

Past Times

February A.D.2020

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter



CDMDC MUSEUM EXHIBITION UPDATE

On Thursday 13th February, invited guests attended a special open evening of the club exhibition at Chippenham Museum. Guest of honour was Councillor Desna Allen, the Mayor of Chippenham. Also in attendance were regional representatives from the national Council of Metal Detecting (NCMD), the Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer (FLO), Wil Partridge and a number of local landowners who kindly allow us to detect on their land. The evening passed extremely well, with all attendees passing good comments at the range and quality of the items on display. A full report into the Exhibition will be published in an extended March Newsletter. Our thanks go out the Chippenham Museum who allowed it to put on the displays and, of course, to all club members who contributed their precious items.



Melissa Barnett, museum curator, introduces the exhibition to the Mayor of Chippenham and other dignitaries

English Heritage has urged the public to help fight the rise of illegal metal detecting at its historic sites

Ancient locations such as Old Sarum in Wiltshire have been targeted by illegal detecting, the organisation said. The conservation body said such action, known as "nighthawking", was "robbing us of our past".

There were more than double the number of metal detecting activities recorded in 2019 than two years ago, it added. The charity said that December was the worst month for reported incidents in more than four years.

Chief Executive Kate Mavor said the organisation was working with local police and Historic England but also needed the public's help - to report any suspicious activity on or near English Heritage sites.

"Illegal metal detecting robs us of our past," she said. "Once items are spirited away they can never be replaced, and the evidence of those who went before us is lost forever."

CDMDC upholds the highest standards when it comes to abiding by the law and supports English Heritage's call.

Old Sarum, Salisbury



SHORT CROSS COIN PRESENTATION—6TH FEBRUARY

Gerry Slevin, author of the book "Short Cross Legends", visited the club and give a talk on Short Cross hammered coinage. He also helped identify club short-cross pennies. It was interesting to learn that the short cross series is often perceived of as a confusing one, with an unhelpfully large variety of sub-classes. Although there are many differing varieties, distinguishable by varying levels of minute detail, the series can be more easily rationalised for the beginner by remembering a set of rules that will aid the attribution of a coin to a class.



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