

# Past Times

December A.D.2018

Chippenhams & District Metal Detecting Club Newsletter



## News Update

### CDMDC 2019 Charity Event – Date Confirmed

It has been announced that the 2019 CDMDC charity event will be held on Sunday 17th February at Grittleton



House, Grittleton Wiltshire on previously-undetected land. We look forward to inviting the other clubs in the Region and expect the event to be a resounding success as it has been in previous years. Entrance fee will be £20 and all attendees are expected to hold valid NCMD membership this confirming full liability insurance. There will be a comprehensive raffle with some excellent prizes, including a new Minelab Equinox 800. Food and drink will be available.

## Goodbye 2018, Hello 2019!

Well, the year draws to a close and the club reflects back on what has been a sensational year for quality finds. 2018 has seen the most comprehensive recovery of coins and artefacts for the club to date and long may it continue. They say this hobby of ours and the unearthing/researching a piece of history is the closest we'll get to travelling in a time machine I tend to agree. Sometimes outsiders to the hobby make assumptions that make me smile; that detectorists are old men who have nothing better to do with their time. Treasure hunters who care only for the monetary value of their finds and spend thousands of pounds on equipment that only technical wizards can understand. That you need to know a secret location to find anything decent. All I can say is how **wrong they are!** Many detectorists are youngsters and women although, acknowledged, retired people have more time to invest in the hobby. As for value of finds, yes, finding a nice gold ring is better than finding a rusty nail but unless it has historical value it has no 'soul'. The cheapest detector in the world may find a Roman hoard of coins whilst the most expensive one could miss it—after all you have to walk over it to find it! In terms of location there is usually history and an associated story beneath our feet wherever we are. The historical record remains, in places, unclear but often full of activities that we have yet to know or understand. People have walked across the land for thousands of years going about their daily lives, losing or burying clues to how they lived. We remain fascinated with this past and committed to learning more about our ancestors, how they lived and what they did. Here's hoping 2019 will further improve this understanding.

## FINDS OF THE MONTH



Roman Plate Brooch



Silver Child's Ring



George III Shilling

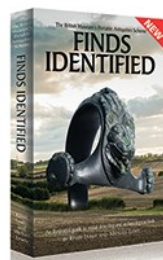


George V Shilling

This month's highlights included an excellent example of a Roman 2nd Century plate brooch and a charming intertwined-heart child's silver ring in the artefact category. These were unearthed by Mark & Graham respectively. In terms of coinage, best find was awarded to Mark for his 1816 George III Shilling whilst Jon was a close runner up with his 1935 George V Shilling. Hammered and quality Roman coins were somewhat scarce this month but that's just more left in the ground to find in the New Year!

## New Book Released

The Team at the British Museum and the Portable Antiquities Scheme have released what's thought to be the most comprehensive book geared towards the identification of finds. Published by Greenlight Publishing, 'Finds Identified' is a welcome addition to any detectorist's library. CDMDC has purchased a copy that's available for use by all members and Associates.



CDMDC wishes all of its friends,  
farmers and landowners a very merry  
Christmas and a prosperous and happy  
New Year!

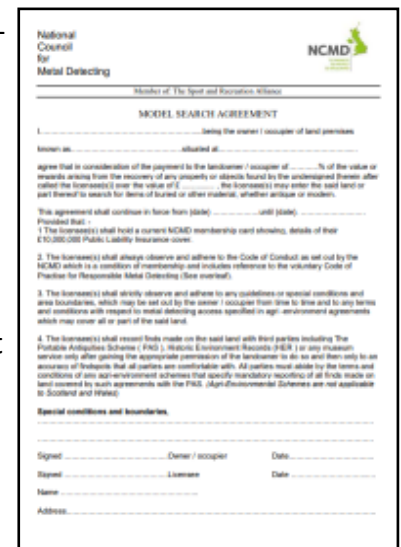


## Farmers notes on detecting and permissions — Part Two...

Continuing on from last month we will explore some more areas of permissions and detecting.

**Written agreements.** Should you have an agreement in place prior to allowing detectorists onto your land? This can be a subjective topic because it raises the question of trust in the relationship between the detectorist and the landowner/farmer which, usually, is very friendly. Certainly, it removes any ambiguity in understanding what should happen in the event anything of any real value is found. If deemed necessary, a template can be downloaded from the website of the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) which can be tailored to the specific need or circumstances.

The agreement will need to cover who has permission, what they can and cannot do – such as driving on fields – and how deep they can dig for finds. It should also cover what is expected in terms of reporting any finds to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (see below) and what happens afterwards. Other considerations include what happens to any objects found that fall outside of the definition of treasure. It is important to consider the practicalities of arranging access – such as insisting you are informed before anyone arrives on the farm so that the detectorist can be briefed on no-go areas (for example a field of sheep in lambing season, or an area where a shoot is taking place).



**Insurance.** All serious detectorists will hold civil liability insurance but check just to be sure. They should be able to evidence. Do not allow detectorists on your land without this evidence. There are two popular organisations that provide bespoke insurance for detecting activities and they are the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) and the Federation of Independent Detectorists (FID). The CDMDC insures its members through the former which provides cover up to £10 million.

**The Treasure Act.** Finds believed to be treasure must be reported to the coroner within 14 days and failure to do so is a criminal offence. Under the act, and with a few exceptions, to be classified as treasure objects must be at least 300 years old. Metallic objects that are not prehistoric must be made up of at least 10 per cent of a precious metal, i.e. gold or silver. Prehistoric metallic objects are deemed treasure if any part is precious metal. 2 or more coins that are of precious metal and found together or close by in the same find should be reported as treasure. Collections of coins, 10 or more in the same find, that are not of precious metal must also be reported. In most cases the Finds Liaison Officer (to whom Treasure is reported on behalf of the Coroner) will record and return the items. In cases where the item(s) are of significant historic interest it is valued by the Treasure Valuation Committee, an independent body administered by the British Museum. It will ask several expert dealers to price the treasure. A price is then agreed, which can then be challenged by interested parties before the final value is set. This then is paid to the landowner and/or the finder in accordance with any agreement in place, usually this is a 50/50 split.



*The Frome Hoard, found by Dave Crisp, was composed of 52,503 Roman coins that dated from AD 253 to 305.*

### Club Contact Details

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