

Digging deep

NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 13

NEWS

Visit to Bulgaria by NCMD Officers and Guests of the BNMF

Following the visit of members of Bulgarian Metal Detecting Federation (BNMDF) to our conference last year, an invitation received from them to members of the NCMD to attend a Metal Detecting Conference followed by a Festival in Bulgaria was happily accepted. This is a report on the subsequent visit during May 2013, with an account of our welcome and our travels in the Sofia, Lovech and Turnov localities.

Iliya Iliiev, President of the BNMF and wife Mila together with other members gave a warm and friendly welcome to our small group, General Secretary Trevor Austin, Vice Chair Byron Tosh and

Professor Norman Palmer, Legal Advisor to NCMD. The purpose of the visit was to discuss possible future cooperation between our two organisations and to cement an already close friendship by spending a few days being shown around various locations in and around the districts of Lovech and later Sofia.

The conference attracted numerous attendees from around the world including representatives from various metal detecting equipment suppliers and such dignitaries as the Mayor of Lovech, and President of the Museum Service based in Rousse, Bulgaria, Dr Nikolay Nenov who chaired the meeting.

Following warm welcomes from the Mayor and the President of the Museum Service, Trevor Austin and Prof. Norman Palmer gave their presentations to the conference, (round table discussion). Bulgarian television cameras and local journalists were present. Doctor Nenov thanked them both and said the points raised could be discussed in Bulgaria as a way to strengthen understanding between museum staff, archaeologists and the detecting community.

Following this a number of individual detectorists gave testimony to the difficult situation experienced due to them being



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deprived of the legal right to detect on any land even when they are the owner of the property.

It is not illegal to own a metal detector in Bulgaria, but it is a crime to use one.

Legislation in Bulgaria is difficult, a situation inherited from a Socialist past and laws even dating back as far as the Ottoman Empire. Steps to ease tensions are to be explored, the legal position having to be negotiated by the Bulgarians and it remains to be seen what the outcome will ultimately be.

With a new government being imminently elected, a Bulgarian lawyer acting for the BNMDF; Georgio Gorgiou spoke at some length on similarities encountered in Bulgarian law to that of EU legislation and ended by saying that in future it is hoped that people would be wiser in their attitudes and more acceptable to Parliament. Taken as a reference to detectorists being able to detect on the understanding their finds will be submitted for recording under new arrangements which must ultimately be agreed when hopefully negotiated.

This is at the time only conjecture and the reality is that no agreement exists.

A 'Festival of Metal Detecting' attracted manufacturers and distributors from around the world with representatives of Minelab from Ireland, Kellyco from California, USA and from Bulgarian manufacturers and distributors of such well-known names as Golden Mask, Pirate and

Nexus. Even a Russian company AKA were present with, as you would expect, a wonderfully secret machine called the Sorek. We heard that a mock up version was able to beat all comers on the day by about 15cm in depth during a detecting competition and demonstration! Sorry, but it is still under development and not on the market yet. Some furious tinkering with settings was said to be going on throughout the test period by all taking part! What was notable was the sheer multitude of machines available over there and the eagerness that detectorists show in their hobby, just as here in the UK.

Interestingly, at the beginning of the festival a local priest blessed the detectorists and having been lined up in a row went along blessing their machines with holy water, hope they all had control box covers! What a good idea-wonder if we have someone locally to do the honours before a detecting day out...

A talent competition on Saturday evening had us judging and needless to say the belly dancers won!

The general base for the conference and festival was in the vicinity of the town of Lovech, remains dating back to the Neolithic, Byzantine and Roman periods still exist there. A Roman city called Nicopolis was on our itinerary and the shock at finding earthquake hit pavement and ancient friezes and columns among the building ruins on such a large scale showed this to be an ancient garrison and administrative town of the Roman period and

dating back earlier. More ancient remains, wells, walls and other structures are visible. Quarried paving slabs of stone, some measuring as much as 5 x 3 metres x 30cm thick and weighing upwards of 5 tons were tumbled like playing cards and cartwheel ruts still visible show how the original alignment of the stones had been before the ancient quake had hit. Roman glass and potsherds lay scattered still. The town is still being excavated, the paving was a metre or more deep, and more finds are probable as archaeologists (they use metal detectors), continues.

When asked why hobby detectorists aren't used as well, an accompanying journalist/archaeologist couldn't say but agreed to raise a question when he again met up with his archaeological group.

Turnov, remains dating back to the Thracian period and beyond, was well worth the visit for its spectacular views, the ancient ruins and town walls having been reconstructed. A fortress from earliest recorded time, the river Yantra's meanders surround the natural rock bastions with the old churches, temples and merchants quarters still as they were in the 12th century. Booklets illustrating its past were provided and they tell of a rich and tumultuous history.

Sofia, the administrative capital, was the last on our itinerary and from where we flew back from the next day. Here we were allowed access to a 17th century military garrison building housing the most fabulous museum on three floors.

Stone Roman carvings, statues and precious artefacts, many of them gold and silver, some dating from beyond 3rd century BC are displayed in alarmed glass cases. Some exhibits can only be approached no closer than a 2m invisible cordon and alarms sounded more than once as we peered at the ancient treasures. Baleful looks from a squad of security guards each time an alarm sounded kept us away from closer inspection.

All in all the trip was a resounding success, the food, though different than that which we are used to in the UK was palatable to okay, but the lack of English tea sent us on a different quest from early on in the trip as we had neglected to include some in our packing. Prof. Palmer saved us as his wife had put an envelope full in his suitcase without his knowledge.

Brief information of detecting conditions in Bulgaria at the present time

Because the current act is unclear, the current government have restricted 'technical equipment' from use, (this is restricted to owners of detectors), and have enforced the law against users. Ownership is cited as breaking the law in some cases and has been treated as criminal.

Cases that have been brought against detectorists in the past have resulted in the seizing of belongings, cars and equipment and anyone present arrested and convicted if metal detectors were found.

For the last two years some cases brought to court have been quashed as the owning of a detector has been considered not a crime in itself. This followed efforts to convince the courts that ownership is not a criminal offence. There have been 30+ cases to date in this category, a step forward.

BNMDF are calling for a change in the law, where searching for artefacts will no longer be a criminal offence.

Current sentence is six years jail and Bg5-15K Leva fine (and the confiscation of cars and equipment etc.).

Photos Trevor Austin and Byron Tosh





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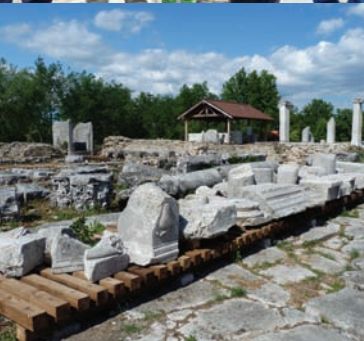
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Treasure Valuation Committee – Valuable Contribution to Service

Trevor Austin was appointed to the Treasure Valuation Committee in 2003 as Finders Representative, nearly ten years ago. Trevor was re-appointed in 2009 and has served two terms of office, which under the Cabinet Office rules for public appointments, is the maximum allowed.

In March 2013 Trevor's present

term came to an end and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work he has put in over the years on behalf of finders everywhere.

I know that Trevor will miss working on the Committee, and says

"I have seen many committee members come and go over the

years, including two chairmen, and have fond memories of everyone.

I will certainly miss the challenges of the Treasure Valuation Committee, when you have made something part of your life for ten years it is difficult not to. The work has been exceptionally interesting and I have learned much from it.

In my opinion the Committee is a valuable instrument of heritage protection."

Lord Colin Renfrew, the Chairman of the Treasure Valuation Committee, has summed up Trevor's involvement over the years.

ED



McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

Founder: Dr D.M. McDonald

Professor Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, FBA
Emeritus Disney Professor of Archaeology
Downing Street Cambridge CB2 3ER England

Trevor Austin
51 Hilltop Gardens
Denaby
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DN12 4SA

Dear Trevor,

30th May 2013

On behalf of the members of the Treasure Valuation Committee, I wanted to take the opportunity to write and thank you for your years of dedicated service in this body.

Upon my appointment as Chairman, I quickly came to appreciate the invaluable contribution you made to our informed debates regarding valuations and reward abatements and allocations. It was clear that you spent a lot of time preparing for the meetings and came well-informed about the cases on the agenda. I was also very pleased that you made the most of your status in the metal-detecting community and your position in the NCMD to disseminate information about the operation of the Treasure Act and the role of the Committee. There must be many detectorists out there who better understand the treasure legislation, thanks to you!

A particular attribute of the Committee is that it always strives to make recommendations based on the mutual agreement of all of the members, something which is more straightforward in some cases than in others. There is occasionally the possibility of members having vastly differing opinions and in those situations it is the Committee's ability to carry out a civil debate on the issues which allows it to conduct its business in such an efficient manner. Your participation always embodied this principle and made for well-rounded discussions and consideration of cases from the perspective of all interested parties. Your balanced approach to these debates ensured fair treatment to those involved. It is something for which I was most grateful, and which I hope to find in future members of the Committee.

Thank you again, and I wish you all the best

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin'.

Colin Renfrew

Stewardship 2013 Taking it Further

Joe Muggins (NCMD Member) Have you done that 10 page précis of the 2013 ELS Handbook?

NCMD Yes, although it runs to rather more than 10 pages.

JM You told me in issue 12 that the restrictions on detecting are exactly the same as those in the 2010 Handbook but that these were now set out in Section 5.5.5 on Page 154, near the back of the book.

NCMD That's right. Someone at Natural England has spent some time completely restructuring the book so that all the friendly and interesting sections are near the front and all the boring and unfriendly sections, dealing with restrictions and penalties are near the back.

JM Why's that?

NCMD We believe that it is to try to encourage more and more farmers to take up ELS agreements. There is even a new Section 2 setting out combinations of management options for use on various different types of farmland.

JM So Natural England is really promoting ELS? What about HLS? I've heard rumours that some farms are being 'fast-tracked' into HLS.

NCMD You're right. Natural England have set up what they call an 'HLS pipeline scheme' under which Natural England approach farmers and suggest they apply for an HLS agreement rather than leaving the initiative to the farmer. And under this new 2013 scheme Natural England will in many cases, carry out the necessary Farm Environment Plan survey, which is an essential part of an HLS application, rather than leaving it up to the farmer.

JM So there will be more farms in both ELS and ELS/HLS, which means more farms with the usual restrictions on detecting.

NCMD Yes, the 2013 Handbook points out that there are almost 40,000 ELS and ELS/HLS agreements in place now. But there's also some uncertainty about the future of ELS and HLS.

JM Anything to do with the financial crisis?

NCMD Probably. Because of the failure of the European Union to agree to certain things, Natural England are unable to guarantee being able to make certain payments to farmers after 2015 and so the terms of any ELS agreement made after 1/1/2012 might have to be altered to the farmer's detriment. In which case farmers will be able to terminate their agreements without any penalty.

JM It's all rather odd. Natural England trying to get as many farms as possible into both ELS and ELS/HLS when they know the future for both schemes is uncertain.

NCMD It's probably all to do with Euro-politics. The UK government will probably use the fact that so many of England's farms are in ELS or ELS/HLS to try to get the EU to continue to fund the scheme.

JM Is there anything else in the 2013 ELS Handbook that is of interest?

NCMD Just one thing. Natural England has become much stricter on allowing farmers to put ineligible fields into ELS.

JM What sort of fields are ineligible?

NCMD It's all in the 2013 Handbook (page 147) and in our précis. Developed land, permanent caravan sites, storage areas,

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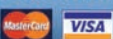
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significant areas of running or standing water and land which is subject to another scheme or contract which is incompatible with the aims of ELS. None of these can be put into ELS.

JM That's interesting. So if a pond is drained there would be no restriction on detecting there.

NCMD Yes. But the commonest reason for fields to be ineligible for ELS is that the farmer cannot guarantee that he will have management control there for five years. Usually because he plans to rent it out to another farmer or because he knows that a pipeline will be installed on his land sometime during the five year period.

JM I see. Because otherwise a farmer could sign up for an expensive set of options on some fields, claim all the dosh and then blame the pipeline contractors for being unable to deliver the management options.

NCMD Absolutely right. Natural England have apparently had quite a few cases of farmers using pipeline installation as an excuse for claiming money for doing nothing.

JM And all these fields which are ineligible for ELS are not subject to any restrictions on detecting.

NCMD Apart from all the restrictions which apply on all land. And if a field is ineligible for ELS it is also ineligible for HLS.

JM So if a farm is in ELS/HLS a known archaeological site on an ineligible field can be freely detected. The farmer could even hold a rally there.

NCMD Yes. That's what the Handbook states. It will all be in our précis. And remember, if you have any queries you know what to do.

JM Yes, contact the NCMD.

Roger Mintey

Robin and Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition Update

I was pleased to receive all the entries for the competition just before it was held last year. But it is always good to have them as soon as possible.

Entry Requirements

Please ensure all images are of a high resolution if e-mailing them to me, for trouble-free inclusion in

the magazines, and that all facts are correct before they go to print. A small description of where the find came from, and one or two facts about the finder would be helpful please.

It will help to have ready an image to e-mail as photos taken from a laminated picture are not as good as they could be.

This applies to all entries found during 1 January to 31 December, 2012.

Last Years Winners

Reminder – Could all cups to be returned in time for the competition.

Hilary Fagen
Competition Manager



International round table discussion on the challenges that detecting has to face

By Svetlana Petrova

Detectorists gather in Bulgaria

A round table on the subject 'Cultural heritage, collecting and metal detecting in Bulgaria – key problems and legal aspects', took place on the 23 May in Bulgaria in the framework of the Fifth International Assembly on Metal Detecting.

The participants were representatives of Bulgarian and foreign organisations, lawyers, experts in museum management and trade in cultural valuables, collectors and citizens practicing detecting. Some bad practices were presented and some amendments to the legislation were proposed.

The moderator of the round table was Associated Professor Nikolay Nenov, Director of the Historical Museum in Rousse. The



A round table on the subject 'Cultural heritage, collecting and metal detecting in Bulgaria – key problems and legal aspects', May 23, 2013, Lovech, Bulgaria



Professor Norman Palmer, May 23, 2013, Lovech, Bulgaria

Prof. Norman Palmer - QC Hon CBE FSA. Professor Norman Palmer is a barrister practicing at 3 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London. He specialises in the fields of cultural objects, personal property, commercial law and dispute resolution, including the mediation of disputes over cultural objects.

participants in the round table were: Prof. Norman Palmer, Lawyer at the London Lawyer's Office, Lincoln's Inn, specialising in the laws on receivables related to commercial, personal and cultural valuables and in the mediation in disputes referring to cultural objects, Trevor Austin, General Secretary of The National Council for Metal Detecting UK; Byron Tosh, Vice Chairman of the National Council for Metal Detecting, UK; Vincent O'Brien, Sales Manager for Europe of Minelab Metal Detectors; Stuart Auerbach, President of Kellyco Metal Detectors; David Spencer, Chief Engineer and Supervisor of Kellyco; Mr. Yoannis Karathanasis, president of World Detectors Greece; Sergey Belov, Vice Chairman of AKA metal detectors, Russia; Mr. Pavel Tsvetankov, successor of the discoverers of the Panagyurishte treasure; Georgi Georgiev, Attorney-at-law; Mr. Boyan Minkov, collector; Iliya Iliev, Chairman of the Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation (BNMDF); Peter Nedelev, Chairman of Plovdiv Numismatic Society and representatives of various Bulgarian numismatic associations.

From 24th-26th May, fans of detecting from Britain, USA, Russia, Greece, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria gathered at the Fifth Assembly organised by the (BNMDF). This event is unprecedented. The programme was focused on the testing of various models of metal detectors. The delegation exchanged experience with their colleagues and had the opportunity to approach the representatives of the companies directly. There were also some surprises – demonstrations of the latest models of detecting devices, raffles, with many prizes,

competitions, polygon tests. The manufacturers and the traders participated with their own machines.

And again the detectorists proved to be the kings of the party. The ladies showed remarkable skills and talent in the Talent Detecting Competition. The dancers enchanted the international jury with their graceful dances and left the competition with brand new detectors. The meeting is a milestone and one-of-a-kind. *"I see chances for a better future for metal detecting in all European countries"*, said Iliya Iliev.

Bulgaria supports the idea of establishing a Common European Organisation of Metal Detecting

The BNMDF supports the idea of establishing a Common European Metal Detecting Organisation with the purpose of solving the problems and regulating the laws applicable to cultural heritage of the EU countries. President of the Federation Mr. Iliya Iliev stated: *"Cultural heritage, collecting and*



Trevor Austin, General Secretary of the National Council for Metal Detecting, UK, Member of the Treasure Valuation Committee, UK, May 23, 2013, Lovech, Bulgaria

metal detecting in Bulgaria – key problems and legal aspects". "We need to unite in order to promote and protect the hobby of metal detecting. We need an international organisation to protect our interests and rights. We will have more potential if we unite. As regards the role and the future of a European organisation, I am an optimist".

The idea to establish a Common European Metal Detecting Organisation was provoked by the increasing difficulties faced by archaeologists, users of detecting devices and people discovering movable archaeological objects. The BNMDF supports the British approach to protection of cultural valuables the principles of which, as laid down in The Treasure Act 1996 and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (1997), are the useful cooperation and mutual respect, trust and acknowledgement of the knowledge and skills and the partnership between archaeologists and fans of detecting.

Bulgaria's vague legal provisions lead to penal repression

Georgi Georgiev, Attorney-at-law, spoke about the imperfect legal provisions of the Laws on Cultural Heritage and their misapplication in the legal policy of Bulgaria in the process of protection of the cultural heritage. He pointed out that there are some vaguely defined and dispersed terms in the law such as *"Cultural valuables"*, *"archaeological cultural valuables"* and *"archaeological sites"*. In the Bulgarian legal system there are many proceedings brought against collectors of antiques who, due to the inconsistency of the legal provisions, have wrongly assumed that, being the possessors of such objects, they do not have to require their identification and recording. There are also convictions by virtue of which such collectors have been sentenced to prison or fined with 1500 to 4000 EUR and deprived of their zealously acquired private collections in favor of the state.

Again due to the vagueness of the term 'archaeological site' there is a large number of owners of metal detectors who have been sued. Some of them were convicted after having been charged with using the devices for archaeological purposes instead of for the purpose of practicing their hobby.

Although the federation succeeded in proving the lack of necessity to register the metal detectors when they are used for the purposes of detecting as a hobby in several cases brought before the Supreme Administrative Court, there have been some law suits and, respectively, convictions, for the possession of unregistered detecting devices.

These examples of penal repression are in direct and immediate connection with the vague and hardly perfect provisions of the law on cultural heritage and undoubtedly evidence for the necessity to unite the efforts of all people who are interested in changing current legislation, stated Georgiev firmly.

Lack of adequate legal regulations, violation of civil rights and deliberate collapse of the cultural valuables market in Bulgaria

Mila Mironova, Master of Cultural Tourism and member of the BNMDF, spoke about the lack of adequate legal regulation, the violation of civil rights and the deliberate collapse of the cultural valuables market in Bulgaria. She focused on the Order determining the remuneration of the persons who submitted objects under the Law on Cultural Heritage. According to this order, any remuneration cannot exceed 5000 BGN and cannot be related to market value of the movable cultural valuable. The state administration deliberately conceals the registry of immovable valuables and their limits, Mila added. She pointed out that in order to introduce market relations in the whole European Union, we have to introduce some common minimum standards for each state: adoption of equal terminology, common standard on the legitimacy of the cultural value, determination of the financial value of the cultural valuable by an independent evaluation committee and unified standard applicable to cultural and technical expert opinions. Mrs. Mironova emphasised the necessity of adopting clear and exact rules as to the conditions under which metal detecting devices can be used and in which situations users of detectors should be sanctioned.

Police arbitrariness, attempts to nationalise private property and lack of just legal proceedings – Bulgarians will claim their rights before the European court

Pavel Tsvetankov, successor of the discoverers of the Panagyurishte treasure, and Boyan Minkov, collector, presented examples of police arbitrariness, attempts to nationalise private property and lack of just legal proceedings. Mr. Minkov's statement revealed that the experts involved not only in his case but also in many others, are not independent experts, but employees of the National Historical Museum, who charge large fees and were hired by the prosecution.

The faith in the justice of the legal system in Bulgaria and the belief that the judges will comply with the law is severely lacking. The unjustly convicted are going to claim their rights to private property before the European court.

Vague national law and problems accompany detector users in Italy

Nowadays we are often forced to work with our detectors as if we were playing with fire just because the law is not clear enough, states the President of the Historical Research Association in Rome Maurizio De Angelis in his report.

The national legislation in Italy and the so called law: Code of Cultural Objects provides for a possibility for the Ministry to grant concessions for the implementation of research requiring metal detecting devices to



The participants in the round table on the subject 'Cultural heritage, collecting and metal detecting in Bulgaria – key problems and legal aspects', May 23, 2013, Lovech, Bulgaria

private persons. Chance discoveries should be reported within 24 hours of their discovery. Unfortunately this law does not lead to anything but the creation of a series of doubts and problems, as it is not specifically applicable to the use of detectors, Maurizio stated.

The law prohibits the search in archeological areas or in protected areas, whereas in the interpretation of the law it is possible to conduct research with the help of a detector provided that the reporting requirements are met if coins or other objects are discovered. This, however, is the interpretation of the finders, Maurizio points out and adds that the Directorate and the Police do not consider the possibility of one coin found with a detector being a chance discovery, as it was made with an instrument which serves

to search for metals underground. These contradictions continue to arouse misunderstandings and therefore cases of searches and the confiscation of detectors are ever more frequent.

The fault for this strange state of things is attributable to, on the one hand, the directorate which is never willing to admit that a reasonable search with a detector performed in appropriate conditions and context could be useful for the archeological and historical research, and, on the other hand, to the numerous detector users and researchers in Italy hoping for a legislation based on the 'English Model'. The President of the Italian Association considers that the Italian researchers are far from the thinking pattern of their English colleagues.

Maurizio De Angelis is convinced that if the problems are not solved, Italy will sooner or later adopt a

law prohibiting the use of metal detectors, and, as a consequence, people who have done serious research throughout the years will have to give up this hobby of theirs.

Spain supports the idea of a European Federation

Spain supports the project for a future European Organisation. "It has to comprise associations, manufacturers and media, and we have to create just rules for metal detecting devices all over Europe and to present this to Brussels, so that this hobby has the opportunity to be developed to the benefit of all stakeholders – the manufacturers, the associations and the cultural heritage of each country", stated Frances Gomez, Editor-in-chief of D&M magazine.



Presentation from Vincent O'Brien - Sales Manager, EMEA, Minelab



The Fifth National Festival for metal detecting, May 24-26, 2013, Lovech, Bulgaria



Sergey Belov, Vice chairman of AKA metal detectors, Russia and Alexey Rybakov, programmer and constructor of AKA metal detectors



Iliya Iliev – Chairman of the Bulgarian National Metal Detecting Federation, Prof. Nikolay Nenov - Director of Regional History Museum – Rousse, Vladimir Lilov – President Golden Mask metal detectors.

The social media – a priority for the development of metal detecting

The social media have to be a priority for making the hobby of detecting more popular. This was the statement made by Stuart Auerbach, President of Kellyco Metal Detectors, and David Spencer, Chief Engineer and Supervisor of Kellyco.

“In order to understand and trust the purposes of the organisation and the ways to achieve them, you should rely on the social media.”

Mr. Spencer said. The social climate of approval and support is the most enhancing environment for the development of an organisation, and organisations aimed at having a greater influence have to turn themselves to the people, the two Americans emphasised. They also stated their willingness to support the Bulgarian Federation financially in the pursuit of its goals and ideas.

Remarkable discoveries made by detector users exhibited in the museums of Britain

There are numerous discoveries, many of which are now in British museums, and a lot of information, which provides a positive contribution of this hobby to British archaeology, said Trevor Austin, General Secretary of the NCMD in the UK. However, he thinks that this does not stop the deliberate attempts to control the free practicing of detecting. Mr. Austin pointed out that the Council British Archaeology claims that it supports the valuable contribution

of this hobby, but at the same time it uses such emotive issues as illegal treasure-hunting during the night and the sale of products on eBay in order to be able to insist on controlling both the hobby and the market of antiques. He later added that still there are many archaeologists in Britain who are against the Law on Treasure and the payment of rewards to finders. This, they say, is regarded as a promotion of ‘treasure-hunting’ for the purposes of profit, whereby, provisions of the Valetta Convention were quoted.

The restrictions which the fans of detecting face are further imposed through using the potential of other organisations for the purposes of control and restriction *“Through the back door”*, Mr. Austin said. An aspect of the official policy on archaeological issues is attributed to an organisation called Natural England. This organisation is responsible for ecological agricultural programmes. Farmers are now paid to look after archaeological sites on their land including those which have no legal protection and under some schemes metal detecting is banned. On others it restricts the holding of rallies and limits where and when detecting can take place plus a mandatory recording of all finds on such sites. He expects that, as a result thereof, the land available for detecting may decrease in the next few years.

From the report it became clear that in England and Wales any objects which are not governed by the provisions of the Law on

Treasure belong to the owner of the land. This includes all kinds of archaeological objects, unless their ownership is transferred to someone else. This supports the hobby very much, as land owners do not like it much when they are told what to do and what not to do on their own land. According to Trevor Austin archaeology has ignored and still ignores the rights of landowners in connection with the archaeological material and the objects they possess.

Discoverers of cultural sites are treated with respect and honesty in Britain

“I wouldn't want to proclaim the British model as a world model, but it can serve as an example for other countries, because the law works only if people trust it” emphasises Prof. Norman Palmer in his presentation.

“If you find something and submit it to the authorities and you never see it again, it is natural for you not to do the same thing next time. In many countries this happens because people do not trust the law, as it does not treat them fairly and justly. The law has to create balance, not to define everything as crime. A good national law is one that has to be an international law, to be compliant and consistent with the laws of other countries”, Prof. Palmer stated. *“We are lucky in England because we have the support of the Crown and people accept this. One of their reasons to accept it is that the discoverers of cultural objects are treated fairly and with respect.”* The Professor pointed out that he has had a little time to get familiar with the

Bulgarian law which he finds very different from the English law. *“Beneath the surface, in the interpretation, there are many vague and even inexplicable things”*, he said.

The law has to encourage the cooperation between archaeologists and finders, added Prof. Palmer in his presentation. He thinks that the people who have detectors should be invited to cooperate instead of being deliberately isolated. They have the right to participate in the discovery of the past of their own country because the past belongs to all of us, it belongs to the nation and the people who act honestly should be rewarded for what they have done and their contribution has to be acknowledged.

In the presentation the participants discussed the question of whether states are taking proper care of their cultural heritage, whether everything is the property of the state or everything is considered a crime. All state-members of the EU have to cooperate and to exchange cultural information connected with the cultural heritage and the society has to know that many times these things have been discovered, preserved and described by people who have found them with the help of a metal detector while practising their hobby, the professor pointed out. In conclusion he said that the law has to be clear and to guarantee definite rules so as to be understandable and interpretable. The law should apply equally to all people and all people should be equal before the law, Prof. Palmer stated. This is a part of integration, he added.

'Maud of the Rings'

Part One

A call to the secretary of the Coventry Heritage Detector Society (CHDS) was all it needed to start the search for a wedding ring that had been lost three years ago.

Professor Leach, a lecturer at Warwick University, lost his wedding ring in his garden and after searching to no avail had given up hope of ever finding it. That is until he came across the CHDS website and noticed that a free search and recovery service is offered to members of the public and the farming community.

At a club meeting a volunteer was asked for, willing to carry out a search in the Leach's garden. Lorraine Maud was the volunteer and Pam Finch offered to accompany her. Within moments of arriving at the Leach residence the ring was back in the hands of its very happy and surprised owner.



Lorraine Maud with Mrs Leach

Professor Leach insisted on giving a donation to the club, but this was refused and instead it was agreed that a donation would be accepted for one of the charities that the club supports.

The free search and recovery service is offered by many clubs and as well as being a good PR exercise for metal detecting generally it also goes a long way to help secure new farm land. In the



The ring as it was found in the ground

past the CHDS has found lost tools, stop-cocks, man hole covers and farm implements lost by farmers. Word of mouth does the rest!

Part Two

On the day after the May bank holiday Monday we had another call, this time from a lady who had an argument with her partner whilst walking in a park in Leamington Spa. As a result of the argument the lady threw her three rings away.

Once again the intrepid Lorraine Maud went out to search for them once the lady in question had realised how silly it was to throw her rings away. Her whole family were very upset at the loss.

It took two visits, but Lorraine eventually found two of the rings that were actually widespread in a difficult area. Lorraine has since been nicknamed 'Maud of the

Rings' by members at the club, a name that will probably stick forever!

As a footnote, you may have wondered what happened to the third missing ring? Two weeks later another Coventry Heritage member, Paul Steed, carried out a further search and was able to return it to the very grateful owner. Once again the nickname changed to 'Maud of the Rings and her trusty Steed'.

Another success story and it is good to be able to report on detecting activities that promote the hobby rather than bring it into disrepute. We are not all treasure plundering mercenaries as some



The grateful lady being reunited with the rings

would have the general public believe. In fact in recent weeks the Coventry Heritage Society alone



has raised hundreds of pounds for both local and National charities.

Midland Region Annual Quiz 2013

The quiz this year was held in Coventry on May 22 and the questions as usual having been set by Brian Pollard of the Midland Region Committee and National Council. Brian also acted as Question Master and was ably assisted with the marking of the cards by Mike Longfield.

This year it was a very tight contest enjoyed by all who took part, the Coventry Heritage teams taking both first and second places with 83 and 82 point scoring with Wyre Forest coming a very close third with 81 points.

The evening would be made even more enjoyable and exciting if more

teams were to enter and we extend a warm invitation to all clubs and individual members in the Midland Region to join us next year. We can offer a very interesting and fun evening with great prizes, drinks at club prices and a free fish and chip supper! Look out for further details for next years event.



Consultation on review of 'Treasure Trove in Scotland, a Code of Practice'

'Treasure Trove in Scotland, A Code of Practice' was issued in 2008. This Code of Practice, which was published with the approval of the Scottish Ministers, is an advisory notice setting out guidance and best practice in relation to the law in Scotland as applied to portable antiquities.

Paragraph 1.4 of the Code records that the Code will be subject to periodic review, and the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's

Remembrancer (QLTR) has decided to undertake a review of the Code and treasure trove practices as the Code has been in operation for over 4 years. Not all changes to the treasure trove processes require a change to the Code of Practice and the opportunity is also being taken to review some aspects of those processes.

The Consultation documents are available on the Treasure Trove in

Scotland website (www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk) and the QLTR is inviting written responses to this consultation paper **by Friday, 2 August 2013**.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us to review the terms of the Current Code of Practice (issued in 2008) to issue a new Code of Practice to replace the 2008 Code.

The QLTR aims to issue a report on this process by end November 2013 and to issue the new Code of Practice before the end of 2013.

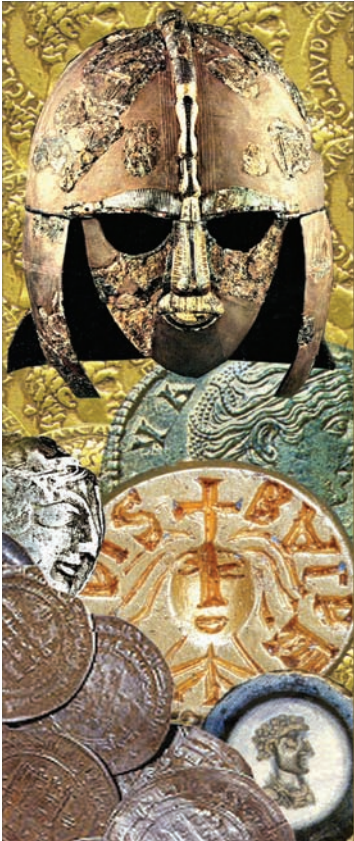
The NCMD Scottish Region's office-bearers will be making a response to the consultation on behalf of the NCMD, but any individual is at liberty to reply directly to the QLTR using the **Respondent Information Form** which forms part of the documents.

TREASURE CHEST EXHIBITION

Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries

Venue: Chester Town Hall
Date: Saturday 10 August 2013
Time: 10am-4pm
Admission: Free

Detecting enthusiasts from across the Northwest will descend on Chester Town Hall in August for the Treasure Chest Exhibition – an **Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries**.



TREASURE CHEST 2013
 Fascinating Exhibition of Metal Detecting Discoveries

Chester Town Hall
 Saturday 10th August
 10:00am - 4:00pm

FREE ADMISSION

Come and meet the experts with TV presenter and historian **MARK OLLY**

Trade Stands
 Refreshments Available

Exhibition presented by:
 The North West Region of
 The National Council For
 Metal Detecting

Members of detecting clubs from as far north as Kendal and as far south as Wrexham will be setting up stalls to show off some of their most precious and most interesting finds at the one-day event.

Popular TV historian and author Mark Ollly will be present, decked out in his regalia, answering questions from enthusiasts. Visitors can also take along any unidentified or interesting finds themselves, as the PAS's Finds Liaison Officers will also be on hand to give advice, identify and record items.

The clubs will have lots of coins and artefacts on display, but each club will also have a special case, dedicated to this year's theme – **'Silver Items**

Through The Ages'. This specialist showcase will be entered in to a competition, to be judged by Mark Ollly, Elizabeth Royles from Chester's Grovenor Museum, and Trevor Austin, the NCMD General Secretary.

There will be plenty of exciting finds for visitors to examine, and for younger visitors, there will be touch trays full of interesting coins and artefacts.

Co-organiser Dave Edwards said: *"It should be a great day out. We've had tremendous support from lots of clubs and it's a great venue, full of history in its own right..."*

"There have been a lots of new finds found since our last exhibition two years ago, so there will be plenty of new pieces to look at..."

"The theme of silver artefacts should throw up some interesting items too. We thought it would make a good theme, open to everyone, as most detectorists have found some silver items pursuing this wonderful hobby."

There will also be trade stand from Joan Allen offering tips, advice and some great bargains. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Chester Town Hall is in the centre of the town, which is well served by public transport and has ample parking provision. For further details about the venue and how to get there, visit www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/visiting/heritage/chester_town_hall.aspx

The de Laszlo Bracelet

Reuniting a nun with her Confirmation gift

By Roger Mintey

On the afternoon of 7 May, I was detecting in a deer park, part of the 82 acre Wonham Manor Estate. I had found a few coins, a pistol ball and a buckle and decided it was time to see how Richard, my colleague that day, was faring and also time for a cup of tea. I began to make my way across to Richard, detecting as I went. I found myself on bare soil underneath a large oak tree where previously I had found a 17th century buckle, now on the PAS database, and the master set of keys for the estate garages, now back with Jason the Estate Manager.

My Minelab Explorer II emitted a strong signal. I dug carefully and saw what appeared to be a gold chain. More digging revealed a gold chain link bracelet with a disc pendant. The disc bore an inscription which appeared to be 'Charmaine' and some numbers, maybe a date.

A club member called Charmaine had searched the deer park with me twice but the bracelet was buried too deep to have been lost by her. And in any case she would have told me if she had lost something like that. I took the object over to Richard who was wearing his spectacles. He could see that the inscription read:

CHARMIAN

MARCH 13 1971

The back of the disc bore a hallmark. Using a magnifying glass Richard identified it as '9 Carat Birmingham 1969'. At the end of the detecting session we



showed the bracelet to Jason and I explained that the original owner, Charmian still held title to it and that I would attempt to trace her.

The only local Charmian I knew of was Charmian Biggs, ex-wife of the Great Train Robber. It seemed unlikely that it was hers. I googled 'Charmian Betchworth' and discovered a Charmian Stowe, Betchworth Parish Councillor and pony enthusiast. I really thought I had found the bracelet's owner! I phoned her but she told me that the bracelet was not hers, but most likely belonged to Charmian de Laszlo whose family owned Wonham Manor between 1962 and 1978.

I sent the story of the discovery

and a picture of the bracelet to the Dorking Advertiser. The next edition, on 16 May, contained a small feature about the find. A few days later a man phoned up to say that he would take a cutting from the newspaper to one of Charmian's cousins who lived in Dorking.

Two weeks later I had a phone call from the Hon Sandra de Laszlo, wife of Charmian's elder brother Damon. She told me that Edward Delevingne, Charmian and Damon's cousin on her mother's side, now had the newspaper cutting and had told her of the discovery. She had asked him to come to my house to collect the bracelet. Sandra told me that the

item had been a gift from the family to celebrate Charmian's confirmation on 13 March 1971.

Two days later Edward arrived. Over a cup of coffee he explained as best he could the background to the loss of the bracelet. Charmian's father, Group Captain Patrick de Laszlo had spent the war designing radar equipment. After the war he went into business doing the same thing and made sufficient money to buy Wonham Manor, mainly because he had three daughters, all younger than Damon, who were all keen on horse riding. Wonham was large enough for them to ride there in safety. Charmian even had her own little pony and trap.

In 1971, at the age of 13, she was confirmed into the Church of England. At that time regulars in the Dolphin pub often saw her riding past in her pony and trap en route to Betchworth village centre. The years passed by and Charmian became a demure and sophisticated young lady, often stopping off at the Dolphin for a drink with her friends. Some of her friends started living life in the fast lane, driving expensive cars and partying into the small hours.

Charmian was never one to meekly follow others and decided not to move into the fast lane with her friends but to pull off the road altogether after seeing an exit sign leading back to "the Church" But this time it would not be the Church of England, into which she had been confirmed. This time it would be the Church of Rome. At around the same time she lost her bracelet. Maybe this was some kind of omen, maybe not. We will never know. Charmian became a nun and moved to a convent in France, where she remains.

The bracelet would have also remained where Charmian lost it but for the Dolphin coming to the rescue. One evening in 2008 a local man, whose paddock I had searched, had a few drinks in the Dolphin and was introduced to Jason. Knowing that there were



82 acres at Wonham, he suggested to Jason that he gave me permission to search there. The rest, as they say, is history.

Edward took the bracelet up to Chelsea and showed it to his 101 year old mother, the Hon Angela Delevingne, who was and still is



very fond of Charmian, her niece, and who had been very pleased and excited by the story of the bracelet's discovery. Then he took it a few doors down the road and handed it over to Damon and Sandra de Laszlo. They will contact Charmian to ask her whether she wants the bracelet with her in France or whether she wants it to remain with her family in England.

They have also made a generous donation to Reigate Priory Museum, a charity of my choice, in respect of the efforts made by all concerned in returning the confirmation gift to its rightful owners.



Bernie Buttons

As I gazed at the shoal of trout and grayling below the bridge that spans a famous Hampshire chalk stream, a very smart 4x4 pulled up alongside me and a voice bellowed, "You'd better not run those dogs here!"

With an engaging smile I replied, "Dogs? I haven't owned a dog for years. Anyway, what's it to you?"

"I own this estate and we have a shoot. Your damn dogs disturb game for miles," came the reply from the half open window.

My converted Volkswagen van has blacked out windows and had originally been built for a disabled child. Just to clear the air I invited the rather distinguished gent to have a look inside to see for himself that there were no dogs ... which he seemed rather keen to do.

After a good look about and

tripping over the ramp in the back, he conceded that I was not the person he thought I was and started showing a greater interest in the van.

"How would you like to do a small job for me? I cannot legally pay, but can fill your van with fuel and arrange a good evening meal at 'The Fisherman's Arms' on my account".

I was thinking what damned cheek he had, but chatted just out of interest, bearing in mind he owned most of the land hereabouts.

"Well. HAVE WE GOT A DEAL?" the man barked, handing me his business card – very plain, with just his name, Brigadier Michael Fitzgerald-Smythe and mobile number.

"Okay" was my answer, and I casually pocketed his card. "I'll

phone you later. I'm sure it can be arranged, and if it is as straightforward as you say, then we've got a deal".

The track wound up through the woods, exactly as described to me several days earlier by my new, very posh friend. I was driving slowly, wondering what the hell I was doing, when an elderly man crossed the track carrying an armful of split logs. I stopped. "Excuse me," I said, "I'm looking for Bernard."

"Ah, 'Bernie Buttons' you be after ... miserable old git who lives next place along ... that old tin shack ... should ha'e been pulled down years ago."

I smiled and drove slowly on, pulling up outside the small corrugated iron building, barely smudged with black paint and sorely in need of another coat. The

door was slightly ajar, the air heavy with wood smoke. "Hello ... Hello, Bernard!" I shouted.

I called several times with no reply, so I pushed the creaky door fully open.

"Hang on a minute, will you?" cried an old man, slowly heading my way using a dining chair for support.

"I'm the keeper you know – well, used to be. I'm presuming you're the old friend of the brigadier ... he told me all about you. Come on in ... since my wife passed over, the kettle is always on the stove."

The tea, served in badly chipped enamel mugs, warmed my hands as we settled down, slowly getting to know each other. Bernard telling me tales of poachers and after dark patrols and how he was dearly missing his wife who had recently passed away.

After a brief pause, the tone changed when he asked me to have a look in the pine cupboard out in the scullery: "Open the door and bring it in here boy."

The 'scullery' is just a small timber and tin extension with a sink and two cupboards, the larger one holds a shot gun, a few cartridges and surprisingly an early detector.

"Bernard, do you mean the gun?" NO, NO, NO, "next to it! Got a shepherds crook handle and it's the lightweight model, dearest one you can buy".

Luckily Bernard's wife had cared for the old C-scope, removing the batteries as advised and ten minutes later Bernard's pride and joy had a threshold hum.

"Seen better days this has, you ever find anything with it?" I asked curiously.

"Had loads of stuff... up behind the barn I had some lovely old buttons, one of 'em was gold, shining like it had just been lost and as heavy as lead. I knew it was gold soon as it was in my hand."

"This was several years ago mind" he went on, "got more for 'em than I earnt in a week back then. All hush hush though, the Brigadier would have me chucked out if he ever got to hear about it. Must be our little secret; I've said too much already."

As much as I tried, Bernard would not elaborate. I asked "You sure it wasn't a coin? Gold buttons are a bit unusual".

"Definitely a button, was smooth one side with fancy stuff on the front."

I could tell he wasn't comfortable talking about it any more, so reluctantly I let it go.

"Will my wheelchair go in that van then boy?" said Bernard, abruptly changing the subject.

"He isn't paying you is he? Time before he sent a fella here with a disabled taxi thing but I sent him packing, was gonna cost him nearly four hundred quid for the day, silly sod."

"The brigadier means well but he's a terrible swimmer," Bernard laughs.

"Terrible swimmer? What do you mean Bernard?"

Bernard just smiles. "Come on boy, time to get me in my wheelchair and in your van, best go else we'll miss the fun."

The day, or what was left of it went very well with Bernard directing me up various woodland tracks and across fields, to claim our grandstand view. On the last drive of the day the Brigadier walked past my van, grinned and gave me an exaggerated wink. I could see the joy on his face.

"Time to go boy," said Bernard tearfully. "I'd like to leave before the last drive finishes please."

When we arrive back at Bernard's place I do my best to get him settled in for the night before shaking his hand and telling him how much I have enjoyed myself. I'm halfway out of the door when Bernard calls me back to say something, but he struggles with the words.

With tears in his eyes yet with a smile on his face he says, "Will I see you again boy?"

"Hopefully Bernard, in fact I just might ask the Brigadier if I can have a day or two with my modern machine, on some of his land."

"Trouble is boy, the brigadier got a brother and he don't agree with the detecting lark. You got no chance I'm afraid, but if you do ask, make sure my gold button remains between you and me. Nobody else knows about 'em except me and you - I don't want to be kicked out of here just yet!"

I feel a tinge of sadness with my reply. "Bye then Bernard."

Bernard turns away, "Make sure you come again boy".

The message on my mobile from the Brigadier reads: "Don't forget to fill your van up at the garage, and fill yourself up at The Fisherman's, it's a shoot day so you'll get a meal anytime from now on, might be in myself later, thanks, 'Brig'."

The landlord seemed to know exactly who I was when I walked in.

I did feel a little out of my depth so took my pint and picked a table in the public bar, out of the way of the posh folk talking about the day's sport and complaining about the beaters.

The public bar was the same really, only in reverse, with a few beaters and dog-men smirking at the fact lord so and so missed such an easy cock bird, and how his black Labrador baulked at entering the thick brambles.

Of course they all seemed to know

who I was - at least thought they did - and it wasn't too long before two of them came over to my table. "Was that Bernie Buttons in your van this afternoon? We saw him peeking out the sliding window, up by Kings Wood," says the braver of the two.

"You boys don't miss much," I answered, when just at that moment the Brigadier walked in and the room fell silent.

"Can I have a word please?"

"Yep I'll come over."

"Don't forget, all on my account, including your drinks, says the Brigadier as we settle into yet another corner of the oak beamed pub."

"Absolutely top day, fantastic for Partridges but not a patch on Bernard's time, I think we're slowly getting there though."

"Talking of Bernard, I popped in there on my way here, he was the happiest I've seen him for a long time. Looks like our little plan worked a treat, good to see him so happy in his final days."

"Brigadier, you seem to look after your staff above the call of duty, so to speak"

The Brigadier replied rather sternly, "Bernard is not staff, he's family! My father made me promise to do my best for him and his wife; between you and me he hasn't paid a penny in rent or rates, nor water, ever. I keep a good eye on him but from a distance, he's a very proud man indeed.

After a slight pause, the Brigadier continues, his voice now much softer.

"He saved my life, you know. When I was a boy in the hard winter of '63, the lake in front of the big house was frozen solid, or so we thought. My brother and I had an idea that we might try some ice fishing for the big trout, like the Eskimo's do. To cut a long story short I went through the ice and my younger brother just stood there screaming, in shock I suppose."

"My father said I was gone when Bernard dragged me out. Truth is I think I was close to it, evidently stiff as a board and dark blue. Bernard worked on me, he just wouldn't give up 'till he got the spark back, stuff he learnt in the war evidently. That is why, although he's not the easiest man to get on with, I have kept my promise"

"I cannot thank you enough for what you have done for us today, but I must get back to the guns in the lounge."

"Oh, before you leave Brigadier, is there any chance I can go on a few of your fields with my detector?" I blurted out like a nervous child.

"I think I know the field you would like to go in" came the reply.

"To be honest I had no particular fields in mind, any that might still be in stubble would be fine."

"We have a problem with detecting - my brother is totally against it I'm afraid - but I bought a few pony paddocks years ago that have been ploughed and worked down. Too damn wet to drill them, so you are welcome on those until spring. Phone me before you come and I'll sort out a map of what I own and I'll highlight the ones you can go on. The only stipulation is that you show me everything you find."

"Sounds fair to me Brigadier, I cannot get back for a couple of weeks, will that be okay?"

The time passes quickly. I've collected my map from the estate office, and while I'm there the 'Brigadier' informs me that Bernard passed away just days after our final outing.

"The funeral was last Thursday, buried alongside his wife behind the Estate Chapel, just as Bernard wanted." I only spent the one day with Bernard yet I felt I had known him for years, and although I was half expecting the news, I must admit a tear of sorrow formed in my eyes.

Soon I'm parked up alongside the 'paddocks', four of which have been worked tabletop flat. The one I want to try first is seven acres, and for some reason the Brigadier was keen for me to give this one a good go. I thought I might wander at random for a bit, to find any hot spots but after several hours I was disappointed, the only hot spots I found were 12 bore ones, with absolutely nothing else other than a few lead bag seals.

I had such high hopes; everything was right... time for a cup of tea! It's while I'm sat in the van that I notice the slightly sunken round patch that I originally thought was a filled-in clay pit. 'Right' I said to myself - work that area slow and low for the rest of the day; if it is just the same, then try another

paddock in the morning.

No sooner had I switched on my machine and taken a few steps, then bingo, a lovely silver Tudor button is resting in the palm of my hand. "If it gets no better I've still had a good day now" I thought to myself. Well, it didn't get any better really, just odds and ends that could be expected anywhere.

Day two which is my last day, is very slow yet again with just a few small Roman bronzes, a 'Tealby' cut half, one more lead seal and a pile of modern 12 bore, mixed with the much older pin fire type.

Well it was fun and good to be detecting in such a beautiful place but to be honest the finds have been a disappointment and I am ready for the long journey home. Firstly I have to take the short

drive to the 'Big House', show the 'Brig' my finds and hopefully get a few more days on the other small fields.

The Brigadier shakes my hand firmly and invites me in to the lovely oak panelled room he calls the study.

"What have you got to show me then? I heard you were up in the big paddock, digging plenty, I hear."

"Plenty of 12 bore perhaps, I replied, then showed him the pin-fire ones, thinking he might be interested."

"I've seen plenty of those before, show me the buttons, I can see by the look on your face that you found some!"

Strange I thought to myself, has

he been watching me with binoculars?

The brigadier continues, *"That paddock I saw you in was not Bernard's favourite, he preferred the next one down. I didn't let on that I knew he used to go in there, had reports several times and actually saw him myself once, that was his 'button' field. Well he thought they were 'buttons'."*

"He used to sell a few to the vicar's wife, who everyone knew was a keen button collector. Because it looked like gold she phoned me to check all was in order, so I popped over to the vicarage to have a look. We agreed that it wasn't a button, so I would pay for it and that it would be our little secret, to save Bernard any embarrassment."

"Hang on a moment, I'm sure it's in my gun cabinet."

The Brigadier goes out of sight for a few minutes, and is then stood in front of me, hand outstretched, fist clenched.

"I'll show you mine if you'll show me yours" he laughs, then opens his hand to reveal a gold stater. I recognise it as an Ambianii uni-face in lovely condition.

"The vicars' wife tried to tell Bernard that it was a coin but he was having none of it. As far as he was concerned it was a 'button'. Somehow, word got out that Bernard didn't know the difference between a button and a gold coin and since then Bernard was known around the village as 'BERNIE BUTTONS'."

Rest In Peace Bernie.

MEETING DATES

Next NCMD meeting will be on the November 17th

Next PAAG meeting To be confirmed

Next TVC meetings are

19 July 2013 (Friday)

25 September 2013 (Wednesday)

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**
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The metal detecting day includes:

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PAYMENT

Pre-payment tickets are available only by post. Please send S.A.E and a postal order or cheque for £15 (made payable to Midland Federation of Metal Detecting), to the following address: John Wells, 78 Watersmeet Road, Wyken, Coventry, CV2 3HT.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!

Please include a contactable e-mail address so you can receive metal detecting day updates, location details, and in the event of unforeseen circumstances we can contact you. E-mail addresses and any other information **will not** be given to any third parties.

A current NCMD or FID insurance is required by all attendees. This is essential as the farmer will require all attendees to be adequately insured. Please quote your membership number when booking. You will be required to show your membership card on the day when registering. The deadline for pre-booked tickets is 13 September 2013

ENQUIRIES

For further information or queries, contact jwells2@hotmail.co.uk or on 02476 272969



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