

Digging deep

NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 24

STOP PRESS:

The PAS/Treasure reports have been printed in the current Treasure Hunting magazine (January issue) including a statement that the main metal detecting organisations have endorsed the new PAS Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS STATEMENT IS INACCURATE. The NCMD has deferred any decision to endorse this Code for reasons that will be made clear in the next edition of Digging Deep.

NEWS

Conference report: 20 Years of Treasure

Yorkshire Museum, 11 October 2017



As part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) celebration of '20 Years of Treasure' and, combined with their regional outreach work, this year's conference was held at York and was attended by myself and John Rigby on behalf of the NCMD. Interestingly, the NCMD was not invited to speak, possibly because the organisers had memories of last year's event when I delivered a paper on 'The future of archaeology and metal detecting', the content of which may not have been to every archaeologist's liking.

As is the norm for such events, speakers are invited to present papers related to the conference theme. It has to be noted that there was very little representation by, or on behalf of, the key part of the Treasure process, the finders. That aside the conference covered the current situation, funding and the future including the pending review of the Treasure Act 1996 that is somewhat delayed in the political process.

Following the registration, coffees and some of the networking that goes pre-conference, we took our seats for the introduction by Michael Lewis, Head of PAS. Michael spoke about the purpose of the Act supported by a range of data showing how over 600+ finds had been acquired by 100+ museums and the benefit that can

bring in terms of local engagement, increased visitor numbers and many associated benefits. He also discussed how the increase in declared items hadn't been matched by an increase in either donation (landowner/finder), funding (public sector cuts) or other acquisition routes such as grants. There was some acknowledgment that the system can often be very slow due to operational delays at various stages, mostly ensuring all the paperwork is in place or obtaining funding grants.

My interpretation was that collectively, we know the system can work well but often doesn't and the Treasure Act review will provide the opportunity to improve the process, maybe by creating the

Treasure Coroner post the NCMD have been talking about since 2009, alongside amending the definition and wording of 'Treasure'.

Session 1. Chaired by Rob Webley (PAS Explorers Project Officer) who presented the first speaker, Ian Richardson who is the Treasure Registrar, British Museum/PAS. Ian was able to present a range of statistics to support his paper the most notable being that there were 1,121 Treasure cases in 2016 showing a marked increase in awareness of what is Treasure and people being responsible. Some 40% of Treasure cases are acquired, however the pressure on funding and the increase in reporting doesn't balance out. This led to discussion about donations



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by landowner/finder of which there were 140 in 2016.

The often debated role of the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) then fell under the spotlight and other 'reward' opportunities were examined. Very often, with the advent of social media particularly, it is easy for a finder to find a random individual that will say said Treasure item is worth £XXXX. Human nature then raises the finder's expectations in an almost journalistic sensationalism role. As Ian rightly said the TVC provides a reward based on saleroom-realised prices not a retail price. As most are aware, anything is only worth what somebody is willing to pay, be that house, car or Treasure item. However that led nicely into how 'value' is perceived and 'reward' could also be perceived.

There is also a pending issue with the rolling 300 years or older dating of Treasure. To date we roll back to 1717 and anything pre-dating 1717 containing at least 10% precious metal is Treasure under the current definition. However in 10 years' time that will be pre-1727 and owners of objects will need to have evidence that their property pre-dates the rolling act date. The suggestion is to 'fix' the date, a process that will probably form part of the review.

We then moved on to the second speaker, Anna Booth, Finds Liaison Officer, Suffolk County Council who was the FLO first contacted by Dave Crisp after he found the Frome Hoard. Dave's actions are an exemplary example of realising the significance of what had been found and stopping his excavation. The consequences of Dave's self-control and subsequent actions in notifying his FLO and a professional excavation taking place not only led to greater academic knowledge but also to Dave being 'rewarded' in both financial and non-financial terms by being held up as an example of responsible detecting and perceived as a reward to his conscious and personal wellbeing.

The follow-on from Frome was that the opportunity was taken to engage public interest with local conferences, local media, and national media and also aid the fundraising campaign. Dave was always engaged with the events and became 'The Face of Frome'. Inevitably when good practice is highlighted there are examples of bad practice, and this seems multiplied thanks to social media

and self-broadcasting channels such as YouTube. It isn't difficult to find poor examples of hoard recovery and it has to be questioned if those finders should be treated in the same way, or rewarded in the same way, especially when their apparent desire for 'likes' exceeds their conscious decision to stop.

At the end of each session there were opportunities for questions, however with roving microphones and people not speaking clearly into them in a large venue these were often difficult to hear for many.

Session 2 was chaired by Katherine Baxter, Curator of Archaeology, Leeds Museums and Galleries and covered the issue and opportunities for funding of acquisitions.

The first speaker was Penny Bull, Senior Programme's Manager, Art Fund, who highlighted the wide variety of funding and grants networks that are available to acquiring Museums. Many such sources are from philanthropists who have donated substantial funds into a range of trust funds, programmes and grants. As part of the 'Treasure Plus' scheme The Art Fund has also looked at various and innovative ways to display Treasure items ranging from 'floating' display cases through to 3D images that can be rotated and viewed on a screen. Such things may seem alien to a generation brought up to viewing artefacts in glass cases in a Museum but with the advances in technology and a changing audience the prospect of a Virtual Museum can't be too far away. More about the Treasure Plus scheme can be found at www.artfund.org/supporting-museums/treasure-plus

As well as applying for grants alternative funding streams were examined such as crowd-funding and how media can often be used to engage the public and encourage donations. The second paper was presented by Andrew Woods, Senior Curator, York Museums Trust who discussed the Wold Newton Hoard that was lifted whole and intact by the finder David Blakey who was not in a position to leave it in situ so he did the next best thing. Retaining the hoard intact, in its container meant that further excavation of the container was in context and took place at the British Museum laboratories. Andrew then went on to discuss how creating a theme to the hoard had engaged the public both locally and nationally. To quote from the PAS



website: "Following its declaration as Treasure, the PAS worked with the Yorkshire Museum to ensure the Hoard could be acquired and kept within a public collection, thus allowing the possibility of further study with the potential to reshape our understanding of a crucial period in the history of York, Yorkshire and Europe."

The relationship between York and Constantine the Great is well documented and further ignited local interest to the point that 50% of the funding was raised locally which combined with two further grants, made acquisition possible. An interesting question from the audience was how much leverage can be created that adds to the inherent 'value' of the find. The response was that there was great value in the academic and research knowledge. It has value in creating partnerships, and increasing footfall to Museums boosts both their income and also the wider local economy.

At lunch we had opportunity to visit the excellent galleries and displays at the Yorkshire Museum.

Session 3 was chaired by Helen Geake, PAsT Explorers Project Officer. Natalie Buy, Curator of Archeology, York Museums Trust was the first speaker who discussed 'From Stories to Science: Interpreting and Displaying Treasure'. Her paper examined two local Treasure cases and how

they were used to add value, both within the local community and into wider research and science. The first case was the Escrick ring, an artefact so unique it has both intrigued and baffled the scientific and archaeological communities to the point that an entire conference was dedicated to this endearing yet confusing artefact. It was easy to see evidence of a tangible link that provided much more interest and value than the £35,000 reward. The same ring had also made an appearance on BBC televisions 'Antiques Roadshow' and Ogdens, a local York jeweller, had attempted to replicate it. So much was learnt about techniques and craftsmanship and lots of local and national interest generated.

Natalie then went on to discuss a silver gilt boar badge worn by a supporter of Richard III which had been through the Treasure process and was acquired thanks to the generosity of the Richard III Society and had been discovered at around the same time that Richard III surfaced from beneath a car park in my adopted City of Leicester. As part of the 'tug of war' over his final resting place the image of the boar badge was used to drive publicity and interest ... however Richard was interred in the city in which he was found.

Our next speaker was Tim Pestell, Curator of Archaeology, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery.

Tim also sits on the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) and was able to give a very entertaining and alternative view of acquisition policy, viewed from a unique position in that Norfolk produces more Treasure than anywhere else. Tim's forthright view was not to "acquire for acquisitions sake" but to look at Treasure in a different way that could be judged differently from "just gold or silver" and to consider intellectual value, importance and local knowledge that could be gained. As he highlighted "How many medieval finger rings do you really need?" His suggestion was that curatorial skills should be used more wisely rather than just "applying the law because it's the law". Deciding the stage at which this happens, how Treasure is defined and how it works practically will surely form a cornerstone of the forthcoming Treasure Act review.

Following a short break for refreshments it was time for Michael Lewis to chair the final session.

Our last speaker was Mike Heyworth, Director, Council for British Archaeology, who often speaks at such conferences to give an archaeological view and bring some balance to proceedings. As ever he started well, speaking of his support for the PAS and responsible detecting and called

for a better definition, within the Treasure Act, between responsible and irresponsible detecting. His suggestion was that the Treasure Act be re-named the Antiquities Act, removing the focus from "gold and silver" and onto a wider definition. His slides included the infamous Roman lead ingot from the Bonham's catalogue complete with "estimate of £40-£60,000", he neglected to mention that it didn't sell, yet challenged that it could/should fall under the Act.

There was a passing mention of rallies and other examples of "bad practice" although there was some acknowledgement that circumstances can be very variable when a Treasure find is made at weekends in terms of support available. The paper then moved on to acquisitions and pressures on finances caused by conservation and research ... maybe a suggestion that this could be funded from rewards? Pure speculation on my part but, knowing how the consummate politician works, if you ask for £5 million and only get £2 million it is still a success, so make the wish list long! The image of a small child emptying their piggy bank "to fund a detecting find" was a fairly low blow in most attendee's candid opinions.

Mike then raised the eternal 'Archaeological Code of Practice'

where the professionals don't get a reward for Treasure. Interestingly it was Mike who was very keen that "Detectorists could be Archaeologists" at the 2016 conference. He seems to forget one group are paid professionals and the other group are volunteers funding their own equipment, going to places few would go and making the most amazing discoveries for the benefit of the nation. Perhaps he has a vested interest in designating detectorists as archaeologists in order that he can exploit that perception in order to influence the forthcoming Treasure Act review with a view to introducing mandatory controls on the hobby ... who knows?

On a more positive note was the support for the ideas within the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and a specific Coroner for Treasure, based at the British Museum. With Finds Liaison Officers providing the administrative support it would be almost cost neutral, making the FLO role more secure and speeding up the process, something the NCMD have sought for some time.

We then moved on to questions for the panel. As earlier the acoustics and microphone system made many difficult to hear. However there was lively debate about what happens to Treasure. One of finders' biggest gripes is: "It just goes in a drawer". However that is countered

by availability for research, possibly in ways that have yet to be created such as the recently discovered methods of analysing DNA.

Across the wider museums' services, acquisition, conservation and storage are a huge issue. The idea of having less, stored in different ways such as digital, is a very real prospect. Already, pre-development archaeology only archives a small sample. Linked to that is the idea that some regions could be 'Centres of Excellence' for the study of particular eras and finds and that such knowledge could be shared and more flexibility introduced.

Finally, and most telling, was a comment about valuations from Helen Geake who said "In a room of finders most will say finds are undervalued and in a room of curators most will say finds are overvalued ... so the TVC must be getting it about right!"

The conference closed with a suggestion that it be in a different region in 2018. In the meantime please be aware that the Treasure Act review will take place sooner rather than later and it will be your opportunity to comment and influence the outcome ... don't remain silent or leave it to others to do it for you.

John Maloney

Emergency SMS

Could a scenario like this happen to you?

So there I was, one dull wet day in November, detecting on a large new farm that covered over 500 acres, about 20 fields in all. The owners had given me a map of their fields which seemed to go on for ever, and pointed out a hardstanding where I could park which would put me in the middle of this large area, and told me I could come and go as I liked.

After a bit of lunch I tried to phone home but there was no signal as normal. I was probably five fields away from the car when I fell and twisted my ankle badly. There was no way I could walk back uphill to my car, with three sets of gates to climb. I needed help and with no signal, not even an emergency 999, it looked very bad. But I was lucky, if you can call it that: I had signed up for the Emergency SMS

service last year and I could text a 999 call to get help.

A few months ago I went to a Sports and Recreation Alliance (SARA) meeting in London as a representative of the NCMD. One of the day's items was a talk from the Inland Search and Rescue who told us about this SMS service, and how one day it could help to save a life. So if there is no signal or not enough for a call and no 999 service, there might be enough to send a text for help.

It's easy to register your phone in advance; there are no forms to be filled in, and it only takes about a minute of your time. So just text 999 and send register, and a minute later you will receive a text back thanking you for registering your phone with the service. That's it, you may never need this service,



but at least if you or somebody with you needs help, you know just what to do.

More important information can be found at the official web site www.emergencysms.org.uk which is certainly worth reading, as it tells you just what to put in to a text for help etc. This system should only be used when voice calls cannot be made, but there is still no guarantee that the text itself will be delivered, until you receive a reply from the emergency services.

So, all you have to do is text them

which service you need, what the emergency is, and where you are. The better the information the faster they can find you. So the 3 W's (WHO, WHAT AND WHERE), which service you need, what's happened, and where. A home phone number might also help them.

If you, like me, are an older detectorist, go out detecting alone, or detect in out of the way places, don't forget this: **register now!**

Dave Crisp

The Robin & Karolyn Memorial Trophy Competition 2016 – results



Hilary Fagen, Competition Manager

This competition has become the highlight of my year! I never know what exciting finds will be entered into the competition's three categories, Coin, Artefact and Hoard.

All items must have been found in the previous year 2016, January 1 – December 31.

Details of how to enter plus an entry form were published in *Digging Deep* for those not online, whilst it was announced that entry forms could also be accessed on our new website (www.ncmd.co.uk). It is important to the NCMD that all of our members should be included, and I am pleased to say this facility enabled Central Register Clubs and Individual members to take part. In fact, finds from two Individual members made it to the final judging!

As usual all entries were of an extremely high standard. Each year I watch our delegates trying to reach a decision when all entries are worthy of first place. However these decisions need to be arrived at and a great deal of heart-searching goes on.

Best Coin

1st. An early medieval gold tremissis, found by Terry Cattano – York and District MDC. A happy man received his trophy from Harry Bain, editor of *The Searcher*.

This tiny coin was found in North Yorkshire on a field which had previously yielded Anglo Saxon items. It is in excellent condition as these small coins easily elude the plough.



Winner Terry Cattano receiving his Best Coin trophy

2nd. Edward V gold angel – finder Brian Biddle is an Individual member. The halved sun and rose mint mark can be firmly dated to the beginning of the indenture with the new mint master Bartholemew Reed on the 12 February 1483. Those legends with that mark and legend Edward DI GRA should be attributed to the reign of the 12 year old boy King Edward V (9 April – 25 June 1483) probably struck under the direction of Lord Hastings, chamberlain of the royal household. The timeframe can perhaps be further reduced to the 1-13 June when Hastings was executed, and even to the beginning of June when Edward was incarcerated in the Tower by Richard, Duke of Gloucester.



3rd. A George I gold guinea 1716 – finder Alan Ward – SHRADS.



Other coins were a tiny silver Henry V farthing – finder: Mark Redfern from the South Lancs & Cheshire MDC and a Nero denarius found by Vincent Butler from Norwich Detectors.



Winner Graham Jones receiving his Best Artefact trophy

Best Artefact

1st. Carolingian sword belt mount – finder Graham Jones from the Wrexham MDC. A silver-gilt cast copper alloy mount dating to the 9th century. This very rare find has been noted as of national importance.



2nd. Roman patera. Finder Shaughn Tyreman from York & District MDC. This remarkable find was unearthed on stubble. Separate pieces of this 2nd Century eating utensil were discovered from an area of 30 x 30 yards. The beautiful enamelling and design lifts it above the ordinary.



3rd. Bronze Age gold armlet. Finder Geoffrey Slingsby who is an Individual member. A late Bronze Age solid gold pennanular bracelet of circular cross-section, this fantastic artefact weighs in at



Sid Hallam received the runner's up Artefact Category plaque on behalf of Shaughn Tyreman



121grams and is 82-84% gold. What an amazing find.

There was also a beautiful early medieval gold rectangular pendant with a cabochon cut red garnet in the centre which was found by Dr Adrian Kiermasz of SHRADS and a late Anglo Saxon copper alloy pendant cross found by Steven Carpenter from Norwich Detectors. There were no hoards entered this year.



Many thanks to those Individual members and all Clubs who entered the competition. Your delegates found it terribly difficult to choose between objects of such high quality as the standard was very high this year. It is worth saying that to reach the final judging is quite an achievement.

I look forward to running the competition next year as I feel extremely privileged to do so, but it can't be done without the support you all give. I hope you feel as I do, that this gives recognition to the dedication and hard slog we all put in to hopefully come up with the find of a lifetime.

Midlands Federation Charity Rally Report

This annual event is organised by the Midlands Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs and their partners in fundraising, the Lutterworth Rotary Club. The Midlands raises money every year for different chosen causes and has done so for the past 35 years with all monies raised going to charity with no expenses retained.

Enthusiasts from all over the UK started to arrive at the field before 7am. On a pleasant Sunday morning on September 17 over 140 detectorists gathered on a raked stubble field in Warwickshire. The conditions were ideal for all ages and for all types of machines. Caterers were on hand to service the needs of those who had travelled a long way with hot food and drinks.

John Wells, the Federation's chairman and organiser welcomed old and new friends and got the event off at 9.30am sharp by thanking those attendees for once again turning out to support the Federation and this year's chosen

charity: The Life after Stroke Association.

There were numerous finds including musket shot, lead artefacts, Roman fibulae and buckles unearthed. One detectorist found a Papal bulla which was the seal of the Pope Alexander (1431 to 1503). These were made from lead and attached to documents to signify that they were issued with the Pope's authority.

Over 25 hammered coins were discovered and reported including a very rare gold hammered coin by lucky finder Michelle Vall from Blackpool. Michelle returned to the registration tent to show us her amazing find of a Richard III gold half angel (1452 to 1485). It was remarkable in that it had three folds that were obviously not made by being in the ground for a long time but had been man-made. Richard, the last Plantagenet King of England, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 in nearby Leicestershire. The angel coin was

so called because the obverse had an image of St. Michael slaying the dragon.

Since the rally Michelle has had the coin professionally straightened and returned to its former glory.

A special word of thanks to John's wife Lynda stepping in at the last moment to run the registration and daughter Laura - Rose for selling raffle tickets which raised £707.00 for an XP Deus Lite, kindly donated by the NCMD and supplied by Pete Turrell of LP Metal Detecting.

A raffle held by Rotary Club included a hamper presented by them that raised £260. The Deus was won by Roy Crick and his wife Cynthia from Kenilworth.

When the rally drew to a close at 4pm it was clear that a good day had been enjoyed and the sum of £3,277 had been raised for a very worthy cause.

The Midlands Federation is already in talks with Rotary about next year's event. **Laura-Rose Wells**



Richard III Half Angel – Michelle Vall



Mr and Mrs Crick XP Deus Lite winners



John Wells giving the cheque for £3017 to Rotary

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North East Region Charity Dig

Northeast Region of the NCMD Charity dig, in aid of Air Ambulance, this year was held in North Yorkshire. Clubs attending were: Dunelme MDC, Tyneside MDA and NASA. The site was arranged by Stephen Llewellyn and organised by Mel and Helga Hepple also Tommy Allinson and Barrie Hardwick.

On the day the members had plenty of fields for natural finds and would be competing for the Best Coin and Best Artefact of the day. In addition there would be the Mark Dawson Memorial Trophy. Mark was a well-respected member of TMDA and later Dunelme but sadly he passed away earlier this year.

The rally got off to a great start with a token hunt, with £200 worth of cash prize tokens buried by Barrie, which they all hoped wouldn't be too deep. After which a change of fields to do what detecting is all about ... looking for natural finds.

The members battled on through the sporadic weather conditions – which didn't improve. In fact it got so bad that the wind lifted the gazebos off the ground so violently that we had to take them down!

Members battled on until 3pm when we thought it time to call in the judges, to pick the winners and overall winner who would be presented with the Mark Dawson Memorial Trophy.

Best Artefact was won by Alan



Italian solino



Heraldic pendant

Thwaites with a heraldic pendant and Best coin by Derek Franklin with an Italian soldino. This was also awarded the Mark Dawson Memorial Trophy as it was judged to be the Best Find of the Day. The Trophy was presented by Mark's son and daughter John and Louise. We then went on to draw the raffle which everyone contributed to.

Despite the weather the dig went very well and was enjoyed by all. With entrance fees, donations and the raffle we managed to raise £464 for the Air Ambulance.

Mel Hepple



Right to left: Derek Franklin, Barrie Hardwick



Right to left: Alan Thwaites, Barrie Hardwick



Right to left: Louise Dawson, Derek Franklin and John Dawson



Line up

DIARY DATES

The next PAAG (Portable Antiquities Advisory Group) meeting 22 February 2018

GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary:

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Special NCMD Yorkshire Region Outing

The Yorkshire Region held a special detecting day for regional club members on 3 September. Barry Williams and Syd Hallam organised the event and secured permission to search seven fields, three of which had not previously been detected on.

Club secretaries sold the tickets to their members, a few being sold on site to independent members. We had a fantastic turnout. All funds raised this year were given to charities, 50% of which went to a blind girl of six, to help her parents take her to America for an operation. She is the granddaughter of the landlord and lady who own the public house used for monthly regional meetings.

Thanks are due to Sue Austin and the NCMD, who in a one-off gesture, donated an XP Deus Lite as first prize for a raffle which was drawn on the field at the end of the day. Clubs also brought along prizes.

Detecting began at 9.30am, all the fields being available to search. It wasn't long before finds started coming off. At lunchtime, members started showing their finds, one of which was a lovely half sovereign. Lunch over and everyone was soon detecting again. At 4pm we all gathered round to look at the finds and pull the raffle tickets.

Among the finds there were over 50 hammered coins, a beautiful gold brooch and the aforementioned half sovereign. All in all it was a great day, even the weather was kind to us. Many thanks were received from club members.

The blind girl's parents give their sincere thanks to all who helped and took part, as do the rally organisers.

Syd Hallam



the searcher

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Western Region Clubs join up for charity

This was the second fundraising event hosted by the Trowbridge and District Metal Detecting Club (TMDC) during September 2017.

There were members present from the Hucclecote Club: SHRADS: WHRADA: ISCHEM: WYVERN: Chippenham MDC: Weymouth & Portland MDC and TMDC.

Each entrant paid £10 for the day detecting on land that had been prepared by the landowner Steve, and the charity supported was Wiltshire Search and Rescue (WILSAR) that was chosen by him. There was also a large raffle with plenty of good prizes, and a thank you goes out to LP Metal Detectors for their support with some of those prizes.

Gary Cook (sites officer for TMDC) visited the landowners leading up to the event and advised them on the best conditions for metal detecting. This resulted in almost perfect conditions; mostly flat and level on the day.

Participants started to arrive well ahead of the start time 9:30am following the directions and map that had been provided on the regional web site. Using the web site meant a saving on copying maps.

Gary, Dave Crisp and myself completed the briefing to those present (figure 1). Dave also mentioned the Western Region Christmas Social Event on 7 December, along with another regional photographic competition we are now accepting entries for. Dave Whalley, the brother of the late Bob Whalley who did so much work for the hobby and the NCMD was 77 years old that day so we all sang happy birthday to him. It was loud if not completely in tune!

More information about what is going on in the Western Region can be found on the web site at www.trowbridgemdc.co.uk/home-page-western-region-of-the-ncmd.

The weather leading up to Sunday 24 wasn't good with plenty of rain, but luck was with us on the day as it stayed mostly fine. Being the third event shared with some of the clubs, the various members now are all getting to know each other and the atmosphere is very friendly.

There were some nice finds made throughout the day and a Roman brooch (figure 2) found by Mike Szachs (TMDC) was the only complete brooch found.

In the picture (figures 3 and 4) can be seen some of those that took part and the landowner Steve looking at the finds table.

In the picture (figure 5) on the extreme right can be seen Dave Whalley (birthday boy) with other members of SHRADS.

The raffle was held at the end of the day and in the picture (figure 6) can be seen a larger gathering around the finds and tables with prizes displayed.

Although there were not a lot of interesting finds there were some good examples of hammered coins found and figure 7 shows one such coin, and figure 8 a nice half groat from the reign of Henry VIII found by Matt Littlechild (SHRADS figure 9). There was also an interesting military button (fig 10), and lots of small collections of finds yet to be identified (fig 11).

When the monies were checked a total of £1,011 had been raised, and on Thursday 28 September a cheque was presented to WILSAR during the monthly TMDC club meeting. (Left to right are: Dave Crisp WR Chairman, Gary Cook TMDC Sites Officer, Ray Case TMDC Treasurer, Matt Croft WILSAR, Steve King landowner, Sue Wyborn Secretary TMDC, and David Rees Chairman TMDC figure 12).

I would just like to thank everyone who made this event possible and for the great support and fundraising being contributed to by members of the Western Region NCMD.

David Rees



Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 5



Figure 4



Figure 6



Figure 2



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 10



Figure 9



Figure 11



Figure 12

Charity Presentation

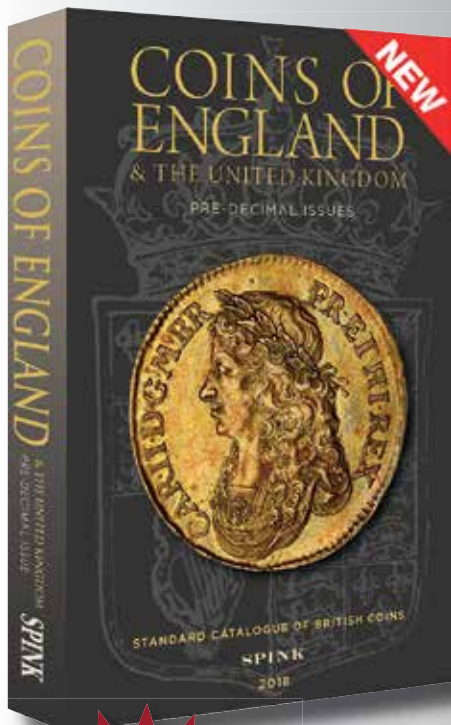
This week a group of us from the Western Region and Trowbridge & District MDC presented a cheque for £1,200 to Reverend Andrew Evans the Dean of Bradford on Avon.

This money was the result of an event near the National Trust Great Chalfield Manor attended by six clubs from within the region and will go towards the restoration

fund for the All Saints Parish Church in the manor grounds. Last year we raised £1,034 for this fund so actually beat the target.

David Rees

L-R are Gary Cook, Myself, Andrew Evans, Dave Crisp, Robert Floyd (resident of the manor) and Ray Case. The church in the background is what we are helping



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A Hat-Trick of Scottish Hoards...

Alastair Hackett

It's not often that hoards are discovered by detectorists, and when they are, they are guaranteed to make headlines, particularly so in Scotland where such finds are exceedingly rare.

Members will no doubt be aware of the stunning Galloway Hoard which is already shifting our understanding of Viking-Age Scotland and throwing new light on connections between Scotland and its European neighbours. Since its discovery however, two other important hoards have been found, and in each case, Derek McLennan, finder of the Galloway hoard, was involved.

All three hoards have now been fully processed through Scotland's Treasure Trove system and allocated to museums, and this brief article is intended to advise readers of the outcomes in each case.

The Galloway Hoard

Discovered in Dumfries and Galloway by NCMD member Derek McLennan in 2014, the amazing Viking-Age Galloway Hoard consisting of more than 100 pieces of gold, silver and jewelled treasure including ingots, arm-rings and brooches – and some particularly striking items such as a gold pin in the shape of a bird and a decorated silver-gilt cup of Continental or Byzantine origin – has been saved for the nation following a successful fundraising campaign to achieve the target of £1.98m.

Following the allocation of the hoard in May 2017 to National Museums Scotland (NMS) by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, NMS had just six months in which to raise the

necessary funds. A public appeal raised more than 1,500 donations, while significant contributions came from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (£1m), Art Fund (£400,000) and the Scottish Government (£150,000).

Conservation and research work can now begin on this unique collection of objects. This work is estimated to take around two years before the hoard will once again be seen at the National Museum of Scotland prior to a national tour.



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The Dairsie Hoard

The Dairsie Hoard of 408 pieces of hacked-up Roman silver was found at Dairsie in Fife in 2015. Schoolboy David Hall made the first finds and Derek McLennan, of Galloway Hoard fame, discovered the main deposit.

The Hoard, buried in the later 3rd Century AD, contained parts of four Roman silver vessels. Around this time the Picts were emerging in eastern Scotland, so silver like this might have been targeted at them, showing that there were continuing attempts to keep the northern tribes sweet. This isn't just a first for Scotland – it's the first

time we see this policy anywhere in Europe. Hack silver finds north of the frontier are known from the 4th and 5th centuries – but this discovery has pushed the policy back a hundred years.

It's a find of European importance and is rewriting the history of Roman frontier politics, while challenging our views on Rome's relationship with Scotland 1700 years ago. The Hoard went through the Treasure Trove process and was secured by the National Museum of Scotland in May 2017. It is currently on display as an important part of their exhibition 'Scotland's Early Silver'.



The Ardkinglas Hoard

The Ardkinglas Hoard was found by Derek McLennan in September 2016 on Ardkinglas Estate in Argyllshire. The three early Bronze Age flat axeheads contained within the hoard are of national importance and thought to be three of the earliest axeheads ever found in Scotland. One of the axeheads is of Irish origin and was found alongside a very early Scottish prototype of the same type, dating from 2500 – 2000 BC, with the third being of the slightly later date 2000 – 1900 BC.

The axeheads were found in individual deposits, within a metre

diameter, and as there is some crossover in chronological terms, it obviously raises the question of whether these were a scattered hoard or individual depositions. It would be nice to think that they belonged to one, or more, of the first wave of 'Irish' settlers to come to Scotland, whose family over time eventually became our earliest Scottish ancestors.

The 'Hoard' was immediately reported by Derek and subsequently excavated by archaeologists. After completing the Treasure Trove process, they were allocated in August 2017, to the Kilmartin House Museum, for display locally in Argyllshire.



Treasures Unearthed Exhibition

On Saturday 12 August 2017, the North-West Region hosted their bi-annual exhibition of detecting finds in the grand and historic Chester Town Hall; Here, clubs from the region could display some truly amazing finds, which have been recovered during their rallies and club events over the years.

Chester is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the country, a perfect setting therefore to show the public the variety of coins and antiquities unearthed by the metal detecting enthusiasts of our region. The event was advertised in *The Searcher* magazine, on detecting forums and social media. Leaflets were also distributed around the heart of the city centre, in hotels, B&Bs, and information outlets, to draw in, not just detecting enthusiasts but visitors and members of the local community.

Our guests included competition judges, *The Searcher* magazine stand, a trade stand, an NCMD stand, a 'Medieval' coin striker and representatives of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The four judges whose job it was to select the best coin, best artefact, best themed showcase, and the best overall club stand were, Dr Kevin Leahy (principal Finds Advisor to the PAS) Clive Coleman (Chairman of the NCMD), Harry Bain (owner and editor of *The Searcher*) and Mark Olly (archaeologist and local historian)

The trade was represented by Unearthed UK. Owners Graeme Rushton and Mel Walker brought along a complete array of everything

a detectorist could possibly need. Also, and most generously, they brought along three brand new detectors which they gave away in a free raffle. Harry Bain apart from her judging duties was also manning *The Searcher* stand, providing information and advice to detectorists and the public alike. John Rigby was present, in his role of NCMD membership secretary, and was manning the NCMD stand looking for prospective new members among the crowds of visitors. Vanessa Oakden and Susie White manned the PAS stand, and were kept busy identifying and recording finds from our hobbyists and the public.

Our coin striker was Sonny Rae from 'The Viking Experience', who was dressed in full medieval regalia and was striking Anglo Saxon coins in the traditional way. He then gave them away to younger visitors, whilst entralling them with tales of King 'Edgar The Peaceful' being rowed up the local river Dee by eight Celtic kings (just to show who was the boss).

The day began early with the arrival of the participants and the setting up of the presentation stands, everybody mucking in, helping each other when the moment required. Some clubs were already set up from the previous evening having taken advantage of the pre-arranged access to the venue. As opening time arrived and the last-minute checks were complete, the nervous anticipation began to show. No need to have been concerned, right from the opening

minute we enjoyed a stream (that became a flood) of visitors through the doors.

The competition within the clubs for best coin, artefact, themed showcase, and overall best stand was fierce and the quality on show presented all the judges with difficult decisions.

The best artefact category was judged by Dr Kevin Leahy. Kevin whittled his choice down to three finds. The winner was a stunningly beautiful La Tene brooch, found by Ken Sedgewick of the Lune Valley MDC. This beat a flat axe into second place, amazingly, also found by Ken. In third place was a large decorated terret ring found by Arthur Davies of the Wrexham club.

The themed showcase provided Harry Bain with a judging headache. The subject of the showcase was religious items. When this idea was first accepted as the theme, most clubs thought that they could fill a showcase easily. Not so, Harry reduced the number of choices down to two clubs; Wrexham and the North-West MDC. After re-visiting both stands several times to view the case's again, Harry came down in favour of the North-West. The trophy was collected by James Snelson who, like all the other participants had put many hours into the construction of the case.

The best coin category was arguably the hardest of all to judge. Just the sheer numbers of coins on display was intimidating. However, Clive Coleman set about the task early in the day and didn't finalise his choice until lunchtime.



Best artefact winner Ken Sedgewick



Best club stand winner - Cyril Askew North West MDC



Best coin winner Phil Moy



Themed showcase winner James Snelson North West MDC



Graeme & Mel from Unearthed UK & their Raffle winners



Our judges. from left-Kevin Leahy, Harry Bain, Clive Coleman, Mark Olly



Our visitors

In first place Clive placed a Trajan Decius Antoninianus found by Phil Moy of the West Kirby Club. In second place was an Edward III noble found by Danny Cameron, who is a member of the HSS Mold Club. Following in third place was an Antonius Pius denarius found by Tracy White of the North-West Club.

Finally, the trophy for the best overall club's stand was up for grabs, judged by Mark Olly. This category was won for the second

time in a row by the North-West MDC. Mark was impressed by the aesthetics of the stand, the quality of the showcase contents and the amount of information provided for each item. The trophy was collected by Cyril Askew, who has been the Chairman of the Club since its creation 24 years ago. That alone deserves a trophy!

Many, many congratulations to all the winners and runners up in all categories.

As the day progressed Graeme

and Mel from Uearthed UK were giving away free raffle tickets to all the participants and visitors alike, and invited everyone to return for the draw at 2.15pm. Consequently a crowd gathered in anticipation of winning one of the three detectors that were the prizes. This amazing and generous gesture, was a collaboration between Uearthed UK, Fisher and Teknetics. As it turned out all three prizes were won by members of the clubs that were exhibiting.

Winner Mike Gaston-Grubb from

the North-West (**Fisher F-75**).

Second Ray Mountain from the Lune Valley (**Teknetic Patriot**).

Third – Ken Sedgewick also from Lune Valley (**Eurotek**).

Finally, there are far, far, too many people to thank individually. So, to everyone who rose from their beds at an unearthly hour to make this day happen, you have our heartfelt and sincere thanks.

Kev Gorman, Secretary,
North West Region

Membership Renewal Form

MEMBER OF SARA



Dear Individual member

Your membership of the NCMD expires on the 31 March 2018. We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

Subscription for 2018/19 for Individual members on the Central Register is £8-00.

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

Renewals will be available via Credit/Debit Card or PayPal on our Website www.ncmd.co.uk From January 31.

Alternatively you may wish to pay by Cheque or Postal Order please fill in form below and make Payable to NCMD

Please ensure that all information we hold on record is correct.

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Please return this form with your cheque to: John Rigby, 6 Arkholme Ave, Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 6QJ
For membership enquiries please contact John Rigby on either: Tel. 01253 692313 or Email: jjrigby@SKY.com

YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

To be an NCMD member you have to have an NCMD card that also gives you insurance. Incorrect addresses, where you haven't let us know, will make your card and your insurance invalid. Additionally you will not receive your copy of *Digging Deep* either.

Please let your club/region know any change of address or contact the Membership Secretary as soon as possible.

NCMD Membership Secretary:

John Rigby – 01253 692313 or jjrigby@sky.com