

The ARCHAEOLOGY &
METAL DETECTING
MAGAZINE #6

Lost Relics of
The knights
Templar

The
Hambleton
Hoard

Just 
Detect
An evolution of the hobby

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Dave Sadler

Editors' Ramblings....

Welcome to Spring Detectival 2020... Wait, Sorry, 2021. Yes, it's been that type of year. Nearly 18 months wiped out in a memorable period for Metal Detectorists and UK Wide. Why Memorable? Because for large swathes we were unable to leave the house, never mind go in a field, thanks to the worldwide COVID pandemic.

But thanks to many bodies, including ourselves, lobbying the Department for Digital, Culture and Sport (DCMS), Restrictions were eased and inline with Government regulations, we were able to resume the hobby, at least to a near-normal level.

Now we return to the site of the last Spring Detectival and home of the Hambleden Hoard, discovered here in 2019 and featured later in this, the 6th free printed version of the Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine.

We have seen some fantastic metal detecting finds in these 2 years, you all know them, you've seen them in National Media and Magazine's similar to our own.

But let's look to the future! The BIG Detecting Show has evolved from a podcast to a live Thursday night TV stream and podcast, with some phenomenal guests from around the world, TV and people just like you. And there's more to come! Get in touch if you would like to participate, or offer any stories for the magazine, or wish to have a product reviewed at Editor@archmdmag.com

We can look at the launch of the Detector Network, Just Detect, some new and exciting products from all the manufacturers we know, and some we don't. I've heard word of a new insurance provider, offering a more modern coverage for the present day, finds recording app's to work easier with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and much, much more

Thanks to Mark and Karen for allowing us to work with Detectival and produce this magazine and BIG thanks to Pete Turrell of Leisure Promotions. We will be back with a bigger issue at Detectival and the Rodney Cook Memorial rally later in the year.

We hope you enjoy this copy—Please remember we are not trying for the editorial perfection you see in the 'off the shelf' publications as this magazine is truly 'made by detectorists for detectorists' and many articles are published as received and in addition to that this issue was put together in two days so some of the usual checks that take place around things like image resolution had to be skipped.

Also thanks to all our readers and viewers for their continued support.

Dave Sadler and Luke Higgins





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By Arron Weedall

Beach Is Detecting Overlooked Why ?

Beach Metal Detecting is often overlooked by the Detecting community, some hardcore detectorists would rather gouge out their eyes than go detecting on the beaches.

But why?

Why does beach detecting get snubbed? Admittedly most of the time the finds are not overly old but on very rare occasions nice things can come up and The Grim Bleeper found his very first gold coin while out on a beach, he wasn't detecting but it gave him the bug and got him started.

I myself never really liked beach detecting when I started, I liked hitting the parks and finding old pennies, the odd silver six pence and thruppenny bits (everybody likes a nice thrupenny bit) but constant hassle from dog walkers forced me to head to the beach just to get some peace and after a few visits I started to pick up on where the hot spots were and where I could get fresh drops of coins, nothing really old but at least it paid for an ice cream.

Silver rings started to come up with more regular visits, it got me thinking about how much I may have missed in the past by simply not giving it a go and I slowly started to make the move from parks and focused more on the beach, I still made a few trips to the parks and had some cracking finds but the beach was calling me and within no time I was finding gold, something that still eludes some detectorists, I remember Stephen Kershaw of GoandGarrett telling me he had gone four years without any in the fields and now he's hitting the beaches he's getting gold on a regular basis.

I guess it all depends on what you're looking for, some detectorists are only interested in the history side of things that only comes from a field and they want the hammered coins and Romans, others want the gold and silver rings and spendable from the beach, I'm happy with both. Some say a field is never done and while that may be true a beach really is never truly done. If beaches suddenly saw a lack of activity there would be plenty to find as the tides constantly change its layout and bring things to the surface while at the same time burying other items for next time. Don't get me wrong, sometimes while detecting the beach you can feel like you're a litter picker with the amount of ring pulls and bottle tops you find but with glorious settings in the summer and the sound of the crashing waves it's worth it.

So yes, beach detecting might not give us hoards of hammered coins or Roman artefacts (as a rule) but it is still a fantastic aspect to this amazing hobby we call metal detecting. You can still find predecimal coins on the beach, gold and silver items, and if you're lucky you might be able to buy an ice cream on the way home - so what's not to love?

Beach detecting is perfect for people who are new to the hobby and those who may not yet have a permission to go to but are desperate to get out.

Long gone are the days where you needed to own a P.I. Machine to have a successful hunt on the beach with only coloured LEDs for an indication as to whether or not you should dig, thanks to the introduction of multi frequency detectors such as the Equinox, Vanquish and more recently the Apex, not forgetting the new eagerly anticipated offering from Nokta Makro set to be released in 2021, true they don't punch as deep as a P.I. detector but they will still find you some goodies. So in the height of summer when the fields are dry and it's like digging in concrete, get yourself down to the beach!





Sid Perry: The Hambleden Hoard

Back in 2019 Spring Detectival was held over a weekend in Henley on Thames by Mark Becher of The Metal Detectives group.

This turned out to be one of my most memorable days detecting ever.

I was helping out with Team Searcher at the time and me and Dan Spencer had been chatting about the area we thought would have the most potential, the history of the land we had to search was amazing so everywhere seemed good but we decided to head over towards the site of the old roman villa. We headed off early on a gator to be on location in time for when the detecting started at



9am.

9am came and everyone rushed off like a line of wacky racers all finding spots to detect—Myself, Dan , Phil Frag Hill and Mark White all jumped in the gator and sped off towards the Villa site.

We all had only been detecting for I guess 15-20 minutes when over the radio came the call “HOARD” ! We found out what field it was in and all headed over as quickly as we could to see what had come up.

As we got closer to the hoard field I could see three blokes gathered around — Andrew Winter one of the people that run north Of the Tyne Detecting group and a couple of his mates and then I noticed Scotty Bea running over from the distance. At this time they had found a small handful of silver hammered pennies of Edward II so they knew it was a hoard so they contacted Mark Becher straight away.

Event Marshalls then came over and cordoned off the area which was good news as word had travelled fast and lots of people had started to head over.



Once the area had been controlled it was not long until that small handful of coins became a massive stack, it was just amazing with people finding 20+ hammered coins in a single hole ! By this time the FLO was in attendance and the Archaeologists on the way.

Then..... BOOOOM ! Lewis Fudge shouted out “GOLD” and had an absolutely stunning gold noble coin—Lewis looked shell shocked, his face one of complete disbelief and I remember thinking to myself detecting can’t get any better than this right now, amazing historical finds coming up all around us ... BOOOOM ! Again the shout of ‘GOLD’ was heard and this time it was Andrew Winter holding a massive gold noble in his hand.

I wanted to detect but also knew I was recording history in the making so kept on filming and the full footage is on my youtube channel—you can find it using the following link > [Englands History Spring Detectival and the Hambleden hoard.](#)



Over the three day event just under six hundred silver hammered coins arose and twelve gold nobles as well as lots of other amazing finds.

And... Oh, Yea I almost forgot - On the Sunday just before the event came to a close my mate Phil Frag hill said “go on get out and do a bit of detecting, see if you can go get one of those gold coins” So out I headed and about 30 minutes later.... BOOOM ! I also found one of those amazing gold nobles which was the cherry on the cake for me !

But guess what—This weekend we are back on the same farm for Spring Detectival 2 with some new fields and some old ones to have another look at and I am not going to miss this one. Another hoard may be hidden awaiting us to discover it.

The Tidy Treasure Hunter

Stephen Pettican

“The Smaller Fields are Always Overlooked”



The smaller Fields are always overlooked.

There is a field about 3 acres not a mile away from my front door .No known activity in that field but it has produced some amazing for myself and fellow detectorists, from Roman, Medieval, Georgian and Victorian and all in good condition very easy to identify what you have found. There is only one path running through the field on the old maps following the road from the nearest Roman settlement , this field is about a mile away from where the road would run -was it a marketplace was it a camp who knows ?

This field will be lost to development in the near future more houses being built in the area.. so don't overlook the small Paddocks, small fields and small spinneys as you never know what was on there hundreds if not thousands of years ago. I have made a couple of videos in this field with myself finding Roman coins and artefacts, Medieval artefacts and coins, lots of junk and also something from The Iron Age which is identified by the FLO in Cardiff.

Everything in the pictures cam out of this one small patch of ground with probably more yet to be discovered.

You can follow me and see what I find by subscribing to my channel ‘ The Tidy Treasure Hunter ‘on youtube.



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WHAT'S MY FAVOURITE FIND?

MY FAVOURITE FIND IS MY SILVER CELTIC UNIT. ITS A BURY TYPE DIADEM FROM 60BC. ITS WAS FOUND IN NORFOLK TO THE EAST OF BURY AND WELL WITHIN THE ICENI TRIBES TERRITORY. THE BUST IS FANTASTIC AND THE REVERSE SHOWS THE ICONIC HORSE DESIGN. A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE.



WHY DO I NEVER FIND GOLD?

I HAVE BEEN DETECTING PRIME NORFOLK LAND FOR OVER SIX YEARS AND NEVER EVEN FOUND A GOLD PLATED RING! I WONDER IF I IGNORE SIGNALS THAT COULD BE GOLD? OR SHOULD I JUST REMEMBER THE OLD SAYING "YOU'VE GOT TO WALK OVER IT". I SEE SO MANY GOLD COINS AND OTHER ITEMS FOUND BY DETECTORISTS ALL OVER THE UK AND THIS FILLS ME WITH HOPE. MAYBE ONE DAY I WILL DANCE THE GOLD DANCE. TILL THEN MY SEARCH CONTINUES, EACH LITTLE BEEP

BEEP AND GRUNT GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BELIEVE THIS MAY BE MY DAY.



CHRIS AKA
THE DISCRIMINATOR

Dave's Reviews

This issue I will be taking a look at two products—the Composite cleaning Pencil and the Megraphta spade, full reviews of both are available on archdmag.com. If you have a product you would like tested and reviewed, be it a machine , book or detecting related product you can contact me at editor@archmdmag.com



Composite Cleaning Pencil & Preserve IT Wax

Well this product took me right back to my Aerospace days. The pencil is similar to the engineering pencils used for marking out etc.

The set is supplied with two inserts. A Black composite which is used for harder cleaning of heavily encrusted coins or artefacts, while a White insert offers a general cleaning process.

I decided to use a pair of Victorian nutcrackers and a selection of coins in the test. I was very impressed with the pencil, being used to similar, I was able to utilise

the product to gradually pick away at some very fine detail—this would have huge potential for finds of smaller more intricate detail. the Composite cleaning pencil will be a valuable instrument, especially under a magnifying tool.

The recent inclusion of 4 brass tool inserts give the range added importance. Instead of the use of dental like tools, the inserts add to the pencils all round purpose. A valuable addition to be sure.

I have seen the end result of using these pencils, with care and patience on many roman coins and previously ‘cruddy’ and unidentifiable coins have cleaned up amazing well.

You may well then want to preserve with find using the Composite Cleaning pencils very own Preserve IT Wax ! The Preserve IT wax again is simple to use and the instructions mirror the ease of use of the Composite cleaning pencil. I was able to make My set of Victorian nutcrackers and a selection of coins look absolutely stunning.

Combined together the Pencil and Wax make an awesome combination and both are thoroughly recommended.



Megraphta Spade Review

We get to review lots of different products at Arch MD Mag. There have been a few that were absolute pap, some OK, and some, in our opinion, fantastic.

Today we have the latter.

Owner of [Megraphta](#) – Paul was trusting enough to send us the item to test in the field and offer an honest review.

The shovel stem is made from composites that are specially made for this application. The blade is made from high tensile steel and the handle from moulded hardened plastic to keep the weight down. All the materials used are sourced in the UK. Each shovel is hand made and assembled in the UK.

At just 2.5 pounds It takes a bit to get used to the fact that the [Megraphta](#) is so bloody light, I can’t describe how it feels after being used to carrying around a much heavier spade.

The lightness of the entire unit also led me to feel that the shaft of the [Megraphta](#) would not hold up to the force and pressure of my testing and use but I am pleased to say even after digging on all sorts of ground including a very hard and rocky permission the Megraphta stood the test—I even propped it against a wall and kicked the stem , I leant my full 21 stone into it but failed to damage it.

By trade I am an aircraft fitter, so understand and appreciate carbon composite materials, having worked with large scale versions of the material I realise the strength of the shaft and what its capabilities are and the strains that can be placed on it. The points of attachment to the blade and handle are well constructed, meaning any potential risk of fracture is minimal.

This product and potential future related tools are a well worthy purchase. I would even like to see a similar shaft on larger gardening spades. Well done to Paul on this fantastic product and good luck with the [Megraphta](#)’s future.

We have a spade you can view at the Archaeology and Metal Detecting stall this weekend.

Stephen Grey Anglo Celtic Detecting



Well it's been a very long time since I've written anything I must say.

So much has happened to me and many other people in these challenging times. I lost my wife during Covid to cancer. So remember her my beloved Rachael Grey who we lost one year ago, Rach loved my Detecting so I best take a look at some finds I have made since I last wrote anything.

About eighteen months ago my mate had to pay my petrol and fee to get on a Rally I was that broke. I offered him an XP challenge him using the Orx and myself the Deus and I tracked across the third field slowly not finding much, I looked back and about twelve people were very busy and animated in the opposite corner to me so I decided to slowly track back diagonally across the field.

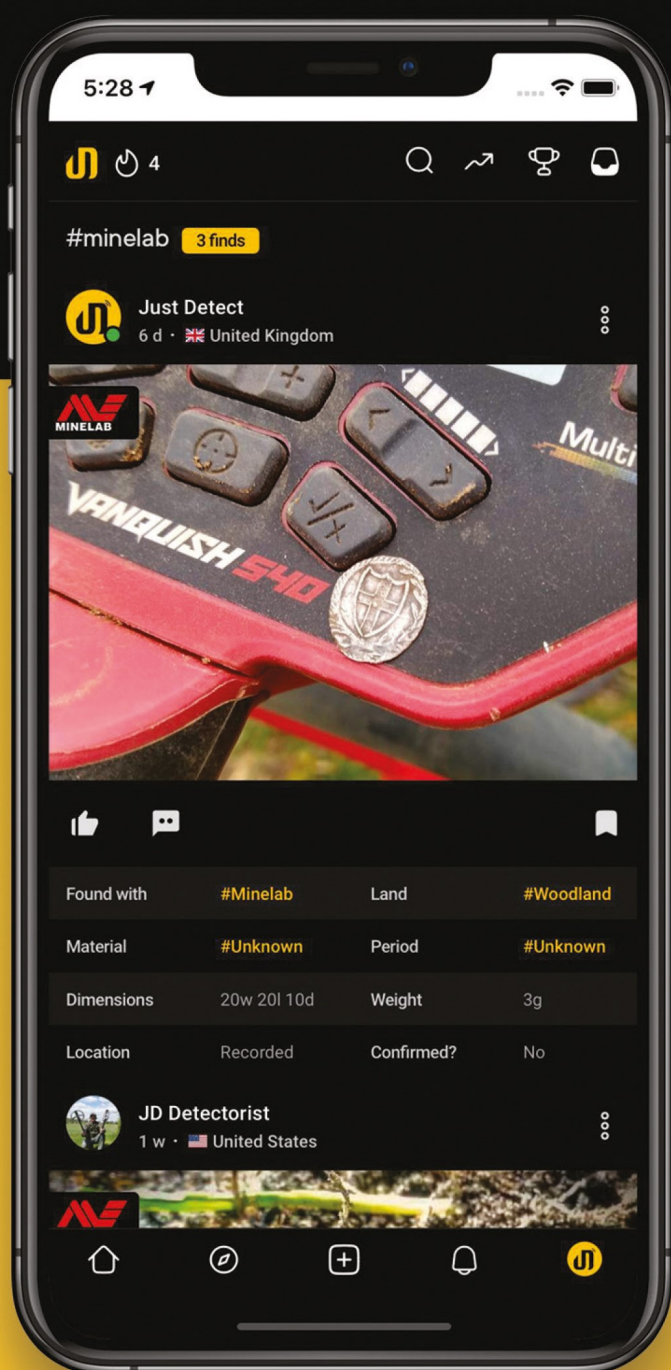


My first signal on it was a scratchy audio number six on the Deus and I couldn't believe it when I realised I was looking at a silver medieval annular brooch with black niello designs. I was in shock but my friends were more shocked. They'd all walked over it and left that dodgy signal. Needless to say I beat my friend on the XP challenge.

Another good day a friend invited three of us down to his Roman spot. My first good signal was a lovely roman silver siliqua and the Second signal a bronze in amazing condition. Third signal my best ever intact Roman brooch and I then found more bronzes and two clumps of bronze coins fused together from a fire. It was another amazing day that makes up for the bad ones.

My YouTube channel is vibrant just now. It's my way of coping with the loss of Rachael and yet again Detecting is getting me through the toughest of times and I'm inspiring lots of others to do the same which is awesome.

Please subscribe to my channel Anglo Celtic Metal Detecting on YouTube and help me and by doing so we'll also support our fellow diggers.



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The Lost Relics of the Knights Templar follows one of the world's most prolific yet unknown treasure hunters, Hamilton White and his long-time friend, Carl Cookson, as they trace the origin of an amazing hoard of relics – believed to have belonged to the legendary Knights Templar – The Tomar Hoard.

Until today, no major items belonging to the Knights Templar, the medieval Special Forces of Christendom, made famous by The Crusades, have ever been recovered. However, Hamilton and Carl believe they have at last discovered what everyone else has been looking for – a treasure trove of artefacts which reveal who the Templar's were, how they worshipped, and why they were targeted, imprisoned and wiped out by Papal decree in 1307.

The Tomar Hoard is a hoard of weapons, helmets and chalices believed to have been owned by the Knights Templar. It is thought to have been amassed by the Templars, famed for their exploits in The Crusades. Its current owner, Hamilton White, spent years assembling the scattered pieces from the initial 1960 discovery in Tomar, Portugal, the site of a major Knights Templar stronghold.

Five items from the collection feature in series 1, also hosted by Dan Jones. Each of the episodes focuses on a different relic



· A helmet once owned by Heinrich Himmler, the helmet is suspected to have been made in the 13th Century and is in the style of 'Great Helms' favoured by medieval knights. Heinrich Himmler may have once owned this helmet, and it is almost identical to one on display at the Altes Zeughaus museum in Berlin, named 'The Dargen Helmet'.

· A sword once potentially carried by a Templar Grand Master who died at the Siege of Acre in 1291.

· A Stunning Obsidian Chalice - A spectacular chalice made from one of the world's rarest materials – obsidian, known as volcanic glass. It stands at 21cm high, has a diameter of 14.5cm at the lip and measures 16.5cm across the most bulbous part of the bowl.

· A Libation Cup - A stunning piece of medieval marble art, with carved heads acting as handles.

· And finally a Reliquary box – An ornate item possibly made in the early 13th Century and is 29cm tall. Several characters are depicted on the box, possibly St George and Jesus Christ, but in Monk Robes.

Overall the series is an exceptionally well put together historical show. The artefacts discussed are phenomenal to behold. There will be many naysayers both in the Templar research and historic communities. But for me, with a passion for the subject, I learnt a hell of a lot historically and was captivated by the passion shown by Carl and Hamilton. The other 'experts' involved in the series offered more theories and knowledge that I previously had no idea about. Each individual item, is researched and in some cases subjected to test procedures to ascertain provenance to its age and to learn more about each item

We were joined by Hamilton and Carl on the Big Detecting show on 3rd June 2021 for one of our favourite episodes to date. You can find it in our episode library at www.bigdetectingshow.com

Series 1 of Lost Relics of the Knights Templar can viewed on the History Channel in many countries. A great first series and I look forward to season 2 excitedly.

The episode can be heard on the bigdetectingshow.co.uk or via Spreaker, apple play and many other podcasting networks.

The BIG show airs live every Thursday at 8pm in television and radio format.



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