



Ipswich & District Detector Club

(Affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting)

Monthly Newsletter by e-mail

Editor: Adrian Pryke

Club Website <http://www.ipswich-detector-club.co.uk/>

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at the Rosary Conservative Club, 172 Bramford Road, Ipswich IP1 4AB, Ipswich starting at 7.30pm

Next meeting is on Tuesday 24th September 2019

August meeting

History of Orfordness

John Norman talk on Orfordness was well illustrated with good quality pictures, starting with the earliest documentation of the ness, meaning a nose as John stated.

Man first used the spit and its marshes for food - gathering eggs, fishing and grazing sheep and cattle. Later it became a haunt of smugglers and home to lighthouse keepers and coastguards.

In 1913 the War Department acquired a large part of the Ness to develop into airfields. This was to start a 70-year period of intense military experimentation. At the pioneering edge of early military aviation, Orford Ness was a hive of activity, working on all aspects of how to use a plane as a weapon.

Bomb ballistics, homing beacons and radar. Work during this period almost certainly influenced the course of the Second World War.

Despite its airfield moving to Wiltshire the bombing range continued ballistics testing. Firing trials took place to determine the vulnerability of aircraft and their components. The information gathered was used to improve aircraft and munitions design and helped many aircrews to make it home. Atomic weapon casing was also tested for any weakness in the casings.

Lethality and vulnerability trials continued and also work on the aerodynamics of ammunition. Ballistics testing was extended to include rockets with jets firing from almost no altitude into the King's Marsh. Later on the Ness hosted one of its largest secrets, the huge Cobra Mist radar project.

At the height of the Cold War the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment and the Royal Aircraft Establishment (AWRE) used Orford Ness for development work on the atomic bomb. Continuing all the way through the 1960s ominous half-buried concrete structures were built to contain these most lethal of weapons. John illustrated this with an iconic picture of the Pagodas.

Johns talk was well received and as he stated orford island is now a sanctuary for all aspects of wild life, including barn owls, after a few searching question John was warmly applauded for a most interesting talk.

September Meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday 24th September and will be our famous autumn auction so please bring all your unwanted items for sale on the evening.

There is no buyer's premium only a 10% seller's fee which goes into club funds.
The auction will be conducted once again by our resident auctioneer Kelvin Gage.

Find Of the Month Competition - August

- 1 Medieval Casket Key
- 2 Henry II Penny
- 3 Palstave Axe Head, Bronze Age
- 4 Offa Penny, Anglo Saxon, 787-792 East Anglia Mint – Moneyer - Withraed
- 5 Post Medieval Mourning Ring
- 6 Roman Bottom Terret Reign Guard from Chariot

This Months Winers Are:

Best Coin:

No. 4 Offa Penny – Found by John Varden



Best Artefact:

No. 6 Roman Bottom Terret Reign Guard – Found by Rob Webster



The 2019 David Cummings Memorial Rally

Date Sunday 6th October 2019 Cost £15.00 per person in advance

Venue Bylam Farm, Bylam Road, Chelmondiston IP9 1HN

Applications must hold a current NCMD membership card.

This rally will be organized to the memory of David Cummings (son of our chairman), who was a long serving member of the Ipswich and District Detector Club, and the families chosen charity is Saint Elizabeth Hospice.

Landowners' charity is The Louise Harwood Wheelchair Fund.

The total monies raised will be split equally between the two charities.

A B.B.Q. will be organized by the chairman's family so please give this your support

Start Time 10.00am so please arrive by 9.45 to get information on hidden tokens, raffle and prize giving, toilets, etc., Finish time 4.00pm

First lucky ticket will win the Trophy and a cash prize of £50.00.

Five quality Roman coins will be given out for the recovery of coloured tokens, in addition ten bottles of wine will be given as instant prizes for finding more coloured tokens. That is one bottle for each token, and one Roman coin for each token.

Organizers :

David Cummings 122 Main Road Kesgrave Ipswich IP5 1BN Tel 01473 624069

John Varden 101 Colneis Road Felixstowe IP11 9LH Tel 01394 27810

Payment can be made to either of us by post or at the next club meeting.

There are two fields totaling 36 acres available to detect on.

A display facility for finds will be available and only finds in excess of £200.00 will be shared with the farmer