

### True Origin of 'Needle in a Haystack' Revealed

***Antiques Dealer at NEC's Antiques for Everyone  
Reveals True Origin of the Famous Expression***

**Antiques for Everyone,  
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham B40 INT  
23rd - 26th November 2017**

John Shepherd, an antiques dealer from Kent and exhibitor at the Antiques for Everyone fair, has discovered the true origin of the famous expression 'Needle in a Haystack'.



John Shepherd and his wife Erna are regular exhibitors at the NEC's famous fair, which attracts thousands of collectors from across the world. John specialises in folk art and unusual collector's items. He discovered the original 'needle in a haystack' on a trip to East Anglia.

The 7ft long 'needle' will be on sale at the Antiques for Everyone fair at the NEC, Birmingham 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> November, where it will be priced at £290. As John says: 'Encyclopaedias across the world will have to be updated – the 'needle in the haystack' may not be so hard to find after all!'

The Cambridge Dictionary defines the expression as *Something that is impossible or extremely difficult to find, especially because the area you have to search is too large.*

'It was on a trip looking for fresh stock that I discovered a 19<sup>th</sup> century iron tool in three sections which screw together,' explains John. 'Imagine the farmer buying hay for the winter who will need to check on the quality of straw in the centre of a large haystack. This implement was designed for extracting straw from the middle, and strongly resembles a giant needle. Pushed a few metres too far into the haystack it would, of course, disappear, and then need to be found. Hence, 'needle in a haystack'.



John, who has made many unusual discoveries over the years, sells to collectors all over the world. He can be contacted on Tel: 01233 661407 / 07886 97206. Continued.../

## **Antiques for Everyone**

With tens of thousands of exhibits on sale and fresh stock arriving every day, this is a major event for collectors, interior designers, home furnishers and international connoisseurs. Around 200 dealers take part. Prices range from £10 to £100,000 and buyers make the purchases knowing that exhibits have been vetted for quality and authenticity. The winter fair is also a great hunting ground for **Christmas** presents, from fine jewellery to silver tableware, porcelain, glass, fine art and much more.

The fair has many additional attractions:

### **Celebrity Talks held daily:**

#### **Judith Miler**

*ith Miller began collecting in the 1960s while a student at Edinburgh University. She has since become one of the world's leading experts in antiques & collecting and known worldwide for the Millers Guide books. She is a regular specialist on TV, notably on BBC's Antiques Roadshow.*



#### **Will Farmer**

*Will's passion for antiques began at the age of 4 months old when he went to his first auction. By the age of 12, he had his own stall at a local fair. Today he is a dealer, writer and BBC Antiques Roadshow expert in Ceramics, Glass and Decorative Arts.*



#### **Marc Allum**

*Has an innate curiosity to search out the weird and wonderful. He has a wide range of interests including antiquities, ethnographic objects, Georgian glassware, The Grand Tour and 'all things strange'. His knowledge encompasses collectors' items, 20th century design and works of art – an eclectic selection well-suited to his work as a freelance writer, consultant and lecturer.*



### **Vetted & Datelined for Quality and Assurance**

Antiques for Everyone is a vetted event. Experts are assembled to ensure that exhibits are professionally presented and accurately labelled.

#### **NOTES:**

##### **THE ORGANISERS:**

Mary Claire Boyd, Clarion Events Ltd,  
Fulham Green, Bedford House,  
69-79 Fulham High Street, London SW6 3JW.  
UK +44 (0)20 7384 8144

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**PUBLIC VISITOR INFORMATION**

Clarion Events Tel: UK 0207 3847748.

Venue: Halls 17-18, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. UK John Shepherd

Admission: £16.00 including free car parking.

In Advance: £12.00 for Adults from the Box Office Tel: 0844 581 0827. (Under 16's admitted free).

Public Open Times: Thurs-Sat 11am-6pm / Sun 11am-5pm

Email: [antiquesnec@clarionevents.com](mailto:antiquesnec@clarionevents.com) / [www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk](http://www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk)

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*John Shepherd with the farmer's haystack needle and haystack.*