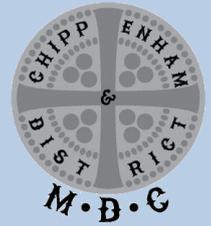


Past Times

March A.D. 2019

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter



East Tytherton Heritage Project – 30 March 2019

CDMDC will be contributing to the East Tytherton Heritage Project on 30 March 2019 at the request of the project leader, Nigel Pocock. Detectorists from the club will be detecting across much of the old Moravian estate including the church grounds, cemetery, the old school grounds and what was historically the preaching field adjacent to the school. The objective is to find artefacts that will support research into the project and enrich local knowledge of the past in the local area. Moravians came to East Tytherton in the 1700s following persecution in their homeland which was a region in what is now known as the Czech Republic. Local landowners have kindly given their permission for the club to detect in the area. At a later date it is anticipated that detecting will expand elsewhere in the local area including the Quaker burial ground located nearby. A post-event report will be published in the April newsletter.



Moravian Church, East Tytherton

FINDS OF THE MONTH



King John Penny



Roman Magnentius



Dagger Chape



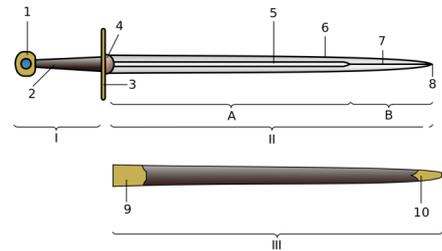
Unidentified Pin Head

The finds table this month was significantly better than last, probably due to the coming of spring and improved weather. Jon managed to save a King John penny from the ground dating from the beginning of the 13th century. Mark recovered a coin linked to the Roman Emperor Magnentius (A.D. 350-353) which still has remarkable detail. Richie found a post-medieval dagger chape still mainly intact whilst Mark presented an intricately-decorated pin head which still has evidence of gold gilt on it. These were just a few of the amazing finds on the table this month.

Researching the Finds

What is a 'dagger chape'?

Chape has had various meanings in English, but the predominant one is a protective fitting at the bottom of a scabbard or sheath for a sword or dagger (10 in the diagram). Historic blade weapons often had leather scabbards with metal fittings at either end, sometimes decorated. These are generally either in some sort of U shape, protecting the edges only, or a pocket shape covering the sides of the scabbard as well. The reinforced end of a single-piece metal scabbard can also be called the chape.



The scabbard chape is not to be confused with the *chappe*, a French term - rain-guard in English - on the sword itself, a fitting at the top of the blade in late medieval weapons, just below the crossguard of the hilt. The *chappe* fitted outside the scabbard, presumably helping to hold the sword snugly and preventing rain coming in (4 in the diagram). This would typically have been of leather, though everything about these is uncertain as no original examples have survived, and they are mainly known from art. (Article courtesy of Wikipedia).

Changes to the Treasure Act?

The definition of "treasure" is to be redefined under new plans by the government to prevent dozens of valuable historic artefacts being "lost" to private collections. Proposals outlined in early February by the government would see ancient objects worth more than £10,000 classed as treasure for the first time regardless of the metal they are made from. The rules are designed to protect more important finds for the nation, after a series of items were sold privately under the current definition. In 2017 there were a record number - 1,267 - of archaeological finds in the UK, many made by amateur hobbyists, but only a narrow selection can be acquired by the Crown then offered to museums. The number of treasure finds has been steadily increasing in recent years, thanks to the growing popularity of metal detecting and the increased understanding of how to report objects. NCMD are currently looking into how a change in legislation may impact our hobby.



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