

Digging deep

NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 15

NEWS

Guest Speaker – Mark Harrison

Mark Harrison FSA National Policing and Crime Advisor was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the NCMD Executive.

Mark gave us an update on what was happening in ARCH (The Alliance to Reduce Crime Against Archaeology). He also gave a presentation which included a couple of recent arrests and prosecutions for illegal metal detecting which showed some of the damage which had been done to a scheduled Roman site.

Mark also outlined the work that ARCH are doing to combat the theft of lead from church roofs and graffiti done to historic buildings.

Although most of ARCH's work is taken up with non-detecting matters, such as theft from Ancient Monuments and the wilful destruction and in some cases demolition of listed buildings, obviously illegal detecting comes within their remit, the NCMD as members of ARCH, welcome the opportunity to be able to protect our heritage from such criminal activity.

Trevor Austin



Review of the 'Criminal offences and defences in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Welsh government are to review the 'Criminal Offences Act' shortly. This may well be a trial run for looking at the Act in England at a later date. Below is a statement from the www.wales.gov.uk/ website and something we will be keeping an eye on.

This document presents, for public consultation, a proposal for amendments to the criminal offences and defences in sections 2, 28 and 42 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Written Statement – Proposed

amendments to the criminal offences and defences in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Between 2006 and 2012, Cadw received reports of 119 cases of unlawful damage to Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Wales. However, there has been only one successful prosecution under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 in the last 25 years.

A number of respondents to last year's consultation, The future of our past, expressed concerns about the rarity of successful

prosecutions. Some called for changes to the Act's permitted defence of ignorance of the status or location of a monument to make it easier to secure convictions for illegal damage.

Accordingly, the Welsh Government would now like to receive views on a proposal to amend the offences and defences in the 1979 Act to modify the 'ignorance defence'.

Responses will be welcome from any individuals or groups with an interest in the historic environment of Wales.

Trevor Austin

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NCMD Newsletter Manager: Trevor Austin
Publisher: Editor, Design & Layout:
Harry Bain, Searcher Publications Ltd
Typesetting, Production and Repro:
Tradeset Ltd
Printed and Distributed by:
Warners Midlands PLC, West Street,
Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH.

Proposed European Council for Metal Detecting ECMD



Proposed new logo

Following the meeting with the Bulgarian Metal Detecting Federation and other interested parties from around Europe in May, the NCMD was asked to head up the formulation of a **European Council For Metal Detecting (ECMD)** with the view to advising other EU countries on the best way forward in the hope of establishing an 'English model' for the recording of portable antiquities.

There are many problems facing EU countries in establishing a workable relationship similar to the one we have in the UK, but it is hoped that the NCMD will be able to offer guidance on the best way forward.

The NCMD are currently in the process of contacting all interested metal detecting organisations within the EU to establish dialogue on the problems being faced by them.

Trevor Austin



What do you do when you Find: A Burial

A number of detector users, have in the pursuit of their hobby, come across burials or human remains over the years, but what particular problems, if any, do they pose.

Burials can take many forms; they can be a collection of plough disturbed bones and artefacts, cremated remains or in some case a complete coffin. However the remains occur there are legal and ethical procedures that need to be observed before they can be



removed from the ground.

When suspected human remains are found it is important to remember that they represent the final resting place of a person and as such need to be afforded due respect. It is also important to remember that you will need professional advice to be able to determine the age of the remains and whether or not they are indeed human.

When any suspected remains are discovered it is not always obvious how old they are and indeed they

could be a part of a potential crime scene. It is therefore vital that you follow the law on such matters:

In the first instance to notify the Police and/or Coroners Officer as well as your local Finds Liaison Officer at the earliest opportunity.

Remember it is an offence for professional or amateurs to disturb or remove any human remains without an appropriate licence from the Home Office.

Whatever the situation in which human remains occur, it is important to ensure that the landowner and any other involved parties such as tenants are made fully aware of the situation so are able to co-operate fully with any subsequent investigations.

If the remains prove to be ancient, then the FLO will advise on how to proceed. It is also important to remember that even if there is evidence that leads you to believe the remains are indeed ancient,

the removal of any discovered remains need to be carried out in a proper manner usually by way of a professional detailed archaeological excavation.

Some burials, particularly cremations consist of organic as well as burnt material and are not necessarily obvious at first: important evidence to be preserved in order to establish the circumstances of the burial.

Trevor Austin



Insurance 'Trial Membership'

As you are aware the NCMD, along with its insurance partner Endsleigh Insurance, offer a facility whereby prospective members of a club can 'trial' the hobby before making a decision as

to whether they wish to join the club and be covered by our insurance.

This has proved popular with a number of clubs; however I thought it a good opportunity to

remind clubs of the procedure for qualification for the 'trial' period.

The club needs to ensure that the prospective member wishing to participate in the 'trial' have their details forwarded to me along

with the date the trial is to begin.

The trial period is for two months or two outings, whichever is the greater.

Trevor Austin

Show and Conference in Essex

Tony Carter treasurer of the Saffron Walden Searchers MDC now has a date and venue for his show. The show and conference will take place on Sunday August 17 in the clubroom of Saffron Walden Town Football Club between 9am-6pm.

The club has ample free parking with bar and hot food available, the morning will be displays with a probable competition of displays and hopefully some speakers. The afternoon will be a conference entitled: 'The 1996 treasure act, is it fair to detectorists?'

Detectorists are invited to speak at this conference, it is a platform for you to air your views, so please use it.

There will be a £3 a head charge for visitors and under 14's will be free, but anyone taking part, bringing displays, speaking etc will be free as will dealers who wish to display their wares.

All wishing to take part please phone Tony on 01799 505836.

NCMD policy statement on the recording of finds data with third parties

There have been some questions asked recently by members about the accuracy of finds recording. It would seem that the PAS are refusing to record items from finders who submit find-spot data of less than 6 figures. I therefore thought it appropriate to remind members of the NCMD policy on finds recording and the finder's duty to the landowner.

The NCMD recognises that landowners in England and Wales* hold a greater legal title to all non-Treasure items found by metal detection or other means on their land. In doing so, NCMD members need to recognise that they have a duty of care to ensure that they uphold this at all times.

This duty also includes an intent to ensure that before seeking to record any finds and find spots with third parties they have full permission from the landowner/tenant/occupier to do so and then only to an accuracy

and detail to which all relevant parties feel comfortable.

Issues surrounding the potential publication of findspots data, such as on the Internet and elsewhere as well as the possible wider use of such data by third party recipients should be considered in discussions with landowners. Where necessary, recording organisations such as the Portable Antiquities Scheme should be informed of any required restrictions on publication at the time of recording and should make provision for this information on recording forms and/or receipts.

Where a landowner/tenant/occupier has entered into an agri-environment Scheme agreement after 2008 it is conditional that all finds discovered whilst metal detecting are made available for recording by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Detectorists are reminded to follow at all times the terms and conditions laid down in the voluntary Code of Practice

for Responsible Metal Detecting when searching such land.

*The position in Scotland is different whereby all objects whose original owner or rightful heirs are unknown are the property of the Crown and can be claimed by the Crown. This means that neither finders nor landowners have any title to the material although the finder is normally eligible for a full market value 'ex-gratia' reward if the Crown claims the object. The Treasure Trove Unit (www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk) will normally require findspots details, but there is no requirement for finders to obtain landowner's permission to record this information. NCMD members have a duty of care to ensure that they comply with Scotland's Treasure Trove Laws at all times.

Appendix D to the NCMD Constitution (AGM June 2012).

Trevor Austin

MD Show Cancellation announcement



We regret to announce that the Metal Detecting Show schedule for Saturday 31 May to 1 June 2014 has had to be cancelled.

This is very unfortunate as considerable effort had been put into the event and whilst a number of leading suppliers had booked to attend there was insufficient support from organisations we needed to make this happen.

It has now become clear that the show would not be of sufficient size and scope to achieve our usual level of presentation and therefore would not meet the expectation of our visitors.

As a result the decision has been taken to cancel the show, this does not affect any of the existing or new events planned by Meridienne Exhibitions.

Treasure Trove in Scotland: A Code of Practice

In issue 14 of *Digging Deep*, I gave details of the ongoing review of the 2008 Code of Practice which currently governs Scotland's Treasure Trove System.

On 4 March 2014, Committee members of the NCMD Scottish Region met with Andrew Brown, Solicitor to the QLTR whose office is vested with the responsibility of reviewing the current Code.

The key aim of the meeting was to establish current progress with the review, and some of the main points highlighted during the discussion were as follows:

1. Valuations of finds: The new Code will now allow for a range of valuations to be submitted to finders to better inform them in the event that they may wish to submit an appeal.
2. It is being recommended that museums should credit finders of treasure trove items on request. This will be entirely voluntary, and those finders who choose to remain anonymous will have their wishes respected.

3. Where two or more museums are competing for acquisition of a treasure trove item, the finder will be asked if he/she has a preference.

4. Membership of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) is being increased by two in order to enhance the panel's archaeological expertise.

The fully revised Code is to be submitted for approval to the next meeting of SAFAP on 27 March 2014, and thereafter, to the Scottish Government for approval. It is expected that the Code will then be published on the following sites:

<http://www.qltr.gov.uk/content/treasure-trove>

<http://www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk>

Alastair Hackett

OBITUARY – JEAN JUBB

It is sad to report on the sudden and untimely death just a few days before Christmas of Mrs Jean Jubb wife of Malcolm Jubb. Jean was a long-time member of the NCMD Yorkshire Region, a personal friend and a member of the Down to Earth MDC in Doncaster.

For many years Jean was a regular face at rallies as she accompanied Malcolm around the country representing Whites Electronics. Jean's dream was to metal detect abroad, especially Spain, she managed to fulfil her dream and they would travel there each year in their motorhome, a trip they did for nearly 20 years detecting numerous beaches; she also travelled to America where they regularly detected the beaches along the Florida coast.

What many did not know was that Jean was also a proficient marathon runner in her earlier years winning many medals from events around the country and abroad.

Jean's happy smiling face will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She leaves a Son Andrew a Daughter Louise and two grandchildren. Jean was cremated at Doncaster Crematorium on the 16 January 2014.

Trevor Austin
NCMD General Secretary



More Key-Stage 2 Outreach – The Tudors

As with other visits to local schools, in previous years when the Romans was the topic, the Tudors offers the chance to show pupils finds from the Tudor period fitting in nicely with the National Curriculum Key-Stage 2.

During my visit to Morley Place Junior School Conisborough, once again the pupils were enthralled by the opportunity to handle actual coins and artefacts from the period, helping them to relate to the subject.

Beginning with a PowerPoint presentation covering the Tudor dynasty and moving on to Tudor markets and trading, gave me the opportunity to introduce a variety of

period coins to the pupils which also illustrated the various monarchs through the coin portrait. Tudor clothing was also popular especially the footwear and foot patten's.

However one of the most popular pieces was the bollock dagger, which was shown around the class rather than allowing the pupils to handle the object, for obvious reasons, although for this lesson we renamed it a kidney dagger.

Pictured are the winners of the quiz, both of whom chose Minelab caps as prizes.

I am pleased to see that other clubs have also taken up the challenge.

Trevor Austin



Launch of the 2014 PAS & Treasure Reports

I had been invited to this event by Dr. Michael Lewis as one of the NCMD representatives on the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG). NCMD Chairman Steve Critchley and General Secretary Trevor Austin had also been invited but were unable to attend. I was thus the sole NCMD representative. The event was held on Thursday 16 January at British Museum at 8.30am.

I met Dan Golbourn of Treasure Hunting outside the museum. We were not allowed in until 8.30 and eventually made our way up the main steps to the Central Saloon where we were greeted by Michael Lewis and some much needed coffee. Dr. Sam Moorhead, a Roman coins expert was helping to set out two of the four big finds on display, a rare Anglo Saxon hoard of silver jewellery and coins from Norfolk and an intriguing 2nd century Roman hoard of silver jewellery and coins found in Knutsford by detectorist Alan Bates. Alan had sensibly stopped detecting after finding 12 silver denarii and called in the Cheshire FLO. Teams of archaeologists then excavated the site finding 89 more denarii, two copper alloy sestertii, three silver-gilt trumpet brooches, two rosettes and two finger rings with red stones.

Two other recent finds were being

put out on display. One was a Roman 3rd century copper alloy *balsamarium* (vessel) found at Petham in Kent by a French day tripper on a rally. Unlike the three other finds it was not Treasure. The landowners have lent the object to Canterbury Museum. The last item was a silver ewer, a large jug made from a kilo of metal. It bore four hallmarks that dated it to 1635-6 and was found by three detectorists at Kingston Russell in Dorset. Stuart McLeod, a primary school headteacher and a novice detectorist picked up the signal and called over his much more experienced colleagues, Stephen Tharp, a retired chef and Shawn Miller, a joiner. All three carefully removed the object from the ground. Stuart believed that the object might be the original FA Cup, stolen from a Birmingham shop in 1895. The hallmarks proved otherwise. Dorchester Museum hopes to acquire it. Vessels such as the ewer were often paired with a silver salver. The three detectorists, who will share any reward payable, plan to see if this is the case with their find. Stuart, Shawn and their wives were all at the event as were the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Sykes.

Each of the four finds was presided over by a specialist

academic. Rob Philpott from Liverpool Museum handled the Knutsford Hoard, while Tim Pestell from Norwich Castle Museum supervised the Norfolk Hoard which consisted mainly of Edmund pennies. The *balsamarium* was in the safe hands of Craig Bowen from Canterbury Museum. Dora Thornton, from the British Museum was in charge of the ewer.

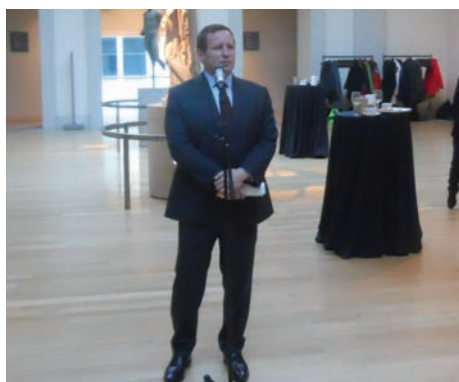
By 9.00am most of the guests, delegates and VIPs had arrived and the four displays were complete. A number of journalists, including Maev Kennedy from the Guardian, Jack Malvern from the Times and Hannah Furness from the Telegraph had also joined the party paying particular attention to the four finds on display. At 9.10 Ed Vaizey, the Minister for Culture arrived closely followed by Helen Goodman, MP for Bishop Auckland and also the Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport.

Justin Deekes, arrived representing FID and across the saloon and at the other end of the architectural spectrum stood Dr. Mike Heyworth, Director of the CBA, many of whose members, it has been suggested are perhaps not avid supporters of metal detecting or the Treasure Act and its reward

system. It is hoped that they will offer better support for the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the NCMD. A rather more detector friendly face was that of Professor Norman Palmer CBE QC, a barrister specialising in cultural property law, the former chair of the TVC and now Legal Adviser to the NCMD.

The BM and PAS hierarchy have long felt that it is politically expedient to appear neutral in any perceived conflict between archaeology and detecting. Neil MacGregor, Dr. Roger Bland, Head of PAS, Michael Lewis, his deputy and Ian Richardson, Treasure Registrar made a politically neutral beeline for Mr. and Mrs. Sykes. Landowners are, after all, apolitical in this context. The Minister and Shadow Minister were also introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Sykes.

I decided it was now my turn and introduced myself to the Dorset couple. They were very pleased and excited by the discovery of the ewer as well as the many other interesting finds made on their land. They could not understand why many other local landowners did not permit detecting on their land. "Welcome to the world of *archi-politics*" I thought, while telling the couple that the NCMD was doing all it could to get more



landowners on board and that the story of the ewer's discovery by three detectorists who were clearly a credit to the hobby would provide useful publicity.

It was now time to speak to Mike Heyworth. He had, to be fair to him, made an early start to the day catching the 6.00am train from York and arriving at Kings Cross at 8.15. I reassured him that the NCMD was now familiar with the contents of the 2013 ELS and HLS Handbooks, which was a polite way of telling him that if any of his members started feeding incorrect anti-detecting information to landowners who had ELS or HLS agreements that the NCMD would be able and pleased to put the matter right.

At 9.25 we were all called to attention for the two speeches. Neil MacGregor came on first, praising the PAS and Treasure Act and confirming that the BM is committed to the long term success of the Scheme, which was internationally envied but not emulated. Ed Vaizey also praised the PAS and all who worked in the Scheme. He said that the four finds on display were fascinating and jokingly pointed out that the Knutsford Hoard had been found in Chancellor George Osborne's own Constituency. A few more finds like that might help pay off the National debt!

Ed Vaizey gave a personal thank you to Trevor Austin for his work

on the TVC over the last ten years, and apologised that Trevor could not be present.

After the speeches it was time for more mingling and lobbying. I managed to introduce myself to Ed Vaizey and told him everyone should bear in mind how many ring-pulls, lumps of lead and shotgun cartridges had to be dug up in the pursuit of one entry on the PAS database. Justin Deekes then joined us and Ed asked whether he would be able to preside over a merger of our organisations. I replied that there was no reason why FID members should not join NCMD so long as they adhered to its Code of Conduct and paid their subs!

I had a quick word with Roger Bland, hoping to extract one or two titbits relating to the review of the Treasure Act by the DCMS and the vacant position for a Finder's Representative on the TVC with a view to passing the information on to the NCMD senior management.

I could see Helen Goodman, the Shadow Minister talking with Dr. Barrie Cook and Dr. Gareth Williams, from the BM's Coins and Medals Department. I explained to Helen that as a Labour politician she should bear in mind that detecting is mainly a working class hobby which costs most of its participants a fair bit of money and that 95% of finds were post 1700 and not recordable. In addition to that the return of lost

property, in particular rings and military medals, is another important and frequent benefit of detecting.

Barrie Cook then told me that he had some of my coins and he would talk to me later. I had no idea what he was talking about but it was now after 10.00am and I had a chance to talk to Jack Malvern of The Times and Hannah Furness of the Telegraph media group before they left. They had been impressed by the event and by the Dorset detectorists in particular. I told them what I had said to Helen Goodman and added that the NCMD were concerned about the spreading of contaminated Green Waste and were playing a prominent part in the fight against Heritage Crime. Silver ewers and Roman hoards were not an everyday find!

By 10.20 most people started leaving. Barrie Cook came up to me and told me that 25 silver pennies had recently come to light in the Coins Department and he had realised that they had been from the Reigate Hoard of 6705 hammered coins I had found in 1990. I had told him back in 1992 after the bulk of the hoard had been handed over to Glendinings Auctioneers that there appeared to be a number of pennies missing. I collected 25 pennies of Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV and Henry V from the coin department and showed them to the Dorset detectorists and their

wives. Shaun had found a considerable number of hammered coins over the years but Stuart, the novice, had never found any. He agreed that the Kingston Russell Ewer was a fairly good compensation prize.

The event ended and we all went home. The next day's Times carried a six column article by Jack Malvern which concentrated mainly on the 9th century Anglo Saxon Hoard from Norfolk. His article also pointed out that in addition to the 990 Treasure finds included in the 2011 Treasure Report, that there were almost 74,000 items in the 2012 PAS Report, including the *balsamarium* from Kent.

Two thirds of Maev Kennedy's article in the Guardian was devoted to the Dorset ewer. The remainder of her article featured the three other finds and Neil MacGregor's speech.

My only concern over events such as this and their subsequent write ups in the national press is that they could well give the misleading impression that every time a detector beeps an object of antiquity and maybe of some financial value will be unearthed. But the event was, after all, about the PAS and Treasure rather than metal detecting.

Roger Mintey



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



MEMBER OF: SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE

Dear Individual Member

Your membership of the National Council for Metal Detecting expires on the 31 March 2014. We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

Subscription for 2014/15 for Individual members on the Central Register, £8-00.

(Please note subscription for individual members of a NCMD region may vary and individual members are advised to contact their Regional Secretary)

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All cheques should be made payable to the National Council for Metal Detecting and returned to the address below.

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Please ensure that all information we hold on record is correct. If you have already sent your subscription for the forthcoming year, please ignore this reminder.

Trevor Austin, General Secretary



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Delivering the message

The Midlands Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs, the Midlands region of the NCMD, was recently asked if they could provide a talk at a primary school in the area. The request came from a teacher who is related to one of the committee members.

For many years the Coventry Heritage Detector Society (CHDS) has delivered talks on many detecting related subjects to various clubs and social groups in the area and as I am now not only the current Chairman of the CHDS, but also a committee member of the Midlands Federation I was asked by the Chairman if I was interested in helping to provide a school talk. As a long established club we have delivered talks to schools in the past and they have always proven to be very popular, however, this request was a little different.

The usual format has always been to give a talk showing various items that have been found on club digs. In the case of schools, the talk has usually been followed by a detecting session on the school playing fields which of course the children have enjoyed immensely. We often previously planted some items of interest for the children to find to add to the interest.

The difference this time was that the request was for a talk on the Roman occupation of Britain. Apparently this is a part of the current curriculum for 7 to 8 year olds. John Wells, Chairman of the Midlands Federation, knowing that I had some presentation skills, asked if I was interested in working on the project with him. Naturally I was interested as the club has always been keen to support the local community and promote the public image of our hobby.

There was a very tight deadline, but we set about the task immediately and devoted a lot of time to prepare what we thought would be an excellent presentation. As it turned out, the task was a mammoth one as finding images and film clips etc. wasn't as easy as we had at first

envisaged. We also found that a lot of research was needed as whatever we presented to a group of school children had to be factually accurate.

We decided that although the talk was about the Roman occupation, we needed to approach the subject with a leaning towards the detecting aspect.

After several hours of work and some comical moments with the outtakes we produced what we considered to be an excellent show. We didn't have a lot of time to rehearse, but we felt that in true theatrical tradition it would be alright on the night, or more accurately, the day.

With our Powerpoint presentation safely loaded onto a memory stick we were ready to go. On the day, we were joined by Pam Finch, the mother of the teacher who had requested the talk, and Ray Simpson another club member.

We had invited Ray as he has a very extensive collection of Roman coins and artefacts and he was prepared to bring some of them along to add further interest to the talk. We were also equipped with a superb reproduction Roman military helmet provided by Mike Longfield of Midland Detectors. This has always proven popular at the exhibitions we have organised in the past.

Once in the classroom we were welcomed by the children and we were immediately impressed by their manners and good behaviour.

The presentation started, with a recorded narration by John. At intervals we stopped the slides to explain Latin names and answer any questions that arose. The children were enthralled, especially by film clips of battling Romans and Ancient Britons and



The slide show in progress

also by gladiators fighting to the death. When we reached the part about communal Roman toilets there was a gasp of horror!

After the main presentation John talked about Roman numerals and we were surprised to see how much they knew about the subject.



John demonstrates Roman numerals

Next came the unveiling of the Roman helmet which heralded yet another appreciative gasp from the children.



Children love to see the Roman helmet

Each child was allowed to closely examine Roman coins, brooches and jewellery and each child had a photo taken wearing the Roman helmet.



Examining Roman coins and brooches

Finally John demonstrated one or two metal detectors and a pinpoint probe.

To finish there was a question and answer session and probably needless to say with children of their age it went on for quite sometime.



John demonstrates metal detectors

Several readers may be wondering what all of this has to do with our hobby and I shall now answer that question. The Club have, over a period of some 35 years, enjoyed permission to detect on some prime sites throughout Warwickshire and Leicestershire. Many of the sites that we have gained permission upon have been owned by farmers and landowners who have attended one of our talks. Many sites have been acquired after introductions at school fetes where we have given demonstrations. The schools that we have visited are usually in rural areas and of course, as they say, there is method in our madness. The children go home and tell their parents what a great day they have had.

So there you have it. One of our secrets is now out. By putting something back into the rural community we gain a lot of prime farmland sites and we are welcomed back time and time again.

Following the success of our first new style talk we intend to follow up by developing others, some aimed at adults as there are many clubs and societies always on the look out for speakers to provide talks. In the past the CHDS has delivered talks to Young Farmers associations, Women's Institutes, Rotary Clubs and various others.

I can only recommend that other clubs try this approach to gaining permissions as it really does work, but of course, not on our patch!

Alan Charlish
Chairman CHDS

SMA Rally Report

A rally held on 150 acres of farmland adjacent to the Fosse Way near Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire took place on Sunday 23 March.

The SMA Rally organised by the dedicated committee of The Midlands Federation of Metal Detector Clubs, headed by Chairman, John Wells, raised £3,000 for the SMA charity. A further £300 was raised from the sale of refreshments and another £200 from a raffle held on the day. Total £3,500.

The weather was cold and at times wet, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the visiting detectorists some of whom had

travelled many miles to attend the event. Some were rewarded with finds of hammered coinage, the best of these being a gold half crown of James I found by Gary Tomlinson from Nottingham.



Gary's Gold James 1 Half Crown



A lady detectorist using a Garrett Ace found this medieval purse bar



She also found a fine example of a pilgrim's ampulla



Gary Tomlinson



Another notable find was this rather bent medieval gold ring.

Many items were recorded for the PAS by the two FLO's who were in attendance on the day. 489 finds were shown to Teresa Gilmore, who is responsible for Staffordshire and West Midlands, and Angie Bolton whose responsibility is Worcestershire and Warwickshire.



Teresa Gilmore and Angie Bolton admiring Gary Tomlinson's James I gold half crown

Perhaps surprisingly, from a site so close to the Fosse, not much was found of Roman origin, just one or two brooches and a few bronze



Midlands Federation Chairman John Wells counts money raised on the day

coins. However, the day was enjoyed by all and a very worthwhile charity benefited from the funds raised.

The SMA team responsible was headed up by Mandy Lane. She was delighted with the outcome and the good behaviour and friendliness of those that attended certainly helped to showcase the hobby in a good light.

The rally was heralded a major success and already there is talk of making yet more farmland available for future events.

Many thanks to those that attended and for the way that everyone contributed on the day.

Alan Charlish
Midlands Federation (NCMD)

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Battle of Bannockburn



The Bannockburn 700 Battlefield Archaeological Digs are being undertaken by GUARD Archaeology on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland, in collaboration with Glasgow University's Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, the National Trust for Scotland, Stirling Council and the BBC.

This has been one of the longest running projects that SARG MDC, based in Bonnybridge, has been involved in since day one of the project. The Bannockburn Project has taken over 18 months with over ten detecting surveys, including the 'Big Dig' with 250 local volunteers taking part in the mass community archaeology project. The final survey took place on Saturday 15 February 2014, near Skeoch Farm, Stirling. This survey involved over 50 detectorists from various areas of Scotland, including SARG members. On the day, GUARD Archaeology announced that the most significant items found to date relating to the battle, had been uncovered by SARG at a previous survey. All of which will be revealed in the upcoming TV Documentary, filmed by the BBC on Bannockburn to commemorate 700th Anniversary of the Battle.

On the morning of Saturday 15 February, the final battle lines of Transects were laid out and the detectorists stepped forth, working their way through the field bagging any finds and pinning a yellow flag beside them ready for GUARD to GPS the area. Hundreds of finds were recovered on the day with a few interesting battle related items, all to be revealed soon!

Neil Oliver and Dr Tony Pollard, will present the programme which will go out in 2014 to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the battle. This is the first time that the duo have been reunited since the BBC series 'Two Men in a Trench'.

Dr Tony Pollard, Director, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow was only

too happy to answer a couple of questions for the Digging Deep.

Question 1: The use of multiple investigations on the Bannockburn project to understand different aspects of the Battle, how successful has the Metal Detecting Method been over The last 18 months?

Dr Tony Pollard: *"The metal detecting has taken place over large tracts of the landscape and there is no doubt at all that this would not have been possible without the efforts of volunteer detectorists. A lot of thought went into to where to detect and aside from appearing to be filmed this is largely where my input has been. Bannockburn was always intended to be a community project but I have to say now that it is over I am really happy how well that side of things went - with the detecting and the use of volunteer diggers. Bannockburn was never going to be easy but it would have been impossible without the time and effort that so many people put into it. This is the first time that a Scottish medieval battlefield has been subject to intensive archaeological survey and I think it will stand as an important example of a multidisciplinary project where different techniques, including detecting, topographic survey, geophysics and environmental survey have all come together to provide a never before possible impression of the battle and its archaeological legacy. As to the specifics, important discoveries have been made but until the programmes are broadcast in June, I cannot discuss them further."*

Question 2: Your own personal involvement over the last 18 months filming Tony, what has been your highlight that you will take from the project?

Dr Tony Pollard: *"Personally there have been a lot of ups and downs in this project. When TV is involved I always find that the stakes are that much higher and there is*



added pressure. On wet days when nothing much was turning up it has to be said that it could be a fairly miserable experience, but then again there would always be people out there putting in the effort come rain or shine. I think the times when there seemed an army of people out there, all of them committed to the project, that I enjoyed the most (the Big Dig where the local community threw itself into the project and the last day of detecting come to mind as high points). Finding stuff was good too!"

I also managed to catch up with BBC Scotland Producer / Director Folko Boermans, who was only too happy to answer some questions on 'The Quest for Bannockburn' for Digging Deep.

Question 1: Can you give us an update on when the TV programme is due to launch?

Folko Boermans: *"The programmes are due to go out on the 2nd and 9th of June on BBC2 but this might still change"*

Question 2: How did you find the experience working with so many volunteers who were pivotal to

helping make the programme?

Folko Boermans: *"This has been a truly collaborative project and I have been blown away by the commitment and passion of all the volunteers! We had a brilliant team working with the metal detecting groups, an army of diggers, school children, Operation Nightingale and of course Clanranald"*.

The project has been an incredible privilege to be involved with, meeting some amazing volunteers on the way. The relationship with the detectorists and all the staff at GUARD Archaeology, has been a credit to everyone involved.

The New Bannockburn Heritage Centre opened on March 1 2014, with an innovative attraction with state-of-the-art 3D battle simulation that transforms the way visitors of all ages learn about Bannockburn. The cost of the new visitor centre is over £9 million.

For more information:
Bannockburn Heritage Centre
www.battleofbannockburn.com

By Lesley Sleith
Chair Scottish Region

MEETING DATE

PAAG 16th May meeting

Next NCMD meeting will be on the 29th June

The NCMD Yorkshire Region AGM

Trevor Austin

The Yorkshire Region held its AGM on 2 March which included the regions Find of the Year competition and usual raffle.

Dr Kevin Leahy was kind enough to judge the competition once again with help from his wife Diane. There was a good turnout as usual with around 50 members attending and 34 of those staying on and going out detecting afterwards.

There was the usual raffle which consisted of some good prizes including a GPS, Pinpointer, books, a huge hamper which took up two baskets, cash, a couple of

aluminium coin cases, and the usual selection of smaller prizes.

The find of the year competition consisted of the usual 30 trophies covering 10 categories. In addition was a trophy for the best showcase won by the South Yorkshire MDC, best coin won with a NE Coast gold stater also from the South Yorkshire MDC, best artefact winner was a Celtic bronze beaded torc from Down to Earth MDC and the Mike Longfield trophy, for the club or individual who has contributed most to the region over the last 12 months, was won by

Barry Williams on behalf of the Down to Earth/Hoyland clubs for their charity work.

The next meeting is the usual first

Sunday of the month 6 April at the Foresters Arms Sherburn in Elmet, start time 9-30am detecting afterwards site permitting.



Philippines Aid

Filipina Anzale

During the recent storms in the Philippines the NCMD Yorkshire Region gave a cash donation to families living in the troubled areas. I was pleased to receive a thank you from the families we helped.

'To father-in-law of Arminda Miguel Large thank you so much for your help to my family and most specially to Metal Detecting Association, thank you very much I wish all the blessings to your association, god bless you all'.

GET IN TOUCH

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