

PAST TIMES

MARCH 2023

CHIPPENHAM & DISTRICT METAL DETECTING CLUB (CDMDC)



CLUB NEWS

As we move into March and April the trees are starting to bud and daffodils are blooming giving us all a faint glimpse of spring and what is to come. Warmer weather, longer days and freshly ploughed fields are just around the corner! Club digs are being arranged for the next few months and club members are pulling up amazing finds as always. Fingers crossed for a prosperous spring of historical finds for all our club members.

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. In February a social night was arranged at the White Hart pub in Atworth, a good show of members from T1, T2 and a couple of IDS members made for a fun night. It started off with a mingle and members chatting about detecting and sharing information about machines etc... then everyone was split into pairs for a special social night quiz held by quiz master Mimzy! The night ended with a few rounds of skittles with the winner by a couple of points being Simon or in accordance with "Mimzy Skittles rules", Mimzy was the winner due to being the only person to throw 3 balls in a round and hit no skittles!

A skill no one else could master!



Mimzy on his way to a record breaking score of 0

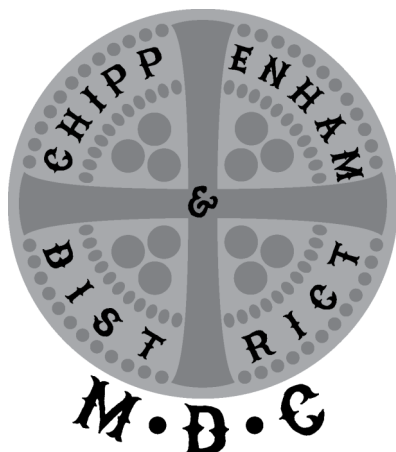


ROMAN PHALLIC ITEMS

While Phallic Roman objects may be funny to us, for the Romans they were very sacred items and were widely used in the empire. Phallic emblems are found on a wide range of Roman objects, from amulets to frescoes to mosaics to lamps. They were symbols intended to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits. As the ancient author Pliny attests, even babies and soldiers wore such charms to invite divine protection. Sculptures of a phallus were discovered on the thresholds of houses in Pompeii. Phallus, probably as an image of the god Liber Pater (term *fascinum*) was to protect the house from evil powers and ensure fertility to the family. The worship of this symbol is still mentioned by Augustine from the turn of the 4th and 5th centuries CE, when the Roman Empire was largely Christian. The priest reluctantly described the annual village phallic rites taking place in Italy. According to his account, the image of a member was placed in a cart and transported around the villages, and then triumphantly entered the city with him. There he was then decorated with flowers. Throughout the journey, vulgar vocabulary was used, and the celebrators showed sexual freedom. It was also customary to bury wooden phaluses in the ground, which was also done by Christians themselves. Sometimes, in order to live in harmony with the commandments of Christ's faith, phalluses with the signs of the cross were buried.



This article was on the request of Andrew T1 - if any club members wish to request articles for the newsletter please feel free to suggest at club meetings.



CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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