



THE ARCHAEOLOGY
& METAL DETECTING
MAGAZINE

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RODNEY COOK RALLY

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

2-4th Sept
2022

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RCM



Rally



What the rally does for charity



A hoard of ingots discovered



The goose neck forgers hoard



Detecting a WWI & 2 base

FREE

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Some kind words from the charities we support



"Brighter Futures is the hospital charity for Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust an acute general hospital serving Swindon and surrounding areas in Wiltshire. We are so thrilled to receive support from the Rodney Cook Memorial Fund and can't wait to attend the September weekender. We know that Gary Cook and all the amazing volunteers put on an incredible event. When we attended their one-day event earlier this year we were bowled over by the generosity of everyone who attended. Brighter Futures is proud to be one of the recipients of funds raised in memory of Rodney Cook and grateful that this support will help enhance care for cancer patients diagnosed at

Great Western Hospital. Funds raised this year will support the establishment of a new Radiotherapy Centre, sparing thousands of patients many long journeys to Oxford for appointments and treatments.

We are so grateful for this support and the improvement in cancer care it will bring to local people facing a cancer diagnosis."

Kenresa Stratford,
Community and Events Fundraising Manager
Brighter Futures



Gary Cook has generously supported RUHX for several years by running a metal detecting charity weekend in memory of his dad, Rodney Cook. Gary generously donates proceeds from the rally to RUHX – the official NHS charity of the Royal United Hospitals Bath. So far over £75K has been donated from The Rodney Cook Memorial Rally's for the new Dyson Cancer Centre which will transform Cancer Services for Bath and beyond.

The Dyson Cancer Centre will bring the majority of cancer services, including research, under one roof when it opens in summer 2023 and will provide extra extraordinary care for patients and their families. As well as providing oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services and a stunning 22 bed inpatient ward, the Dyson Cancer Centre will also include a Macmillan Wellbeing Hub, offering advice and support to

patients and their families at every step of their cancer journey.

Gill Ford, RUHX Partnerships Officer said,

"Thank you Gary and everyone involved. It means so much to us – not just to us, but also to all our patients, their families, and everyone who'll come into contact with our hospital cancer services. We are so incredibly grateful to Gary and all the team at The Rodney Cook Memorial Rally and look forward to being there to support this hugely successful annual event. Without your support, we really couldn't achieve all that we have for our patients."

In 2022, our working name changed from 'The Forever Friends Appeal' to RUHX. At RUHX, we're more than a hospital charity. We go further to give every patient the extra extraordinary care they deserve, while supporting our staff to do what they do best and furthering innovation within our hospitals. To find out more please come and see us on the day or visit **www.ruhx.org.uk**



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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Welcome

Welcome to issue 9 of the freely distributed Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine and welcome to the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally.

It is with great honour that Luke, Adrian and I were asked to again create this edition for this fantastic event.

Year upon year now the RCM has brought people together with one aim. Others. And in particular helping others. Year upon year, monies raised surpass those of the previous ones. The others don't get to say thank you directly, so please take this as their thank you, to you the participants, to the manufacturers and dealers for all their support and donations. But in particular to Gary,

Lisa and the RCM team (far too many to thank individually) for all their efforts in creating and running this fantastic event.

Don't forget to catch up with the BIG Detecting Show, as we are broadcasting live from the Rally on the Thursday before the Detecting begins.

Also keep an eye on the Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine Facebook page for in the field reporting of the finds and interviewing you all in the fields.

Good luck to all involved in the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally 2022.

Luke and Dave xxx

Rodney Cook Memorial 2022

From Gary Cook



So, here we are again and a very warm welcome to all of you to the RCM Rally 2022!! Wow! 2022! Seriously where has all the time gone? Can it really a year since I was writing to you all and welcoming you to the 2021 rally?

Time really does seem to pass so quickly, it only seems like yesterday that I was sat with a few of my friends, we were talking about Dad and how we missed him, it was late December 2017 and Dad had only passed away in the September.

As a few tears began to form and slowly make their way down my cheek I suddenly blurted out, as if pushed or encouraged by something or someone, "Let's do something, let's raise some money to help those with cancer. " In that moment of sadness and reminiscence the RCM Rally was born.

As the drinks continued, so did the boldness of what we wanted to do as a group. The first rally was held in September 2018 almost year to the day of Dad's passing. Many of you who are hopefully reading this were there and can recall how successful it was. Look at how far we have come in these last few years and it's incredible to see how much we have evolved and grown to what we are now. Last year we raised over £50,000 for Cancer Charities something that all of us at the RCM are so incredibly proud of and so should all of you as well, because without all of you who continue to purchase tickets and support us, we could never have raised these amounts.

Family

We use the word "Family" at the RCM because that is what we are, there are so many people and groups who come together to help us make the

event what it is. Far too many to be able to mention them all individually (you know who you are), to my wife Lisa and my wonderful friends who I love dearly, the Marshalls, the Teams at Leisure Promotions, Regtons and Treasure Hunting Magazine, to the manufacturers, traders and the magazines who come to support us and those that do not attend but still support us with Raffle prizes. Plus, as I have already mentioned all of you who support us every year. We have shown that as a hobby we are capable of something simply incredible, we can come together forgetting our differences and our rivalries and help those people and their families who are suffering with this awful disease that is cancer. If you cannot forget your rivalries or your differences, for just one weekend, then I guess the RCM Rally is not for you.

Charities Supported

As always, this year we will be supporting the Bath RUH Cancer Charity helping to provide much needed funds towards their new cancer treatment building. Plus, we will also be supporting Brighter Futures who are based at Swindon's Great Western Hospital they are also raising money and support towards the cancer centre at the hospital.

Two very worthy charities and the money we raise really does make a huge difference to the lives of not only those suffering with cancer but to their families who are suffering with them. Remember many of the volunteers who help us and join us over the weekend are either fighting cancer or in remission themselves. At the time of writing this, I am hoping that we will have at least two special VIP guests and their families joining us over the weekend and we will make sure that they have a fantastic weekend and want for nothing.



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What's On This Year?

Right, so what do we have planned for this year? Well to start with, we are as you will all be aware by now back on the same amazing estate as last year. We will have hopefully all of the fields from last year along with a minimum of 600 acres of new land to detect on, which we did not search last year due to crops still being in. Some fantastic finds were made last year and let's hope for some more this year. Entertainment wise we are pleased to announce that we will be having a "Comedy Night" on the Friday, where we will be joined by four top class comedians, all of whom have been on TV shows like "Mock the week" and "Live at the Apollo". This is going to be a fantastic, fun and hilarious evening and I would suggest you get your place in the Marquee early and your drinks from the bar as its going to be very popular. Saturday we will have returning our resident band "INDIE'd" playing their fantastic selection of indie and rock music.

There will also be the RCM token hunt again this year, where all RCM tokens found can be redeemed for raffle tickets to win prizes in the token hunt raffle.

Garrett metal detectors will also be adding their own special Garrett tokens and if found these can be taken to the Garrett Tent and redeemed for an immediate Garrett prize. There will also be the two main raffle draws taking place on Saturday and Sunday and as ever we will have some spectacular prizes to give away so don't forget to buy your tickets. There will also be the free raffle for everyone who purchased a Full Weekend Ticket to win a top of the range detector and other goodies. Please keep an eye on the RCM notice board outside the main marquee for information and times for all the things we have planned for this year. We will also have a Photo Booth with us where you can dress up and have your group or individual fun photos taken, Fodderina will be returning this year but I am sworn to secrecy and not allowed to say in what capacity but I can tell you that she will be available at the photo booth for a short period if you want your picture taken with her. All photos taken are free courtesy of the RCM and will be printed for you there and then.

Hobby-Related Companies Attending in 2022.

We will be joined this year as ever by Leisure Promotions, Regton, Garrett, XP, Nokta Makro, Treasure Hunting Magazine, The Searcher Magazine, The Big Detecting Show, Roman Remains Plus, many other Traders and Manufacturers joining us in the main marquee, please show them your support as they have all supported us and donated prizes etc towards the RCM charities. This year we will be joined by Spink Auctioneers who will be on hand all weekend to give appraisals and their excellent knowledge to you all if needed. They will also be holding a charity auction run by Greg Edmund. They will be hosting an under 12 competition judged by the TV's Ben Shires. Plus, they will be making an exciting announcement during the weekend

Food, Drink, Event Transport and Toilets

We will have Food and drink available all day including a hog roast Saturday and of course the licenced bar. Specialist teas and coffees, oh and a Pic n Mix sweet trolley (watch those fillings).

Due to the size of the Estate and the extra land we have decided this year to bring back the Gator bus service for you all. There will be designated Bus stops around the estate and it will be run as a hop on hop off service there will also be a "You are here map" on every bus stop so you will easily be able to navigate your way around the estate. The bus service will run in a continuous loop so you can hop off to detect another field or grab a lift back to the main arena, the Gator bus drivers will also have free bottles of water on board should you need a drink and quench your thirst. Please note, you can only get on a gator bus at a designated stop so just look for your Leisure Promotions Bus stop. The Gators will be running all day from 9am till 6pm. Please also note, if you are in the fields after 6pm then you will have to make your own way back to the main arena. The Shower block will return and is free of charge to anyone wanting to freshen up and there will also be a Ladies only Porta Cabin toilet and we mean ladies only! A disabled toilet will also be provided along with a disabled camping area.

Good Luck and Please do Check Out the Website

So, it only leaves me to wish you all good luck out in the fields and remember we can give you the land to detect on but we cannot provide you with the finds, that I am afraid is out of our hands, maybe have a chat to which ever God you believe in and ask for some help? Please remember to be respectful and courteous to your fellow attendees and your camping neighbours the RCM is a family weekend and yes, we want you to have a fun weekend and a good time but please watch the loud music late at night and the language, we will have a security team with us this year and they will be on patrol keeping you all safe and sound. Don't forget to check out our new website www.rodneycookmemorial.co.uk

This has been designed and maintained along with our new online ticketing service by the amazing Adrian Gayler. Adrian is quite literally an unsung hero and member of the RCM Team and family. We all at the RCM love him to bits and cannot thank him enough for what he does. Keep an eye out for Julian Evan-Hart who will snapping away with his camera all weekend if you want your picture taken then just ask him.

So, on behalf of Myself, Lisa Cook, Dave Crisp, John Lydall, Adrian Gayler and the rest of the RCM Team have a great weekend and a safe journey home.

My Very Kindest Regards

Gary Cook



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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.

This year we are accompanied by XP Metal Detectors from France & also Garrett Metal Detectors from USA, both are return sponsors of this prestigious & worthwhile cause. Through their generosity, we aim to raise an even greater amount this year for Bath Royal United Hospital Cancer Care Unit and also Clic Sargent. (Cancer & leukemia in children)



To help you on the Regton stand over the weekend we have:

Marcus Ingram
Andrew Marzec
Seb Ingram
Aaron Reynolds
Nigel Ingram



We also have some of our lovely YouTuber's attending who are a wealth of detecting knowledge, come & say hello to them on our stand, they won't bite.



Digger Dawn, Dawn
Just Brad, Michael
Dukes of Derbyshire, Gareth
Norfolk Button Boy Jason
Norfolk Girl Lisa
Metal Detecting Holidays Chris Langston
X-Treme Detecting, Andy & Jack
Ben Shires (also on Spink stand)
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KG George Wyant
Ringy Tim Saylor
David Pribilinec, Social Media
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**Jason Jones –
YouTube's Norfolk
Button
Boy Recently
added an
intriguing find
to our BIG
Detecting show**

Facebook group We found it so interesting, as personally, we had never seen one before.

Jason discovered a 16th Farthing, it was found in Norfolk and was a solid 9 on the TID's on the Minelab Equinox 800.

The coin was around 6 inches deep and took good 10 minutes to find. Sadly it then blew off his finger and took another 10 minutes to find in the mud. Jason has attempted to research the coin and has found limited information available.

Searching Numismatic sites, He found little in the way of references until he came across the About Farthings website

Quoting from the sites page about this particular variant it says –

"Model farthings were unofficial "trial" pieces produced by coin manufacturers to advertise the quality of the products they were manufacturing. They were also in some cases intended as a suggestion for possible future coin designs.



Jason's 16th century farthing

Many of the official trial pieces, or the scarcer varieties can command a premium and are extremely collectable due to the lower mintages involved. There were however a few series produced that were more common and can be readily found and collected.

Due to the unusual designs, sizes and denominations their origin and purpose tends to cause confusion.



16th of a Farthing discovered. But what is one?

Listed below are examples of the more common varieties that exist:

Series A – Consisted of a penny, halfpenny and farthing in brass that were given a silvered finish. These coins are very small, with the farthing measuring about 5mm in diameter and are dated 1848. There are numerous varieties of portrait design & letter sizing.

Series B – Consisted of the 1/2 farthing, 1/4 farthing, 1/8 farthing, 1/16 farthing and Bramah quotes the existence of a 1/32 farthing (although an example has not since been located!!). Again a majority of those produced bear the date 1848. Many varieties exist for each of the dates including different portraits types and lettering size/position.

Series C – Examples of a half farthing produced by Lauer to commemorate coronations and jubilee anniversaries. Half farthings were produced bearing the dates 1887, 1897 and 1902. As is common with each of these series, there are numerous minor varieties in existence, further detail on the varieties can be found here. It is worth noting that a jubilee version exists for Edward VII. It is interesting due to the fact that he never actually ruled long enough to have a jubilee!!

Series D – Lauer produced a set of imitation coins that I believe were intended as toys. This series did include a farthing, which bears the makers name within the obverse legend."

all this information and images related to the coinage can be found on the About Farthing website

Thanks to Jason for allowing us to share his coin, you can view his videos on YouTube at Norfolk Button Boy



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follow



Bronze age hoard discovered on Peak Finders rally



The Peak Finders shop and rallies hold regular weekly metal detecting events in the South East of the UK.

Recently on one of their digs, the organisers and attendees were gobsmacked to bare witness to quite a rare discovery. Two participants came across similar finds over a short distance, one of them - Gez, immediately contacted the marshalls, shocked at what he had found.

A number of objects had started to reveal themselves. Unsure at this point what had actually been discovered, but with an idea, Organiser Luke Higgins attempted to communicate with the local Finds Liaison Officer, unfortunately, he was unable to contact them, so instead was able to speak to a former FLO, who advised as to the correct process.



The pinpointer showing how deep the first ingot was found

At this point, the removal of any materials was stopped and the decision was made to protect the site. The farmer covered the hole with a

concrete block, and over the following week, marshalls and the finders took turns in staying next to the discovery 24hrs a day.

The Discovery - Processes inevitably take time to transpire, especially given the backlog of work in every workplace throughout the UK, the archaeological industry is no different.

However, within two weeks, an archaeologist - Alex Bliss, was able to join the team onsite for the subsequent excavation.

The objects have been identified as Copper Ingots, what looks like a raw state before smelting into the Bronze form. Forty-plus have been discovered at this point.

The Excavation - The most up to date information about the ingots comes from the Archaeologists who have said - " An unexpected surprise today as a few colleagues generously volunteered their time and expertise to help XRF analyse a few of the ingot fragments. This is to examine their composition."

"This is a totally non-destructive process with no impact on the ingots themselves!"

They continued " We will only attain a very basic understanding of their composition through XRF analysis in their uncleaned state. However,



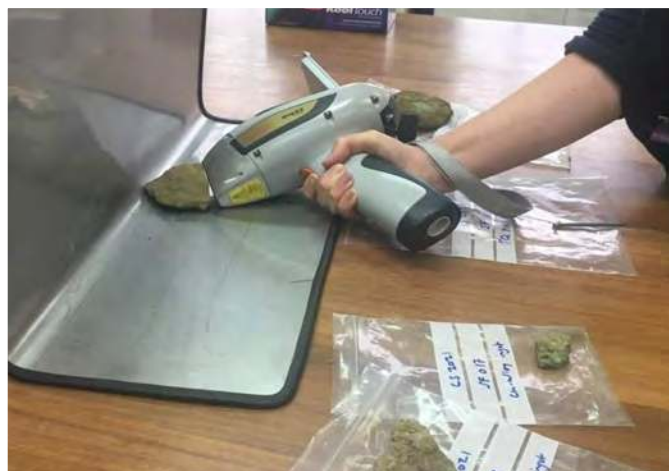
The ingots ready to go away for analysis.

it is worth mentioning that further down the line this could develop into a more in depth study looking at where the ingots were sourced from."

"Four ingots were selected for analysis in this fashion, the detailed results of which will be compiled in the write-up.

Our broad understanding based on this preliminary analysis is that the four ingots selected all appear to be 'pure' copper - aka NOT bronze, otherwise, they would have tin in them. Trace elements of zinc, arsenic and bismuth have also been detected.

Truly, science has so much to offer the field of archaeology."



XRF analysis being carried out on the ingots



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The site members protected 24hrs a day for a week.

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Thirty years and counting

Now three decades in not long in the grand scheme of history, but so much has happened in the wider world to make it a far different place to the one where I first self-consciously stepped out onto my first muddy field.

I wonder now at how big an excavation I'd be looking at if I added up all those little trowel holes. Have to be a few Olympic sized swimming pools I'm sure, as that seems to be a 'common comparator' when folk start talking about huge amounts of anything they need compared. At that thought I'm glad I filled them all in then, else 'my' farmers would not be best pleased.

I haven't found my fortune yet, though I feel the 'big one' is getting closer. A purse full of Civil War silver here, a scatter of Denarii there have got the old heart racing. And there has been three occasions now where I've found more than one 'gold top' in a week. Balanced up against my detector costs, the price of petrol to get everywhere and the many more 'empty hours' then I think I'm still in a clear financial deficit. But that's not what it's all about.

History has allowed me to play my part in the story, and the interest I've sparked in the locals about the development of where they now call home, can't be given a price. The 'buzz' of finding something interesting, another 'piece of the puzzle'

as the cliché goes, can warm you up inside better than any flask of tea on a cold country morning. Before I came along the fields just gave up their crops every harvest time. Now they can be looked at as far more than mere lonely acres of mud with a hedge on the sides. They knew our ancestors, who in turn knew them. The acres of light soil or heavy clay wasn't just for setting the crops. It was home, it was markets, it was trackways and Green lanes, it was where the dead rested after a lifetime of happiness and struggle. Though it may not show it anymore, the story is all still there for the finding.

The Landowners have changed in many places over the years. The children I saw in the farmyards now drive the tractors and 4x4's and continue to give me a cheery wave when they see me 'sweeping' like their fathers and grandfathers before them. I wonder if they ever read the pages I give them every year to add to the 'Farm archive', which details where all the coins and artefacts they are given in the little plastic bags were unearthed from. To date only one of the farming family has ever joined me, and the search started with an accidental clash of heads when we both ducked down to swivel around their search coil which was facing the wrong way, much to the amusement of the two little nephews who had decided to join the grown ups in getting muddy.





The handful of Roman coins that presented themselves that day didn't seem worth all the effort, certainly not shiny enough to fulfil their hopes of retrieving something like a 'Pirate Treasure'. To be in this hobby for the long haul you have to leave the fantasy behind quickly, as the 'pressure' on yourself will soon leave you despondent with the sheer volume of scrap you'll pick up.

To update the famous quote-All that signals isn't silver. But if you continue to seek, you will most definitely find. With a small local population of which a majority were poor to the level of regularly starving, then it becomes a lot more understandable to why it's so hard to make a 'decent' find. Balance that up with a rough equation that if a cottage has on average five people living in it over five centuries, and they all lose just one thing per year then that's 2500 objects laying around in the vicinity. Of course many will be retrieved, both back then and later by the ploughman who followed the furrow and would have seen the larger, more gleaming things. But the smaller items, the blackened silver and the brown patinated copper, would just blend into the sticky mud. Waiting down the centuries for you to come along to hear it signalling its whereabouts. Putting together all the information the finds will provide and interpreting it correctly will give you

the story of the site. When people were there, why they were, for how long, as well as their status. You are now the custodian of all that knowledge and must use it wisely. The forgotten now have a



chance to be remembered and it's literally in your hands.

I look forward to revealing the tales and the tips of my earthly adventures in East Anglia. Good research and knowing how to 'read' the land certainly takes away some of the legwork and the need for 'luck'. When a detectorist has followed the pastime for years then the 'quiet' days should be a rarity.

You'll have cut down the land that saw the least activity, and though some will say 'there is something to find on every field', I'd rather be on an area that I know will give up at least five items of interest per hour, with signals every few feet. There is nothing more demoralising than going from one end of a field with barely a signal save for cartridge caps. I hope to pass on in future articles the know how to make you as 'successful in the past' as I have been. Just be sure that you send your story to 'Archaeology and Metal Detecting' so we can all share in the discoveries made in this most amazing of past times.

By John Smith....???



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Detecting on a WW1 and WW2 military training camp

Chris Langston

I'm sure I can speak for most detectorists, and they'd agree that when they got their first metal detector, it wasn't long before expectations Vs reality became very apparent, and we quickly learn to be happy with a musket ball or button and be intrigued by that good old interesting bit of lead! As well as the obviously historical discoveries, I am sure lots of us have found the odd military button, badge or bullet over the years too, they are always nice to find.

I have been blessed with many nice and old finds from Bronze Age to Medieval and everything in between, and until recently, I often overlooked the WW1 and WW2 military finds as cool to find, but quite modern. That all changed for me in early 2022. I was given the opportunity to detect on a WW1 and WW2 military training camp. It hadn't been ploughed for years and hadn't been detected either. Almost instantly I was totally gobsmacked at the amount of military finds, cap badges, regional badges, training rounds, buckles, trench art, sweetheart brooches, coins and 100s of military buttons including a very special one!

The pre history was also there as I found lots of prehistoric worked flint tools, a votive Roman lead leg, medieval finds and Tudor too! Each time I dug a Military artefact I found myself thinking about the amount of WW1/2 finds and the thousands of young men that must have trained at the camp. It was a very poignant to think that every military find I dug had a very real story to it. I wondered about how many of these finds were held or on the uniforms of these conscripted troops that never returned from battle, and the sacrifice that was made by them.

As we go through our detecting journey we are always expanding our knowledge with every find, and we are constantly gaining historical facts along the way. After digging at this training camp I can hand on heart say, that every time I dig a



A young Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) drummer taken at the training camp we were detecting! Also a 1914 penny found with the Apex whilst detecting on the camp.

military find from now on my mindset will be very very different. I was able to research a few of the finds and they have a touching tale behind them. WW1 Military Drummer Badge and 1914 Penny... Incredibly the pin is still in place in the badge!

Found metal detecting on a local WW1 & WW2 training camp in Shropshire with the Garrett ATMax. Military drummers have played a crucial role in warfare throughout history. Soldiers marched to battle to the sound of the drums and used the beat to regulate the loading and re-loading of their weapons during the battle. Drummers were also used to raise morale during the fight. Well into the last century a battalion of infantry included two boys one usually the drummer, per company, Man Service commencing at 18. During WW1 many under-age boys enlisted in the British army, often via the Recruiting Sergeants advice when they volunteered their real age to go around the corner & come back older to give a false age. One source states that as many as 250000 underage boys served in the British forces during WW1, perhaps 125000 being killed or wounded.. The Canadian forces enlisted at least 6 servicemen under the age of 13 between 1936 & 39. There is a claim that during the defence of Carpiquet in Normandy in 1944 some of the German defenders were only 10 years old, but perhaps there is a confusion here between the WSS Hitler Jugend Division & the the Hitler Jugend organisation, although it is claimed that one German fatality was found from his personal documentation to have been only 14.

I We'll never know who the badge belonged to or who the boy is in the photograph, only that they are both local discoveries. We do know, there was a huge sacrifice made during both world wars and doesn't bear thinking about how many young men trained in the camp to never return from the Front



line of battle...Lest we forget This little button has either been taken from the front line as a souvenir from a Prussian soldier or its from a Prussian POW that was held in the local camp!? Either way this seemingly insignificant little copper button has literally 'been in the war!' And has most likely come from the Front line of battle in the trenches!

Having researched about the local military camp online, I found an article in a local newspaper about a photograph/ postcard of German POWs held at the camp that was sent home to Germany!

The postcard was sent home to Germany by a POW called Max Kuntze. It has all of the names of all those pictured handwritten on the back, along with the general description "Baracke 19, P/W Officers Camp"

Although it's undated, it will either have been taken



during the Great War, or soon afterwards, as the increasingly restless prisoners were still held in the camps for many months after the Armistice of November 1918.

'It was lovely to find a stoneware inkwell of the same age on the same site as the German button. And it makes the story even more poignant having seen the postcard written in ink, from a fountain pen which would have dipped in a similar inkwell! This will be going in my display cabinet in my local Town Museum! It's a new one for me! I'd heard of the white feather being given to people who wouldn't fight, but I didn't know there were badges to prove you were part of the war effort.!

These badges were worn by civilians during WWI in order to indicate the person wearing it was engaged on important war work.

Before conscription was introduced in 1916 the Army relied on voluntary recruitment of men, and

any man not wearing a Kairaki uniform could be chastised in the street and accused of shirking or avoiding joining up and not doing their duty to their king and country. The badges were intended to prove the wearer was indeed doing their duty to their country in a time of war. The Order of the White Feather was founded in Britain in August 1914 as part of a strategy to encourage women to pressure their family and friends into enlisting. White feathers were given to young, fit men who did not volunteer for service.



WWI Prussian/German military button & inkwell..



'1915 Engaged on Government Work' Badge!



Chris Langston

- Garrett ATMax and Viper Coil

Team Region & Team Garrett UK

See my blog on Instagram Search Chris Langston or @metalderecctingholidays



HISTORICAL COINS & ANTIQUITIES

13 SEPTEMBER 2022



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MEMOIRS OF A TREASURE HUNTER

By Barry Lawton

A Sign from the gods.....

MEMOIRS OF A TREASURE HUNTER : A Sign from the gods, a missed opportunity, a blizzard from hell and the Eagle of the Ninth:

My friend Ron Rowland was in Peterborough doing an interview for Coin Monthly, before he left for home he had a day spare, so he went out looking for some ploughed fields to search. He found some that looked interesting and asked the farmer for permission to use his detector, the farmer agreed and Ron set off searching.

After about an hour he still hadn't found anything and then all of a sudden he fell chest deep into a hole, luckily the farmer saw him and ran over, he couldn't pull Ron out so went to get a spade, after some digging Ron scrambled out. The farmer said he'd never known any holes in this field, Ron borrowed the spade and dug down, this was a big hole and Ron could see stonework, and then Ron stood on something, he had put his foot through a vase full of Roman coins.

Archaeologists were called and it turned out Ron had fallen into a Roman building which was part of the Roman Town of Peterborough, (Durobrivae.) For a while Ron worked with the archaeologists on the dig which turned out to be a major discovery.

I got a phone call to go to his house, I sensed adventure. Ron opened the door and I went into his front room, there was tea and biscuits waiting for me on the table and maps opened all over the room, some he had written on and books opened at certain pages and photos of fields pinned on the wall. Ron sat down and told me a story, I felt privileged that Ron trusted me, we had travelled many miles together, as a newcomer to treasure hunting I had soaked up all his experience, his knowledge and vision. Ron, taking a sip of tea told me that during his time in Peterborough whilst working with archaeologists he had heard a story which dated back hundreds of years about a field near to where the Roman dig was that said it was the richest field in Britain, the



field was just outside Peterborough in the village of Water Newton.

Ron said he was almost certain which field it was, but said he didn't feel well enough to go on another trip. It was now December, cold and dark evenings, Ron said it was best to go as soon as possible before someone else did. I'll never forget Ron's next few words, he put his cup down and looked at me over his reading glasses and said "what do you think," I think he already knew my answer.

When I got home I rang Norman, Roger and Joe, but only Norman could go, it was Christmas after all. So it was all set, me and Norman would go on New Year's Day, the first day of 1973. We set off very early in the morning, the weather was ok, dry but very cold. We had Ron's maps and photos so we were sure it wouldn't take us long to locate the field. Norman drove, we talked about Ron and how ill he must have felt not to have come with us, after all his hard work researching, Ron's days of long trips and digging were over.

We were about an hour away from Peterborough when the weather changed, the sky went dark and it started to snow, not heavy but it was cause for concern. We made our way to Water Newton and the snow was getting worse, we checked the maps and photos and found the field, it was a massive field, now white with snow. We approached the farmhouse not knowing if we would get permission or not, Norman knocked on the door, dogs started to bark and the door opened, the farmer looked half drunk from the night before, I told him what we wanted to do, he looked at us strange and said "ok, but don't leave a mess or any holes" then he shut the door in our faces, I looked at Norman and said "I think that was a yes."

We parked the car near the opening to the field, it was now snowing quite badly, we put our



weatherproof clothes on, Norman was ready first and switched his detector on, I was just getting my detector out when Norman got a signal near the field entrance, just near the surface was something shiny, Norman quickly picked it up, it wasn't old, it was a man's silver bracelet, but to our astonishment there was a name engraved on it, "NORMAN" we looked at one another, what was the chances of that, Norman said, if that's not a good omen I don't know what is. We walked onto the field and split up, after about thirty minutes I still hadn't found anything, the snow and hail was getting worse, I looked across to where Norman was, he looked like a snowman, he looked back at me and gestured we go back to the car. Norman hadn't found anything either, the weather was just too bad. We got back in the car and decided to call it a day, it was the first time ever the weather had beaten us.



We set off back home, the roads were just about passable, we couldn't stop talking about the bracelet, a sign from the gods maybe. As we approached Newark the weather changed, the snow stopped and there didn't appear to be much snow on the ground. We had about two hours of daylight left so we decided to go to a field near Newark that always produced something, during those two hours I found a Saxon brooch and about twenty Roman coins, Norman found an Edward 1st silver penny, a few Roman coins and part of a sword handle, possibly Roman. We set off back home, at least it wasn't a wasted trip.

We went to Ron's house and told him the news, he said to wait for better weather and try again, but time rolled on and there was other places we wanted to go, over time we put it in the back of our mind, but then two years later in February 1975 we would be hit with a bombshell, the farmer at Water Newton had ploughed the field up and discovered one of the largest hoards of Roman silver ever found, it would be known as the Water Newton Treasure and is now in the British museum. The gods were playing with us that day in 1973, one god sent a message in the form of a bracelet with "NORMAN" on, one god made the weather so bad we couldn't search for long, and one god sent us on other adventures instead of returning to Water Newton.



When I look back I can still smile, Ron was right and we almost found it, I'll always remember it as the snow field, a blizzard from hell, on another day who knows, so many factors came together that day. Ron never let me forget it, it sure was a lesson learned. Then one day at Ron's house he said "Have you ever heard of a village called Eagle?" I said "yes I have, why do you ask?" then Ron said "it's a very old village, it's even listed in the Domesday Book, I'm sure it's connected to the disappearance of Rome's Ninth Legion "Legio IX Hispana", they never found it you know," "never found what" I said, Ron replied "the Eagle, no one has ever found the lost Roman Eagle, just look at this map and this book on page 85 while I put the kettle on and get some biscuits"



The Goose Neck Forger's Hoard

On 18th September 2021, I was up early with my brother David and I for the 60-mile drive to Leek in Staffordshire to meet up with Tony Cummins and the guys from Midland Detecting Days.

In the notice on the dig, Tony had mentioned the area we were detecting was once owned by a George Fearn, an infamous forger who was hanged in 1801 at Staffs Gaol.

Out Of the car and away, two feet onto the field and I hit a coin, looks like a George II but don't seem right. Within 20



minutes Tony told us of a forger's die had been found in another field.

David then found a crucible in the field we're working and dropped it in his pouch thinking it was junk. No more finds on this field so we move to another about 400 yards away, detectorists had been on this field for a couple of hours and the place we decided to dig had about ten detectorists swinging away. I noticed the



Tony and Dave with their 'Forgers hoard'

wall at the end of the field that looked very old but the grass was about a foot deep. I pointed out near to the old wall what looked like staining in the grass like it once had a building. So we made a start there and after

a few swings around this square it brought up 3 coins and five buttons within minutes.

I told David I was moving away as the grass was too long, so he went one way and I the other. We were about 20 feet apart when I stopped to film a Pullman train passing and on putting my detector down it hit a solid 91 on the XP Orx. When the train had passed and I stopped filming I picked up the Orx and heard the same signal, I dug a plug out and the number was the same so I called David over and he hit the same on his XP Deus. I said that it had to be a big copper coin, so I went down about ten inches and was about to give up, thinking deep iron, when I spotted a tiny round edge shape in the bottom of the hole,

I flicked it with my finger and it was attached to about another ten small circles of metal.

After pulling out about another fifty and laying them on David's rucksack. We noticed the faces and

reverses of William III coins so I called Tony on the phone and told him to drive over to the field as we think we have a hoard. Tony arrived and they just kept coming out, some were wrapped in paper.

Tony cordoned off the area as other detectorists started to gather watching what was happening and we continued. The hole was perfectly round, about six inches across and almost eighteen inches down.

When we were sure that all the coins were out we packed the coins and what paper was left into the rucksack and walked back to the finds table where admin and others laid them out to count. David pulled out the chunk of iron he thought was junk and went to throw it in the bin next to the table when Tony stopped him and told him what it was. A crucible is for making the beginning of the coins, I wonder how many times in the past detectorists have done that!



They were Half Crowns, Shillings and Sixpences. 332 coins altogether and most were toasted, but were obviously forgeries, but Tony noticed something really strange. The faces on the coins were William III but the reverse were George II all dated 1746.

Tony contacted the FLO (Finds Liaison Officer) and we arranged the following Tuesday to sit down with the landowners and tell them the news of what would happen next.



Some of the coins freshly dug

Since that meeting, the FLO has declared them as treasure under the Treasure Act 1996 and informed the coroner, a normal procedure here in the UK. As I write this, the hoard is currently being catalogued and the paper being sent for analysis as it is now thought the paper is in fact forged banknotes. The paper used back then contained lots of linen etc and could be the reason why it survived being underground for so long.

The FLO asked us to return to the spot where I found the coins and search for more paper. I only found a small corner that had a green tint and possibly some writing, this was again handed over. As we wait for more news we understand that Hanley, Birmingham and the British Museum are all showing an interest in acquiring this hoard as the previous largest forgery hoard was of 92 coins which are currently at the BM.

I would hope that they stay at the Hanley Museum as it is only a few miles from where they were recovered for the local people to view. After lots of help from researchers and particularly Gary Oddie from the British Numismatic Society, we were able to put together a good deal of information regarding the forger George Fearn. Taken from the book "Capital Crimes" our story begins on page 69 entitled! "A False Note, George Fearn of Bottomhouse"

Ross Prince explains:

"Dealing in counterfeit banknotes was a very lucrative business, but to be caught passing a forged note was a capital offence. Many people chose to take the risk, however, and the whole business was a great problem to the law enforcement agencies. The Bank of England had been tipped off that a certain George Fearn of the pub at Bottomhouse, about four or five miles from Leek, had been passing forged notes, and so they arranged for him to be investigated..."

On July 1st 1801, arriving at 11 pm, two undercover policemen who were disguised as hawking peddlers proceeded to 'set up' Fearn. In their conversations that night and the next morning, Fearn made the statement that it was bad times and a man had to work hard to live honestly. The officers ordered milk and rum at breakfast and after commenting that the milk was delicious they mentioned the rum was not of good quality. Sensing that Fearn was probably interested in other dishonest practices besides forging banknotes, the officers asked Fearn if he would like some cheap rum which they could supply at 6 shillings to 6 shillings and sixpence a gallon. Hidden and packed hard in flour barrels.

Fearn took the bait!

The officer then put down a forged Halifax One Guinea note and asked Fearn if it was well done. He was obviously experienced in this field and said that it was a forged one, and thought it was a bad one at that. They then produced some Bank of England notes, the undercover officers saying that they had never seen better.

***"What do you give for a pound screeve?"
(A forged banknote) asked Fearn.***

The officer replied "8/6d for the £1 note and 14 shillings for a £2 note."

Fearn then produced £5 and £10 screeves, saying proudly, "Look at yours and look at mine" adding that he had paid £1 and ten shillings for the £5 note. Fearn proceeded to show the officers how to wear the notes to give an appearance of age using a sweaty palm and to only rub the note one way and never to crush or attempt to age the note in any other way. Having proved that Fearn was in possession of, and had passed forged notes, one of the officers slipped out of the pub and raced to Leek to get the local constabulary to come and arrest Fearn.

They did so, and the following morning he was committed to Stafford Gaol.



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When his case came to court, Fearn's defence counsel put forward all manner of technicalities to try and prove him not guilty, and Fearn himself tried to deny everything, claiming he knew nothing of the notes in question, he did not sell them and furthermore had witnesses that he did not. It is here that James Bloor enters the proceedings. Bloor, a baker living near the Inn, said that he had been there the whole time, and no such conversations or transactions had taken place. However, his story was not believed by the court.

The jury found Fearn guilty and Bloor was charged with perjury. The judge said he liked perjurers no more than he liked screevers (forgers) and the law must take its course. George Fearn was executed on August 8th 1801, for uttering three bills knowing them to be forgeries of the Bank of England.

On April 3rd 1802, at Stafford Assizes, James Bloor was sentenced to be transported aboard a ship to Australia for seven years, for his perjury.

And that is the story of how I found 332 silver forged coins over 250 years old of a convicted forger in a field in Leek, Staffordshire, England

John McGimpsey (The Toffee Digger)



Scan to
watch

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



Scan for
video



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:

- **You can choose 1-3 year membership from as little as £8 per year**
- **Public Liability insurance up to £10m – with £0 excess**
- **Insurance cover for commercial rallies/events, private & group digs**
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Yes it's that time of the year for the RCM big Rally, so I have been asked again to write a few words. So who am I? My name is Dave, well you know that already, and I am one of the team that helps to produce the big rally, and most years, also two one day events.

I started in this fantastic hobby over 35 years ago and have not regretted a day spent trudging the fields looking for our lost heritage, (Well maybe a few). I am also so the finder of the Frome Hoard (The largest single Hoard of Roman coins ever). Yes 52, 503 coins buried in a pot just along from Frome in Somerset. That was back in 2010 and I haven't stopped talking about it since (Well that's what they say in our Club (Trowbridge MDC) In that mass of copper coins there were silver plated, silver washed and some just very poor silver Radiates. There were also five fantastic pure silver unused denarii coins, these still had their rims on. There were also over 800 plus radiate coins of Carausius, the self-acclaimed Emperor of Britain (AD 86-93). These few coins made Sam Moorhead happy. Sam is an Iron Age and Roman coin Expert in the BM, and works for PAS, and a true gentleman, he has been studying these 800 plus coins and has been writing a definitive list for 10 years. (As he always says "It's nearly there Dave") This is how our hobby is helping to change what is known about who was here before us.

So back to the job in hand we have a great team of detectorists who help out on the day, and we could not run the rally without their fantastic support on the week of the rally, we don't pay them a cent, they turn up; we give them jobs and they get on with it for three days we work them hard; but we do feed and water them. This year there are nearly 50 people doing jobs from greeting you at the gate, booking you in, directing you to a camping spot, answering all sorts of questions, to walking the fields to keep an eye on what what's going on. We even have Lisa (Gary's Boss) who runs the booking in tent with a tight grip, and she makes it her responsibility to especially check the posh ladies Loos. This year she has a new bright red trolley to carry all her bits in (see; I am all heart)

My job as Coordinator is to look at and check everything we do from day one; till we close down and move on to the next one. Over the weekend the team leaders run their teams and I try not to get involved too much, unless there is a real problem.

Gary (You all know Gary!) started this in 2018 when sadly his father died of cancer, and he wanted to give back something to the cancer unit at Bath Hospital and he enlisted myself and other members of our club. Since then we have gone from that small beginning, to what we are now; a big player in the Rally scene. And



Dave presenting just one of the raffle prizes at last years event

we still don't get paid, that's right we pay our volunteers nothing, and we take nothing; all the money after the costs of running it, goes to Charity.

We have donated to various charities so far £117,000 and with this years that should reach an estimated £160,000 +. Not bad for a bunch of Metal Detectorists, and we could not do any of this without all your support, also the support of the traders, Manufactures, and the many friends that have helped us out in various ways. This year we also have Spinks supporting us, a first for them please support them like all the traders, just drop in and see what s happening.

So my job right through the year is to coordinate all the different Jobs, so on the day we have five team leaders who are responsible for their team of Marshals. These are Gary, Lisa, Gordon, John, and last, but not least Nigel. Between them all the Jobs get done, and their responsibility is to also ensure we don't overwork our team of volunteers, (because that what they are). So if you want to moan talk to them not the poor sod who is doing his / her best, (or to me if you can find me).

Remember there is a First Aid team available (Ask any Marshal) or in the booking in tent (Larissa).

Just as a quick note; we already have the new site for next year(2023) Gary and myself went to check it out last month and it looks great; as far as we know it's never been detected on before, it's in a great area ,and has 1000 plus Acres. It ticks all our boxes, and the grass camping area will be right in the middle.



The Frome Hoard found by Dave



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A Roman ring or another thing..

Si Weller was detecting in East Sussex with his father Chris, pleasantly swinging away with his Minelab Equinox 800 when he received a signal and set down to dig the tone.

Si was gobsmacked and thought he had discovered a Roman ring. He soon noticed the age was not that great, but even so was still excited to find a beautiful gold ring with a twin face in the head.

Si decided to take the ring to Chatfield Jewellers for cleaning and identification and has since had the ring returned. A beautiful 1907, 9 caret gold intaglio ring with a Birmingham hallmark now resides in pride of place in Si's collection.

He has kindly provided us with the ring in its final form, we are sure you will agree it looks fantastic. Thanks for allowing us to publish the tale and images Si.



The ring before cleaning by the jewellers

Can you help identify this seal...?



Steve's seal found with his XP Deus



With the photo reversed you can read the wording

We are very lucky to be privy to some fascinating Archaeological and Metal Detecting discoveries in our positions at the Archmdmag.

One which recently gave us a lot of pleasure was this fantastic seal discovered in Norfolk by detectorist Steve Mobbs. Steve found the artefact using an XP and the sonar programme prior to the current English lock down. The Deus gave a 3 tone and was 4 to 6 inch down in potato field in Norfolk. The picture is reversed below as to read easier.

Any assistance you can offer Steve with the identification of this seal would be greatly appreciated



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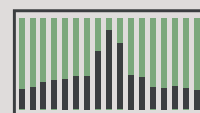
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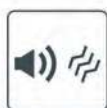
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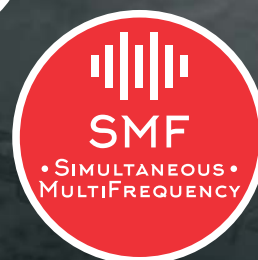
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Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting (ARMD)



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.



WESTERN REGION ARMD



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