.uk/database), though we appreciate this is not for everyone. Very much welcome is the fact that detecting organisations - like the Association for Metal Detecting Sport (AMDS) - are endorsing the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting* and encouraging their members to follow it. This Code provides advice on what to do before, whilst and after detecting, and ensures that metal detecting has the maximum benefits for everyone.



is the highlight of our work and helps us better understand them and make good records. In short, making finds recording as easy as possible cannot dilute the quality of records.

In the group picture L to R above are John Wells, David Rees, Michael Lewis, David Barwell, Brian Vaughan and Roger Mintey taken during the recent August 2020 meeting at the British Museum. There will be more information in our next AMDS Times.



Do check out <https://detectingfinds.co.uk/>

'Detecting, Minelab and me' by Mimzy

I Brought my 1st detector, a Whites 850 and my £1 Pipe Finders Licence at the age of 16 and I can still remember my first find, a George III penny on the old drove road where I lived. That was followed by a Victorian sixpence. A year later I took the Queens shilling and then spent the next 22 years playing soldier.

During those years the detector came out on the odd occasion, finding people's lost rings, checking out assault courses for dropped coins, jewellery etc.

A posting to Colerne in Wiltshire in 1978 allowed me to gain permission to search a few fields at the back of the village. Here, I found my first Roman brooch which just also happened to be a complete one, (see image)

During the next 2 years I did manage a few more passable finds including my first gold coin.



Looking back at my years in the army I had so many wasted detecting opportunities, especially the two years with NATO in Cyprus.

The Falklands, Campaign in 1982 was yet another potential metal detecting opportunity but as you can see from the signpost pictured, it was just as well that I left my Fisher 1265X at home for obviously very good reasons.

In 1997 I retired from the army and ended up back in Wiltshire living behind the camp I was stationed at in 1978 with a bonus being that I still had still had access to my previous, even if they had been 'Done to Death' by other detectorists over all those years away.



Over the next 5 years I concentrated on my new job as a 'Civilian' driving HGV all over the UK.

It was not until 2003 that detecting for me totally changed.

I made a delivery to a farm in Malmesbury and luck would have it that the farmer was present. I asked if I could have permission to search his fields which totalled to be 250 acres. He informed me that for the previous four years only four detectorists had searched his land. He then invited me into his house and showed me the presentation box the four detectorists had given him. I had up to that point never found a hammered coin and only half a dozen or so Roman coins found on a beach when stationed at Tywyn, Wales.

My jaw dropped when seeing a mixture of medieval silver and Roman bits and bobs. I thought well, if this is what they gave the farmer, what else did they find. My fear was, that four detectorists over four years probably meant that the land had been done to death.

Not to be put off, a Saturday morning visit to the farm meant a sixteen-mile trip to the location to be met by the farmer who pointed out to me where the previous searchers had recovered finds, saying that's where they always used to go"

Passing through the field gate I switched the machine on and almost immediately got a signal. This turned out to be my first ever hammered silver coin.

That was the day I became totally dedicated to metal detecting.

The same year I had the experience of going through my first Treasure Trove procedure involving a medieval silver finger ring and even then, had to haggle on the amount that was offered.

As you all know not all detectorists are it for the money but, extra fuel money does come in handy.

In 2007 on a very wet and windy day my weapon of choice was at this time a Whites XLT This resulted in the machine chirping and up came a Roman grot, the first of twenty-four to be found over the next couple of days

Over the next five years the total of roman coins increased to fifty-four. These coins were subsequently disclaimed and were gifted to the Athelstan Museum in Malmesbury.

In 2012 I upgraded to a Minelab SE PRO after finding a medieval gold iconographic finger ring ref (WILT-44FDF0)



In September 2012 I was again back on those roman fields looking for more coins from the scattered hoard found years before with my new deeper seeking machine. Searching a higher part of the field I got a deep positive target. After digging down through two feet onto the clay bed I discovered a broken pot with 1266 Roman bronze coins.

The hoard was later declared treasure and thankfully acquired by Malmesbury museum through fund raising and grants.

I then became even more involved with my hoard of roman coins as I became a volunteer photographer who got to photograph each coin before and after they went to the conservators at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre at Chippenham. Since then and over the years I have also got the other detecting club members involved as volunteers.

Finally, this year after a lot of hard work, the hoard has now gone on display to the public 10 years after it was found. The museum has free admission and also has a cafe in the same building. Parking is £1.50 for 2 hours right outside.

Guest of honour at the official showing of the hoard was the Most Hon. the Marchioness of Lansdowne the High Sheriff for Wiltshire.



Besides my hoard, there are other Roman finds on display at the museum, I even have my own display upstairs of Roman finds found in the local area.

All my fields have now been thoroughly searched but I will keep swinging away and looking for new permissions. I now have lots of free time on my hands as I took early retirement after finding the hoard.



Mimzy is a member of the Chippenham and District Metal Detecting Club, in the Western Region ARMD.



Five metal detectorists sentenced after the biggest operation of its type

Published 7 May 2021 – English Heritage and reproduced by the permission of Mark Harrison Heritage England.

In the largest investigation of its type, a Tameside nighthawking gang has been sentenced after admitting unlawful metal detecting at Beeston Castle in Cheshire and Roche Abbey in South Yorkshire.

Five men appeared at Chester Magistrates on 7 May 2021 for sentencing following a lengthy and complex investigation by Cheshire Police, Historic England and South Yorkshire police.

All five were fined and handed a five-year Criminal Behaviour Order which prevents them from entering any historic site in England and Wales - a first for Cheshire, and the North West.



Beeston Castle © English Heritage

The defendants were: -

- Curtis Barlow, 32, of The Quadrant, Droylsden, admitted taking coins and metal artefacts from Roche Abbey between 13 and 15 December 2019. He was handed a £572 fine along with a £85 surcharge.
- Gary Flanagan, 33, of Winton Avenue, Audenshaw, admitted taking coins and artefacts from Beeston Castle and Roche Abbey between 13 and 30 December 2019. He was handed a £1,100 fine plus a £85 surcharge.
- Daniel James Lloyd, 33, of Beech Avenue, Droylsden, admitted taking Bronze Age axe heads, coins and other metal artefacts from Beeston Castle between 13 and 30 December 2019. He was handed a £600 fine plus a £85 surcharge.
- John Andrew Lorne, 29, of Sunnyside Road, Droylsden, admitted taking Bronze Age axe heads, coins and other artefacts from Beeston Castle between 13 and 30 December 2019, and removing coins and metal artefacts

from Roche Abbey between 28 and 30 December 2019. He was ordered to pay £1,760 plus a £85 surcharge.

- Francis James Ward, 32, of Dingle Drive, Droylsden, admitted taking Bronze Age axe heads, coins and other metal artefacts from Beeston Castle between 13 and 30 December 2019. He was ordered to pay £1,430 court costs plus a £85 surcharge.

Axe head recovered by Cheshire Police working with Historic England © Cheshire Police



Unlawful nighthawking activity

The men's illegal activities were unearthed when a number of holes were found in the grounds of Beeston Castle and Roche Abbey, both are in the care of English Heritage, sparking an investigation in December 2019.

Further information led them to Ward and on New Year's Eve, officers from Cheshire executed a warrant at his Droylsden home. This led officers to Lorne and his home was searched during a warrant at which a number of items were seized. Both men were arrested and interviewed while mobile phones and other devices were seized.

When analysing their phones officers discovered both men were part of a nighthawking WhatsApp group, leading to the arrest of Lloyd, Barlow and Flanagan.

PC Ashley Tether who led the investigation Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team could state, their WhatsApp group clearly showed what they were up to and our subsequent forensic investigations alongside South Yorkshire police put them at the locations where the incidents had occurred. What followed was a number of months of carefully identifying and cataloguing the historic artefacts they had taken with the help of Historic England experts. The evidence we put together was such that they pleaded guilty at their first hearing.

Coins seized by Cheshire Police working with Historic England © Cheshire Police



The five men are now barred from going anywhere near historic sites in England and Wales and if people see them not adhering to this restriction, they should report it to police on 101. Breaching such orders can result in a prison sentence.

A decade ago, we did not have the skills and techniques necessary to investigate this form of criminal behaviour. We have now developed the expertise, capability and partnerships to identify and prosecute the small criminal minority of nighthawks. The overwhelming majority of metal detectorists comply with the legislation and codes of practice.

When thieves steal artefacts from a protected archaeological site, they are stealing from all of us and damaging something which is often irreplaceable.



Media interviews at Beeston Castle in Cheshire about the five men sentenced for unlawful metal detecting at this site which is looked after by English Heritage © Cheshire Police

Illegal metal detecting robs us of our past, and whilst this prosecution is good news, sadly the damage incidents like this cause can never be repaired. Beeston Castle and Roche Abbey are protected in law because of the lessons we can learn from their unique archaeology. Unlawful attacks like these can cause such insight to be lost forever. Win Scutt, Properties Curator English Heritage

English Heritage said they are grateful to Cheshire Police and Historic England for their persistent and innovative approach to investigating this case, and bringing the perpetrators to justice.



Roche Abbey © English Heritage

Key advances to combat heritage crime over the past decade include:

Working in partnership with the Police

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Police Chiefs Council, Crown Prosecution Service and Historic England in 2011. It was a first step to a commitment to prevent, investigate and enforce offences relating to historic buildings and sites and the historic environment.

The introduction of Heritage Crime Liaison Officers in each police service in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2011.

Training for over 10,000 heritage and law enforcement professionals and community volunteers and the introduction of a Heritage Crime Module for Volunteer Police Cadets.

ARCH - Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage was launched in 2011. There are now over 200 agencies, bodies

and organisations that support the ARCH network. They include: faith, security, charitable and community groups committed to the protection and conservation of our shared cultural heritage.

Community engagement

Heritage Watch was developed by Historic England, National Police Chiefs Council, Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire West and Chester Council in 2011. As part of the national Neighbourhood Watch Network, the scheme gives owners and managers of protected buildings and sites the knowledge and confidence to prevent crime and to report and record crime and suspicious activity.

In November 2020, the first Heritage Watch Training Workshop was delivered in partnership with David Rees (who is now **AMDS/ARMD**), Essex Police, Wiltshire Police, Portable Antiquities Scheme and Historic England. The training arms detectorists with the knowledge of how to report crime and suspicious behaviour using the 101/999 systems. It is envisaged that these workshops will be delivered across the country.

Sentencing

The Sentencing Council announced new sentencing guidelines in 2019 for offenders who cause damage to heritage sites, historic buildings and cultural property.

Analytics

A Historic England grant to help develop a national research and analytical function hosted by Kent Police and OPAL - a 'national intelligence unit' focused on serious organised 'acquisitive' crime (SOAC), which will in time, provide the analysis necessary to identify current and emerging crime threats in the historic environment.

The main issues when metal detectorists disregard the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting, and as criminals illegally detect anywhere, is that they bring the whole hobby into disrepute by their actions. In addition, what they find is never reported and can result in important finds and the information these finds provide being lost from our heritage forever. Thanks to the efforts of the partnership working, a considerable number of metal detectorists in the UK have now received the Heritage Watch training and are now eyes and ears on the ground and helping to prevent and detect criminal activity and crime.



The Upton Swingers by Keith Arnold

The Upton Swingers Club is quite new and it was formed in late 2019 from a group of friends who were all members of our local working men's club, The Birchall Memorial Institute, Upton St Leonards, Gloucester.

It was noted how difficult it was to join a Metal Detecting Club due to the waiting time before being accepted as a member also some local clubs have membership restrictions that deter people from joining a particular club. We originally began with seven members but unfortunately, we lost a member in 2021 who wished to go his own way. At present we have six members all of whom are appointed as Club Sites Officers as well as the normal committee officers.



We decided to restrict membership at present but any future members must also be members of the BMI. We do however permit guest detectorists and interested persons who are under the direct supervision of a member. We hope to increase the future membership using the above criteria.

Every member is expected to obtain permissions for club searches and due to the kindness of local land owners we have sufficient sites to run a weekly dig on a rotational basis. From the original seven members only three had previous detecting experience and we are very pleased with the progress of the new comers who after one year have found some lovely items, two items have been submitted for Treasure appraisal to date. We are particularly proud of the items that have added to our understanding of our local history.



We are all members of AMDS and ARMD. Our Techy expert and his son developed a computer program to record all finds for each member to a standard acceptable to our FLO, record all site permissions maps, produce a monthly report of finds, and provide details of site digs for the coming month. Only Swingers members have permission to view.

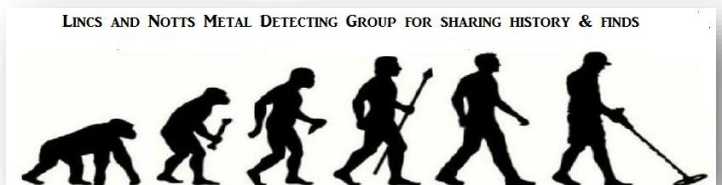
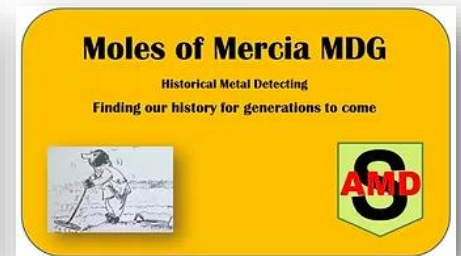
If you are in a position where you think you have enough interest to form a Club then please give it a go. I am also a member of SHRADS and received advice and assistance from them to help form the Swingers. The Western Region of ARMD also provided plenty of encouragement and advice so please talk to the clubs in your area as I am sure they will help you.

Below are a small portion of the finds to date.



Some Region and Club Logos

If your club has a logo and are members of, or support AMDS, send a copy of it to membership@amds.org.uk and it will be displayed with others in the members' area of the AMDS web site.



Roger Mintey (Archaeological Liaison Official for ARMD)

Roger is a keen metal detectorist and the finder of the Reigate Hoard and has an Oxford University (MA, 2:1) Philosophy & Psychology, Goldsmiths College, University of London BMus (1st Class Hons) Prize-winner.



Roger was born and still lives in Reigate, Surrey. He began metal detecting in 1985 after buying a second-hand Whites 6000D Coinmaster. He detected and still is detecting almost exclusively in Surrey and is the finder of Reigate Hoard in September 1990.



In addition to his other qualifications, he is also a BAWLA qualified weight lifting/training teacher.

He trained in Chartered Accountancy before swapping over to Cost & Management Accountancy and appointed Cost Accountant with Rotork Marine.

His experience includes five years as a systems/fraud investigation accountant and group financial controller of a USA owned international import/export business.

He retired from full time work 2 years after discovery of Reigate Hoard. Since that time, he has also worked freelance and then commissioned writer/co-writer on BBC Radio 4's "Weekending" and Radio 2's "News Huddlines". Contributor to BBC World Service. Co-writer of TV material for Rory Bremner, Russ Abbott and Les Dennis.

Roger became "political" after the discovery of Reigate Hoard in anti-detecting post-Wanborough Surrey. In 1997 he became his club rep for Southern Region. He was elected Chairman of the Southern Region in 2007 when the region became known as LEGISE. He regularly attended National meetings 2007 to 2014. He was responsible for ELS/HLS Schemes on behalf of the NCMD, writing many articles about them in NCMD's "Digging Deep" and he represented the NCMD on PAAG (Portable Antiquities Advisory Group) from 2009-2014.

He has been a trustee of Reigate Priory Museum a grade



1 listed building set in 65 acres of open parkland with a pond, woodland and playing fields only a few hundred yards from the centre of Reigate town since 1994.

The Finding of the Reigate Hoard.

On Saturday 22nd September 1990 Roger was detecting a field near to where he lived that was shortly to be developed and it was about 50 yards away from a medieval trackway. Almost as soon as he started detecting he had a massive signal and thought his detector had gone out of tune.

He returned his detector and moved on, but after an hour of finding junk, he returned to the location of that massive signal as it was starting to get dark and started to dig.

Six inches down he encountered hard packed clay, taking care. He then removed more earth and broken pieces of pottery and found two medieval groats. Pulling away more pottery in the hole started to reveal masses of coins stacked vertically in concentric circles at the bottom of the hole: a medieval coin hoard.



There were 6705 coins, of which 138 were of gold including two half nobles of previously unrecorded issues, 6,566 were silver and one was counterfeit. The coins mostly date to the reign of Henry VI, but it contained coins from 7 different kings spread over almost 180 years with many different issues/types/mints and 256 "mules" where the obverse and reverse did not correspond properly.

Two jugs were also recovered, and they have been restored and recorded by David Williams. One is a Tudor green type and the other an unglazed pink vessel.

A link with the rebellion of Jack Cade in 1450 was at first considered but further study indicated that the latest coins were two pennies of Henry VI issued in 1454-60.

The suggested date of the hoard is about 1454 or shortly after. Dr Barrie Cook of the British Museum identifies this as the largest post-1351 hoard on record.

Hoard of the mid-15th century are very rare: the best known of only three recorded is the 1972 Reigate hoard.

Historical Significance

One other notable feature of Roger's find was that it was, and still is, the only hoard other than the legendary

Fishpool Hoard of 1237 gold coins (found by contractors near Mansfield in about 1966) which contained French gold.

There were 11 French gold saluts in the hoard as well as 26 other foreign silver coins, mainly Scottish.

The Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting (ARMD)

Roger is one of the very experienced team involved in representing the hobby on behalf of ARMD, and together they have well over 40 years protecting and promoting our great hobby.

Do continue to support ARMD, because together with AMDS it has the most experienced and qualified individuals voluntarily working for them. These organisations will continue to represent metal detectorists at the highest levels.

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Meeting Mrs. Nibs my penultimate find by David Rees

I received a telephone call from a lady named Chris who lives in a town near to my location in Wiltshire. She explained that her husband Ziggy had lost a gold ring that originally had belonged to his father. Although not of a high monetary value, it held great sentimental value and had been worn by him for over fifty-one years. They had searched really hard for several days, and I was their last hope. After about an hour searching often closely accompanied by Ziggy, I found the ring not anywhere near where he had suggested it was lost; which as we all know is often the case. Tearfully, he placed it on his finger and we agreed to go back for a cup of tea. The picture below (Figure 1) was taken as I handed the ring to him for the first time.



Fig. 1

Back at the house Chris met us. She explained the past week had been terribly sad for them both and upsetting and this had changed everything. As we sat enjoying a warm drink and biscuit Chris started to tell me about her own interesting and unusual hobby; collecting pen nibs: pens and items

associated with hand writing. This had gained her the nickname of 'Mrs. Nibs.'

The interest in writing goes to her childhood, when she was an ink monitor at school. If you were an ink monitor your job was to pour the ink into the little ink wells on each classroom desk. Children these days wouldn't know about this, but writing with pen and ink for her started using school pens and she has got some examples in her collection. They have steel nibs, and a round barrel that was made from wood.

Once the Biro became more popular this method of writing, certainly in schools just stopped. However, her interest remained as a small girl growing up because her father often studied until quite late in the evening, and she would watch him writing with a little Conway Stewart fountain pen. He worked at a desk, and when he finished would always let Chris sit at his desk and write with his pen: stick stamps onto envelopes; the kind of things that children did in those days. Putting a stamp on an envelope, then writing the address by hand was there throughout her childhood and that writing with a pen meant a lot to her.

Chris (Figure 2) gave me a brief history of nibs as follows. In the late 1700s there were some bespoke steel pens being made after quills. The onset of the industrial revolution enabled consideration to be given to more cost-effective ways to manufacture a metal pen nib that had some spring in it: that could write nicely rather than the bespoke big barrelled nibs made especially for individuals. What also interested her, was the fact that the steel pen nib manufacturers employed women, because there was a whole line of processes to be done to produce the nibs, and in times when equality was an issue, they were the forerunners for employing a women's labour fairly.



Fig. 2

By 1820 there were nibs being manufactured commercially in Birmingham, which became the World centre for the manufacture of pen nibs, and they taught the rest of the World. In 1866 there were twelve factories in Birmingham

employing 360 men, and 2050 women. They worked 10 tons of steel every week, and produced 98,000 gross of nibs which was 730,000,000 per year, and that I was told gives an idea of how big this industry was.

It was about twenty years back when she moved to the present house when she seriously became interested in collecting items associated with writing. It started with small pieces related to writing equipment: then a writing slope: a stamp box, or a pen wipe and an occasional pen. Then, about ten years ago she met a fellow collector who introduced her to the Writing Equipment Society, and they have a website at <http://www.wesonline.org.uk/>. It was at this time her interest went back to the variants in pen nibs so, before the fountain pen. Steel dip pens were only manufactured for about one hundred and twenty years.

On joining the society her collection grew like topsy! She would love to count how many nibs she has one day, and her collection now runs into thousands, and thousands, and thousands. She has started to count them, but it escalates as there is so much more to collecting writing items. As an example, she explained she has a catalogue of over eighty pages just of different types of nibs. There are standard nibs manufactured during the hundred or so years that can be collected, but manufacturers were also experimenting with shapes, punching out different designs and also commemorative nibs. These would be embossed rather than just being a plain nib, and every nib had a number stamped on it and the manufacturer name.

Then there are also special nibs that are absolutely works of art, for example she then showed me one with series with old naval ships on them (Figure 3).



Fig. 3

There are nibs with a Swan on them: a Fox: one with Napoleon: Bismarck, there are whole categories of different types (Figure 4), and these are the ones to collect.



Fig. 4

If nibs like these are found by metal detecting great care must be taken not to damage the nib or rub off the images when first found and handled, because some of them can be quite valuable items. They are manufactured from a variety of different materials, and there are guided: brass ones: blue

ones: silver and gold, and the manufacturers experimented with the hardness of the metals to get different flexibility in the nib.

The nib (Figure 5) is a long barrel type, as is the smaller one below it and would have been expensive and is quite rare. The Bank of England (Figure 6) had their own nibs in the past, along with organisations such as British Rail that had an assortment.



Fig. 5

British Railways which traded from 1965 as British Rail was the operator of most of the rail transport in Great Britain between 1948 and 1997. It was formed from the nationalisation of the big four railways companies and lasted until gradual privatisation of British Rail, in stages between 1994, and 1997.



Fig. 6

These (Figure 7) are some of their pens in the collection. The other two (Figure 8) are London Midland Railway nibs.

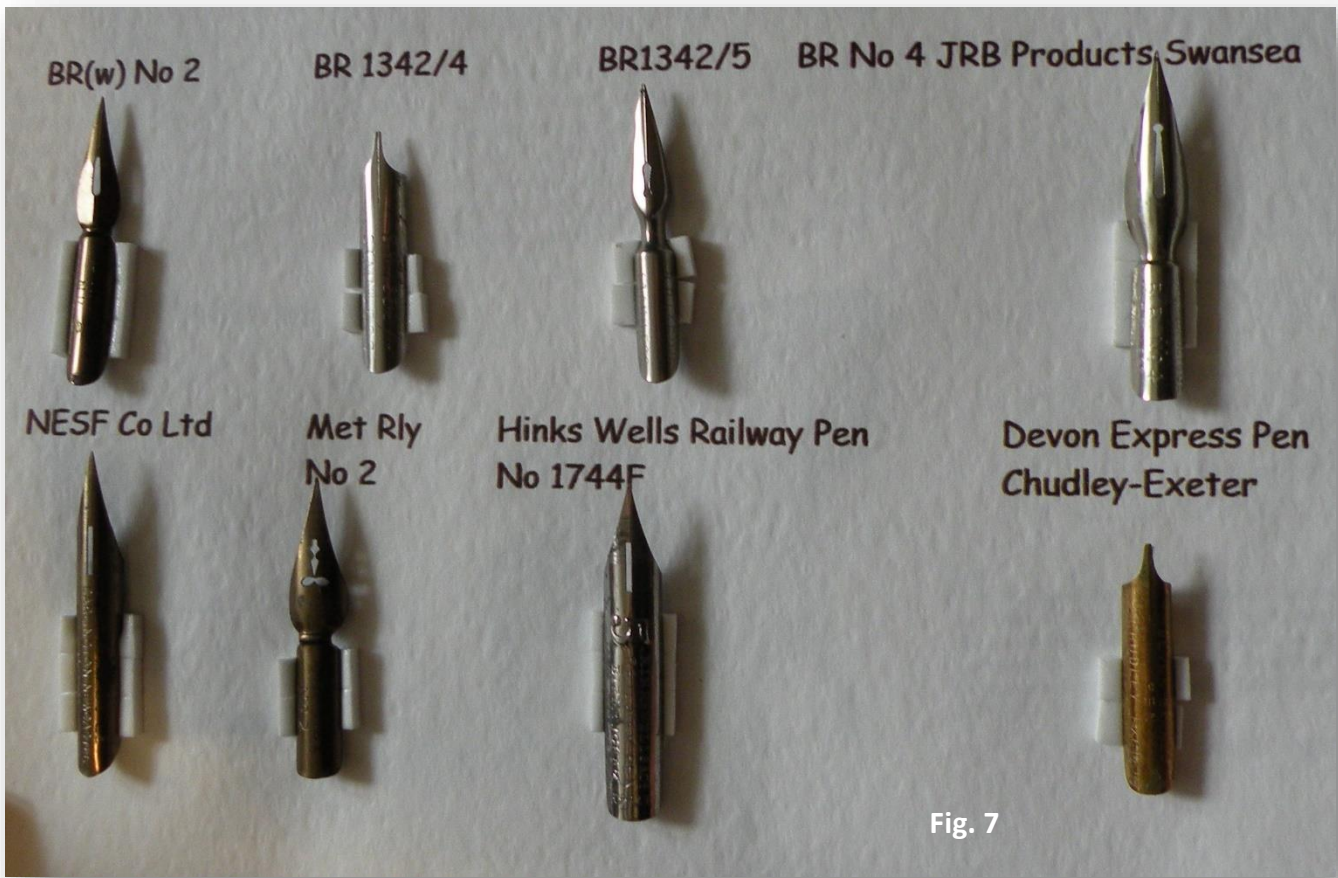


Fig. 7

In the Writing Society there are about ten people that collect nibs, and Chris (Mrs. Nibs) is the only one living in Wiltshire. She is finding that her research and collection of even one manufacturer is overwhelming, and doesn't feel she will ever be able to say she has one of every nib from a particular manufacturer, because there are just too many of them.

From speaking with her I can tell she is frustrated in the way her collection hobby has taken over so much of her time, and placed her in a position whereby although she would like to completely catalogue all the items, she has it is a mammoth task. Each time she makes progress another nib, or writing item comes along and she then digresses.

A couple of years back she had a health issue, and sadly can no longer write herself as she once did because the often-small movements required in calligraphy are no longer possible at present. However, I feel from having met and talked with her she is not one to give up easily, and thank goodness people do collect all kinds of item like nibs otherwise that part of our history would be lost.

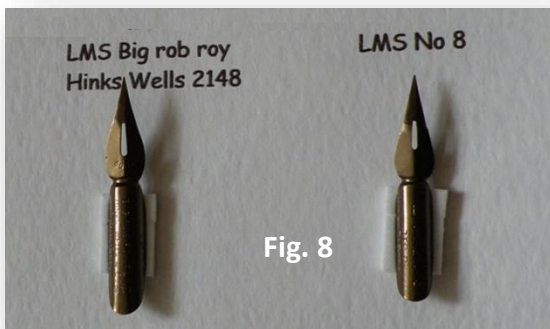


Fig. 8

The stamp boxes (Figure 9) and metal pens are the sort of items that can be found metal detecting and these are collectable. Again, do not rub these items when first found because they require careful cleaning.

Chris also has most of the Pen Manufacturers catalogues, and certainly is willing to help identify nibs found, and other small items that could be associated with writing.



Fig. 9

Club Roundups and information from around the four regions



Wiltshire Searchers Metal Detecting Club (WISE) are a Western Region club and are now in their fifth year, and meet on the first Thursday of each month in Calne, Wiltshire. The AGM was held in August, and the committee was re-elected. The

August meeting saw the return of the find of the month competition, and only entries made on club land can be placed on the table. The two winning entries are shown below as an Elizabeth 1st Hammered Silver penny, and an interesting small iron Axe head of the type used by shepherds.



The Weymouth and Portland MDC has been in existence for around 45 years, starting small but now we have a large membership. We have a varied age group and a range of experience from new to the hobby to 50 years' experience. We hold a monthly meeting in a private club in Weymouth and usually have around 40/45 members attend. We have finds of the month competitions, results decided by members votes. We have guest speakers such as the local archaeologists, local historians and club members such as Brian Read who we all know as an excellent author of many detecting books. Sometimes we are called upon to find lost items on Weymouth beach and other holiday hotspots locally. The photos show some recent winning items from our monthly competitions.



1st Trajan Denarius AD 114-117 Obverse
by Dave Cobb



1st Iconographic Ring 14th to 15th C by Eric Coles



1st Saxon Period Denier (Sceat) 584-750 Obverse
by Keith Brown



1st La Tène Celtic Brooch 3rd Century BC
by Allen Carey

Finds from the Hucclecote Club, Gloucester



James Half Groat second coinage 1604-19



Elizabeth 1 Three halfpenny 1561



2 1/2 pence, 14 New Hall Street



G.W. Wilks, Kings Head Inn, King Street now demolished



City of Bristol farthing 1652

Melton and Belvoir Search Society

The Edward III penny didn't come to light until I got home and cleaned it up a little and noticed a lion at the bottom and crowns on the reverse, which led me to discovering it to be an Anglo Gallic coin of EDWARD III.



The Medieval purse bar 1400-1550 is interesting as at the time of unearthing I had to vacate the field as the ploughman had just entered the field, so I will have to investigate at a later date to see if any coins were lost at the same time as the purse was lost.



The iron key- I thought might be of interest as most of us discriminate against iron.



I had to dig this signal just below the surface and was most pleased with the result. I treated it with Paraloid B72 to give a nice sheen to it.



To end the report, I would like to show you above a petronel that I found several years ago on the same field as the purse bar. **John Cook**

The Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club

The Stour Valley Search and Recovery Club is a small club, and it has 22 members. People complain that they can't join the club as the form to join has not appeared on their website, but this is because the members are all well and healthy so no vacancies have come up in recent years!

It is an active club going out together every Saturday almost without exception. The advantage of detecting over quite a wide area of Dorset enables the members to enjoy some wonderful sites all around Dorset.

Members have been lucky enough to find a hoard on one of the club sites recently, and that is presently grinding its way through the treasure process. The club has also won some awards in the past for services to Archaeology where members were involved in treasure finds that led to investigative work with the archaeologists; such as the gold lunula in Dorset County Museum that was found by the club, and a year later our members found the missing terminal end and thus ensured it was a complete lunula.

The club also collect all our scrap from digs and a dedicated member sorts it into its various metals and then we take it to a scrap merchant. The proceeds are donated to charities chosen by some of our farm owners.



Gold Luna now in the Dorset Museum



Mount



Henry II half groat



Silver Aethelred



Trajan



Pilgrim ampulla



Stator



Sand of the Wind by Sean Flanagan, MA (Anthropology)

This is the brief story of my favourite find this year. I am still fairly new to the hobby, having taken the detecting course with David Rees at Marlborough College Summer School a few years ago, satisfying an itch I'd had since studying archaeology at university in the US in the 1990s. I belong to a small club, but mostly I detect with my teenage daughter in the fields around our Wiltshire cottage, in the Vale of Pewsey where the local farmers have been kind enough to let us hunt between harvest and planting each year. We have found a good range of medieval artefacts, plus a few Saxon and Roman objects, so it was somewhat against the odds that a twentieth century find came first this year.

My daughter and I had taken a break from her A-level preparations and went out for a short hunt in the field opposite the cottage. We had a decent run of luck and were getting ready to head home when we hit a last good signal. There was a moment of excitement when a coin shape emerged from the dirt clod, followed by a groan as a hole appeared in its middle. Just a brass washer. But oddly there was a ring affixed to it like it was a charm or pendant.

Back at home, cleaning revealed a coin with Arabic script, dated 1917.



A bit of research identified it as Egyptian, which in turn seemed to tell a pretty clear story.

1917 was the year that the British/Colonial Desert Column made a counteroffensive against the Ottomans and Germans after their attacks on Sinai and the Suez Canal. The force fought its way out of Egypt, retook Sinai and ultimately captured Palestine as well. Meanwhile the Arab Revolt and Lawrence of Arabia harried the Ottomans across the region.

The coin to me must have been either a charm worn for luck by a soldier in this campaign, or a memento kept afterwards.

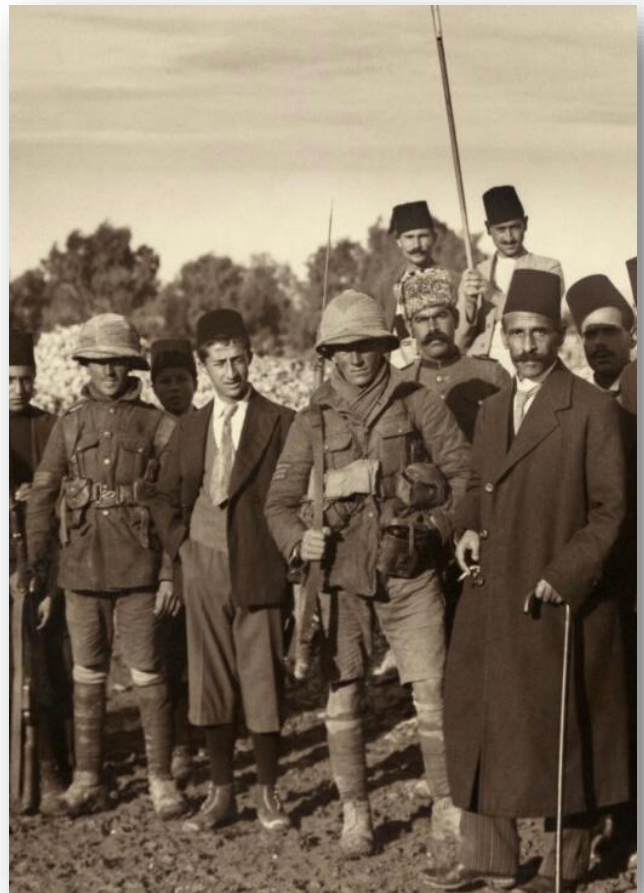
In my imagined history, he returned home to England, settled in our little Wiltshire village and worked in the fields, keeping the charm with him for the memories, until the sad day that he lost it. It is of course possible I'm wrong, but I

don't think I've ever held a find that painted a clearer picture of major events that defined its owner's life.



Cameleers of the Desert Column

source: Wikipedia entry on the Sinai and Palestine Campaign



Ottoman surrender of Jerusalem December 9, 1917

source: KGOU.org How World War I Shaped the Modern Middle East

News from Wiltshire Police

Wiltshire Police are pleased to be able to provide additional signage to the most vulnerable areas in the County.

The signage covers Scheduled Monuments and highlights that Bonfires, BBQ's, Off Roding and Illegal Metal Detecting is not allowed in the area.



Wiltshire is very rich in Heritage, and is lucky enough to have World Heritage Sites within its boundaries such as Avebury and Stonehenge.

There are in fact over 1300 scheduled monuments in the county. Sadly, over the years they have been targeted by various criminal activities. It is hoped that by careful usage of the signs it will act as a deterrent to opportunists and will leave offenders in no doubt that their activity is illegal. It is so important to protect for future generations these wonderful areas that we have so much pride in.

Mark Harrison, Policing and Crime Advisor for English Heritage said: *"The practice of illegal metal detecting and stealing artefacts from the ground is an issue that English Heritage takes very seriously. These are not people enjoying a hobby, nor professionals carrying out a careful study. Any objects removed belong to the landowner, and the history that is being stolen belongs to all of us. The theft of ancient artefacts robs us of important information about our heritage, and the artefacts themselves are lost to the public. English Heritage will continue to work closely with our partners in preventing heritage crime and ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice."*

If you see people illegally metal detecting you can call 999 to report this suspected crime. If you wish to report the actions of individuals and it is not urgent, you can use the 101 system and make a note of the report number.

If you feel that your information was not taken seriously then email basic information and the report number to support@amds.org.uk and we will try to help resolve the issue.

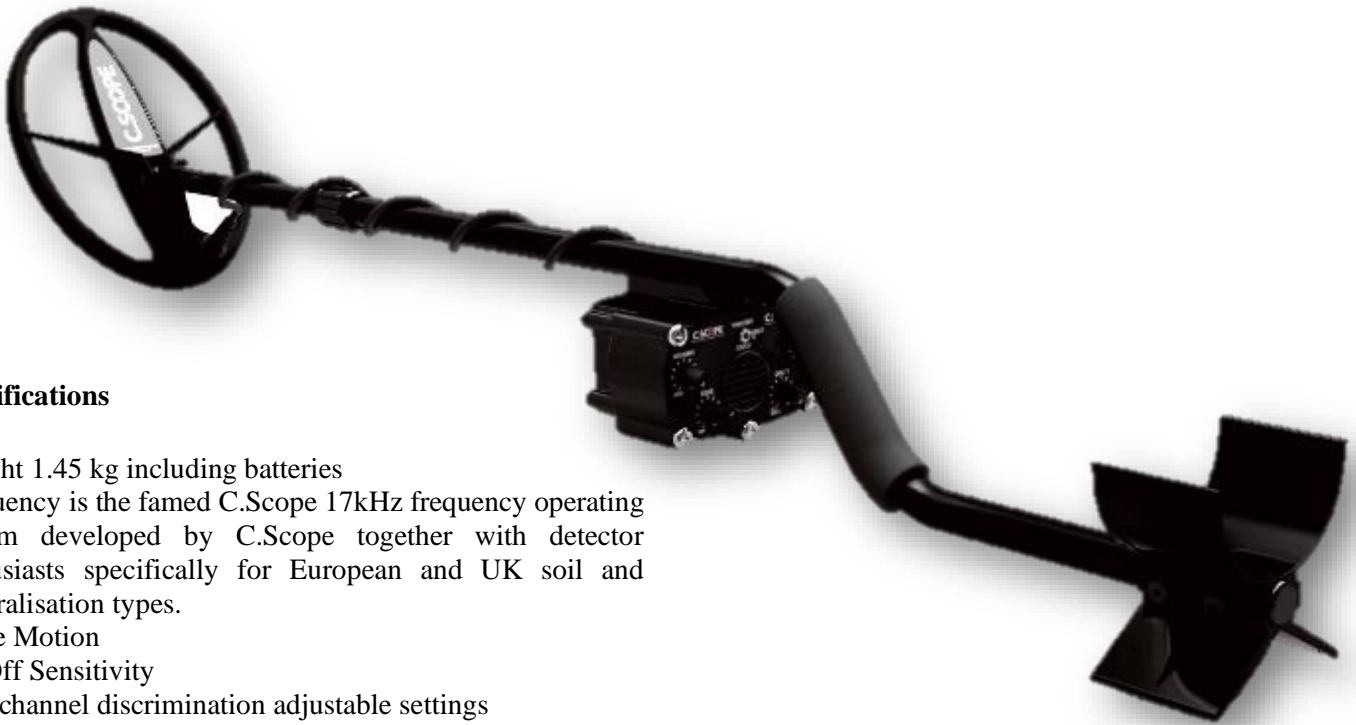


Farm workers
source: stanhoe.org



The Vale of Pewsey

Field Test C.Scope 4MXi by David Rees



Specifications

Weight 1.45 kg including batteries
Frequency is the famed C.Scope 17kHz frequency operating system developed by C.Scope together with detector enthusiasts specifically for European and UK soil and mineralisation types.
Mode Motion
On/Off Sensitivity
Two channel discrimination adjustable settings
Default Auto Ground Balance setting
Manual adjustable Ground Balance setting
Pinpoint switch
Power 8 Alkaline 1.5-volt AA or rechargeable NiMH pack.
Battery life approximately 50 hours.
Waterproof sealed battery compartment with easy fit large knurled nut locking.
Control Box is constructed from rugged pressure tested ABS moulding.
Hip mount facility.
Two-part stem with cam knurled nut locking. Hole and pin alignment and length adjustment. GRP lower stem with ultra-strong bolt to the search head.

Overview

Benefitting from new generation signal processing and filtering the 4MXi produces a superb sharp and fast signal response with a lightning recovery time.

The CS4MXi is supplied as standard with the 8 x 11" 2D elliptical search head and features the option of three interchangeable heads to enable deeper detection, greater ground coverage and optimised performance for a variety of situations. Two of these are 2D elliptical and one concentric. 11 x 14" (28 x 34cm) elliptical 2D - available as option, and an 8" (20cm) concentric - available as option.

First Impressions

The instruction booklet contains some useful information so it is beneficial to have a careful read through this. The assembly was easy and quick, and I wrapped the cable

around the stem and secured it with the two Velcro straps provided.

The battery compartment (Figure 1) was accessed by four knurled nuts and the battery pack is just pushed in to connect. The cable from the head is plugged into the socket underneath the control panel. That is also the location of the standard jack headphone socket.

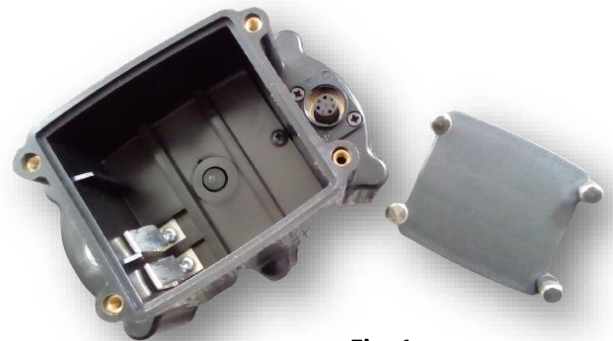


Fig. 1

Being quite tall I adjusted stem length to suit my height, and the angle of the search head.

I was impressed by the weight and balanced feel of the detector as I practised scanning in my garden. Whilst scanning the detector my thumb could easily flick and use the Pinpoint/Disc 1/Disc 2 switch.

System

The panel (Figure 2) has the following controls: -

1. On Off/ Sensitivity control
2. Ground Level control
3. Discrimination 1
4. Discrimination 2
5. Pinpoint
6. Above the panel is the control box mounting clip



Fig. 2

I set the machine up as outlined in the 'Rapid Start' in the user manual.

1. Rotate the Disc 1 control to number 4 on the scale.
2. Set the Ground Control to 'AUTO'.
3. Rotate the Disc 2 control to number 6 (two up from Disc 1) on the scale.
4. Rotate the sensitivity to turn on, and then until I could hear a faint sound in the headphones. That was about 8 on the scale.

It was now ready to start detecting. *My own tip is to occasionally 'tweak' the audio sound in the headset using the sensitivity control so it remains just audible.*

In the field



It was a hot sunny morning in August when four of us from my club met up on one of our sites. The area I had chosen for my test was a large field (Figure 3) that we have been detecting for some past months and I decided to detect in a corner measuring about 60 feet square.



I started in the bottom right of the above picture (Figure 4) and slowly moved up the field making certain that I overlapped the head on each swing.

After moving slowly about five feet I had my first signal. I noted that metal targets give a sharp audio signal in the headphones, and I switched to Disc 2 to check the target. The signal was clear and there was no noticeable change as I crossed it in all directions and then I switched to pinpoint to identify the exact position of the target.

The non-motion pinpoint mode I found very accurate and this first find, a broken copper item, was located in the middle of the hole at a depth of 5 inches. I recovered all I could of this artefact (Figure 5) and it is one of those yet to be identified.



I carefully back-filled the hole in and slowly and carefully moved on to another signal.

I checked this signal as I outline previously and found that it was broken when criss-crossed with the head, and not consistent in all direction. I decided to dig it and found it was a top once used to cap milk bottles. The depth was about 6 inches.

Moving on again and this time another positive signal consistent in all directions, (Figure 6) at about 8 inches I recovered a large buckle.



The next signal enabled me to locate another item to be identified at about 8 inches. This item (Figure 7) was constructed from iron and the star shaped wheel is possibly an alloy.



Fig. 7

I was impressed with the tone from the machine when it detected an item in the ground. It was sharp and very clear,

and it was easy to use this to make decisions to dig or not to dig.

There are no set patterns, depth meters, or digital screens to view or take your mind off the actual task, of metal detecting.

On each occasion when I tested non-consistent sounding signals, I found rubbish such as foil mainly bottle tops and also one aluminium ring pull. I continued slowly, making certain I overlapped each swing of the head and keeping it parallel to the surface.

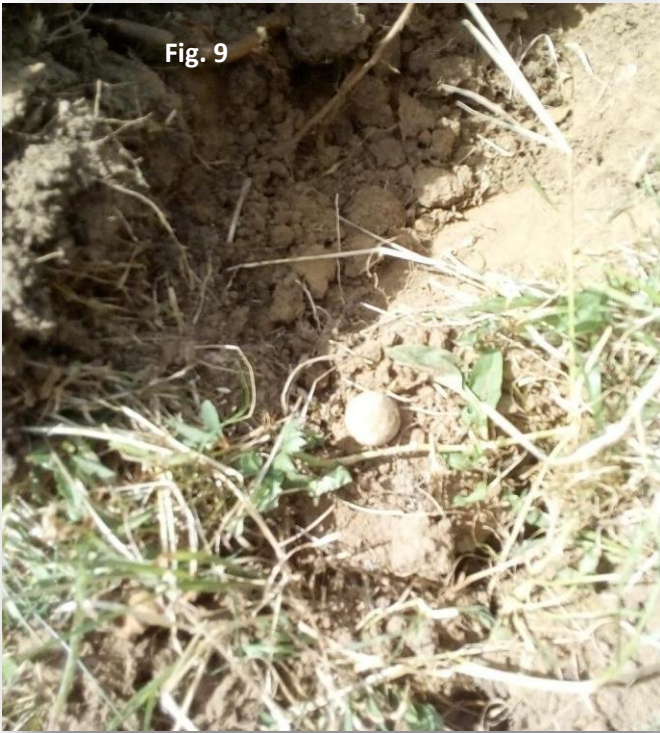
Then another good signal. I was on a roll and this was at about 9 inches deep (Figure 8) and turned out to be a George V penny dated 1917.



The next signal (Figure 9) produced a lead musket ball from about 6 inches, and I was enjoying this machine and how well it was performing.

I have over the past years used many different metal detectors, and some costing more than three times what the CS4MXi does, and using it now rekindled the feeling you have that is similar to when you start out on a new site.

The point is, that these items had possibly been missed previously, and I wondered what else would be produced this day?



My next signal (Figure 10) produced a Northumberland Fusiliers cap badge from about 9 inches and that will be a nice item to research.



Fig. 10

There followed four signals I didn't dig as the sound each time was not consistent, but to reassure myself I did dig the fifth signal and it was an alloy bottle top.

The next signal (Figure 11) was consistent and about 8 inches deep, and a coin. The outline of the obverse showed a radiate bust.....Roman. My local FLO quickly responded to me that it looks like a (AD 307-361) copper alloy nummus, possibly BEATA TRANQVILLITA. It has to be finally identified but it is a London mint House of Constantine.



I telephoned the others to check how they were doing and was told that not a lot had been found. I wanted one more find and that came about 10 feet from where I found the Roman coin. It was a good constant signal (Figure 12) and about 8 inches deep. It is a decorative item yet to be identified.



Fig. 12



Above are all the finds that I made **in just over 2½ hours** laid out together when I got back home and are uncleaned.

1 unknown, 2 is the top of a domestic knife blade, 3 unknown, 4 an oil filler cap, 5 buckle, 6 the bottom of a light bulb, 7 musket ball, 8 Roman coin, 9 George V 1917 penny, 10 unknown, 11 Northumberland Fusiliers cap badge and 12 bronze unknown.

If you want a high-performance metal detector capable of making a wide variety of finds then the CSMX4i should be tried before you part with a lot more money than the cost of this great machine.

Using the hip mount facility that is supplied with the machine, you can metal detect for many hours with little or no fatigue. If you require a wireless facility C Scope provide that for under £100 and was the subject of a previous article I had written that was published in the Searcher Magazine a few years back.



Roman coin - London mint House of Constantine.

Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales, PAS CYMRU by Mark Lodwick and Brian Vaughan



Mark Lodwick



Brian Vaughan

PAS Cymru is managed and funded by the Welsh Government through three equal partners, comprising Amgueddfa Cymru Museum Wales, Cadw and Mald. Amgueddfa Cymru coordinates and hosts the scheme in Wales, in addition to managing and reporting on Treasure cases in Wales.

PAS Cymru now has three reporting offices across Wales in Cardiff, Wrexham and Swansea. Dyfed and Gwynedd archaeological trusts based in Llandeilo and Bangor respectively provide PAS service in south west and north west Wales respectively.

PAS Cymru is looking to appoint an Engagement Officer (part time, potentially based in Carmarthen County Museum) who will provide a link between museums and heritage services across Wales and raise awareness of the finds recording work undertaken by PAS Cymru.

The Engagement Officer will help to ensure effective communication between PAS Cymru, local and regional

museums, finder communities, the wider heritage sector in Wales and Welsh Government.

PAS Cymru staff offices

Cardiff

George Whatley (job share, 3 days / week) and **Adelle Bricking** (job share, 2 days / week) Finds Officers based at the National Museum Cardiff. George and Adelle are responsible for recording finds reported in SE Wales and helping to ensure social media communications

Clara De Sousa (Headley Trust funded part-time, 3 days / week) is employed as an intern to record PAS finds and assist in the running of PAS Cymru

Mark Lodwick (part time, 2 days / week) is the Finds Coordinator, responsible for managing the day to day running of the scheme in Wales and also undertakes much of the liaising with finder communities

Wrexham

Dr Susie White (part time, 3 days / week) Finds Officer based in Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archives. Susie is responsible for recording finds reported in north east Wales.

Swansea

Nicola Kelly (part time, 3 days / week) Finds Officer based in Swansea Museum. Nicola is responsible for recording finds reported in West Glamorgan area.

Contacts:

Cardiff

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Mark Lodwick; Finds Coordinator:
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Wrexham

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Dr Susie White; Finds Officer:
Susie.White@museumwales.ac.uk; Tel: 01978 297466

Swansea

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Victoria Road,
Swansea,
SA1 1SN,
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Nicola Kelly; Finds Officer:
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South West Wales

Dyfed Archaeological Trust

The Corner House,
6 Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE
Jenna Smith; j.smith@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk;
Tel: 01558 825995

North West Wales

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Craig Beuno
Garth Road
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT
Sean Derby: sean.derby@heneb.co.uk; Tel: 01248 366963

PAS CYMRU web site

<https://museum.wales/portable-antiquities-scheme-in-wales/>

ARMD (Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting) and AMDS (Association for Metal Detecting Sport)

ARMD

The four regions, namely the Midlands, Western, Southern and Yorkshire began working together during the Covid 19 pandemic, through necessity, because at that time unratified, unelected officers had taken control of the NCMD.

The four regions have amongst their ranks the longest serving and founding member of the NCMD in their team. That person is John Wells who was its Chairman for 18 years, the Honorary President for 6 years and Midland Federation Chairman for the past 40 years. John's achievements during his Chairmanship of the NCMD included leading a team of unpaid volunteers in negotiations to create the Treasure Act 1996, followed in 1997 by the Portable Antiquities Scheme which was created as a voluntary programme run by the United Kingdom government to record the increasing numbers of small finds of archaeological interest found by members of the public. The scheme now covers most of England and Wales, and is now administered by the British Museum.

In 2009 John was forthright in condemning the actions of Nighthawks who besmirched the good reputation of law-abiding detectorists and he declared this in a speech he gave at the Linnean institute in London to a packed audience of Archaeologists and lawmakers. John has been prominent in promoting and protecting the hobby of metal detecting for the past forty years.

In 2012 John was instrumental in bringing the curse of Green Waste to the public's attention in his article entitled "Waste not Wanted" This alerted both the public and Government to the growing problem of pollution, brought about by the dumping of all manners of filth on farmland under the pretence of being good for the soil. To this end, John sought the help of many luminaries especially the outstanding work of Sir Bob Russell, who in 2012 managed to bring this subject to a wider audience in an adjournment debate in the House of Commons

Amongst the ranks of ARMD in addition to John, is David Barwell, a former Chairman of the NCMD for 5 years, who until recently lived abroad but has returned to the UK in order to throw his weight behind the protection of the hobby

Others in the team include Roger Mintey, the finder of the Reigate Hoard and Chairman of the Southern Region, Clive Sinclair, the Secretary of the Southern Region, David Rees, Chairman of the Western Region and lead on Heritage Watch training, Brian Vaughan, Secretary of the Western Region,

overseeing and working with the PAS in Wales, Nick Keeler, Vice Chairman of the Western Region and Syd Hallam, the long-standing Yorkshire Region Vice-Chairman and Lorraine Stanley, Treasurer, of the Western Region

All of these individuals had been former officers of the NCMD working voluntarily on behalf of the hobby until the end of 2021.

In the second half of 2021 the four regions which were no longer being recognised, joined together to form the **Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting (ARMD)**. This enterprise started with no funds, and was eagerly assisted by benefactors who offered financial and other help to enable ARMD to become an organisation to better represent the hobby and the membership of the four regions.

The PAS Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting was immediately adopted by all the regions and the head of the PAS was informed before being then adopted by another metal detecting organisation.

AMDS

The external benefactors who had begun assisting the four regions in their struggle, were prepared to continue to assist them independently. Obtaining insurance was a priority, and these benefactors formed a new membership organisation called the **Association for Metal Detecting Sport (AMDS)** offering many benefits included within the membership.

These benefits are: -

- There is no joining fee,
- The annual subscription is **ONLY £5:00**,
- **Membership includes £10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover.**
- This Public Liability insurance covers members whilst taking part in any metal detecting on land, with the permission of the landowner, (responsible metal detecting) and also includes taking part in metal detecting at commercial detecting events, and other metal detecting related events such as, lectures, exhibitions etc.
- A membership card with a plastic weather-resistant covering,
- A very experienced, and hardworking management team with a proven track record in protecting and promoting the hobby over many years
- Members receive the AMDS newsletter AMDS Times presently produced twice each year,
- Members can join the AMDS Private Facebook group,
- The Facebook group allows the buying and selling of detecting related products between members,
- Members will be provided, when available, discounts for hobby related item.
- An annual detecting related competition,

- Members can consider taking metal detecting related educational courses when made available,
- Password protected members only area on web site.

Because of their backgrounds and knowledge of the hobby, AMDS asked John Wells and David Rees to assist them as consultants, and they have undertaken those roles for the past 10 months. An early AMDS task was to obtain Third Party Liability insurance for £10m. This insurance had not only to match existing insurance policies but it had to be cheaper and more competitive. The task was to present to the members of ARMD a cheaper membership that could include public liability insurance at an annual price of just £5.00.

ARMD at present, consists of the four regions. Their regional officers are democratically elected by their memberships and meet when necessary, during each year in a similar manner to how they represented the hobby as officers of the NCMD, but without the pyramidal structure. Regions are free to arrange meetings with outside bodies, and are well placed to promote and protect the hobby both locally and nationally.

The AMDS benefactors have provided: -

- A membership system and database
- A membership card distribution network
- A Public liability insurance policy
- A Web Site and the hosting, social media output through various online providers and administration
- A publication for the members entitled **AMDS Times**.

Due to the involvement of John and David they were also able to assist in arranging meetings at the highest levels when required to forward the aims of the hobby and its members.

The organisation is able to accommodate not only clubs from within the regions but also individual members who wish to remain as individuals. It is hoped that in the future those individuals who wish to become part of a region may be introduced into membership if they so require.

If you would like to provide information about your club or write an article to be featured in the AMDS Times you can submit it to us using this email address: membership@amds.org.uk

QuickTides and a special benefit for members at Christmas



23rd annual QuickTides: 2023/2024 tidal predictions

If you enjoy beach metal detecting then you need QuickTides, and you will never be disappointed when wishing to know the tide prediction of the date you choose to visit the shoreline. This device can now be yours with a membership benefit discount.

EASY TO USE with No calculations; no need to adjust for summer time; all times shown as AM or PM (not the 24-hour clock); two years – what could be simpler?

All UK, Ireland, and Belgium to Gibraltar – all with local summer and winter time – all based on official British tidal information.

Slim, colourful, four-page, A5-size cards.

QuickTide was first published in 1999, and has been updated each autumn since then.

QuickTide is used by sailors, bird watchers, beach visitors, surfers, kite surfers, open-water swimmers, coastal walkers, canoeists, metal detectorists, photographers, anglers, caravaners, fossil collectors, campers, divers, mudlarks ... and QuickTides are ideal as presents.

Some of the magazines that have given editorials: -

Daily Telegraph Weekend, Bush craft, Sunday Times Travel Section, Walk Spring, Boat Fishing Monthly, South West Coast Path Association, Birdwatch, Outdoor Photography,

Yachts and Yachting, Scuba World, Angling Times, Sea Angler, Sports Diver, The Searcher and Treasure Hunting.

There are three QuickTides available, South West, South East and North.

To order a single QuickTide the **retail cost is £11.00** plus postage (approx. £12.00). However, we have a limited number of these easy-to-use QuickTides available that you can now order direct from AMDS and take advantage of a membership discount that includes postage.

The total you will pay for **any ONE** of the three areas is only £9.00 per single copy (a saving of approximately £3.00) for this invaluable metal detecting extra.

For any **two areas**, the cost will be £17.50, for all **three areas** the costs will be £26.00 inclusive of postage and **that is a saving of £10.**

If you would like further information, and to reserve your QuickTide just email support@amds.org.uk with your name and membership number and your requirements.

We will get back to you and let you know if they are still available.

This is a limited time benefit and once they are sold out, they may not be available again for several months.

**Always be an informed metal detectorist and
don't forget to buy your copy each month**



Above is shown the November 2022 edition cover