

Finds Liaison in Buckinghamshire

March to August 2006

Treasure Finds

Parish	Material	Object Type	Ref No
Ivinghoe Aston	Silver	17 th C dress pin	2006/T168
Wendover Dean	Silver	17 th C locket	2006/T169
Lt Brickhill [MK]	Silver gilt	16 th C dress pin head	2006/T197
Markyate [Herts]	Sliver	17 th C thimble	2006/T281
Potten End [Herts]	Sliver	13 th C brooch	2006/T378
Buntingford [Herts]	Sliver	Roman finger ring	2006/T418

Note: Out of county treasures are occasionally recorded by the Bucks FLO because the finder may live in Bucks. It is considered that the easier it is to record the find the more likely it is to be done.

The British Museum coin specialist has recommended, to the coroner, that Cold Brayfield 'hoard' [2006/T74] of 36 copper alloy, Roman coins, is not a plough out hoard but just a group of coins from a settlement. They date from the 260s to 402AD.

The County Museum has a good record of purchasing Bucks treasure finds due to the generosity of the Museum Friends & Patrons and fund raising from grant giving bodies. There is a real problem doing this for MK finds. There is a fine medieval silver gilt ring, found at Tattenhoe [many years ago], which will be sold elsewhere, in the near future, if there is no one in MK who can raise the money. Can the committee see any way to solve this problem?

Portable Antiquities Database [www.finds.org.uk]

A large amount of finds have been recorded, and the total entered on the database so far is 2161. Many records await adding to the database and the backlog is an ongoing problem. Without the patience and IT skills of Jennifer Moss, a museum volunteer, the situation would be not be as good as it is. Basic entry figures have been further increased by Lizzy Cross a post grad student waiting to start her MA. She was able to volunteer for a few weeks recently & the FLO is most grateful to her.

Portable Antiquities head office had also made a one-off grant to fund a post of assistant FLO for 2 months. This will enable the many of the entries done by Lizzy & Jennifer to have the dating and research work finished.

Rallies, Club Digs & Meetings

The FLO has attended & recorded finds at a number of Weekend Wanderers detector rallies, at Ivinghoe Aston, Wendover [three times], Linslade, Lt Kimble [a two day event], Oakley [another two day event] and Ivinghoe. The two-day events, at which there were 300-400 people detecting, had emergency cover provided by Archaeological Services Ltd in case any complex objects needed excavation. As it turned out their skills were not needed but the FLO is grateful to the County Archaeological Service for setting this up.

The local detector clubs have been visited regularly and contributed a display of finds to a case in the Milton Keynes Museum. Members of the Magiovinium & MK metal Detector Club laid on a display of finds for the Museum's National Archaeology Day event and spent time talking, very effectively, to visitors about their objects.

Publicity

Portable Antiquities head office has produced a new leaflet outlining the Treasure Act and the code of practice for responsible detecting. These are available from the County Museum or the FLO.

Talks to local history and archaeology groups continue to provide further opportunities to publicise the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Bucks.

Finds Identification & Recording Sessions

These have focused on a monthly Saturday afternoon at Wycombe Museum and every Wednesday in the Civic Offices in Central Milton Keynes. National Archaeology Days and other events like the Fabulous Finds Days provide additional opportunities.

Ros Tyrrell
Finds Liaison Officer