

# PAST TIMES

MAY 2023



## CHIPPENHAM & DISTRICT METAL DETECTING CLUB (CDMDC)

### CLUB NEWS

**IDS** - A number of people have recently expressed their interest in joining our club, an open evening should soon be arranged which will give these people a chance to join the clubs IDS scheme. **Club digs** - Unfortunately the consistent wet weather earlier in the year meant many farmers were delayed ploughing and seeding their land, this left only extremely small windows to detect on certain fields. Regrettably, this meant the fields we planned on detecting were not available long enough for us to arrange a club rally on. Hopefully more club digs will be arranged soon. **Meetings** – T1 meeting will be held 8/6/23 – T2 meeting will be held 22/6/23. **Club Talks** – Club talks with the well renowned Mike Stone are being arranged and dates will be announced shortly, all club members and IDS members are welcome to attend club talks.

### CDMDC SOCIALS

Tier 1 member Simon has come up with the great idea to get all club members and IDS members together once a month outside of the club meetings for a social night where we can all share stories, tips, give advice and get to know each other better. All social details will be posted on the Facebook groups and emailed out to IDS members. The latest social night will take place on Thursday 15th June at the White Hart Pub in Atworth. We will be hosting a club quiz, and a friendly game of skittles.



### SEARCHER MAGAZINE

The club submits its monthly finds to the Searcher magazine . See below the CDMDC snapshot from the latest edition.

**Chippenham MDC Kate Mennell**  
A fairly quiet month for the club although most members have taken advantage of the weather to get out in the fields in many cases with some success. We held our monthly meeting enhanced as always by Mimzy's quiz. We had our usual finds of the month entries and Kate brought along two coins to show as a talking point. These are shown below and are a Victoria crown of 1890 and the short-lived double florin of 1889. The double florin was only issued over three years and was said to be the most unpopular coin in history due to its size being so close to that of the Crown. Its nickname was 'Barmaid's Ruin' for obvious reasons.

**Finds of the Month**  
**Coins**  
**1st** Julia Domna denarius – Anthony 'Mimzy' Mims  
**2nd** Charles I half groat – Matt Fenn

**A few more finds this month:**  
Decentius AE2 AD351-353AD – Anthony 'Mimzy' Mims  
Valens 364-367Ad – Anthony 'Mimzy' Mims

**Artefacts**  
**1st** 5-6th Century hand cloak pin – Matt Fenn  
Iron Age Le Tene brooch 3rd Century BC – Matt Fenn

Victoria Crown 1890  
2nd Roman brooch – Anthony 'Mimzy' Mims  
Victoria double florin 1889

# PERMISSION NOTES FOR LAND OWNERS

**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 land-owner/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.

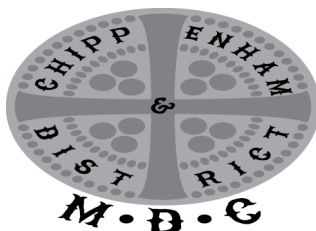
The agreement should cover who has permission, what they can and cannot do – such as driving/parking on fields. It should also cover what is expected in terms of reporting any finds to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (see below) and what happens afterwards. Other considerations include 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 public liability insurance but check just to be sure. They should be able to provide evidence. Do not allow detectorists on your land without this evidence. There are 3 popular organisations that provide bespoke insurance for detecting activities and they are the Association for Metal Detecting Sport (AMDS), National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) and the Federation of Independent Detectorists (FID). The CDMDC insures its members through the AMDS 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 (FLO) (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 the finder in accordance with any agreement in place, usually this is a 50/50 split.



Treasure Act 1996



## CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman T1	Terry Kearton
Chairman T2	Matthew Fenn
Treasurer	Peter Amer
Secretary	Michelle Thomas
IDS Secretary	Nichola Winney
Social Secretary	Simon Morgan

WEBSITE:  
<https://www.chippenhamanddistrictmdc.co.uk/>