

Man wins metal detector in raffle – then unearths £23,000 hoard of coins

A novice treasure hunter who won a metal detector in a raffle has uncovered £23,000 worth of historic silver coins.

Mike Richardson, 63, discovered the 234 coins in a muddy field in Ansty, a village about nine miles northeast of Dorchester.

In what was one of Mike's first finds, the money was likely hidden there for safekeeping by a farmer in 1644 during the English Civil War.



But it seems the owner was killed before he had a chance to retrieve the coins and they've remained hidden until now.

Mike found them scattered across the field, suspecting that centuries of farmers ploughing the fields had moved them around.

He was excited to find the first coin, featuring the bust of King Charles I, before spending an exhaustive two days uncovering the rest.

The grandfather said: 'I just couldn't believe it. I dug up 74 silver coins on the first day and was exhausted afterwards.'



