



THE ARCHAEOLOGY  
& METAL DETECTING  
**MAGAZINE**

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# DETECTIVAL OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

September  
**DETECTIVAL**  
BRINGING THE WORLD OF METAL DETECTING TOGETHER  
10-11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022



Finding a Napoleonic sword



The rare Ambiani 'Dreamer' coin



Four years and four groats



Gold rams head brooch



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Published throughout the year and distributed for FREE to all those interested in the hobby of metal detecting history, and archaeology.

If you have an article you would like us to publish, event or like to review or advertise in the magazine please get in touch.

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Aaron Weedall

**Welcome** to Detectival 2022. We are proud to be here for the 4th time and again thankful to Mark and Karen for inviting us, they originally gave us the opportunity to create the very first edition Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine in 2018 and we are now on issue 10. They are up there as some of the people that without their help, we wouldn't be creating the magazine.

Detectival is without a doubt the grand-daddy of Metal detecting events. Mark and Karen's idea has seen people come from all over the world and instigate the community that we are all a part of today. Without them, the metal detecting landscape would look very different I'm sure.

We would also like to thank you the reader, without your interest we could also not make these magazines. If you

would like to have any of your stories or finds featured on our website, just contact us via the website.

It's also now over 3 years since the launch of the BIG Detecting Show, our weekly TV show featuring guests from around the world and airing live on Thursdays from 8pm. We may even make the stage again this year.

There are too many folk for me to thank personally, but from the bottom of my heart, I can't thank Luke Higgins and Adrian Gayler enough for helping an idea to help friends become, outside of my family, the thing that I am most proud of.

Thanks again to all and have a fantastic Detectival 2022, don't forget all advertisements in this edition are right at the time of the event.



This years Detectival will be no different to past years and what you have come to expect from this truly epic annual event. Here you will find many of the usual manufacturers and traders, lots of the normal fun and games and entertainment, with this years Detectival 2022 sponsored by Nokta Makro metal detectors.

For Detectival 2022 we have secured you a fantastic location in a beautiful part of the English countryside, with what we are sure will be fantastic finds potential. We are hoping to see many great finds made ranging from the Bronze Age and Iron Age right through the ages, it will be fantastic to the finds you make on display in the Finds recording tent. Who knows we could even see another hoard or more found at September Detectival 2022 (if we are lucky) please remember to record the finds you make in the finds recording tent and show and tell as many people as possible about the amazing finds many of you should make at Detectival this year.

If you do think you have found something important or significant please make sure you notify the event organisers, this can be done through your nearest field marshals or by calling : **07549 090156**

As we are also located close to a WWII airfield please be vigilant for unexploded bombs, if you think you may come across one again please notify the event organisers and clear the area to a safe distance.

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets for this years charity raffle, the charity we are supporting this year is Sports in mind who do a awful lot of good work for peoples mental health, you can find out more about them by visiting their stall in the main marquee.

There is also the usual token hunt with lots of tokens to be found with some great prizes to be unearthed, you will be able to change your tokens for prizes at the check in tent.

We hope you have a amazing and fantastic time again this year and we will look forward to seeing all your amazing finds and hearing all about your Detectival experience.

Don't forget to keep your eyes open for future Detectival events with April 2023 scheduled for a new location in Oxfordshire and September 2023 scheduled for a new location in Wiltshire, 2024 also has a Spring event and a September event planned both on new land. So be sure to keep checking the Detectival website [www.detectival.com](http://www.detectival.com) and Detectival social media for more information on future events.

We hope you all enjoy yet another year with the Detectival team and that you all enjoy yourselves.

Thanks  
The Detectival team.





# The LEGEND

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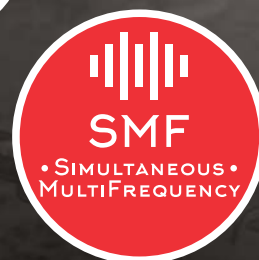
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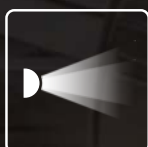
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# Finding a Napoleonic era sword

Michael Almeida, Luxembourg



This story starts when my son asked me to go detecting. For days he has been asking to go with me on a "treasure hunt". Because of lack of time or bad weather, I kept postponing the outing.

A week before Christmas, we finally went. It was a beautiful but crisp winter day; I was a bit flu ridden but still went with the boy for a couple of hours. We went to a forest, about 6 miles from my house, in Germany near the Luxembourg border. It's an amazing forest, very pristine. I took my Xp Deus with the 11" coil and was using the Deep program. Off we went! The ground was clean, little trash; we started to get some finds - musket balls, a 1712 Luxembourg coin called a Liard, buckles, etc.



Because it was getting dark, we started to head back to the car, I was still swinging the machine on the way back, as you do... Then about 50 yards from the car, near a tree I had a banging sound and it was giving me a ferrous and non ferrous readings. Because it was big, I decided to dig, you never know...



Unearthing of the 'Pirate' Sword according to my son

Then we saw the shape of a sword and then with the emotion of the find we started to dig with our hands! My son kept saying, "It's a Pirate Sword". It left me perplexed because in all the years detecting I've never found anything like this. It was nice to have my son there with me having this experience. What we found was a Napoleonic Infantry Briquet circa 1806-1813, probably used in the Napoleonic Prussian wars. Well chuffed! Now after been cleaned it stays on top of our fireplace. We dedicate this find to all of my fellow detectorist's.

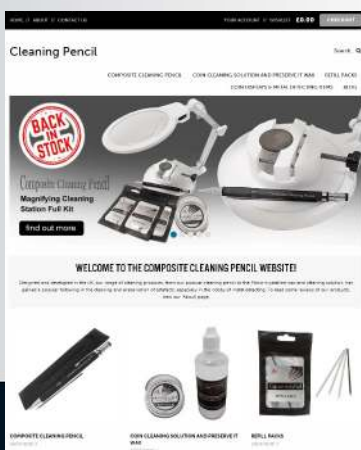
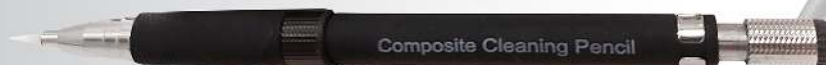
Napoleon once said "the enthusiasm is the biggest strength of the soul, preserve it and you will never lose the will to achieve whatever you want".

Good luck and happy hunting

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# Two men, two years, four holes, four groats

Our field tester Shane Holdcroft – YouTube's Staffordshire searcher and two of his detecting buddies Ron Steele and Steve Reale spent the day on one of Ron's metal detecting permissions in East Cheshire.

After a general array of finds similar to what are usually discovered through the length and breadth of the country by all detectorist's, Steve's Minelab Equinox gave a solid 19 signal and at 4 inches, he came upon Edward III Groat. This wasn't the first Edward III Groat Steve had found, in the same area two years previously, he found an exact replica. This was the reason they decided to look again in this particular area. But from ten feet away, using a Garrett 400i and at 4 inches depth, Ron discovered a 3rd! The three decided to grid . The area, working at a distance that would not interfere with each others machines, Shane using the Minelab Vanquish 540, they combed the area, although finding some other bits, nothing else could be found to add to the Groats already discovered. Following these finds, the friends returned to the site a few weeks later. Steve discovered an additional Groat to make it 4!

Arch MD Mag Editor Dave Sadler was on hand and discovered his own hammered coin, a well-worn Elizabeth I penny.



Two of the lovely groats discovered

Congratulations to Ron and Steve, thanks to them for allowing us to print the story and to Shane for the images. The local Finds Liaison Officer has been contacted about these discoveries.



## Luck of the Irish

I was out metal detecting on the Saturday 26th March on the North Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland near to Portrush and uncovered a lovely little gold ring which looks medieval to me.

There is a medieval castle close by called Dunluce Castle which was prominent in the 1500's also the Girona a ship from the Spanish Armada sank close by. I have had several hammered coins from the site dating from 1200's through to 1600's.

I was using a Minelab Equinox 600 with Field 2 factory settings and a recovery of 2. It rang in at a 6-7 and was 5 or 6 inches down on freshly ploughed field that had not been ploughed for at least 70 years according to the farmer.

I have contacted the Ulster museum and the ring has been recorded. When I have a spare day off

work, I have to take it to them for evaluation, I plan to do that within the few weeks. So still awaiting information on the ring.

Happy Hunting.  
Hugh McCallister



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# Douglas & detectival

Douglas Naismith



"I have been following the Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine on

Facebook and noticed

your recent request for people with stories/finds to get in touch. Anyway, here is my own first find ever story, and it is a bit amusing given how ignorant I was at the time. Back in 2019 I was bought my first metal detector by my wife, a Garret 250i with a pinpointer. This was an attempt by her to get me out the house as my job is sedentary and I was barely any more active when at home.

I had always fancied giving the sport a go and was thrilled by the gift. I had no idea where or how to start, but purely by accident I came across the Detectival advert for 2019. So, with time free I booked it up and went, completely on my own, with tent, to see what it was all about.

Luckily (although this is not technically true, everyone I have met in the sport has been lovely and supportive), I met a great bunch of guys whilst waiting in the queue to register including Arthur Graham and Alex Savage (including the lovely Sally-Ann and doggos). Anyway, those guys really took me under their wing as I had barely even unpacked my detector let alone had any idea how to use it.

Lots of beer was drunk the night before and I set off, trailing Arthur (who promised to show me the ropes) the next morning. Anyway, there appeared to be lean pickings, and by the end of the day Arthur was having problems with his detector and was heading back to the camp for beer and food (probably in that order).

I decided to look at a grass field, which was very stoney and had only ever been a grass field, and had never been turned over. Other detectorists had allegedly found great things, but I was having little to no luck at all, but loving every minute of it.

Anyway, as I walked passed another detectorists filled dig hole I swung my detector over it and got a nice signal from it. As I hadn't done metal detecting before I was completely unaware then that it was not unusual for certain detectorists to dig a signal, find its junk and simply fill the hole back up again. I decided that the previous explorer had missed something (although given how cracking the signal was I should have thought that it was 'suspect').

I duly set about re-digging the previous hole. As was to be expected digging someone else's work back up was very easy and I looked into the hole and saw nothing. I knelt down to use my new pin-pointer and as I leaned into the hole I glanced at the plug. There sat on the top of the plug, at the deepest point if it was reinserted was a small object.

I remembered Arthur talking about this sort of thing the night before, so I took a picture and sent it to him. 'Is this one of those fibula things you mentioned?' I asked. Straight away I got a delighted message back and demand as to where I was.

Arthur headed straight back to me and I was waving excitedly at him as he walked onto the field. Anyway he did take his time getting to me but that was only because his first swing in that field unearthed a lovely roman Hammy so he was delighted at the call back. So my first find was a complete fluke and found out of true ignorance. I never did discover what the previous detectorist thought that missed it. Since then I have re-dug other re-filled holes, but alas, plough blades and junk is all they have held since.

I asked our new Finds Liaison Officer about it and she requested the nice measured pictures included. She seemed almost as happy as I was and my first find was registered on the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The rough picture of the Fibula on my hand is the one I sent to Arthur."



My Detectival Fibula



# A dream field

By Darren Clarke



If you are lucky enough to gain a large farm you'll have the dilemma of where to search first. Obviously the area around the focal point of any village, the church, will be the place you'll be drawn to. Often though these ancient flint buildings have lots of later development around them, so the

land most used in the Middle Ages is now under the grass of the Tudor to Victorian cottage gardens. Still by getting as close to the 'cluster' as you can ensures that finds from the early Medieval period up to Georgian times at least will come your way.

Items from the earliest times can be located by looking for a trio of clues that when noticed together on the map often indicate the perfect location for our Romano-British ancestors. A gentle slope is required and for this pay special attention to the red contour lines. The numbers indicate 'above sea level' and what you'll be look for is numbers between 40 and 60 which are not too close together. These sites will usually go down to a water source, but remember a 'trickle' of a stream may have been much wider 2000 years ago. Lastly note any Green Lanes or wider bridle paths heading in the direction of the land. Some of these will be 'hollow ways', worn down by centuries of tramping feet and hooves.

Others are thought to be boundaries between land holdings of the earliest estates. It was on field that matched this topography that I had some very interesting hours recently but it nearly wasn't to be. My records journal tells me I last visited it in 2016, and then it only gave up one Roman coin and a couple of Georgian halfpennies. This is the 'danger' of the bigger farms. You come across an interesting area and spend all the available time there without looking further out in the small window between the rolling and the crops coming through. I had only given the 'Crosslands' a cursory glance, assuming that it got its name from being near a crossroads than any religious marker ever being put there. My diary clearly underlined the disappointment of what couldn't have more than one big loop of a perambulation before I raced back to get back to my car as the heavens opened. Now I was going to look again as the 'favourites' weren't in a good searchable state and I didn't want to drive too far and discover my other farms hadn't started ploughing either. 'Crosslands' had weathered for so long that it had a good flatness to it. The terrain consisted of one

steep hill side but then it sloped out the other side at a far more leg friendly rate. I walked down to the hedge line, and heard the gurgle of running water I hadn't noticed before. I'd even seen a couple of bits of Roman roof tile on the way to get here, but the only recoveries had been lead. I started to walk back towards the roadside and was stopped in my tracks by a clear signal from my C-Scope 6MXI. Though I could now see Greyware scattered around I still expected my find to be more of the heavy lead. What I dug crashed all my thoughts together in the realisation I had discovered the site of another ancient Farmstead to join the others evenly spaced out in the surrounding landscape. For now in my hand I was holding a heavy bronze duck or swans head mount.



Bronze duck or swan head mount

It's style clearly revealed an early Roman style and I felt a rising excitement as my eyes scanned the ground in front of me. How could I have not seen this area before? True, there wasn't the clear patches of black soil discolouration like in other places, but there was a definite contrast between a 'greyer' earth and the adjoining lighter, chalkier surface. I began to walk tight lines in the vicinity of the obvious 'activity' and started to dig some bronze coinage of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and fourth centuries. The ground had been kind to some of them and I was pleased to pick up some nice later examples.

Pottery and animal teeth littered this corner and as I paced it out I pondered how I bypassed this section of the field on my 'quick scan' previously. The whole area of the habitation area made up barely a thirtieth of the acreridge and I must have been daunted by having to walk up and over the steep hillside to get to it. There was the issue. I should have come back the next day when I wasn't tired and wandered across from the other direction, just to make sure. I recalled when I'd nearly 'missed' one of my best sites in the past when I got out of car parked at the edge of a huge field. I completed a massive, clockwise empty loop and it wasn't until I got back to within 100 yards of





my vehicle I noticed the black, pottery strewn 'streaks' in the topsoil. If I'd have set out anti-clockwise I would have 'hit the patch' almost immediately. I had broke out in a cold sweat thinking about if there had been a sudden downpour near the end of my search, and I'd have made a dash for the motor. The day would have been written off with no finds to mention and chances are I would have moved on to somewhere I'd had things previously rather than go back. This hobby is certainly balanced on the fine line that is 'chance'.



A nice selection of roman bronze coins

Now I certainly now how to search a field properly when the opportunity arises. I have a good shift pattern at work so was able to spend a lot of time here before the land was rolled flat and the new crop put in. Some Roman silver joined the bronze examples, and they dated from the earliest types right the way through to an excellent Siliqua of Valentian the second.



Roman silver including Siliqua of Valentian the second

An Anglo Saxon fragment came up in the shape of a gilded round pin head, along with the expected earlier artefacts of Roman Brooches though all but

one were in a fragmented state. One that wasn't made up for it though and is 4' long with a



Anglo Saxon pin head and roman brooch

beautiful green patina. It is shown in a photograph with a Celtic toggle fastener.(Pic 8). The appearance of an Iron Age accessory had me hopeful of a coin of the era, and indeed a few sorry looking bronze Units of Cunobelin signalled themselves to my detector search head.

At the very perimeter of the 'hotspot', where the Roman AE's started to give way to just cartridge caps and the occasional button, I got a nice clear tone. Thinking it was just going to be another Victorian example from a long vanished coat, I scuffed my foot back on top of the 'beep'. A yellow line flashed for a split second, then vanished in the small spoil heap. I caught a breath and reached down to spread the loose earth. And there it was! A heavy Ambiani with it's familiar horse and smooth reverse. Yes!!! A coin to really underline the continuity of this site from the Iron Age to when the Romano-British left.

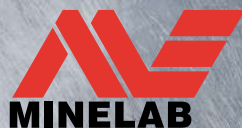
Interestingly I was later to discover it is of the rarer 'Dreamer' type which appears to show a foot sticking out of a bed beneath the horse, almost as if there is a sleeper conjuring up the image of the Celt's most sacred animal above themselves. Fanciful I know when any expert will tell you the detail is really supposed to be a curl, which is shown as such on later versions of this series. But I'll keep my 'romantic' view and every time I think back to those searches I'll consider it a 'dream field'!



The rare Ambiani 'Dreamer' coin







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# What is a death penny...?

**I was gifted a Ancestry DNA kit for Christmas last year, following the test I went to the website to keep my eye on the stage of testing and await my results.**

I realised I had never looked into my family tree. My brother had, and we found on one line, Alfred the great is a direct descendant. I decided to follow my 3 children's lineage, so in the future they can look themselves. So I began dabbling and got some way back. I didn't visit the site for a few weeks and not realising that I could be contacted by others using the site, missed out on an important email relating to my wife's great grandfather.

His Memorial plaque/Death penny was up for auction at a local auction house, sadly I missed the email, but made my wife's family aware via social media. Not realising it existed, his grandchildren and great grandchildren were a tad upset about not knowing its existence and missing out on the chance to retrieve this fantastic piece of family memorabilia.

The family however did not know what a Death penny was, fortunately I have seen quite a few retrieved by Metal Detectorists, so I knew a bit of the history of them, however, I realised many don't. With that in mind, both for the family and Arch MD Mag readers, I decided to look into the plaques history.

The death penny was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

The plaque is about 4.75 inches (120 mm) in diameter, were cast in bronze, and came to be known as the "Dead Man's Penny",

because of the similarity in appearance to the much smaller penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tons of bronze, and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war. It was decided that the design of the plaque, was to be chosen from submissions made in a public competition. Over 800 designs were submitted and the competition was won by the sculptor and medallist Edward Carter Preston using the pseudonym Pyramus, receiving two first place prizes of £250 for his winning and also an alternative design.

Carter Preston's winning design includes an image of Britannia holding a trident and standing with a lion. The designer's initials, E.C.R.P., appear above the front paw. In her outstretched left hand Britannia holds an olive wreath above the ansate tablet bearing the deceased's name cast in raised letters. Below the name tablet, to the right of the lion, is an oak spray with acorns. The name does not include the rank since there was to be no distinction between sacrifices made by different individuals. Two dolphins swim around Britannia, symbolising Britain's sea power, and at the bottom a second lion is tearing apart the German eagle. The reverse is blank, making it a plaque rather than a table medal. Around the picture the legend reads (in capitals) "He died for freedom and honour", or for the 1500 plaques issued to commemorate women, "She died for freedom and honour".

They were initially made at the Memorial Plaque Factory, 54/56 Church Road, Acton, W3, London from 1919. Early Acton-made plaques did not have a number stamped on them but later ones have a number stamped behind the lion's back leg.

In December 1920 manufacture was shifted to the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Plaques manufactured here can be identified by a circle containing the initials "WA" on the back (the "A" being formed by a



bar between the two upward strokes of the "W") and by a number stamped between the tail and leg (in place of the number stamped behind the lion's back leg).

The design was altered slightly during manufacture at Woolwich by Carter Preston since there was insufficient space in the original design between the lion's back paw and the H in "HE" to allow an "S" to be inserted to read "SHE" for the female plaques. The modification was to make the H slightly narrower to allow the S to be inserted. After around 1500 female plaques had been manufactured the moulds were modified to produce the male version by removing the S.

The plaques were issued in a pack with a commemorative scroll from King George V; though sometimes the letter and scroll were sent first. Smaller or miniature unofficial bronze plaques were produced by other manufacturers, for example Wright and Sons of Edgware, Middlesex, who sold them for 13 shillings and sixpence each.

Modern replicas have also been made, and occasionally offered as genuine.

In 2019, an artwork was installed on the northern wall of the new Woolwich Station (built for the Elizabeth Line) which is situated within the Royal Arsenal Woolwich where the plaques were produced by the thousands. The design of the wall decoration is based on the Memorial Plaque.

So as well as constructing this article for the family and readers, to learn more about the Death Penny, I'd like to make this also in memory of John Thomas Wardle who died, along with many others, protecting our country in World War I. We salute you all.





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Regton Ltd are once again proud to be one of the major supporters of the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally for 2022.

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**Just Brad**, Michael  
**Dukes of Derbyshire**, Gareth  
**Norfolk Button Boy** Jason  
**Norfolk Girl** Lisa  
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# Megraphta Product Review

Shane Holdcroft – Staffordshire Searcher

**Dave kindly allowed me to test the Megraphta, a shovel made for people with spinal issues or body pains from digging. The shovel was made by a lovely bloke from Yorkshire called Paul and what an amazing job he has done with his creation.**

At first, I was not a huge fan after the first two to three holes that I dug, but my word this shovel definitely grows on you the more you use it. I could not get used to the bend in the shovel's head, the way it curves to help you with the pulling out of the plug, but you soon realise how to dig to make it work, the weight is amazing and nearly feels like you are not carrying a shovel at all.



The use of the foot pegs is quite unique you can press the bottom of the shovel and if you

need to go deeper you then use the foot pegs, with a Velcro-like strip across the top to stop any slip off, this saves a lot of wear on your knees as you are not having to bring your knees too high to put on the extra strain, the one I have has teeth the other way I'm used to but this helps to grip and pull that plug out of the ground. The stem itself is made from carbon fibre and the handle is made from plastic. I've been used to a metal T-bar handle that radiates an awful lot of shock through the arm when hitting a large stone or hard ground, but the plastic handle seems to take that shock away.

When getting this shovel I had a few people telling me how weak it would be, so I thought I'd put this to the test. I used my car to run over the shaft, which is collapsible at its shortest and its full height, and there was not a sign of strain to the carbon, I have literally stamped it through hard ground made up of 70% rock and not a bend in it at all, I also threw it multiple times 30 foot in the air and allowing it to land where it wishes and no damage to put those who doubted it at rest.

Now a few tips for it. I would for sure avoid cutting a full plug if you can help it as it makes life easier to pull the plug out with three sides and folding your plug over, also if you want a wide plug angle the shaft and pull the shovel up, right to the sky. When cleaning it I would also recommend not using bleach as I did as I've worn the Union Jack off it. I spoke with Paul directly who advised me to use a light oil base such as WD40.

Now for the most common question is would I pay for this tool as that's what it technically is! The answer is yes all day long. I suffer from issues with inflammation which affects my back a lot! And I have found myself a lot better off recently using this tool!

I know I have started to call it a tool but that is exactly what it is a tool, it's made for a particular purpose and that being issues with back problems and pains.

Has tool made my life Easier? The answer is YES! It has and I would recommend it to anyone with mine or similar issues!

Now, what would I improve? Not an awful lot, I'd like to see the bolt that holds the bottom shaft to the shovel just above the foot peg to become a coach bolt or even rivet.

I'd like to see the same for the screw at the top, and possibly a different colour carbon fibres, as I like my red! If possible the option of folding foot pegs, and the grip to be a little more hard-wearing on the pegs. But all this is a personal experience and my personal views on the product and others may differ.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Paul for making this amazing product and making my life easier and to Arch MD Mag for allowing me to test this product, all the best and see you soon.

Thanks to Paul for sending the shovel for review. If you would like to have an item reviewed and promoted by Arch MD Mag, email us at:

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# A coriander meander



John Armiger

As we know in this fantastic hobby of ours, there are areas and parts of the country which are far more productive than others. The Eastern side of the UK is a fair example with plenty of coin and artefacts from all chapters of history..... With that in mind, a small group of friends and myself regularly take a long weekend away to visit an area in central Norfolk with a hope of finding something special or unique, this trip achieved just that....

This particular trip took place just before the covid crisis...

The weather had been very kind to us creating almost perfect weather conditions... We eagerly set out after fuelling on a hearty breakfast, we were full of excitement and anticipation.... We had driven around the farm on arrival to check out field availability, we were pleased because our favourites were available, the year before had been frustrating because a shoot was taking place on our most productive field and we were denied access... On this particular field we had all previously found an array of roman and hammered coinage so we were very pleased to get back on it.. This day was no exception, we all had a good day, finds included buckles buttons sword hangers seed scoops tokens and the usual mix of roman and hammered coinage..

We returned back to our accommodation on the farm for dinner and a few drinks, the farm had a recently turned over field right opposite and after dinner I decided to give it an hour and try my luck... I was rewarded with three hammered, two were broken and crusty but one was a decent 14c Eddie penny.. Their were fields at the back of the farm but they had been largely ignored due to the half rotten remains of a coriander crop, it was slushy stalky and very pungent...

The next couple of days were again very generous to us with some very nice coins being found..... Finally Sunday, the last day, arrived and we were joined by a mutual friend Gary Crace, Gary had moved from Sussex to Norfolk a couple of years before, he was also an assistant to the Norfolk finds liaison officer, even off duty the extra identification knowledge was very welcome...



Martin from our group, as well as being a very good detectorist is also very good at research and map reading and prior to the trip had highlighted our target areas... We had covered the majority but my eyes kept coming back to the coriander field,

apparently there was a roman road running through it... After an hour of detecting the now well detected regular fields I decided to make my way back to the untouched coriander.... I looked down at my trusty 17" coil, a permanent fixture on my minelab ctx and knew I would struggle...

The crop, just like wheat or maize had been sown in rows and still had narrow trench like forms in place... Sloopy green remains covered the surface, I squelched into position...





# HISTORICAL COINS & ANTIQUITIES

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My first signal blew my ears off, it was a George II penny, they never come up in good condition but this one was reasonable... My next five targets were shotties, my enthusiasm started taking hits.. Another squeeler, another penny, then a familiar grunt, another shottie and another, I looked down at my green covered boots and coil ...dohhh...one more I thought and I'm off.

The pungent coriander smell was getting a bit to much and I was wondering what the others were finding... We always hold a find of the weekend whilst away, coin and artifact... I'd bought a little silver coloured cup along for the winner, like the ones presented to the darts teams in the old 80's league..my mind drifted back to mine and dad's greatest games.... focus man focus....grunt grunt, I looked up for inspiration, I noticed a shape in the tree canopy above me, it was a.... bloody hell a shooting hide, no wonder I was getting shotties.. I shoved the spade into the green mess.

Now at this point you may well be wondering why dig it? Well years ago when I first started, my old detecting partner Alan Davies and I hit a field which was strewn with military items... We were new to the hobby and every target was an exciting discovery.. Well let me tell you after digging your fiftieth bullet your excitement wears a little thin... The bullets were reading 7-26 on my old SE and the next target wasn't an exception, 7-26,why am I digging it I know its a bullet?

It was, but a trench made bullet lighter in very good condition, world war one..... That taught me a valuable detecting lesson... Back to the coriander....

Out came the green covered clod, I stabbed around the hole

with my probe, hang on what's this? Looking up at me was a... whistle?

It was about an inch and a half and looked like a dogs head, how strange, I gave it a wipe and put him in my finds bag.... I'd definitely had enough for the day, time to get cleaned up and see what the boys had found...

I kicked off my green hulk like boots and joined the boys, they were busily inspecting each others finds.. Blimey look at the state of you, came the welcome, anything?

A whistle I think, I replied as I rummaged around in my finds bag, hey that's Viking said Gary.. I was quite stunned for a moment, really?

Yes, unmistakable, a hound like figure, jeweld eyes.... But a Viking what?

Because of the hollowed out cone one end it was assumed this was indeed an astle or pointer... It would have had a cane or piece of bone protruding from the hole and presumably you would have held the head and pointed.... I was well chuffed.... My first piece of Viking, what a weekend....

Gary kindly recorded my find on the finds database....

Shortly after recording, contact was made by a lady professor in the USA it turned out she was a world renowned expert on Viking drinking horns and had seen my piece and identified it as a Viking drinking horn terminal,hence the cone, receiving the horn tip, apparently they used to decorate the horns..... She was very excited and enquired if, on her next visit to England, she could examine my find.... Unfortunately any chance of a meeting was completely shelved because of covid which

hit our shores shortly afterwards but hopefully it will happen in the near future... As for the terminal now? I managed to source a Viking style horn and commissioned Gammer Gold a jewelry repair shop in Eastbourne to mount my find.... It now hangs on the wall in my house....a great find from a great trip and a lovely memory .

John Armiger

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# Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting (ARMD)



**Sydney Hallam** has represented this region for many years, and is a very experienced metal detectorist. New clubs and individual members are most welcome to apply to join the region. He has written several short factual stories relating to the hobby which form part of the history of his region. You can view a 'BBC TV Hidden treasure No.8' on [YouTube](#) that contains information about a great find made in his region, and is one of his stories soon to be published in **AMDS Times** that is provided to all members of **AMDS**.



**YORKSHIRE REGION ARMD**



**John Wells** has been active in the hobby of metal detecting since 1980 and has a wealth of experience at national and local levels. He was instrumental in the formation of the Treasure Act 1996 and is the regional Chairman. His region covers a large area and has a public Facebook group, in which club, associate and individual members are welcome to post their news, views, articles, photographs and experiences etc.



**MIDLAND FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTING CLUBS (ARMD)**



**Clive Sinclair** is the Secretary of the Landscape Explorers in South East (LEGISE) (**the Southern Region ARMD**) serving detectorists in London and the Home Counties. This includes the areas of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Berkshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Meetings take place twice a year in Kent. They also provide non-fee-based field survey work to support archaeological contract units and community archaeology projects in Kent. This work has been carried out through long established contacts with the Kent Archaeological Metal Detectorists Survey Unit (KAMSU). <https://www.legise.co.uk>



**David Rees** is the Chairman of the **Western Region ARMD** that covers the area of South Wales, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. This region is made up of clubs and many individual members from other areas of the UK. Regular meetings are held and the present committee have over 40 years experience in the hobby. New individual members and clubs are always welcome to apply to join.



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# You just never know what the next signal might be!

or those that haven't seen it, I thought you might like to hear about a special gold metal detecting find I made just after I started metal detecting - It's certainly something that I'll never forget.

To set the scene, I was the proverbial newbie and this was my first ever permission that I'd secured from a guy I know. He lived outside Dorchester in Dorset, just off the Yeovil road... he was a bass player in a band and his land consisted of just two very small grass fields. When he gave me permission I remember he laughed and said "you'll find now't in those fields except rubbish... and that's even if you can get your shovel in the ground cos it's full of flint!"

Being a musician he said he'd held many live band parties on his land over the years i.e birthdays, anniversaries and get-togethers, so I was warned that foil, bottle tops and ring pulls would be everywhere... Oh... as well as the flinty ground to contend with!

For my part I was just grateful that I had somewhere to go and, as I was still getting to grips with my new Deus detector, it had to be worth the effort I thought. So... on the 2nd Jan 2017, on an absolutely freezing cold day, I walked onto the field, turned on my detector and off I went.

Hour after hour went by and I'd found nothing except the rubbish he'd previously warned me about... I was very cold and started to feel dejected. I then stopped for lunch to thaw out in my car with a flask of hot soup before going out again for round two... "surely I'll find something historical at some point" I thought.

However, the lack of decent finds continued right through the afternoon and, as it was starting to

darken, I decided I'd had enough. My feet and hands were going numb with the cold... it was time to call it a day... and it was then I got a faint but diggable signal.

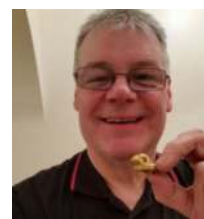
I reluctantly turned on my old Smartphone and started recording "just in case" this target I was digging up was something other than rubbish. When the find first appeared covered in mud I saw its flat base and thought it was another gold-coloured bottle top... then I saw glimpses of shiny metal showing through and thought maybe it was made of polished brass... and when I saw the whole shape of it I thought it was possibly the finial of a walking cane! I was wrong on all three counts though...it turned out to be something much better than that! I knocked on the landowner's door and said "Put the kettle on... I've got something to show you". I rinsed the remaining mud off my find and there it was.. a solid gold Ram's Head Brooch and, although damaged, it was oozing quality and stunning craftsmanship, it was simply beautiful.

As it had no hallmarks I declared it as a "potential" treasure find and handed it to my local FLO and off it went to the British Museum.

Fast forward a year from that day and I eventually got the brooch back from the British Museum and, due to popular request, I then posted an updated video about the outcome on my YouTube channel. To see the brooch close up and find out more, have a look at the video below.



Scan for video



By Keith Brown







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# National Council for Metal Detecting



## Introduction to NCMD

At the NCMD we love metal detecting, and for over 40 years we have promoted, protected, and encouraged metal detecting for our members and the wider Metal Detecting Community.

We are formally recognised by the UK Government and play a vital role in representing members on the creation of or any changes to legislation that may affect our great hobby.

## Getting started with Metal Detecting

It is very important to familiarise yourself with the law and rules around metal detecting before you even leave the house on your first dig!

You must have permission to detect on any land. This includes parks, public spaces, woods, common land and public footpaths. Permission must be from the land owner and the tenant if land is leased.

Beaches are a good place to detect and Crown Estate and Scottish beaches are generally fine. However please double check before travelling as on some detecting is not allowed.

Our website is a great place to start, there's lots of information to help get you started.

## NCMD Membership Benefits

Joining the National Council for Metal Detecting is not just about insurance, there are a lot of benefits:

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# The Legend by Nokta Does it Live Up to the Hype



By Siren Kimmie, Nokta NOMAD  
Siren Kimmie Adventures

You may not have heard, but Nokta (formerly known as Nokta Makro) has released a brand new metal detector: The Legend. Some speculated that the name might have been premature; after all, how can you go with a name like “The Legend” before it has been tried and tested? Isn’t that a bit like tattooing your significant other’s name on a prominent body part; doomed to fail?

Trust and believe that everyone at camp Nokta had been working behind the scenes long before the name was bestowed upon the new flagship model. Throughout the planning, design, redesign, testing, and final touches, there was every confidence The Legend would live up to the title. With the detecting world itching for a more affordable simultaneous multi-frequency machine, Nokta was determined to bring their A-game. They already shook up the industry with the Simplex+, and there was no reason to believe they would not repeat this success with The Legend. Now that we are a few months into the release with loads of customer feedback, and several updates, let’s look at how it is fairing.

I began testing The Legend at pre-release and was instantly impressed with the separation. Per usual, I took the detector to my pounded spots and the trashiest locations on my permissions. I began to see results right away finding loads of missed coins and a WWI button amongst the multitude of iron and burnt trash. Not long after I got my hands on the 6” sniper coil and went next-level to recover a rare token and a silver

thimble. Keep in mind I have detected these spots with other brands as well as the Simplex+, the Multi Kruzer, and the Anfibia Multi. Sure, one could argue that maybe I did not “get my coil over it” before, but I have detected these locations an infinite number of times; I can confidently say that The Legend did not miss a trick.



Now that we have had updates to fine-tune The Legend, and we are seeing it out on so many different locations and soil types, and in different hunting scenarios, I can say for certain this machine absolutely lives up to its name. I have been finding deep targets, even picking up deep small items with ease, and the separation is phenomenal. The Ferrocheck feature (when done correctly) proves right every time; though I still tend to go after those iffy signals anyway. The one thing I have noticed that really stands out for me though is the way this machine chimes off on good targets. Once you tune your ear into The Legend’s language, those good signals are so sweet and so pure, you just KNOW!

The Legend is light, waterproof, portable, easy to use, and comes with so many bells and whistles; it completely ticks all of my boxes and has quickly become my go-to machine. The only thing it is missing is a wireless pin pointer (which is in the works), and a 9.5 x 5 coil (coming soon) to literally become my dream machine. Let the adventure begin...





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# Ring to remember them in death

By Aiden Mc Hale



Aiden McHale unearthed this beautiful ring on cultivated land in Kent. In October, only five minutes after walking onto the field. The ring is known as a Memento Mori ring, this Gold ring has an inscription with words on the inside that reads – MM ob 24th Nov 1712 aet 82. which translates to Memento mori remember me in death obit(died) 24th Nov 1712 at age of 82. There is also a makers mark: DD

Memento Mori Jewellery is the name given to sixteenth through eighteenth-century jewellery that was created as a reminder of the inevitability of death and the need to live piously. Translation from the Latin, “remember you must die,” is very clearly indicative of the objective of the theme. Skulls, skeletons, and coffins, often worked in gold and enamel were the predominant motifs vividly illustrating the underlying sentiment of pending mortality. An important part of the memento mori jewel was the use of text to express thoughts of death, mortality, remembrance, and religion. Composed in Latin, French or English they were either engraved or enamelled on the outside of a jewel or secretly on the inside, view-able only by the intended recipient.

Rings were the most common form of memento mori jewels although they could also take the form of locket, pendants, and brooches. The sixteenth century saw an increase in bequests for mourning rings. Often these were just plain bands engraved with a sentiment referencing the departed (sometimes specifically outlined in the will.) Money was left for the purpose of creating the rings along with a specified list of mourners. In the mid-seventeenth century, the theme merged with memorial jewellery and it became popular to have the hair of the departed person, along with relevant dates and initials worked into the piece alongside the skull, coffin symbols and message.



Aiden's Mori ring unearthed and in amazing conditions

The tradition flourished in the eighteenth century but the name of the individual being memorialized became more prominent, the mourning motifs became somewhat less gruesome and the use of intricate hairwork and elaborate allegories were de rigueur.

In Aiden's words- “To remember them in death and to remind them that they are not immortal. Sunflower and Thistles are engraved to depict life and death. The skull is typical 17th 18th c design. Rings with black enamelling meant the deceased was married at death.

The deceased who had my ring made had an extraordinary long life for the period. Born in 1630 during Charles I reign. And expiring when Anne reigned. Living through the English civil war, the Great fire and 7 monarchs (if you include Cromwell!). So much history revealed in such a small find. The ring has been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme and when it is safe to do so I shall be handing the ring over to my local Finds Liaison Officer.”

Thanks kindly to Aiden for submitting his find. If you would like to include your finds or stories to Arch MD Mag, you can contact us at [editor@archmdmag.com](mailto:editor@archmdmag.com)





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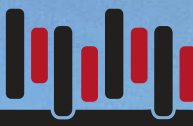
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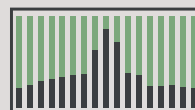
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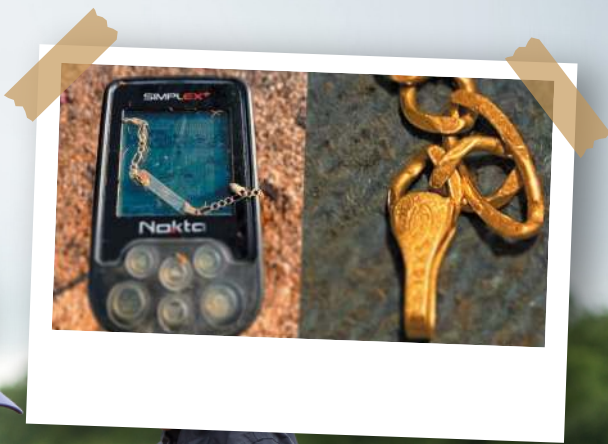
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