

PAST TIMES

DECEMBER 2021

CHIPPENHAM & DISTRICT METAL DETECTING CLUB (CDMDC)



CLUB NEWS

Back on the 6th of November the Chippenham and District Metal Detecting Club held a club rally in the Castle Combe area. 19 members from Tier 1, Tier 2 and the newly established Independent Detectorist Scheme (IDS) attended the club rally. T2 chairman Matthew arranged the dig and managed to negotiate 6 good sized fields for the day with the consent of the Landowner at a cost of £5 per member.

The fields for the day were a good mixture of pasture and stubble and were all within a close distance of the allotted parking field. After a few laughs and muddy parking mishaps which included a number of members having to push an IDS members van out of a ditch (which he apparently didn't see), Everyone had arrived and was eager to get detecting.

At 10:30 the T2 Chairman gave a short dig briefing on the fields and the history in the area, this had everyone's tongues salivating at what might be found! After the brief everyone was released to detect and as they all set off aimlessly wandering across the fields it looked like a scene from the walking dead. For the few members who were newer to detecting, more experienced members were on hand to give hints, tips and help them out throughout the day.

Unfortunately the land was very mineralised and subsequently the finds were scarce, however all those who attended had an enjoyable days detecting and socialising for the first time since the Covid pandemic and a few nice finds were rescued from the soil. Some of the finds for the newer Detectorists in the group were their best and oldest finds to date! The club raised £95 from this rally which will be donated on behalf of the Landowner to their chosen charity of The Dorothy House.



Silver Georgian Clog Clasp



A lovely Victorian medal



George VI Shilling

GUN MONEY

Gun money was an issue of coins made by the forces of James II during the Williamite War in Ireland between 1689 and 1691. They were minted in base metal (copper, brass or pewter), and were designed to be redeemed for silver coins following a victory by James II and consequently bore the date in months to allow a gradual replacement. As James lost the war, that replacement never took place, although the coins were allowed to circulate at much reduced values before the copper coinage was resumed. They were mostly withdrawn from circulation in the early 18th century.

The name "gun money" stems from the idea that they were minted from melted down cannons or guns. However, many other brass objects, such as church bells, were also used.

There were two issues. The first "large" issue consisted of sixpences, shillings and half crowns (2½ shillings). The second, "small" issue consisted of shillings, halfcrowns and crowns (5 shillings). Some of the second issue were overstruck on large issue pieces, with shillings struck over sixpences, half crowns on shillings and crowns on half crowns. The most notable feature of the coins is the date, because the month of striking was also included. This was so that after the war (in the event of James' victory), soldiers would be able to claim interest on their wages, which had been withheld from proper payment for so long.

Specimen striking's were produced in silver and gold for most months, and these tend to be extremely rare.



YEAR OF COIN PRODUCTION



MONTH OF COIN PRODUCTION

CLUB FINDS OF THE MONTH

T2 NOV 2021

BEST COIN

WINNER: MIMZY RUNNER UP: MATT



CONSTANTINE I 330-335AD

WILLIAM III SIXPENCE

BEST ARTEFACT

WINNER: MIMZY RUNNER UP: MATT



ROMAN RING

MEDIEVAL STRAP END

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman T1 Terry Kearton
Chairman T2 Matthew Fenn
Treasurer Peter Amer
Secretary Lorraine Stanley

WEBSITE:

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