

Past Times

May 2024

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter



Westmorland and Furness is a unitary authority area in Cumbria, England and is home to Richard Bennett an ex club member who moved up north due to work reasons. Richard is one of the main reasons you are reading this newsletter now.

After leaving the club Richard volunteered to manage the CDMDC web page and keep it up to date for club members and the public. The website gives your club credibility and helps establish a professional presence. The more valuable the club is to the public, the more likely they will trust in allowing the club on new land permissions, hold talks and display club finds. This club website offers a place to showcase your finds, achievements and provides a direct link to the public.

Besides all that Richard also has artistic and creative skills and abilities needed to make bespoke goods. A large number these he has given away to friends and also to our club, which we thank him for.



A tiny selection of what Richard makes in his spare time ranging from personalised caskets to fridge magnets and bottle openers.



Sorry, bottle opener won by Matt at last T2 quiz



Four rings found this month by:-
Kate, Mimzy
And Jon

LOCAL HOARD HISTORY

THE BOX HOARD

The hoard of 88 coins was found between 1993 and 1994 by Martin Bricknell from Box, detecting with permission at Wadswick Farm, Box, on the western border of Wiltshire (ST 83506895). Martin took the first group of his finds to Dr Paul Robinson of the Devizes Museum who recognised their importance at once, reading one of the few clean coins as Robert Earl of Gloucester of the Trowbridge mint. Mr Bricknell subsequently devoted many hours to retrieving as many coins and fragments as possible from the widely distributed hoard. The coins were taken to the British Museum where they were cleaned and conserved. Superficially, the coins appeared to be in good condition but recent breaks showed that, internally, they were reduced to a powdery silver oxide held together by the surface patination. It was therefore decided to seal the surface of the coins (by a reversible process) to increase their strength. The then-current treasure trove procedures were followed before all the coins found a place in public collections.

Most of the coins were unknown lion type for Robert Earl of Gloucester, 1121/22-1147, and his son William Earl of Gloucester, 1147-8. 44 of the coins were in the name of Earl Robert (36 pennies and 8 cut-halfpennies), seven of Earl William (4 pennies and 3 cut-halfpennies) and eleven with illiterate obverses (9 pennies and 2 cut-halfpennies)



Two examples of Robert Earl of Gloucester

THE HAZELBURY MANOR COIN HOARD

The hoard of English gold coins of James I (1603–25) and Charles I (1625–49), discovered in the grounds of the historic Hazelbury Manor near the small village of Box in Wiltshire in August 2020 (PAS WILT-0CB2A3).

The fourteen gold coins were retrieved over the course of two days by Steve Simmons, an employee at the manor who had been granted permission to detect the land by its current owners. Tightly clustered together at a range of depths between six and twelve inches, the coins represent a single deposit. Mr Simmons was, at this point, a relative newcomer to the hobby of metal detecting, having begun to search the Manor grounds just two months prior to the hoard's discovery. Remarkably, the hoard was his first numismatic find of any kind.



One of the coins, a Charles I (1625-1649), Tower mint, Double Crown, Which sold at Noonans auctions in April 2023 for £5,500