



# Ipswich & District Detector Club

(Affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting)

Monthly newsletter February 2022

The next meeting will be at the Rosary Club Tuesday February 22nd (**DOOR CODE 1473**)

We have our famous club auction where virtually any item can be sold at only 10% to the seller, which helps with the clubs running costs. No charge for the buyers and promises to be a fun evening.

## January Meeting

We had our old friend Pip Wright who entertained us with his talk on medieval England Featuring Lady Alice of Acton, the star player in this medieval drama. Pips research revealed that Lady Alice owned 6000 acres of land, the largest portion at Acton with smaller estates at Dorset and Gloucestershire.



Lady Alice lived through four reigning monarchs, Edward III, Henry V, Henry VI. and Edward IV. Climbing the social ladder Lady Alice married John De Sutton. Eventually marrying into the Waldegrave family most importantly Richard Waldegrave. There is a monument to William Waldegrave along with his wife in Borley Church, just over the Suffolk border in Essex.

Alice lived in a moated great hall in Acton, which consisted of a large room with a central fire, no chimneys at this time. The building constructed mainly of timber probably with a thatched roof. One wonders if the idea originates from the Anglo-Saxon great halls of the seventh century and beyond. Pip went on to demonstrate with surviving written accounts from the period, purchasing 40 loaves of bread a day, this was expensive. Ale was drunk by all ages, instead of water, the latter not safe to drink. Beer not invented until the advent of hops. Being a Catholic country at that time Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays were no meat days. Fish and oysters were bought in from the coast most noticeably Colchester. Oysters were cheap the cost about two pence a hundred, known as the poor man's food. Sugar was not known at this time so sweet honey was obtained from bees; many hives of bees were nurtured. Barley was also used to create malt as a natural sweetener. Most well to do families kept dovecotes, these provided meat all the year round along with fresh eggs. Lady Alice lived to the ripe old age of 75, providing a chantry for the Welneathen crutched Friars, entitling her maybe to go straight to heaven thus avoiding purgatory. After answering some very interesting questions Pip was warmly applauded for a first-class account of life in the medieval period.

## Find of the month

No 1 1807 George III Penny, No 2 Cabinet handle possibly 300-400 years old, No 3 Bell Pull, No 4 Victorian toy lead elephant, No 5 Silver medieval child's ring brooch, No 6 Celtic Silver unit of Tasciovanus, No 7 Celtic/Roman toggle, No 8 Medieval buckle mount, No 9 Anglo-Saxon primary Sceatta, No 10 Celtic silver unit Bury type, No 11 Early Saxon cruciform brooch, No 12 Edward the confessor small flan penny, No 13 18<sup>th</sup> Century belt buckle, Lastly No 14 Edwardian belt buckle.

The worthy winners were: No 7 The Celtic /Roman toggle found by Gary Stone.

The best coin: No 12 The Edward the confessor small flan penny found by Jeremy Armour.

Well done to both and as Kelvin stated the quality of finds tendered was extremely high so well done to all who put forward finds.



Both winners receiving their trophies from Kelvin dressed appropriately for Burns night.