Suffolk Metal Detecting Rally

This rally will take place on Sunday 18th May 2003 from 10am - 4pm. 200 acres of undetected stubble fields are available, facing farmland overlooking the River Stour Valley. The historic village of Clare is just 2 miles away with its Norman castle remains. A token hunt for cash prizes as well as trade stands, catering and toilets will be on site, which will be signposted from Clare and from the A1307 at Baythorne End. All money raised will go to local charities. For further details Tel Julian on 01799 502165 after 5pm.

Lockdales Auction Dates

Forthcoming auction dates to be held by Lockdales are listed below. To request a catalogue, please telephone or fax 01473 218588 or 01502 568488. Email lockdales@shop1.freeserve.co.uk or call in the shop. 37 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich IP4 1HF. 18 May - Ipswich, Novotel Grey Friars Rd, closing date 12 April. 20 July - Norwich, The Swallow Nelson Hotel, Prince of Wales Rd, closing date 21 June. 21 Sept - Ipswich, closing date 16 August. 25 November - Norwich, closing date 18 October.

A Guide to Identifying Pot Sherd

This book aims to provide an introductory guide to identifying some of the basic types of pottery that may be found by accident, in systematic fieldwalking, and in archaeological excavations. Clay is an exceptionally forgiving material. It can be made into many useful and beautiful objects, decorated in a variety of ways and, if exposed to high temperatures, made into pottery, both rich and poor have used pottery since the Stone Age, so the way the clay developed goes unassumed. The clay forms the ground. The work has been made by the hand of the potter, and the quality of the work is reflected in the quality of the clay. Although pottery is easily broken, the individual sherds are remarkably resilient. Sherds are therefore the most frequent types of finds on archaeological sites and their presence in the soil can lead to the discovery of new sites. While many people can distinguish pottery from earthware, no one can tell the difference between a Worcestershire and a Bramber from a modern flowery. Some, seen in respect, as important, have been discovered or overlooked because pottery lying on the surface was not recognized for what it was. A general knowledge of ancient pottery is not difficult to acquire, although, as in many other walks of life, the study is very complex on a professional level.

Since whole pots are very rare and the emphasis is on sherds rather than shards or collected pieces. For reasons of space it has been impossible to show more than the main types (of many thousands) of pottery that might be found. Local and national museums and art galleries are the first places to visit in order to become familiar with pottery in particular areas. The book deals mostly with pottery made in Britain, though at all times it must be borne in mind that any pottery found could have come from any period or any location in the world. As a rule of thumb, local areas have tended to produce more ancient pottery than later, possibly due to a combination of lifestyle and availability of raw materials. The book contains 175 illustrations, mainly in colour, and is divided into the following sections: The potter's craft The study of pottery Pottery of the Neolithic Period circa 4000 BC - 700 BC The Iron Age circa 700 BC - 43 AD The Dark Ages & Early Medieval Period The Medieval Period 1066 - 1500 The 16th & 17th Centuries The 18th & 19th Centuries & Language of terminology Over 100 pages (25mm x 160mm) £20.00 (UK post free). Publication date: May 2003.