



Ipswich & District Detector Club

(Affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting)

Monthly newsletter October 2021

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th November 2021. The November meeting is the Christmas meeting and provides seasonal food for all the members, so don't have a big dinner before coming to the meeting, there will be plenty for everyone. This year the food will be already laid out on tables, this will minimise passing on covid. It would be very helpful if members could let me know either by email or telephone if they are attending.

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The next and first meeting for 2022 will be the January meeting but meanwhile we would like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and good health and fortune for the coming year.

October guest speaker.

We had our friend John Field who spoke on Victorian Ipswich- The Industrial Powerhouse of East Anglia.

John had numerous pictures of Ipswich in antiquity to the present day. He demonstrated the importance of Ipswich with its association with the river Orwell and it became clear it was a magnet for factories and other businesses to flourish using the river for transportation of their goods. Well known firms such as Ransome's and Rapiers, Turners and 31 other businesses grew and employed thousands of people, 28 firms using the river for transporting their goods worldwide. The wet dock was formed in 1839. The old customs house was built in 1845, Prince Albert laid a foundation stone in 1851 the same year as The Festival of Britain.

Ipswich is very lucky to enjoy three important parks, most noticeably Christchurch Park, for which Felix Cobbold gave the Mansion House to the borough provided the town council purchased the park. John went on to show pictures of before and after in the town centre, in particular Lloyds Avenue before the present archway was knocked through. The old Market Cross which shows in detail on 18th century tokens, sadly demolished during the early 20th century. Saint Mildred's church was pulled down in 1812 to make way for the present Town Hall.

John showed the original Ipswich Museum in Museum Street, which in 1881 moved to the present-day High Street, along with many of the original exhibits. The Ipswich barracks was constructed in 1553 -1886. Fore Street swimming pool was built in 1894, and this is where I learnt to swim. The Cobbold brewery was started in 1896, probably the best beer in the land. The knowledge that John has on Ipswich is breath-taking, it is hard to take it all in, there was so much more to talk about, but I will end by giving the population figures for 1801 11,000 inhabitants 1831 20,000 and in 1901 66,000 so a thriving town full of interesting features. John was warmly applauded for a most interesting talk, and I am hoping for his return in 2022.

Find of the month entries and winners for October

1. Bronze-age saddle quernstone
2. Medieval gold ring set with amethyst stone
3. Crotal Bell
4. Mesolithic Adze
5. Richard I penny Worcester Mint
6. Medieval Kings Head leather stud
7. Woad Grinder

The worthy winners are: -

Best Coin: No5 Richard I Penny Worcester mint found by Rob Obrien



Best Artefact: No2 Medieval gold ring with an amethyst found by John Varden

