Crotal Bells

Crotal bells, also known as rumble bells, were used on horse-drawn vehicles before motorised vehicles were common. They were often made of bronze with a slot cut down the side. These bells were used to warn other horse-drawn vehicle users (mostly on country roads) that another vehicle was approaching. They came in many sizes, from a small 1-inch version to bells that were many inches across - the older ones were forged while others were cast. They were either hung on a small leather-and-iron harness bracket above the horse's collar on smaller vehicles. On larger vehicles, such as delivery wagons, they were driven into the wooden frame of the wagon.

























Jews Harp

Example of a Jews Harp found in US – c.1860

The Jew's harp, also known as the mouth harp, is a lamellophone instrument, consisting of a flexible metal or bamboo tongue or reed attached to a frame. The tongue/reed is placed in the performer's mouth and plucked with the finger to produce a note. Each instrument produces one pitch only, with its multiples (overtones), though different sized instruments provide different pitches. There is no standard pitch.

Jews harps have a long history of being folk instruments, with a wide geographical distributions. They are believed to be indigenous to South East Asia, and had been introduced to Europe by the Crusades (11th to 14th Centuries AD). The form of the European Jews harp, is made from metal, commonly iron in modern examples. The tongue forms a separate component hammered into a rabbet in the thickest part of the frame. The other end of the tongue is bent into a prong, however this part of the jews harp rarely survives in archaeological examples. To play the instrument, it is held in one hand, with the frame being lightly supported between the player's teeth. The metal tongue is then plucked by the fingers on the other hand. The mouth cavity acts as a resonator and the pitch can be modified by the position of the lips, tongue and cheeks.

Photo of find 2019

Lead Seals

Photo of find 2019

Lead seals such as cloth seals and bale seals were widely used in Europe between the 13th and 19th centuries as a means of identification and as a component of regulation and quality control.

Cloth seals were typically two disc seals joined by a connecting strip. These were intended to be folded around each side of a textile and stamped closed, in a manner similar to that in which coins were stamped.

Bale seals were single disc seals, rather than two disc seals, and were also used to identify textiles, as well as parcels and bales of trade goods. The obverse would typically display a city's arms, and the reverse would record data such as the length or width of fabric or the weight of a parcel.

After the bale was wrapped and brought to market the tax man would clip the bale with a seal to show the tax on it had been paid. Then when a livestock farmer fed his cows he'd lay the hay out in a field to feed them. that's when the bale would be cut open and the seal would be discarded.

Photo of find 2019

Photo of all Bag Seals

Victorian:
Skirt Lifter

A skirt lifter, also known as a dress lifter, skirt grip, dress suspender, hem-holder, page or porte-jupe, was a device for lifting a long skirt to avoid dirt or to facilitate movement. It clamped on to the hem and was attached to the belt by a cord, ribbon, or chain.

The first skirt lifters date from around 1846 and they were most popular in the 1860s.

Photo of find 2019

Farmers Ring
or
Pocket Sundial

Example of 17th Century Pocket Sundial

Farmers Rings are a type of portable altitude sundial also called "ring dials". The principle behind them was to suspend it in a vertical place so that the aperture faces the Sun. A beam of light passes through the small hole in the ring and falls on hour-curves that are inscribed on the inside of the ring. To adjust for the equation of time, the hole is usually on a loose ring within the ring so that the hole can be adjusted to reflect the current month - the initials I.F.M.A.M.I on one side and I.A.S.O.N.D on the other. At this time there was no 'J' in the alphabet.

Some examples have been found with inscriptions on the outside of the ring a rhyming couplet in two lines, *"Live ever mindfull of thy dying, For time is always from thee flying"* and another with *"Set me right and use me well, and I to you the time will tell."*

Ring dials were in use in the 17th century with a continuation into the 18th century. These simple sundials can never have been very accurate and could only be used at the latitude for which they were made but in rural areas in an age when the only certain measure was the rising and going down of the sun they must still have served a useful purpose.

Among the lower classes they could have been used for a considerable time even after clocks and watches became more commonplace. Although at first still not very accurate these mechanical timepieces did have one distinct advantage over sundials - they were not subject to the vagaries of the weather and so the general use of pocket sundials gradually petered out sometime in the 18th century.

Photo of find 2019

Medieval: Purse Bar

Towards the end of the 1400s it became fashionable for rich men to wear large purses hanging from their belts. They were made of velvet or other expensive fabric fitted to fancy metal frames. They were generally sewn below the bar.

Williams Class J bars have distinctive spherical terminals, which either have twisting grooves or are moulded to imitate bells.

Photo of find 2019

GPO Bag Seal

A Square Post Office Letter Sack Seal found on the Thames Foreshore
Charles I opened up his royal mail to the public in 1635. Oliver Cromwell established the General Post Office in 1657.

In the early 1700s a letter could take weeks or months to reach its destination if it ever got there at all. In 1784 John Palmer of Bath introduced the first horse drawn mail coach, which also carried passengers.

Typically bag seals will display the name of the destination Post Office branch, however others can be blank. The vertical bars on the seals are crimp marks made with a set of pliers used to firmly adhere the seal to a mail bag.

In the early days the parcels were chiefly packed in wicker hampers with heavy fastenings, but the weight and cost of these receptacles rendered it necessary to find something lighter. Many experiments were made, and at last a receptacle was adopted with a wicker body and a canvas top, which required no metal fastenings, as the canvas top was tied with string and sealed with wax, and later lead seals. A later improvement on this was the substitution of a leaden seal for the old wax sealing. Even this much lighter receptacle was considered too heavy & costly for the conveyance of ordinary parcels and canvas sacks of extra durability were generally used for the conveyance of parcels across London & to and from provincial towns. Parcels of a fragile nature when sent by railway are still packed in wicker receptacles for security. In 1911 the post office finally replaced wax seals used in smaller post office regions with lead ones for sealing letter and parcel sacks, although lead seals were probably used in the larger post offices since Charles I.

Photo of find

Why are so many buttons found in the field?

Shoddy is the name given to an inferior woollen yarn made by shredding scraps of woollen rags into fibres, grinding them and then mixing them with small amounts of new wool. The object was to manufacture a cheap cloth which could be made into products and clothes. It was also known as Rag-Wool. An even finer shredding process produced what was called Mungo.

Shoddy was first made in Batley, Yorkshire, by, it is believed, Benjamin Law, and its production quickly spread to surrounding textile towns in the area.

The collection of the rags for this process started in streets all over Britain by rag dealers or rag and bone men as they became more commonly known. The rags were sorted, and any seams, or parts of the rag not suitable, were left to rot and then sold onto to farmers to manure crops. Or they were used for bedding or stuffing.

The remaining wool rags were then sent to the shoddy mills for processing.

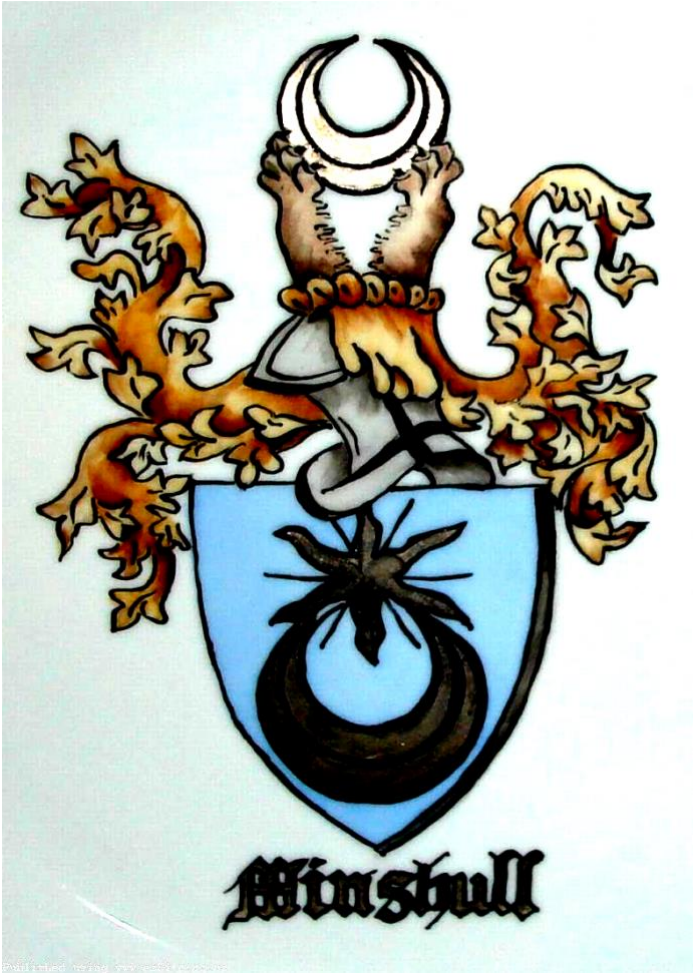
The rags were again sorted before the shredding process. This shredding created a very fine dust which, again, was used for manure on the fields. But the fine dust also caused health problems for many of the shoddy workers who breathed in the fine dust. It was known as 'shoddy fever'.

During the manufacturing process not all of the shoddy could be used as it was too short to spin. This was packed up in bales and sent off to farmers to be used as manure on the fields.

After spining the coarse cloth was sold on. In the mid-Victorian period the US and Canada was a large export market for the cloth. One common use of the material was for army uniforms and blankets.

Bourton House

Minshull Crest:
***Azure (blue) a star coming out of a crescent argent* (silver)**



Minshull Coat of Arms

Civil War: The fate of Bourton House on 15 August 1642

Sir Richard Minshull of Bourton set off with ten of his men as troopers to serve the King. Parliament had already been collecting its own forces, and a Parliamentary garrison was in place at Aylesbury. As soon as they heard of Minshull's departure, Sir Peter Temple and Sir Richard Ingoldsby hastened to inform the Parliamentary commanders that Bourton House was virtually undefended and might offer rich pickings. Temple and Ingoldsby probably calculated that, by making an example of Bourton House, the Parliamentary forces would deter other local people from going off to join the King. Although the Minshulls were Catholic and regarded with more hostility than other Royalists, many people in Buckingham thought that Temple and Ingoldsby behaved badly in encouraging an attack on the house of a neighbour. The attack took place on 18 August 1652, four days before the King raised his standard at Nottingham and while, at least technically, the country was still at peace.

The Parliamentary soldiers under Lord Brooke were not a well disciplined force. After taking the house without opposition, they seized upon a painting of Charles I, which they proceeded to run through with their swords. The soldiers took everything they could lay their hands on – money, silver, jewels, hangings, linen and bedding. Brooke foolishly ordered the wine cellar to be broken open, where most of the soldiers drank themselves into a stupor. Others 'inspired with the spirit of wine' were convinced that Minshull must have hidden away a great amount of treasure before leaving. They began to dig up the floors and generally smash up the house in a drunken attermpt to discover Minshull's treasure. The wine and beer they were unable to drink they poured away, smashing as many bottles and casks as they could. They also turned their attention to the library, and burned everything they found, including 'bills, bonds, decrees, evidences, writings and books'.

The Book of Buckingham – John Clarke

"After this" to quote from a report of the proceedings published in 1647, "they broke open the library, they seized on all the bills, bonds, decrees, evidences, writings, and books which they could find; some of them they tear in pieces, some they bind in bundles, and make them serve instead of fuel to heat ovens, and roast meat for their supper and would by no means suffer any of them to be redeemed. The house itself did not escape their fury "They rip up the lead and carry it away; they tear down the walls with spades and mattocks; they dig up the lower rooms expecting to find treasure there; they break the doors, windows, wainscot, ceiling, glass; they take away all iron bars, casements, locks, keys and hinges; they break open the wool house and barns, and empty all; they enter the pigeon house, and like vermin, destroy the pigeons; only one of these vermin falling from the roof, brake his neck and died there. And because they could not carry away the house, they endeavoured to burn it, and for that purpose leave matches burning in the mats, but these were discovered. From the house they issued out into the grounds; they they lay all open. They sold sheep worth 20s. for 12d., lambs worth 10s. for 6d.,because they were the goods of a traytor and they were sold to their brethren, and therefore must afford good penniworths. The rest of the stock they run their swords or pikes into most of them. After this they put a guard on Lady Minshull and deny her a bed to sleep upon. Some of the servants fled affrighted into the fields, and hid themselves among the growing hemp, and there lay on the ground for almost twenty four hours without meat or any sustenance. The terror which fell upon the country was so great the neighbouring Justice of the Peace durst not grant his warrant to search for any of Sir Richards goods though earnestly intreated to it.

Buckingham Advertiser – Saturday 27 May 1882

Bourton Old Manor Wall

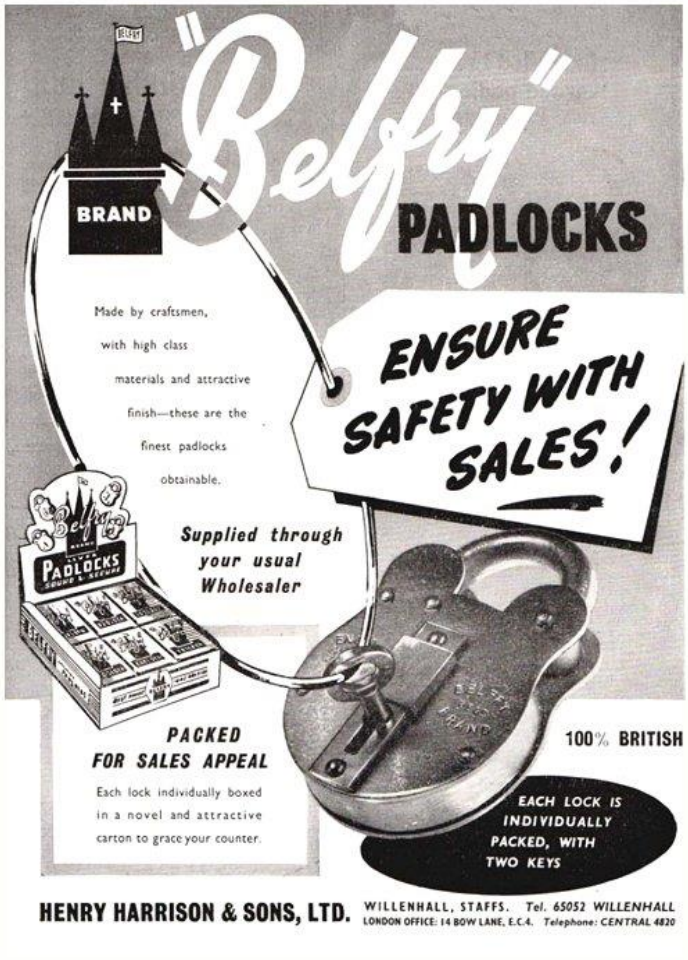
T he section of very old wall that skirts the Bourton Road on the left, about a mile from Buckingham, is said to be the remains of that formerly enclosing the Manor House of the Minshulls, the early owners of Bourton. It is still in remarkable state of preservation, although every vestige of the mansion disappeared at the time of its becoming dismantled by the Parliamentary Forces. It has been remarked that no other similarly built wall is known to exist anywhere else in North Bucks, and they certainly do not build so sturdily today as they did then. Another relic of the Manor is the dovecote.

Buckingham Advertiser – Saturday 1 November 1924

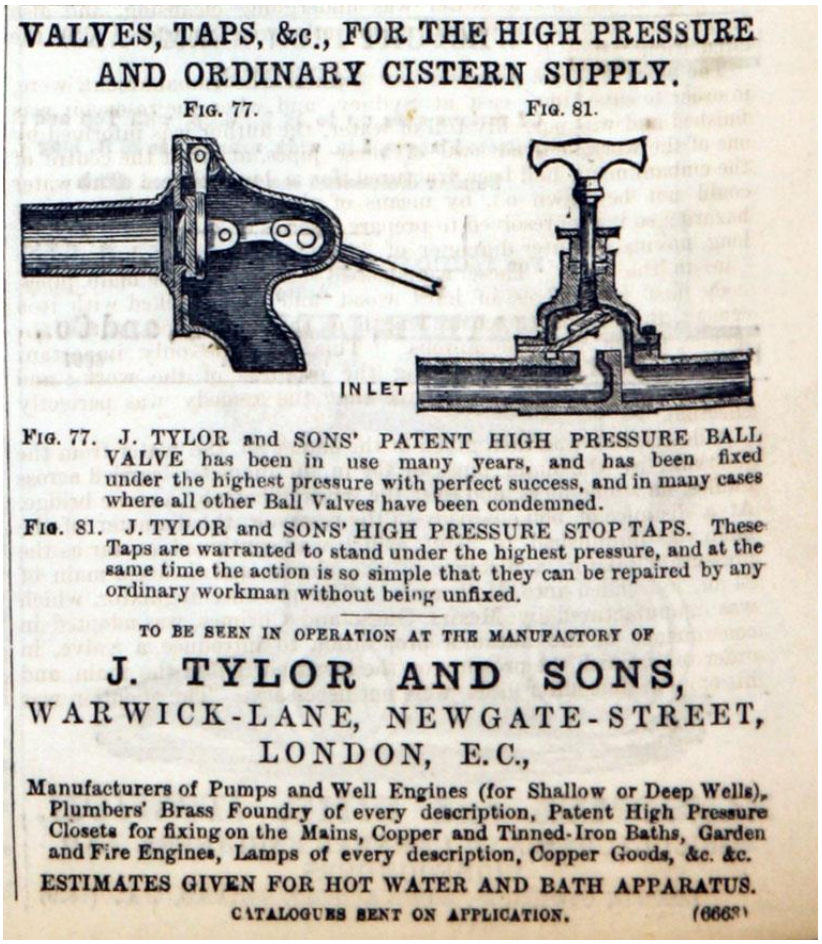
The Old Dovecote

Mr George W Bargein his most entertaining articles so well remembered by Buckingham Folk, has something to say on "Bourtonville and Bourton House: A Relflection". He says "Now nothing remains of the edifice save the garden wall that runs parallel with the public roadway, and the square basement of the Manor dovecote left standing in an adjoining farmyard. And here, incidentally, I may observe that in my boyhood I well remember the old dovecote when it was a lofty stone and brick structure surmounted by a tiled turret: then it served as a landmark. About sixty years ago, two massive pillars that adorned the gateway entrance were removed to Middle Claydon Park, where they may still be seen."

Buckingham Advertiser – Saturday 1 November 1924



Photos of finds



VALVES, TAPS, &c., FOR THE HIGH PRESSURE AND ORDINARY CISTERN SUPPLY.

FIG. 77. FIG. 81.

INLET

FIG. 77. J. TYLOR and SONS' PATENT HIGH PRESSURE BALL VALVE has been in use many years, and has been fixed under the highest pressure with perfect success, and in many cases where all other Ball Valves have been condemned.

FIG. 81. J. TYLOR and SONS' HIGH PRESSURE STOP TAPS. These Taps are warranted to stand under the highest pressure, and at the same time the action is so simple that they can be repaired by any ordinary workman without being unfixed.

TO BE SEEN IN OPERATION AT THE MANUFACTORY OF

J. TYLOR AND SONS,

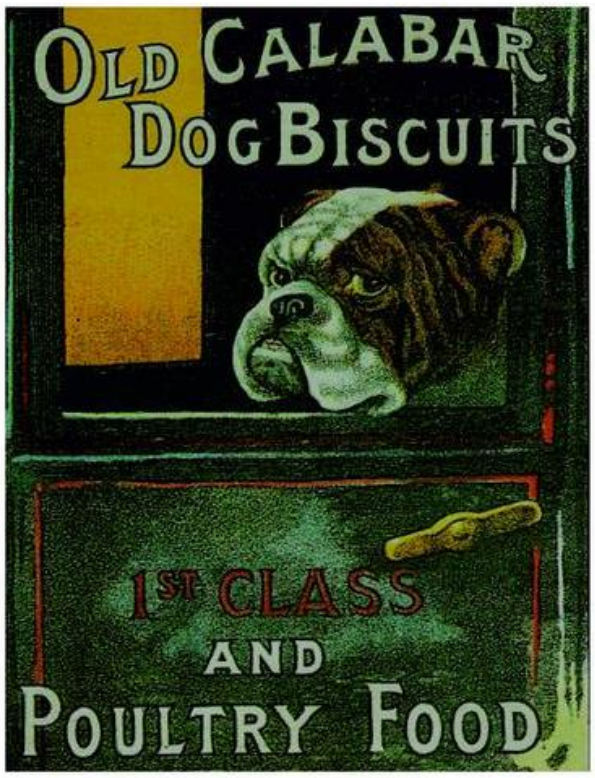
WARWICK-LANE, NEWGATE-STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

Manufacturers of Pumps and Well Engines (for Shallow or Deep Wells), Plumbers' Brass Foundry of every description, Patent High Pressure Closets for fixing on the Mains, Copper and Tinned-Iron Baths, Garden and Fire Engines, Lamps of every description, Copper Goods, &c. &c.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR HOT WATER AND BATH APPARATUS.

CATALOGUES SENT ON APPLICATION. (666?)

Photos of find



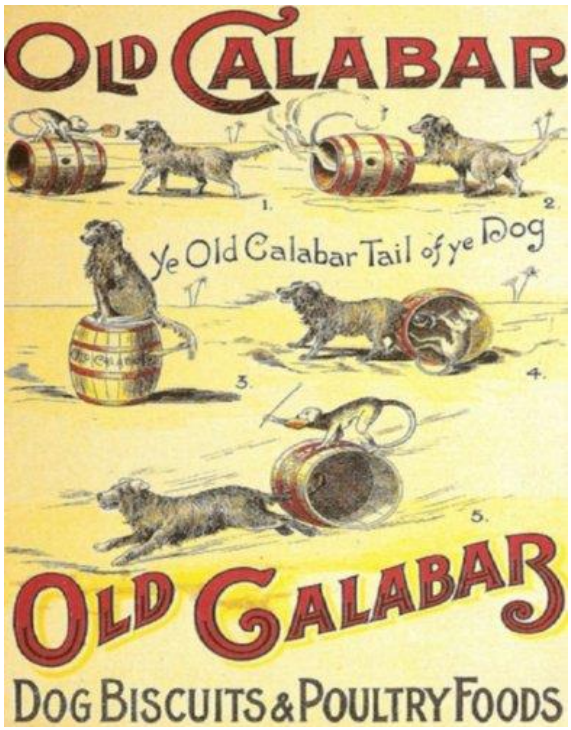


Photo of find

Village Idiot Figure
1920-1960

The Village Idiot, a hollowcast metal figure, was part of Britains Farm Series

Britains was founded by William Britain, a clockmaker originally, who worked out the best way to hollowcast lead toy soldiers in 1893.

Photo of find

Papal Bullae: Pope Martin IV 1281-1285

Example of a Papal Bullae of Pope Martin IV
MAR/TINVS/·PP.IIII·

Papal bullae are lead seals - so named because they were attached to Papal documents or Bulls. They were sent from the offices of the Pope in Rome and the seal signified that the document was issued with the Pope's authority. Being a soft and malleable metal, lead was a useful alternative to the more commonly used wax seal in countries where wax might be adversely affected by heat. The bulla was impressed over a coloured silk lace or hemp cord, which was used to attach the seal to the document - various coloured silks were used - yellow, purple, red, white and green - but by far the most common is a combination of red and yellow.

A new obverse die was made for each new pope, with his name in capital letters over three or four lines. A border of tiny pellets surrounded both obverse and reverse, in an attempt to deter fraud. The letters PP are usually found in the inscription, perhaps for *Papa Patria* (priest of Rome) or *Pastor Pastorum* (shepherd of shepherds). Above the PP there is often a contraction mark, looking like a flattened omega.

On the reverse, the heads of St Peter and St Paul have been used since the time of Gregory VII (1073-85). Because of their standard format, they could be re-used by successive popes. St Paul is on the left and usually has straight hair and a long pointed beard. St Peter is on the right, and often has hair and beard made up of pellets, indicating close-cut curls. The letters SPA (for St Paul) and SPE (for St Peter) will be above.
The papal documents themselves (called 'papal bulls') included those that recorded grants or privileges. Because of this they could be kept for centuries to prove these rights. Bullae were also attached to more personal documents such as indulgences, which could make their way into graves.

How seals from these documents got into the ground is uncertain; mechanisms could include the accidental loss of personal amulets, a deliberate burial in graves or fields, or the deliberate destruction of papal documents at the Reformation.


Photos of find

Pope Martin IV: 1281-1285

Pope Martin IV born Simon de Brion (c.1210/1220), was Pope from 22 February 1281[1] to his death in 1285. He was the last French pope to have held court in Rome; all subsequent French popes held court in Avignon (the Avignon Papacy).

Pope Martin IV celebrated a solemn Mass in the Cathedral at Perugia on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1285, which was also the Feast of the Annunciation. After his usual lunch with his chaplains he was stricken with a sudden illness. On the following Wednesday, March 28, around the fifth hour of the night, he died. He was buried in the Cathedral of San Lorenzo in Perugia. He had reigned four years and one month.

Papal styles of **Pope Martin IV**	
	
Reference style	His Holiness
Spoken style	Your Holiness
Religious style	Holy Father
Posthumous style	None

17th - 19th Century: Patten Shoe

Example of 18th Century Patten Shoe

Pattens are protective overshoes that were worn outdoors over a normal shoe, worn from Medieval times to early 20th Century . Pattens had a wooden or metal sole, and were held in place by leather or cloth bands. They functioned to elevate the foot above the mud and dirt (including human effluent and animal dung) of the street, in a period when road and urban paving was minimal.

A maid wearing circle-type pattens: Piety in Pattens or Timbertoe on Tiptoe, England 1773

Men and women both wore pattens from Medieval time to the early 20th Century. However, by the 17th Century, men's shoes had thicker soles and the wealthier males (the gentry or gentlemen) commonly wore high riding boots – and so, by the this period pattens seem only to have been worn by women and working-class men in outdoor occupations.

This type of patten dates from the 17th century and had a flat metal ring which made contact with the ground, attached to a metal plate nailed into the wooden sole via connecting metal, often creating a platform of by several inches (more than 7 centimetres).

Since dress hems extended down to the feet for most of this period, it was necessary to raise the hem above the ground to keep the dress clean even in well-swept and paved streets.

The 19th-century invention of cheap rubber galoshes gradually displaced the patten, as did the widespread use of urban paving, especially elevated, paved pathways only for pedestrians or hard road surfaces.

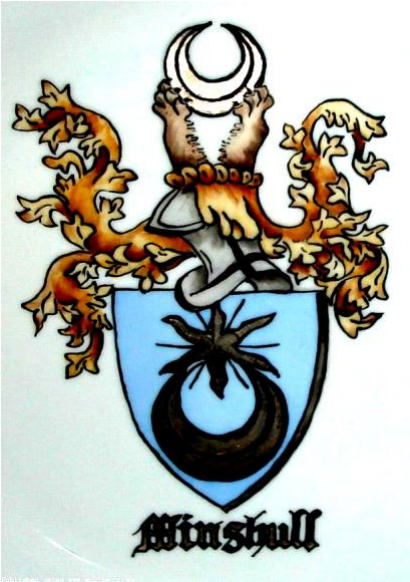
Photo of finds

Richard Minshull
Bourton House

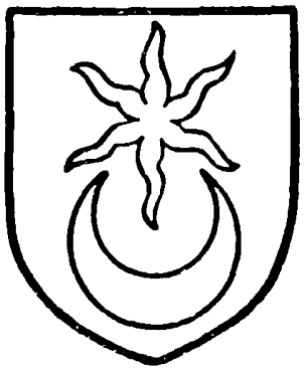
Richard Minshull was an ardent royalist and he was knighted by Charles I in 1626. He resided at Bourton until his death in 1667.

The Minshull family continued to be owners of Bourton until in 1730, Richard Minshull (grandson to aforementioned Sir Richard Minshull) having been very extravagant and being greatly in debt, died in embarrassed circumstances in a debtor's prison in London.

Minshull Coat of Arms



Minshull Crest:



Azure (blue) a star coming out of a crescent argent (silver)

Bourton House

Photo of find

Iron Cross
2nd Class - 1914

Example of 1914 Iron Cross 2nd Class

The Iron Cross is a former military decoration in the Kingdom of Prussia, and later in the German Empire (1871–1918) and Nazi Germany (1933–1945).

It was established by King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia on 17 March 1813 during the Napoleonic Wars (EK 1813).

The design of the cross symbol was black with a white or silver outline, was ultimately derived from the cross pattée of the Teutonic Order, used by knights on occasions from the 13th century.

Emperor Wilhelm II reauthorized the Iron Cross on 5 August 1914, at the start of World War I. During these three periods, the Iron Cross was an award of the Kingdom of Prussia, although—given Prussia's pre-eminent place in the German Empire formed in 1871—it tended to be treated as a generic German decoration. The 1813, 1870, and 1914 Iron Crosses had three grades:

- Iron Cross 2nd Class
- Iron Cross 1st Class
- Grand Cross of the Iron Cross

Although the obverse of the medals of each class was identical, the manner in which each was worn differed. The Iron Cross 1st Class employed a pin or screw posts on the back of the medal, and was worn on the left side of the recipient's uniform, like the original 1813 version. The Iron Cross 2nd Class, and the larger Grand Cross, were suspended from different ribbons: the Grand Cross from a neck ribbon, the 2nd Class from a ribbon on the chest. The usual display of the 2nd Class version was as a ribbon through one of the button holes in the recipient's tunic.

Photos of find

Barrel Tap

Example of 17th century barrel tap and key

To store the beer, a brewer filled a wooden cask through a small hole in one end of the keg, which was then sealed with a bung made of cork or wood. The porous nature of the wood and the method of dispensing resulted in beer with little or no carbonation. Wooden barrels or kegs relied on the gravity method for dispensing the beer. The bung hole was opened and the 'barrel tap' inserted. The opposite end of the barrel was then tilted upward slightly, allowing gravity to push the beer through an opened tap while simultaneously trapping sediment in the bottom-front corner of the cylindrical keg. The key was used to seal of the tap when not in use

Presumably a barrel had been taken out for workers to have a drink and the key/tap dropped in the field.

Photos of finds

Medieval Dress Hook

A dress hook is a decorative clothing accessory of the medieval and Tudor periods used to fasten outer garments or to drape up skirts. Made of base metal or precious silver and silver-gilt, dress hooks are documented in wills and inventories, and surviving hooks have been identified in the archaeological record throughout England.

"Dress hook" is the modern specialist terminology. In historical records, these items are referred to simply as "hooks".

Documentary evidence suggests that dress hooks were often owned in pairs. Dress hooks were used to draw up skirts, either to keep them out of the muck of the street or to display the rich fabric of the garment beneath, and may also have been used to fasten garments or simply as decoration.

Photos of finds

A Young Englishwoman, a costume study by Hans Holbein the Younger, showing dress hooks used to tuck up a gown.

St Dunstans Darts Medal

Example of Silver St Dunstans Darts Medal

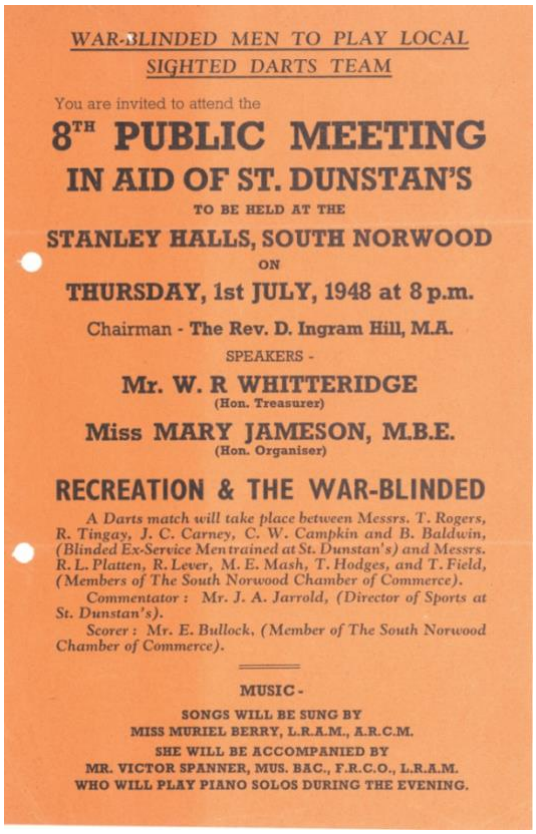
St Dunstans Charity (now known as Blind Veterans UK) was founded by Arthur Pearson, who had himself lost his sight due to glaucoma. Because of the increasing numbers of British soldiers returning from the front lines during the First World War suffering from blindness (especially from mustard gas attacks), Pearson established a hostel for these soldiers as well as blinded sailors and airmen. His intention was that, with training and assistance, they could go on to lead productive lives and would not have to depend on charity.

The St. Dunstan's Four was a darts team founded in 1945 by Harry Allen - the chairman of the West Islington Darts League. The 'fantastic four' played exhibition matches to raise money for our cause and ethos - to provide support for veterans who have lost their sight fighting for our country.

It seems there were a number of St Dunstaners who played darts, and one of their most successful fundraising teams was the St Dunstan's Four, founded towards the end of 1945 by Mr Harry Allen who was then chairman of the West Islington Darts Team.

The Four included three blind members, and their famous, talented, sighted captain, Joe Hitchcock.

"Originally Harry Allen had assumed that the Four's activities would be restricted to London, but such was the enthusiasm of licensees and supporters of the Four that the exhibitions soon became known countrywide and their travels took them to all parts of England, Scotland and Wales." *(by Darts Researcher Patrick Chaplin)*



WAR-BLINDED MEN TO PLAY LOCAL SIGHTED DARTS TEAM

You are invited to attend the

8TH PUBLIC MEETING

IN AID OF ST. DUNSTAN'S

TO BE HELD AT THE

STANLEY HALLS, SOUTH NORWOOD

ON

THURSDAY, 1st JULY, 1948 at 8 p.m.

Chairman - **The Rev. D. Ingram Hill, M.A.**

SPEAKERS -

Mr. W. R WHITTERIDGE
(Hon. Treasurer)

Miss MARY JAMESON, M.B.E.
(Hon. Organiser)

RECREATION & THE WAR-BLINDED

A Darts match will take place between Messrs. T. Rogers, R. Tingay, J. C. Carney, C. W. Campkin and B. Baldwin, (Blinded Ex-Service Men trained at St. Dunstan's) and Messrs. R. L. Platten, R. Lever, M. E. Mash, T. Hodges, and T. Field, (Members of The South Norwood Chamber of Commerce).

Commentator: Mr. J. A. Jarrold, (Director of Sports at St. Dunstan's).

Scorer: Mr. E. Bullock, (Member of The South Norwood Chamber of Commerce).

MUSIC -

SONGS WILL BE SUNG BY
MISS MURIEL BERRY, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
SHE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY
MR. VICTOR SPANNER, MUS. BAC., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.
WHO WILL PLAY PIANO SOLOS DURING THE EVENING.

Blind Darts

St. Dunstan's Fantastic Four, blinded in the war but brought together by a common passion - darts!

The St. Dunstan's Four was a darts team founded in 1945 by Harry Allen - the chairman of the West Islington Darts League. The 'fantastic four' played exhibition matches to raise money for our cause and ethos - to provide support for veterans who have lost their sight fighting for our country. The St. Dunstan's Four's first match took place at the Bricklayer's Arms, Finsbury Park, the group raised £55 which is the equivalent to £2,000 today.

Little did they know at the time, the team captain, Joe Hitchcock, would later become one of the country's first sponsored darts players. During his three years as captain, Hitchcock only missed one match and was rarely ever defeated, hundreds came to see the star in action - a real celebrity!

During a match held on October 25 1945, the Dart Newspaper interviewed blind veteran, Mr. R. Vincent. Vincent, who had lost his hands and sight while serving for King and Country, expressed how grateful he was to St. Dunstan's: he told the audience he couldn't be more grateful to our charity as we "taught him to be happy" and we instilled independence in the ex - Service man.

The money raised through darts for St. Dunstan's was collected through collection boxes in pubs and clubs throughout the country. It was assumed that
the group's matches would just be restricted to London, however their elevated popularity meant that their exhibitions soon spread to all parts of England, Wales and Scotland - they were even in high demand by the press! In just over three years their efforts had paid off and they raised over £30,000 for St. Dunstan's which would be about £150,000 today.

Photos of find

Clay Pipes

When Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco to the people of Tudor England all the way back in the 16th-century, a whole new industry was born; clay pipe making.

In the very early days of pipe tobacco smoking, the clay pipes were made by hand, but as the industry took off, 2-piece moulds were constructed out of brass or iron, making the pipes easier to produce. The South West, particularly Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, were the primary source of the clay used throughout the clay pipe making process. In the 16th century the price of tobacco was so high, due to the small amount imported, that the bowl size on the pipe was extremely tiny. The pipes, on the other hand, were particularly cheap to replace; something pipe owners had to do often in the early days, as the clay was not a strong enough material, and the long, thin stems snapped all the time.

By 1619, there were enough clay pipe makers in London alone to grant a charter of incorporation to the tobacco pipe makers in Westminster and by the year 1650, it was so popular to smoke that there were over a thousand pipe makers in London alone and many others in cities across the country.

The business took a hit going into the 18th-century, as tobacco smoking became a little less popular as taking snuff became the new trend. Pipe smoking endured in London though, as it was believed the pipe tobacco smoke warded off the plague.

Things picked up again in the world of clay pipe manufacturing shortly after 1700, following the invention of the gin press- a type of vice with a handle which allowed for the quality of pipes to be vastly improved. The gentry took the clay pipe on as a fashion piece, with middle-class smokers being identifiable through the extra long stem. These were known as 'aldermen' or 'straws' throughout the mid 18th century. At this time, clay pipes had another important job; sometimes being used as an emergency powder measure for loading muskets during the Napoleonic Wars.

The extravagance of the Victorian's led to more intricate design work, with increasingly fancy pipes being produced, incorporating shapes of animals, fruit or fish. Popular pipe symbols were roses, thistles and shamrocks; sometimes reflecting the origin of that pipe. These details were able to be added to the pipe, as the growing availability of tobacco had allowed for much bigger bowl sizes.

Clay pipes were enjoyed, instead of other materials, because it provided a 'pure' smoke that was not tainted by additional flavours from the pipe bowl. However, clays can burn 'hot' compared with other forms of pipe, meaning that they were often a little trickier for the pipe-smoker to handle.

As more and more smokers traded in the pipe for the cigarette, the clay pipe industry diminished, and by 1914, manufacturing had virtually come to an end. Not put to waste though, the clay pipe was used by children to blow bubbles until the 1930s.

Photo of finds

Pipe Tamper

Almost as long as there has been pipe smoking, we have had pipe tampers. A pipe tamper, sometimes referred to as a pipe stopper, is used to pack down the loose tobacco in the pipe bowl, to block the flow of air to extinguish a half-smoked pipe, and to crush the topping of ash before relighting the tobacco. In general, those with the smallest tamping ends are likely to be the oldest and larger tampers come from later dates. When tobacco was first introduced to Europe it was relatively scarce and pipes used for smoking were correspondingly small, in later years pipes were much larger and the bases of pipe tampers grew to fit the size of the 'modern' bowl.

No pipe tamper is earlier than the 17th century and to find a really early one is quite rare.


Photo of find

Georgian Watch Winder


Examples of watch winders

The watch key served the mechanical purpose of winding the watch but were also suspended from the watch chain and treated decoratively


Photos of finds

Arkubs Childrens Club Badge 1930-1940s

Example of Arkubs enamelled badge – 1930/1940

Japhet and Happy was a British newspaper cartoon strip originally appeared as 'The Adventures of the Noah Family' initially in The Daily News during 1919 and transferred in 1930 to the News Chronicle.

Japhet and Happy also had a club in the mid-1930s, The Arkubs. The club had a badge, with Happy and AK on it. There were secret codes, hand signs and rules for The Grand United Order of Arkubs. To join the Arkubs, if you were under 15, you had to collect 12 'Happy' Badges from the News Chronicle and send off three pence. You could also get a 'Japhet and Happy' breakfast set of a cup, saucer, plate and egg cup by enrolling 6 new members. The 1930s-40s badge was an enamelled badge and later badges (1946-1951) were button badges.

Photo of find

Lead Bag Seal:
Spratts Patent Poultry Meal

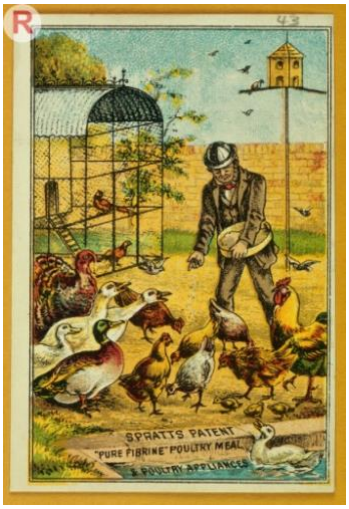
Example of similar lead bag seal

Spratt's was the world's first large-scale manufacturer of dog biscuits. Its "Meat Fibrine Dog Cake" was the brainchild of American entrepreneur **James Spratt** who launched the biscuit in London *c.*1860 – James Spratt was inspired after his observation of street dogs devouring ship hardtack on the docks of Liverpool, England. His "Dog Cakes" (blended wheat meals, vegetables, beetroot and meat) were initially sold to English country gentlemen for their sporting dogs. The company expanded to include Foods were manufactured for poultry, game, and other livestock.

Spratt's pioneered the concept of animal life stages with appropriate foods for each stage. The company successfully promoted their array of products for dogs and other domestic animals through the astute use of snob appeal. The company was the first to erect a billboard in London.

Spratt published informational booklets telling his customers how his product was manufactured. Grains and other ingredients were brought to his London factory in ships and barges from Limehouse Basin on the Thames and hoisted to the fifth floor of his factory for storageMeticulous records were kept of the actual number of biscuits produced. Spratt's supplied army dogs with 1,256,976,708 dog biscuits during World War I

The Spratt's factory in London



Photos of finds

Pinfire Cartridges

Photos of finds

A **pinfire cartridge** is an obsolete type of metallic firearm cartridge in which the priming compound is ignited by striking a small pin which protrudes radially from just above the base of the cartridge. Invented by Frenchman Casimir Lefaucheux in the 1830s but not patented until 1835, it was one of the earliest practical designs of a metallic cartridge. Pinfire shotguns declined from the early 1860s after the introduction of mass-produced centerfire shotgun cartridges.

The Minié Ball

Example of a Minie Ball *Photo of find*

In the early part of the 19th century the musketball evolved into the “Minié ball” (pronounced “MI-nee” if you’re not French). The minié ball was the first effective bullet (or slug) design that was not round. Instead, the minié ball was elongated, had groves towards the back and had a concave bottom. What this design allowed the slug to do was, first, expand at the base which forced it to grab more firmly to the rifled barrel and then created a much more effective spin. The rounded, yet somewhat pointed nose of the slug gave it better aerodynamic capabilities increasing the effective range of firearms considerably. These are the earliest versions of today’s common bullet designs.

Musket Balls
16th-19th Century

A musket is a muzzle-loaded long gun that appeared as a smoothbore weapon in the early 16th century, at first as a heavier variant of the arquebus, capable of penetrating heavy armor. By the mid-16th century, this type of musket went out of use as heavy armor declined, but as the matchlock became standard, the term *musket* continued as the name given for any long gun with a flintlock, and then its successors, all the way through the mid-1800s. This style of musket was retired in the 19th century when rifled muskets (simply called rifles in modern terminology) became common as a result of cartridged breech-loading firearms introduced by Casimir Lefaucheux in 1835, the invention of the Minié ball by Claude-Étienne Minié in 1849, and the first reliable repeating rifle produced by Volcanic Repeating Arms in 1854. By the time that repeating rifles became common, they were known as simply "rifles", ending the era of the musket.

Since a musket was loaded from the muzzle and was essentially a tube open only on one end it was a problem to remove the ball and charge if for some reason the propellant charge failed to ignite.

The answer is a device called a worm, which is an old term for a screw. The worm was screwed on the end of a ramrod, pushed down the barrel, and then screwed into the soft lead ball. The ball was then pulled out of the barrel.

This is what they looked like after.

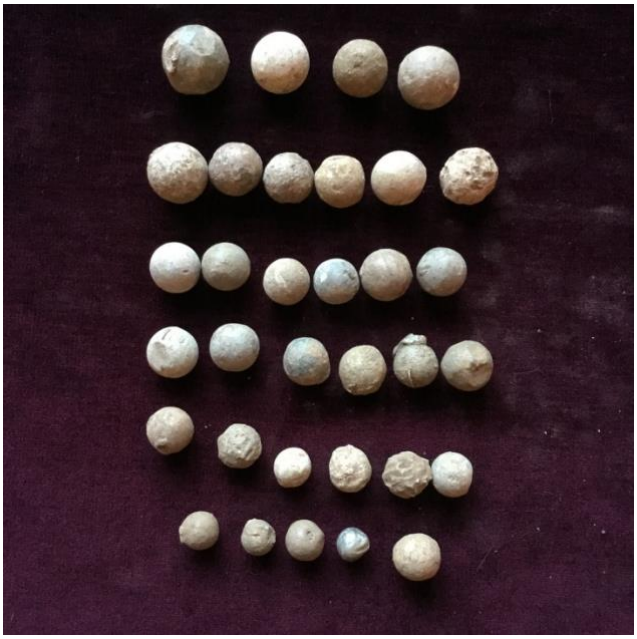


Photo of finds

Curb Chain


Example of a Curb Chain

A curb chain, or curb strap, is a piece of horse tack required for proper use on any type of curb bit. It is a flat linked chain or flat strap that runs under the chin groove of the horse, between the bit shank's purchase arms. It has a buckle or hook attachment. The main use of the curb chain is to enhance and control the lever action of a curb bit. Additionally, it helps to keep the bit steady and in place within the mouth.

Example of a decorated harness from Manchester c.1912

Photo of find

Clack Valve

Possibly a Post Medieval to Modern lead alloy or lead clack weight from a lightweight pump. Clack weights are part of a crude non-return valve from a simple water pump. The object has a projecting stud but is otherwise featureless. This projection may be the stump of the stud that fitted through a slot in a leather strap inside a box. When water was drawn up the pipe into the box with the spout, the clack lifted to let the water in and then fell back over the hole so that it ran out through the spout into the bucket and not back into the well. Primarily used from the 1500's to early 1900's, although there are many still in use today. Dates to between c1500 and c1920 AD

Photo of find

'Gibbs Dentifrice' Toothpowder Tin

Launched 1906

The origins of the firm D & W Gibbs can be traced as far back as 1762 to a tallow chandler and soap manufacture.

Based in Wapping, the business prospered, with candles, tooth-cleaning powder, toilet soap and shaving soap being the major product lines. At the beginning of the twentieth century the major part of the company's business was in hard soaps, toilet soaps and shaving soaps, with much of the toilet soap trade being contract work by which Gibbs stamped soap tablets with the name of the seller. The company had also begun to export their products to the French market, establishing a Paris selling agency, Thibaud et Cie.

1906 - It was following the request of the newly established Thibaud et Cie agency that Gibbs developed a product which was to become one of the company's strongest brands: a solid dentifrice - an innovative product as the chief dentifrices of the time were in powdered form. The product was initially marketed in the UK as 'Gibbs French Dentifrice' and proved its convenience during the First World War when used by British troops in France. The soldiers liked the fresh flavour and convenience. They also discovered that the dentifrice was an excellent cleaning product for the brass buttons on their tunics and the regimental badges on their caps.

1920s - During this period the company went on to establish a scheme to promote dental health awareness amongst children called the 'Ivory Castle League'. Advertising and promotional material included illustrated storybooks for children in which the Ivory Towers or Castles (teeth) were protected from the wicked Giant Decay by the valiant Gibbs defenders.

Photo of find

Victorian Bovril Jar

Victoria Commemorative Brooch

Rings

Pendants

Corset Hook

Brooch

Cufflink

Printing Plate

Needle Case

Pottery










Weights

Awl


Bells

Pen Knives




Ginger Beer Bottle
1851-1970

Lead Toys

Britains Lead Toy Farm Animals

Photo of find

Example of complete toy

Lonestar Peacemaker
1940/1950s

Found in two separate parts several months apart

Oil Can Caps
1920/1930s

Owzthat Cricket Game
1920-1970

Found on two separate digs

Petronel
(Toy Musket)
Early 17th Century

Medieval Spoon Handle

Medieval Pastry Jigger

Medieval Coin Weights

Medieval Horse Pendant

Medieval Furniture Adornment

Medieval Thimble

Medieval Pen Knife

Medieval Mounts

Medieval Spoon Handles

Medieval Strap Ends

Anglo-Saxon Strap Ends

Georgian Sugar Tongs

Georgian Coin Weight







Georgian Pewter Spoon Handles

Pot Mends


WWII Era Bullet Casings

Thimbles
17/18th Century

Boot Spurs

Boot Spur Buckle Conical Boot Spur Tip

Horse Buckles

Terret Ring

Horse Harness Mounts/ Adornments

Horse Bit

Pony Stirrup

Horseshoe