

Past Times

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club Newsletter

January A.D.2019



NEWS UPDATE

CDMDC 2019 Charity Event – Gearing up

As you'll be aware from last month's Newsletter the Event is taking place on 17 February. Logistics will be similar to last year; there will be a free tea or coffee on arrival and the venue has a comprehensive range of facilities including indoor toilets and a seating area. Raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the day for a range of quality prizes including a high-end range metal detector (yes, an Equinox 800!). Hot soup and rolls will be available for purchase, as will tea, coffee and biscuits. This year sees a new regional trophy which will be awarded to the individual whose find is judged, by the farmer in his opinion, to be the best. Awards will also be given to runners up in both coin and artefact categories.



New Regional Trophy

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Charity Donation

The money raised from the previous charity event will be handed over to Wiltshire Air Ambulance on Thursday 31st Jan-

FINDS OF THE MONTH



Papal Bulla

A cracking start to the new year by Jon with his finds of a Saxon Stater and an amazingly well-preserved Papal Bulla. Following up were Richie with his Henry VI Annulet edition hammered penny minted in Calais and Andrew with his Iron-Age awl. Andrew also submitted a beautiful Commonwealth Half-Groat .



Henry VI Penny



Iron Age Awl



Commonwealth Half-Groat



Saxon Stater

Researching the Finds

Both the Papal Bulla and the Iron Age Awl found this month attracted attention in that some within the club were unsure what they were. So here's some explanations.....

Bulla. The bulla was the metal seal that was attached to a Papal Bull. Papal bulls were originally issued by the pope for many kinds of communication of a public nature, originally on papyrus but then on parchment paper. Since the 12th century, papal bulls have carried a leaden seal with the heads of the Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul on one side and the pope's name on the other.

Awl. Awls are difficult to date but most are probably from the Late Bronze Age. They were a range of rod-like tools that were usually round sectioned and pointed at one end, and were generally undecorated. They would have been used to make holes in leather or wood and probably were inserted into a handle made from organic materials.

Why the hole in Andrew's Commonwealth coin?

After the monarchy was restored under Charles II in 1660 there was a great re-coining (1661-1663). Commonwealth coins were either taken out of circulation or made void by having a hole put through them.

Next Month

The February Newsletter will include a comprehensive report from the Grittleton charity event.



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