

# Past Times

Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club Newsletter

November A.D.2018



## News Update

### CDMDC 2019 Charity Event Announced

The Chairman announced at the last meeting that the 2019 charity event will be held for the third year running at Grittleton Manor using previously undetected-on land. Previous years have proven a resounding success and the location provides first-class administrative support whilst being close to very productive land. We look forward to inviting again other clubs within South-West region. The past charity events have seen thousands of pounds raised for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.



## Monthly Spotlight – Celtic Terret Ring

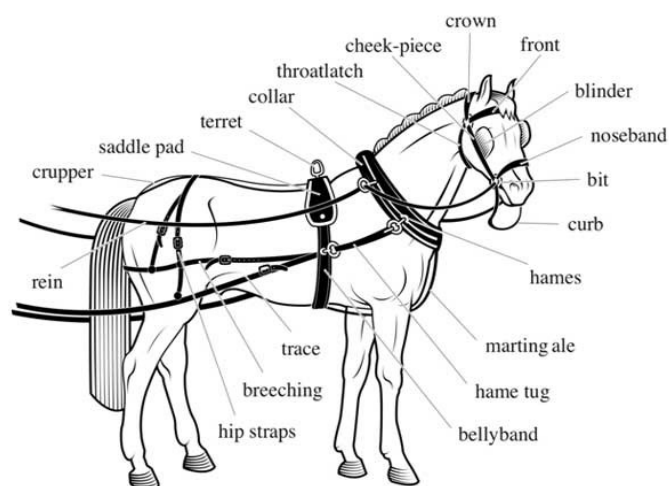
This stunning find made by Terry has recently returned from the conservation team. I'm sure you'll agree that they have done a brilliant job in restoring it back to its former glory. It'll soon be taking pride of place on loan to Chippenham museum where the public will be able to admire it for a period of time.



But what is a terret ring? A

terret it is a metal loop on a horse harness, guiding the lines and preventing them from becoming tangled or snagged on the harness. The lines run from the hands of the driver, through the terrets, and then attach to the horse's bit to guide the horse.

The word terret may also be used for other metal loops for attaching ropes or chains, such as the ring on a dog collar. The word derives from the Old French toret or touret, meaning small and round. Bronze terrets from horse harness are a common archaeological find from the European Iron Age, sometimes with decoration. This one is particularly large and beautifully enamelled suggesting it may have belonged to someone of significant standing, perhaps used in conjunction with a horse-drawn chariot.



## FINDS OF THE MONTH

Another great month for finds that included the largest monthly haul of silver hammered coins for the club to date. Terry's Roman Constans coin was voted the best in that category though as a result of the fine detail that survived over 1600 years. Jon's Trefoil brooch won the artefact category, again of great age being either Roman or Celtic in origin. Richie's enamelled, silver butterfly brooch fared well in the voting having a 1911 Birmingham hallmarked stamped on the reverse. Terry also fared well in this category with a roman-era dice in good condition- the second this year for the club. Overall a cracking month.



Roman Coin



Henry VII Halfgroat



Elizabeth I halfpenny



Trefoil Brooch



Butterfly Brooch



Roman lead Die

## CDMDC Supports



## Farmers notes on detecting and permissions — Part One...

Why should you allow us metal detectorists on your land? Well, that's a good question. After all, won't we run off with all of the treasure that lies beneath your feet?!

Well, not if you put a few considerations in place before granting permission. The vast majority of detectorist have a passion for history and, whilst it's nice to know the value of the medieval gold coin, or that Roman brooch, it's not a primary motivator to a genuine hobbyist. There's a difference between treasure hunters and those who see the genuine beauty in artefacts they recover.

A genuine detectorist will clean & restore the artefact, research the history surrounding it and share that knowledge with the farmer and the detecting community. If deemed treasure or report-worthy to the Portable Antiquities Scheme it will also take its place in defining the historical context of the UK.

What if a stranger knocks at my door asking if he can detect on my land? Firstly, consider understanding why he/she wants to detect on your land. Most people are good judges of character and the first few minutes of a conversation usually reveals much about a person. Ask for references. Are they a member of a club? If so, consider finding out about the club. Do they have a website with contact details of the Committee members? If so, approach the Chairman and ask for a reference. The chances are that those affiliated to an established club, such as Chippenham & District MDC, have liability insurance and adhere to a strict detecting code of ethics that protect both the farmer and the detectorist.



But what are the benefits for farmers? Well firstly it's an opportunity to find out more about the history of the land you own, because detectorists will find things that otherwise might not be found. The presence of people around the farm may also discourage other trespassers, including fly-tippers, as well as provide an extra pair of eyes to keep watch for sick or straying livestock.

Detectorists can also provide a useful service in clearing away unwanted bits of rubbish that might cause problems if ingested by an animal or tangled up in farm machinery. Last year's club junk metal and lead haul was sold to a scrap metal dealer with the proceeds going to charity!



What about if someone asks if they can hold a rally on my land? Now this depends on what the motivation for the rally is. Whilst charity rallies organised by reputable clubs and organisations are, to a degree, encouraged there are unscrupulous people out there looking for personal profit. Yes, you'll be offered a sum of money for your kind permission, but chances are it'll be a small percentage of that paid by the attendees. Can you also be sure they're all insured? Rallies have their place but in moderation and for the right reasons.

How do I give permission?

Metal detectorists must obtain the landowner's permission to enter private land and anyone searching without permission is committing trespass therefore you need to be quite clear on who you are allowing where. Whilst being a rare occurrence, detectorists sometimes find

themselves in a field they're not permitted to be in as a result of a misunderstanding with the farmer.

In summary, granting permission to a genuine, reliable and trustworthy detectorist can bring significant benefits to farmers who want to understand the history surrounding their property. But be wary of those treasure hunters out for personal profit who may not treat you and your land with the respect it deserves.

### Next month in Part 2...

The benefits of written agreements  
Access Control  
Insurance  
The Treasure Act

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