

# Digging deep

**NCMD**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 26

## NEWS

# The Robin & Karolyn Memorial Trophy Competition 2017 – results

**Hilary Fagen, Competition Manager**

*It's been a long year, full of sunshine which, barring days that were blisteringly hot, produced excellent conditions for wandering around the fields with the obligatory tube of suncream in the finds pouch.*

Each year sees an amazing amount of single finds and hoards, from all eras, being unearthed by us. These are rescued from the ravages of the plough which all too readily damages thin hammered coins and smashes to pieces historical artefacts created by skilled craftsmen who worked with what we perceive to be primitive tools. These were used to great effect, producing in many cases,

great works of art. Every time we detect it could be said that we are on a rescue mission, the results of which grace the competition table on the day of the final judging. All entries must have been found between: 1 January – 31 December 2017. Because of this, some artefacts and hoards have gone or are going through the Treasure system and were

unable to be displayed. However there are always a good selection of photographs to represent these entries.

There were four entries each in both the Artefact and Coin Categories and five in the Hoard Category. Here are the results for 2017.

An unusual Bronze Age palstave axe mould. This extremely rare relic is currently on loan to the Devizes Museum and is a find of national importance.

**Finder: Gary Cook** Trowbridge & District MDC – a Central Register club.



Other entries: A unique Celtic copper alloy strap fitting of Late Iron Age, 150 BC-100 BC. The four linked openwork petal bosses with ring and dot decoration, retain their yellow or blue enamel with a ring of red.

**Finder: John Leary,** York & District MDC – Yorkshire Region.



### Artefact Category

**1st** An enamelled Iron-Age copper alloy strap fitting, 1st century BC to 1st century AD.

A worthy winner as it's in excellent condition for an artefact of such a great age, vote-wise it virtually swept the board.

**Finder: James Snelson** North-West MDC –North-West Region.

**2nd** An Iron Age crucible used as a smelting pot for gold and silver.

The walls of the pot are lined in silver.

An interesting find not seen in the competition before and is now in Axbridge Museum.

**Finder: Timothy Morris,** Weston Historical Research & Detecting Association – Western Region.



Artefact winner James Snelson and Cyril Askew, club chairman on right

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## Coin Category

**1st** Silver penny of Cnut (Canute) 1016 – 1035 in excellent condition.

**Finder: Gary Thompson,** Down to Earth MDC – Yorkshire Region



**2nd** Iron Age uninscribed Weston silver unit. 30BC-15BC.

**Finder: Philip N. Hartley,** Hucclecote MDC



**3rd** Gold full noble of Edward III.

**Finder: Gary Cook,** Trowbridge & District MDC – Central Register



Also entered was an Aethelred penny 978-1016.

**Finder: John Blackburn** South Lancs & Cheshire MDC – North-West Region.

## Hoard Category

**1st** A Bronze Age hoard, of mainly axe heads, with spearheads and fragments of bronze slag with chopped up axe head fragments. This is now in Norwich Castle Museum.

**Finder: Kevin Frost,** Dereham & District MDC – Anglian Region



Hoard winner Kevin Frost



**2nd** Eight Roman coins, comprising seven denarii of the Roman Republic dating between 134-37BC with a single denarius of Tiberius, AD14-37, indicating a date of deposition for the hoard of no earlier than AD 14-37.

**Finder: Susan Hurrell,** Severn Vale Historical Research & Detecting Society – Western Region



Hoard runner up Susan Hurrell



**3rd** Three 9th century Saxon silver openwork brooches together with a rare penny of Wiglaf, King of Mercia. 830-840AD.

**Finder: Martin Tobitt,** Crewe & Nantwich MDS – North-West Region



Other entries: Six gold Roman aurei of Augustus I.

**Joint finders: Damon and Denise Pye,** Norwich Detectors – Central Region

Three coins of Edward I, 1272-1307 with one coin of John the Blind 1296-1346.

**Finder: Edward Grattan,** Blackpool & Fylde MDC – North-West Region

As I look back on past entries I see that the high quality of finds never changes from year to year. We are very proud also that we are able to include all members, be they Individual Members or in Regional and Central Register Clubs.

It is also clear to see how

important our finds are to the museums. The knowledge they gain from us is immense. They must be thrilled to see the wide variety of finds presented to them through the Treasure process, together with the finds we loan them for display too.

Looking forward to the next final

I expect a high number of entries judging by the large amount of hoards, interesting and unique coins and amazing artefacts found in 2018.

Many thanks to those who proudly put forward their special finds. Each year you make our job difficult when we make the final

judgements to find a winner in each category.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners up!



# The Heritage Initiative

David Rees & Mark Harrison

David Rees has a background partly in law enforcement, and the rehabilitation of offenders, and is now a teacher and Associate Lecturer for a leading College and University Campus. Through his own company he provides training to individuals, and company employees mainly in office applications. He has enjoyed the hobby of metal detecting for nearly 40 years, and is the Chairman of a Wiltshire based club, Chairman of the Western Region of the NCMD and regularly attends Council meetings.

Mark Harrison BSc (Hons) FSA, is a former senior police officer and Historic England's Head of Head of Heritage Crime and Policing Advice. Mark is responsible for the development and delivery of the Heritage Crime Programme and the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH).

The **National Rural Crime Network** (NRCN) <https://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/> champions a better understanding of crime in rural areas, and new, effective ways to help to keep rural communities safe – and make them feel safer too.

Established in July 2014, the Network is now supported by 30 Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces across England and Wales. The Network includes a wide range of other bodies with a deep interest in community safety and rural affairs, ranging from Neighbourhood Watch to Historic England (previously known as English Heritage).

The problem of crime and anti-social behaviour relating to historic buildings and archaeological sites (both maritime and terrestrial) is not a modern phenomenon. It has been documented for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. However, what is new is the sheer scale and extent of the criminality. For example, in 2012 English Heritage published research which revealed that in 2011, 18.7% of all listed buildings, similar to the beautiful building shown in **Figure 1**, were physically affected by criminal activity. That is more than 70,000 listed buildings! For almost 30,000 listed buildings, the impact was classified as 'substantial'. More

generally, around 20% of listed buildings are harmed by crime every year. This figure is almost double for listed places of worship. Historic England defines heritage crime as: 'Any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations.'

The understanding of the threats posed to heritage sites, buildings and cultural property continues to improve.

The following types of crime have been identified as the most prevalent:

- **Architectural theft, in particular the theft of metal and stone**
- **Criminal damage, in particular damage caused by fire – arson**
- **Unlawful metal detecting, sometimes referred to as 'nighthawking.'** **Figure 2** is a Bronze Age axe head seized during a successful Police Operation against unlawful detectorists known as Chronos.
- **Unlawful disturbance and salvage of historic maritime sites**
- **Anti-social behaviour, in particular fly-tipping and off-road driving**
- **Unauthorised works to heritage assets**
- **Illicit trade in cultural objects**

As part of what is known as the Heritage Initiative a scheme called **Heritage Watch** is now operating in Cheshire, Essex, Kent, Hertfordshire and the City of York. A new scheme for Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire is currently being developed by local practitioners. Each scheme is slightly different in order to meet local need and demand. **Figure 3** shows the logo for the scheme.

Since 2011, more than 8,000 law enforcement and heritage professionals and local community activists have been provided with the advice, training and expertise they require to protect the historic environment in their local areas.

A growing number of police services have identified officers to act as single point of contact for matters relating to heritage and cultural property crime and anti-

social behaviour – a function that is often aligned with the investigation of offences within the rural and natural environment. This network of specialist officers, police staff and support volunteers are helping to provide an effective and efficient response to heritage crime.

In parallel, the Crown Prosecution Service has identified specialist prosecutors to act as wildlife and heritage crime coordinators.

Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales have identified the threat to the historic environment and in 2014 the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) was formed to develop a greater understanding of crime in rural areas, and to identify new and effective ways to help to keep rural communities safe and reassured. The NCRN is now supported by 30 Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces across England and Wales. The Chair is Julia Mulligan, the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire and the Vice-chair is Tim Passmore, PCC for Suffolk. In addition to PCCs and the police, the Network includes a wide range of other bodies with a deep interest in community safety and rural affairs, ranging from Neighbourhood Watch to Historic England.

Across the country, local history and archaeological societies, sub-aqua and metal detecting clubs are developing Heritage Watch schemes to seek to inspire and encourage communities to be more aware and vigilant about the threat of heritage crime within their local areas and to report any suspicious activities to the police.

The value of our built and cultural heritage cannot be judged in pounds and pence alone. The impact of theft from historic buildings and archaeological sites, including those situated in the maritime environment, has far-reaching consequences. We rely on the goodwill of landowners to enjoy our hobby, and the impact of crime on them is increasing. **Figure 4** is the type of sign now erected on some sites to help prevent theft and damage.

As detectorists we are constantly out in the countryside, often in quite lonely isolated locations.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

The NCMD will be considering a Heritage Watch Scheme and guidance that can be used by our members as individuals: clubs and regionally to help Prevent, Protect and Pursue (the three P's) individual or groups of people that break the law and bring our hobby into disrepute.

Additionally we are often well placed when out and about to make a helpful report. The NCMD will be considering ways to help members to become involved in schemes such as Heritage Watch in their own areas. At present, I (David Rees) am helping to set up an initiative in Wiltshire, and hope feedback will eventually provide a guide to the way forward for members in others areas.



# The Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition

## Call for entries!



MEMORIAL TROPHY



With the excitement of last year's competition behind us, it's never too soon to think about the next one, but let's re-cap the rules.

There are three categories:

Best Hoard, Best Coin and Best Artefact.

We are now calling for entries which must have been found between January 1 - December 31 2018.

The competition is open to all NCMD members and it is important to us that no-one is left out.

We are proud to include all members whether in

Regional or Central Register Clubs and of course Individual members.

Please take note that entry forms will be available on our website from August at [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk) with further details in full.

It is important that we have the PAS database record number and also the Treasure number wherever possible.

Happy digging,

**Hilary Fagen.**

Competition Manager.

### DIARY DATES

**National Council meetings: 24 February, 2 June, 3 November.**

**The next Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG) and Best Practice Working Group (BPWG) meetings: 21 March 2019**

### GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**

6 Arkholme Avenue, Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 6QJ

Tel: 01253 692313 [jjrigby@sky.com](mailto:jjrigby@sky.com)

**For all other enquiries please email [NCMD@Glemsford.net](mailto:NCMD@Glemsford.net)**

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# Membership Renewal Form

MEMBER OF SARA

Dear Individual member

Your membership of the NCMD expires on the 31 March 2019.

**Subscription for 2019/20 for Individual members on the Central Register is £8-00.**

**RENEWALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 4TH FEBRUARY**

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

**Renewals are available via Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or online at [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk)**

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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Telephone.....  
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Subscription Enclosed. £8.00 .....Signature .....

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For membership enquiries please contact John Rigby on either: Tel. 01253 692313 or Email: [jjrigby@SKY.com](mailto:jjrigby@SKY.com)**

# Membership Renewal Form

SCOTTISH REGION MEMBERS



Dear Individual member

Your membership of the NCMD expires on the 31 March 2019. We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

**Subscription for 2019/20 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 are available via Credit/Debit Card or PayPal or online at [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk)**

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For membership enquiries please contact Siobhan Lihne on either: Tel 01573 410723 or Email: [ncmdsr@gmail.com](mailto:ncmdsr@gmail.com).**

# National Council for Metal Detecting

## Early history 1978-1982

Kev Gorman, North West Region

The National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) that exists today is a professional organisation which has a very large, healthy and growing membership split between eight regional bodies stretching from the Scottish region, down through the North West, North East, Yorkshire, and Midland regions into the Western, Anglian, and Southern regional areas. Also included are the Central register clubs and the independent detectorists.

Every single one of these detectorists, whether regional, central, or independent have their own delegates representing them at the National Executive meetings that are held three times a year. The NCMD also provides representation at numerous committees and government departments.

It was the early 1960s, and into the 70s that metal detecting gained popularity with the public here in the United Kingdom, this interest gave birth to the early modern-day range of metal detectors. Wonderful names like: C-Scope, Arado and Tesoro, these were used by a growing number of detectorists, a few of which would, through sheer hard work and determination set the wheels in motion that would lead to the organisation of individuals into clubs. Clubs into Federations, and eventually the formation of the NCMD.

During the late 1960s there were a few intrepid individuals who were seeking places to detect, but they were few, far between, and very lonely ...

"...I began detecting in the mid-sixties, I didn't clap eyes on another detectorist for three years, so I gave up and only started again, when I saw two other men in a field, the three of us were still detecting together 30 years later..."

Brian Down – North West MDC

The 1970s saw a huge rise in the number of people taking up the hobby and during the mid-70s, small groups of individuals began forming themselves into clubs.

In the hobby press of the day the Treasure Hunter Magazine, people were learning about the emergence of clubs, and placing messages for people from their area to join forces and form more new clubs. One such individual from the North

West was Brian Cross, who placed a message in the May 1978 edition, giving his address and asking interested people to contact him, and contact him they did.

The result was the formation of the South Lanc's & Cheshire MDC. This club is still going strong and plays a full and active part in the activities of the North West Region.

During the early months of 1979, Brian, (who'd been joined by John Fargher) was already considering the possibility of the coming together with other clubs to form a federation. Therefore strengthening the hobby and be in a position to defend against the increasing poor publicity being generated by the various elements of the archaeological world.

Brian began to visit and re-visit the other known clubs in the area to convince their members that forming a federation was the way forward. Eventually his persistence paid off and a meeting was arranged.

On 26 July 1979 the following clubs represented by 18 delegates gathered at the Legh Arms, Knutsford, Cheshire:

### Thameside MDC

Founded 1977  
Colin Sumner

### South Lanc's & Cheshire

Founded 1978  
Brian cross

### H.S.S. Mold

Founded 1976  
Norman Butterworth  
Eldon Jones / A King

### Crewe & Nantwich

Founded 1979  
Steve Murphy

### Bolton

Founded 1977  
George Wood  
Jean Verey  
Mr & Mrs Taylor

And so, the first Federation of detecting clubs was born. The October 1979 edition of the Treasure Hunter magazine carried the report on the meeting.

"... An inaugural meeting of the North Western Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs was held in Knutsford, on the 26th July 1979 when eighteen representatives of clubs from the area met to discuss arrangements for the proposed aims of the society. The aims of the Federation are 'to protect the interests of metal detector users, to promote a favorable public image of the hobby and to encourage all metal detector users to abide by a code of conduct'.

Sub-committees were formed for, finance, legal affairs, dealing with proposed legislation, by-laws, etc. publicity, press and TV relations, relationships with Archaeologists and Museums, recruitment of clubs to the Federation and the extension of the Federation into a National non-profit organization. It was agreed that only a non-profit making organisation set up on a democratic and voluntary basis would be accepted by the majority of metal detector users.

It is hoped that Federations will be formed and established throughout the country and eventually combine to form a powerful and acceptable National Organisation for the benefit of all metal detector users. The Federation will audit and publish its accounts annually and provide itself with a democratic constitution..."

**North Western Federation** first elected committee.

**Chair:** Alan Clarke

**Secretary:** Brian Cross

**Treasurer:** Harry Knight

**Liaison offer:** Marjorie Norton

You would be forgiven for thinking at this point, that all was well in



Legh Arms – Knutsford, Cheshire 'Legh' from Middle English; (clearing in a forest)

the hobby. The fact is, that it was the exact opposite. The Council for British Archaeology supported by several other archaeological groups were already planning an anti-metal detecting campaign that would, if successful severely limit or total ban metal detecting.

The hobby had other ideas; the formation of a counter campaign, lead and supported by some formidable individuals.

### STOP TAKING OUR PAST (STOP) CAMPAIGN

The introduction and accessibility of commercially available detectors in the early 1960-80's was viewed with equal amounts of excitement and trepidation - depending on whether you were a detectorist or an archaeologist

These early years could, and should, have been a crucial period of development between the two groups. Alas, due to failures on both sides, it became a fractious affair, with both side campaigning for the support of the public.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA), supported by several other heritage organisations, began planning the STOP campaign in 1979. After several months of planning, their campaign was launched on 12 March 1980. The campaign was accompanied by grotesque posters and cartoons painting every detectorist with the same, tarnished brush. It asked the public to 'please report their activities and encourage prosecution'. The campaign also applied pressure on local councils to ban detectorists from their land.

In November 1979 and in direct response to the STOP Campaign, the Detector Information Group (DIG) was formed. Organised and managed by Frank Mellish, Tony Hammond and Geoff Fry the DIG campaign was set up to counteract



the harmful misinformation being broadcast by the STOP campaign. What followed was a sustained war of words and actions that would see the DIG campaign gather momentum, and the support of the whole of the detecting hobby.

Operating only on voluntary funding, DIG was clearly a well-organised group. The aim was to raise the public profile of metal detecting and to challenge STOP at every level, including government departments. DIG organised a rally of its supporters in Parliament Square. On 16 December 1979 over 1,000 detectorists from all over the country descended on Parliament Square followed by a march to Downing Street to hand in a petition at Number 10. It was also successful that in July 1980, with its petition to the House of Lords against Clause 100 of the County of Kent Bill, it managed to stop an attempt to restrict the hobby in the county.

Later DIG was invited to a meeting in Paris of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Culture and Education. In June 1981 it also attended the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, to discuss and contribute to a report on metal detectors and archaeology.

DIG held the line against the STOP campaign until the NCMD was up and running. It continued to work with the Council along with the newly formed Special Purposes Committee, headed by John Howland, whose job it was to root out and combat the very worst of the misinformation being spread by the CBA and its supporters.

Much has been written about the STOP campaign but, drawing a conclusion from the dissemination of reports from both camps, the consensus must be that it did the archaeological world a lot more harm than good, and was certainly responsible for the initial fractious relationship between detectorists and archaeologists. The campaign lasted barely a year, and its failure, among other things, accelerated the galvanisation of the detecting groups around the country. However, ironically, it was seen to be the beginning of the coming together of the two sides. Whilst there are still varying levels of distrust between detectorists and the archaeological world, the record levels of detector finds recorded each year speaks for itself.

Meanwhile, back in the North

West, the newly formed Federation was up and running with Alan Clarke and John Fargher at the helm. Brian Cross roamed the countryside in his trusty camper van, recruiting the other North West clubs into the fold. This was to be a successful venture with the number of clubs reaching 17.

News of the impending STOP campaign was being leaked and caused a great deal of concern. At a meeting of the Federation it was agreed that attempts should be made to meet with the representatives of the DIG campaign to agree the best path forward. Brian Cross contacted DIG, who were based in the South of England, and a meeting was arranged in November 1979 at a motorway services situated half way between the two parties.

Present at the meeting were Brian Cross, Dennis Buchanan and the three members of the DIG campaign Frank Mellish, Tony Hammond, and Geoff Fry. The conversation quickly revealed that both parties were seeking the same end, and that a National body that would give the hobby some credibility. Frank Mellish reported to the meeting that he thought the immediate way forward was to seek membership and recognition of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, (CCPR) which was an important body, and supported the rights of individuals to enjoy their chosen recreations.

"...It was a eureka moment, I was sat in my dentist waiting room reading the Telegraph, when I spotted a tiny item about how the frisbee users association of Great Britain won a battle with councils who had banned their use in recreational spaces, the victory was due solely to being recognised and accepted into the CCPR..."

*Frank Mellish*

It was agreed that Frank Mellish and Tony Hammond would seek a meeting with the CCPR and put forward the case for the hobby of metal detecting, to be accepted as a recreational pastime.

In the Summer of 1980 the two parties met again. This time at the North West Federation meeting venue, the Legh Arms Knutsford. Geoff Fry and Tony Hammond addressed the delegates of the Federation which was by now 12 clubs strong, and 30 delegates represented the clubs at the meeting.

On the agenda was the meeting between DIG and the CCPR. Frank Mellish reported that they had met with the chief executive of the CCPR, who told them that our hobby 'would' be eligible for membership. However, they could only accept organisations that were a recognised National body. So the race was on, to bring together other groups within the detecting fraternity to form a National body.

What followed was several months of hard negotiations and meetings with the numerous clubs in and around the South of England, in collaboration with the leaders of DIG.

On Saturday 9 May 1981 several clubs within the Southern area answered the call and descended on the Greenwich Community Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to thrash out any issues regarding the formation of a Southern Federation. The following month, July 1981 the Treasure Hunter magazine recorded the meeting.

"...**Southern Federation** formed." A meeting was held at Greenwich Community Centre on Saturday 9 May to discuss the Formation of the Southern Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs, 15 clubs attended covering a large area of the South East.

David Wood of the Wessex Metal Detecting Association opened the meeting by expounding the need for clubs to organize themselves into a Federation. DIG is unable to help with all local bans and clubs will be able to achieve more if they band together.

The other advantage of the formation of a Federation would be, the increased power to promote the hobby and improve both communications between clubs, and public relations.

Guest speaker Geoff Fry from the DIG campaign, spoke of the reasons why DIG was formed and gave a resume of the work they have done so far. He explained DIGs continued need for funds and support and why he believes a Southern Federation would be beneficial to DIG and to the hobby in general.

A proposal to inaugurate the **Southern Federation** of Metal Detecting Clubs was passed unanimously and a committee was nominated as follows.

**Chair:** David Wood  
Wessex MDA

**Vice Chair:** John Williams  
West Kent MDC

**Secretary:** Berni Glover  
Serendipity MDC

**Vice Secretary:** Mrs Andrews  
Bedford HSS

**Treasurer:** Derek Elliot  
South East London MDC

**PRO:** Mick Turrell  
Wessex MDA

The encouragement of other areas to form Federations continued via the trade press as well as club meeting visits, and word of mouth. But the priority now was to bring together the two Federations from the North West and Southern areas and thrash out all the requirements that come with the formation of a National organisation.

It would be four months before this happened, but it finally happened on 15 September 1981 when a delegation from the Southern Federation travelled to Cheshire to meet with the representatives of the North Western Federation. Fittingly, the Legh Arms was the same as the one used, when the first Federation was inaugurated in July 1979. The North West was represented by Alan Clarke, Dennis Buchannan, and John Fargher, whilst the Southern delegates were, John Howland, David Wood, and Ernest Souchs.

With all parties working towards the same goals the business was amicably concluded on the night, the first committee of the new metal detecting National body was voted in. The first executive committee for the Council is made up of an equal number of members from both the **Northern and Southern Federation:**

**Chair:** Dennis Buchanan  
**Vice Chair:** David Wood  
**Secretary:** John Howland  
**Treasurer:** John Shreeve  
**PRO:** Mick Turrell

Following the completion of an agreed constitution and rulebook came the first public announcement that the new National body had been formed and named, the National Council for Metal Detecting. The chosen date and venue to make this announcement was 21 November 1981 at the North West Conference and Exhibition held in Blackpool. Once again, the hobby press carried the announcement:

"...We are pleased to announce the

formation of the **National Council for Metal Detecting**. The National Council is the representative body of metal detector users and is fully backed by the Northern and Southern Federations.

This formation came after many months of careful negotiation and it was decided to announce it at the Blackpool Conference and Exhibition on the 21st November, 1981 so that the officers of the council would be able to answer questions put to it by the press and the metal detecting fraternity

The aim of the council will be to promote, encourage and protect the hobby at all levels of representation, including central government.

DIG will be continuing their good work as a pressure group, but will now have the financial backing of the council to help them fight for our hobby. The National Council have given DIG a mandate to work on their behalf.

Plans are now being made to start further Federations in those areas not covered by the Northern or Southern Federations. The National Council would welcome any club or individual who is willing to set one up.

The Council is currently engaged in negotiation to have the hobby recognised as an official pastime and the signs that this will come about are encouraging.

We will also attempt to contact the archaeological lobby, in order to thrash out our differences we are therefore throwing out an open invitation to the CBA to meet our members and see for themselves that they have nothing to fear from the many thousands of responsible hobbyists."

In just 28 months a small but dedicated group of hobbyists from opposite ends of the country, had pulled together several independent clubs into Federations, and the Federations into a National organisation, ready to stand and fight on behalf of the growing number of detectorists around the UK.

Almost immediately the call for more clubs to band together was answered and other Federations beginning to emerge. Joining forces with and strengthening the National Council.

## **MIDLAND FEDERATION (founded December - 1981)**

On Wednesday 9 December 1981, four clubs from the Midlands area gathered to form a new Federation.

### **Three Spires MDC**

John Wells

### **Castle Bromwich MDC**

Barry Catley

### **Arley Relic Hunters**

Ken Jones

### **Hinckley Search Society**

Terry Palmer

## **ANGLIAN FEDERATION (founded – 1982)**

On Monday 28 June 1982, three clubs from the Anglian area gathered to form a new federation:

### **St Neots & District**

### **Artefacts club**

### **Northampton Historical**

### **Detecting Society**

### **Huntingdon & District**

### **Locators Club**

## **NORTH - EASTERN FEDERATION (founded – 1982)**

In July 1982 three clubs from the North East gathered to form a new federation:

### **Northern Local History & Field Archaeology Society**

### **Sunderland Relic & Artefacts Recovery Club**

### **South Tyne History & Field Archaeology Society**

## **YORKSHIRE FEDERATION (founded – 1983)**

On Sunday 24th April 1983 five clubs from Yorkshire gathered to form a new Federation, the five clubs represented, hailed from:

Barnsley – Doncaster – Hull – Leconfield – York

## **SCOTTISH FEDERATION (founded-1985)**

In June 1985 the Scottish Federation was formed and the first elected committee was:

**Chair:** E Bailey,  
Scottish Detector Club  
Founded-1977  
Bill Baptie

**Vice Chair:** J Fearek  
S.A.R.G.  
Founded – 2003  
Colin Irvine

**Secretary:** R Fortheringham  
N.M.D. Club  
Founded – Unknown  
Colin Irvine

## **WESTERN FEDERATION (founded 1987)**

In early 1987 four clubs from the Western region gathered to form a new Federation:

### **Ischem Relic Society**

### **Weston Historical Research and Detecting Association**

### **Severn Vale Historical Research and Detecting Society**

### **Swindon Artefact Searchers**

The Federations listed above, along with the two founding Federations, are the eight Federations (now regions) who are the current members of the NCMD.

Following two executive meetings between the founding Federations. North West and Southern, the first National Council Conference was held on 23rd of May 1982 in Coventry at the Arley Miners Welfare Club. The content of the meeting was recorded as follows.

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

**Chair:** Dennis Buchannan

**Vice Chair:** David Wood

**Secretary:** John Howland

**Treasurer:** John Shreeve

The first Delegates conference was held on 23 May in Coventry and was well attended.

The delegates from the member Federations had travelled from all over the UK.

The conference was opened by the Chairman, Dennis Buchannan and there then followed reports from the regions. This gave everyone present an insight into the problems being experienced by detector clubs.

Geoff Fry, the DIG representative spoke at some length on the need for raising capital by which anti-detector legislation could be fought. Unless this capital was forthcoming, survival of the hobby was indeed imperilled. It was a sobering thought when Geoff Fry announced the cost in fighting the Kent Bill and the Cumbria Bill. From what Geoff said, we all should be most grateful to the efforts of DIG and C-Scope Ltd and to the many clubs that raised money in support to protect the hobby. George McRae of Whites Electronics Ltd echoed these sentiments but went on to say that the NCMD must be helped to secure a future for the hobby.

After the lunch break, the serious

matter of proposals to guide the actions of the NCMD were determined.

## **Funding**

Funding was discussed at some length. It was finally decided that each of the member Federations would make a levy of £1 per club member, per member club. This per capita levy would put into the fighting fund some £8,000. Together with other fundraising schemes by clubs, rallies etc, a sum of £20,000 could be reached within a short space of time.

With this sort of capital behind it, the very best QCs and public relations agencies could be employed. It would be in a position to crush any restrictive legislation whether at Central or Local Government level.

## **The Individual**

David Wood, Vice Chairman then proposed that the NCMD offer some type of membership to the Individual enthusiast. These are, as David pointed out, those hobbyists who for some reason or another, find it impossible to join an established club. George McRae said that Whites Electronics Ltd could assist in this area by putting a card with every new detector sold. A meeting with the trade members and the NCMD Executives would be arranged to discuss the implementation. Mr Colin Hanson was elected to become the Membership Secretary for this proposal.

## **Metal Detectors/ Archaeology**

John Howland, General Secretary, then outlined the proposals of a meeting that David Wood and himself had with Dr Henry Cleere and Richard Morris of the CBA. These proposals for co-operation between the NCMD and CBA were discussed at some length, the outcome of any co-operation would include the delegates intoned, the following actions by the CBA as a sign of good intention.

The NCMD has asked the CBA to consider the following amendments before co-operation can ensue. The CBA should:

**1 Recognise the hobby of metal detecting and that this hobby has no connection with orthodox archaeology. That this non-archaeological hobby does not have any detrimental effect on orthodox archaeology.**



2 That local councils influenced by information supplied by professional archaeologists with the intention of suppressing the hobby of metal detecting have such information withdrawn.

3 That all official reports on metal detecting are amended to show there is a 'hobby' of metal detecting which does not interfere with orthodox archaeology (i.e. the Council of Europe recommendations, information leaflets held by the House of Commons Research Division).

4 That the recovery of small items, coins, badges, buckles etc, lost on footpaths, beaches, river banks, or similar places does not cause harm to archaeology.

5 The acceptance of these proposals by the CBA be transmitted to the press.

### Code of Conduct

The General Secretary then asked the delegates to consider a new Code of Conduct, or, did a Code of Conduct need to be implemented? Geoff Fry addressed the meeting with the view that the existing one is recognised by the Department of the Environment and that any changes to it might have a detrimental effect. The delegates voted to adopt the existing code for the NCMD.

The Conference also supported the concept of 'treasure hunting', provided it was done Legally. It also recognised the many followers of 'treasure hunting' be they the many sub-aqua clubs or non-

detector users choosing to follow this concept.

### Detector licences

The Chairman then asked the delegates whether they were in favour of the re-introduction of detector licences. This was rejected.

The closing address was made by the Chairman who thanked Mr Ray Horton of the Midlands Federation who had done a superb job in organising the venue and refreshments.

All things considered the Conference was a huge success. The NCMD now had a mandate from the members. With the help and enthusiasm shown at the Conference, the hobby of was now slowly blossoming into one

of the best outdoor family leisure pursuits.

On 24 March 1983 the NCMD was admitted to the membership of the Outdoor Pursuits Division of the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The NCMD was represented at committee meetings by John Howland and David Wood.

### Acknowledgements:

My sincere thanks to the following for their contributions to this item:

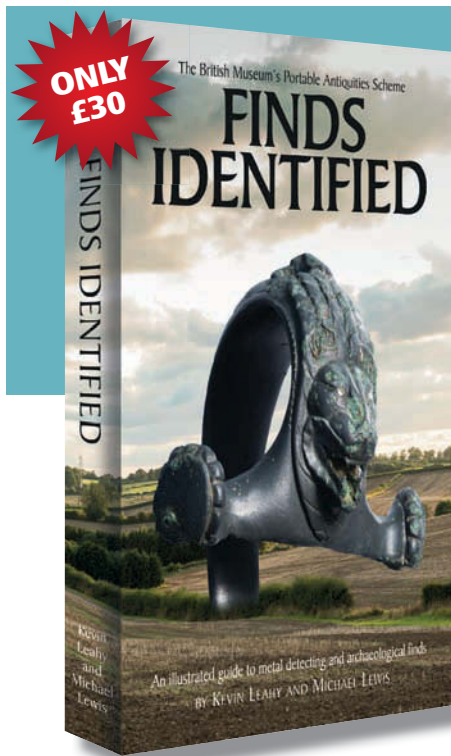
Brian Cross  
John Fargher  
Frank Mellish  
John Howland  
Mollie Thomas  
David Dickenson

## 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](mailto:jjrigby@sky.com)



The British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme

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# A happy and lucky German in Britain

**Swen Meinecke**

'Gut fund' (Good find) is what German detectorists wish one another when going on their hunts. In most parts of Germany, you need to obtain an official certificate issued by the state allowing you to detect on your desired fields. The process of obtaining these certificates takes some time and requires you to go through some formal training. It includes a certification course with lessons in the field and the lecture room, in a restoration unit and with explosives experts.

While waiting for the permissions to be granted over the years, I decided to start my detecting experience in Scotland in 2014. I'd hoped for nothing less but the freedom to detect anywhere I wanted (once permission obtained), provided it wasn't a listed site. My dream came true. Although I've become a rather active member of the German community now and even been able to prove my skills on official excavations, I simply fell in love with the Scottish Borders and can't help but to return there twice a year. In a little cottage out in the countryside I find the peace and silence I need to indulge in research, documentation and appreciation on the finds made.

Once in a while farmers, or the cottage owners, invite me over for dinner or just a nice get-together with a delicious wine in front of their fireplace. I appreciate these memorable moments as they truly make me feel at home.

As I research further and further into my finds, more questions than answers are raised. Were the six silver pennies just a few feet apart from each other, lost during a one-day slaughter between the Scots and the English in 1333? Had the Bronze Age hunter, whose spearhead gave such an intriguing

signal, exclaimed so excitedly about his freshly killed lunch as I did finding such a thrilling relic from around 850 BC? How old did he get? Where did he get buried? What did his land look like back then? How did he communicate with his tribe? Did a Roman soldier give his peculiar looking brooch to a local girl he fell in love with? Where exactly was the path leading to his military camp? Am I on it or is it under the hedge two feet away from me?

Talking to local farmers and historians, visiting libraries, studying old maps and archaeological web sites, and of course walking the fields, has helped a great deal to find more productive sites over the years. Some reveal their historic secrets, some don't. One needs patience and luck.

Reporting all finds to the Treasure Trove Unit in Edinburgh or to my Finds Liaison Officer in Newcastle has proved to be very easy. Some finds get claimed, some are returned to me. Either way, it's



great to know that I can add to our archaeology.

And yes, it's an addiction. I mustn't forget about my work, but the memories of a find leaving me speechless have been too many, and the ancient artefacts are just too beautiful. Each tells a story to tell which need to be documented for the future, so that our ancestors know who they are and where they're coming from.

So, happy hunting to you all. Or, if you want to join me in a German saying – "Gut fund!"



1301 - 1302



1279 - 1300



1307 - 1309



1319 - 1320



1301 - 1314



1301 - 1335



1209 - 1217



1307 - 1309



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# Biennial Rally Mark Lightfoot

Sunday 2 September 2018 saw the biennial North West Regional club rally being held in a private Country Estate close to Kirkby Lonsdale, Carnforth. This was a free of charge rally organised by, and available only to our members. 240 acres of pasture and silage fields bordered to the North and West by a private road leading to the Estate Hall and to the South and East by the magnificent River Lune. It was a pleasure and a privilege to be offered this land for our rally. Sincere thanks to John Ferguson from the Lune Valley Club for the introduction to the landowner, which lead to the availability of this venue.

As any rally organiser knows they don't just happen, a successful rally requires much planning and this one was no different. This particular one was discussed at every regional meeting for almost a year, but in the end, it was all worthwhile.

More than 250 members attended, many of these with more than a four hour round trip to contend with. What they found on arrival were spacious parking facilities, excellent catering by Event Catering (who were set up and ready to serve even the earliest arrivals), a marquee hosting the organising Committee. Also included were our invited guests and partners Graeme and Mel from Uearthed UK, whose stand offered a fantastic array of goods. There was also a fantastic raffle table. Prizes included two detectors donated by Uearthed UK, along with £500 pounds worth of other goods.

Following a short briefing with a few 'do's and don'ts', they were off. All had gone to plan, what we needed now were finds. The first indication that the day was going to be special came mid-morning with a silver finger ring and two Elizabeth I coins. This was quickly followed by a gold finger ring and



four more hammeredreds. Then came a steady succession of quality finds into the marquee. By 1pm, which was raffle time, we had over 20 hammered coins reported.

The raffles main prizes were a Teknetics G2 Plus and a Eurotek Pro. The G2 was won by Stan Foulkes from the South Lanc's and Cheshire MDC, with the Eurotek going to Mathew Wedge from the

North Wales Dirt Diggers.

It wasn't long before we had a second gold ring reported along with a silver brooch and a number of intact, dated, lead artefacts, one of them going back to 1659. There were numerous Georgian and Victorian silver coins and the final number of hammered coins reported was 45. These represented most monarchs from





Edward I through to Charles II along with some interesting non-standard ones such as the beautiful Innocent XI, 1696 coin found by Mark Redfern of the South Lanc's and Cheshire MDC and the 8 Maravedis cob (pirate money) found by Phil Moy of the West Kirby Club.

For a time, when we were all experiencing the drought, we were concerned about digging conditions. However, several days rain prior to the event coupled with the weather on the day resulted in perfect conditions.

There are too many individuals to thank by name, so a very special thanks to all the members who attended, and to all the individual members who took the time to report their finds, it made it so worthwhile for the organisers.



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