

# Digging deep

**NCMD**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

ISSUE 27

## NEWS

# Working for you to protect our hobby

The NCMD, although generally visible to its members and the wider hobby as an insurance provider and representative body for the organised hobby, is active in many background aspects of the hobby which are infrequently reported to the membership.

The organisation has for example for some decades represented the hobby's interests as member of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG) and its precursors as well as more recent membership of the Portable Antiquities Action Plan Group, The Best Practice Working Group. The PAAG was set up to advise and guide the work of the PAS and is made up of

stakeholders which include those from archaeological, landowner and metal detecting organisations.

The main topics discussed at the November 2019 PAAG meeting involved: the PAS Strategy 2020-2023 and Action Plan; possible outcomes of the Treasure Act review process; rallies, and landowner agreements.

Being a stakeholder has its advantages in being able to add informed and constructive comment to debates on many aspects which can and will affect the hobby currently and in the future. However, many of the topics discussed and information

provided at meetings can often be of a sensitive and confidential nature and hence cannot be discussed in detail outside of the NCMD Ordinary Meetings (attended by Regional Representatives), or on various social media platforms for example.

The NCMD ensures that its elected representative(s) to any organised body charged with discussing a variety of heritage, portable antiquities and metal detecting issues are the most experienced available, able to draw upon many years of involvement within the NCMD and the politics which shape the hobby.

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# NCMD Facebook page!

Following last November's NCMD meeting and on the behalf of the organisation, we are delighted to announce the launch of the NCMD Facebook page.

All updates and member information will be published for immediate dissemination to members and potential new members.

Please do 'LIKE' our page and share the posts to groups and individuals who are NCMD members.



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# The Robin & Karolyn Memorial Trophy Competition 2018 – results



## Hilary Fagen, Competition Manager

Once again, I have spent a happy few months receiving entries for the three categories: Hoard, Coin and Artefact and marvelled at their quality and rarity. The competition is not just for the regional clubs but for Individual members and Central Register clubs too, and who were also well represented. All participants took this golden opportunity to highlight and celebrate their best finds made in between 1 January and 31 December 2018.

It's important for all NCMD members to have the opportunity to show their dedication to the hobby by entering finds from all over the country.

Votes in the Coin and Artefact categories were very split, however the Hoard winner scooped up virtually all the votes. It's always interesting for me to see different

voting patterns each year, and of course it is so difficult to make a choice when every entry is alongside its competitor entries.

Three beautiful trophies have now

been distributed to the winners together with a plaque to keep as a memento. Runners-up have also been sent plaques.

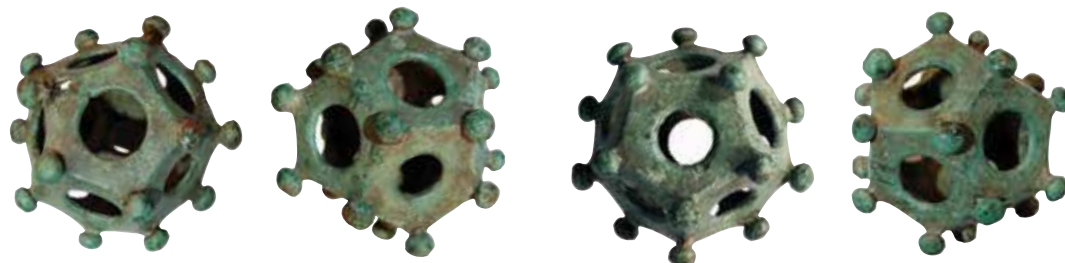
## ARTEFACT CATEGORY

### 1ST DAVID WHEELER

Roman dodecahedron circa AD43-410, thought to be the first complete example found in the UK. Only a few hundred have been found across Europe and their exact usage remains a mystery.

**PAS record:** A slightly damaged but otherwise complete cast copper-alloy dodecahedron dating to the Roman period (c. AD 43-410). The hollow object has twelve flat faces and raised sub-spherical knobs at each corner, totalling 20. Each face is equally sized, is smoothed and has a circular perforation in the centre which varies in diameter, the smallest being 13.7mm and the largest 20mm.

**North Herts Charity Detecting Group**



© PAS

### 2ND IAN HARRISON

A Roman trumpet brooch. This large brooch is in excellent condition with a good patina. South Lancs & Cheshire MDC,

**North-West Region**



### 3RD ANTHONY BROWN

A Neolithic polished axe-head 3500 BC-2100 BC made of green stone with blackish mottling.

PAS Database record: A Neolithic ground and polished axe head. The implement has been extensively chipped and ground into a long elongated sub-rectangular shape in plan that tapers from the cutting edge to the butt which terminates in a rounded point. The blade on the forward edge has been ground into an asymmetrical crescent, this is also the only section to have been polished.

**SHRADS, Western Region**



© PAS

## COIN CATEGORY

**1ST TERRY KEARTON** Gold quarter stater of the Belgae tribe thunderbolt type, dating to the 1st century BC. Obverse, stylised boat with two standing figures, wolf and twins? Reverse, a thunderbolt motif surrounded by various objects.

**Chippenham & District MDC, Western Region**



Terry Kearton (right) and David Rees



## 2ND MARK ARBONES

A gold Celtic scyphate (cup-shaped) quarter stater. Iron Age North eastern gold quarter stater attributed to Corieltavi, dating from about 60 BC-20 BC. The coin is dish shaped and depicts a boar on the convex side and an S shape with pellets and crescents in field on the concave reverse.

**Down to Earth MDC, Yorkshire Region**



Syd Hallam receiving the plaque on behalf of Mark Arbones



## 3RD PETE SUMMERS

A North Eastern region Corieltavi gold stater, dating to the period c. 60/20 BC sunflower type. Obverse wreath, cloak and crescents. Reverse. Lunate horse left, anchor face above pelletal sun below.

**Blackpool & Fylde MDC, North-West Region**



## HOARD CATEGORY

### 1ST PHIL AND JOAN CASTLE

A hoard of five Edward III gold nobles circa 1350 complete with fragments of a counterfeit coin of the same denomination, and part of a purse frame.

PAS Database record: A hoard of one plated copy of a noble and five gold nobles of Edward III (1327-1377) spanning fourth coinage, pre-treaty (1351-1361) series C-Gf dating to the period 1351-1361. Found in association with a purse bar dating to the c.1450-1550 century. Purse: An incomplete late Medieval copper-alloy purse bar dating 1450-1550 AD. The suspension loop is missing although the boss which is in the shape of a cross pattée.

It has short projecting arms circular in profile with rounded terminal knobs. One suspension loop remains wrapped round one arm, the other is covered in corrosion with part of a loop still in place.

**Southern Independent Detectorists, Southern Region**



### 2ND COLIN LOVES

Three early Anglo Saxon brooches, one complete.

A scattered hoard of potential of grave goods, possibly a female.

All three brooches, are small-long brooches and are dated to 450-550 AD.

**Herts & District M.D.C.**



I would like to thank all those who took the time to enter and who knows, I may hear again from you next year. Every month when **The Searcher** arrives I scour it from cover to cover, taking note of the many interesting articles whilst hoping to see the finds described entered into 2019's competition.



# Revised banking arrangements

Siobhan Lihne

I have taken over the role of Treasurer following Dave Philpotts' retirement. I just wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself, and share one or two things that John Rigby (in his role as Membership Secretary) and I have discussed, and would like to implement, in order to streamline processes in the future.

I started detecting 12 years ago when I met my now husband, Jack. He was, and still is, Chair of a club in Scotland. Since I'm no good at being a detecting widow I decided to learn as much about the hobby as I could. Along the way I got press-ganged into the Treasurer role of that club. Hubby was also Vice Chair of the Scottish Region at that time and so I went along to the three – monthly meetings. When the Regional Treasurer retired and they asked for volunteers to take over the role, everyone decided that they were far too busy and that I had plenty of time on my hands!

I should say, at this point, that I've always worked with money in one way or another and having to make

the books balance out. So, when Dave Philpotts retired to spend more time with his family, I was asked to fill his role. I blithely said yes, without having the slightest notion of just how much work it would mean but I did make the one proviso, that was to be given permission to move the NCMD into Internet banking. The fact is that all of us use electronic payments almost every day of the week, without even thinking about it and there was no reason why the NCMD should not follow suit. The appropriate change to the Constitution was therefore agreed at the last meeting in early November and I shall embark on arranging the Internet access very shortly.

I work very closely with John and between us we have discussed many aspects of the day-to-day running of the NCMD's banking and Membership duties and this is where the Regions and Clubs will be asked to help us out. One of the major things we discussed is the timely arrival of membership

details and the associated fees. It is important for me to be able to give accurate financial details at the NCMD Committee meetings and to have accurate figures for the annual financial statement. John, in his role, however, needs membership details much more often so that everything is as up to date as possible for Digging Deep magazine and for the Insurance Underwriters should they ever need such details. So, to this end **we will be asking all regions and clubs to only send fees to us on TWO occasions;**

1. Last week of October (to have an up to date figure for the November meeting).
2. Last week of February (so that the financial statement is as accurate as possible).

Once Internet banking is up and running, all Regions and Clubs will be given the necessary details they will need in order that those who have the facility can send the fees to us by BACS (bank transfer). If they don't have the facility then

they will simply have to send a cheque instead but they will send it to me instead of to John. They will also be given my address details.

Members' details should be sent to John pretty much as is done now. Individual members who do not belong to any club or region will also continue as they do now because the vast majority use either PayPal or a Debit/Credit Card platform anyway and so it's much easier to keep track of that income. The numbers of Individual members using Cheques/Postal Orders is naturally reducing year on year.

This is quite a change, and will take a while to bed in, so we are not expecting things to run perfectly first time round.

Anyone who wants to ask anything at all about these new arrangements, please feel free to email me at:

[shieve1955@gmail.com](mailto:shieve1955@gmail.com)

## NCMD Giveaway!

The NCMD Christmas draw took place live on the BIG Metal Detecting podcast on Thursday 12 December, between 8 and 9pm. Prizes included FIVE XP ORX machines and FIVE Minelab EQUINOX 800 machines!

The draw was done via a random number generator with all NCMD members entered. Winners were announced as follows:

### XP ORX winners were:

David Owen  
Chloe Riley  
Steven Gilson  
Nigel Muldowney  
Yucel Salihoglu



### Minelab EQUINOX 800 winners were:

Mark Fawkes  
Steve Clifford  
David Morris  
John Kettle  
Robert Lapworth



Nigel Muldowney



David Morris



Bob Lapworth

**Congratulations to all our winners!**

# Membership Renewal Form

Dear Individual member

Your membership of the NCMD expires on the 31 March 2020.

**Subscription for 2020/21 for Individual members on the Central Register is £8-00.**

**RENEWALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 4 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.**

✂-----

First Name.....Surname.....

Address .....

Town.....City.....County.....Postcode.....

E-Mail .....

Telephone.....

Previous Membership Number 2019/20 .....

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

**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](mailto:jjrigby@SKY.com)**

# Membership Renewal Form

SCOTTISH REGION MEMBERS



Dear Individual member

Your membership of the NCMD Scottish Region expires on the 31 March 2020.

We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

Subscription for 2020/21 for Individual members on the Central Register: £8-00.

**(Please note subscription for individual members of a NCMD Scottish Region may vary and individual members of that Regional body are advised to contact their Regional Secretary)**

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please complete the attached form and return with your subscription.

All cheques should be made payable to the NCMD Scottish Region and returned to the address below.

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



**Best & Secure way to pay is at [www.ncmd.co.uk/membership/scotland/#scotland](http://www.ncmd.co.uk/membership/scotland/#scotland)  
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Alternatively you may wish to pay by Cheque or Postal Order please fill in form below and make Payable to NCMD Scottish Region

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

✂-----

First Name.....Surname.....

Address .....

Town.....City.....County.....Postcode.....

E-Mail .....

Telephone.....

Previous Membership Number 2019/20 .....

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

**Mrs Siobhan Lihne, 9 Mellerstain Cottages, Gordon, Berwickshire, TD3 6LF Tel: 01573 410723 Email: [ncmdsr@gmail.com](mailto:ncmdsr@gmail.com)**

# Detectorists helping the Police

Gary Clifford

Operation Septre is a fantastic initiative that has been set up between NCMD Western Region Chairman, David Rees and the Wiltshire Police. The aim of the initiative is to help tackle knife crime.

Day one and two saw, Gary Clifford, Pete Pearce and Dave Mallins from the Wyvern Historical and Detecting Society arrive at Westbury Police station, Wiltshire promptly, as per instructions where they met their two Community Police Officers.

The requirement was for them to check through the undergrowth of three local parks for stashed weapons. As we know, there is a national problem with young people and knife crime, in particular carrying knives. The police advised that they're not taking them home because it's too risky and they don't want to carry them around as it risks them being stopped and arrested.

*Last year the home secretary, Sajid Javid, announced he is making it easier for officers to impose a section 60 order, which allows them to search anyone in an area if serious violence is anticipated. Police in England and Wales are being given more power to stop and search people without "reasonable suspicion" in an attempt to tackle knife crime.*

The detectorists job, during this month, was to detect through



some places where young people gather, just to check that there isn't anything in the way of weapons or nitrous oxide canisters hidden or stashed.

The tally for the first two days was a pair of sharp scissors found by Dave and many empty nitrous oxide canisters. Not a huge haul, however, the presence of the police and the detectorists and the

subsequent publishing on local social media will have hopefully acted as a deterrent.

If just one person is deterred from carrying a knife, it will be a worthwhile exercise.

Meanwhile, other detectorists in the county will be targeting their towns and cities.

A great advertisement for our hobby and a very worthwhile exercise.



# What do you do when you find ... A HOARD?

We thought it may be of some interest to new members, to republish an article written by the late Trevor Austin published in a previous issue of Digging Deep.

Sounds an easy enough question to answer, however there can be more to the question than first appears. What type of hoard is it ... is it a scattered hoard, is it buried in a pot, is it coins or collection of coins and artefacts? Is it in fact a hoard at all or just an assemblage of coins accumulated in one area over time such as on a medieval fair site?

Does it have to be reported, does it constitute treasure, if so, do you remove it from the ground if it is in a pot? These are just some of the questions that are not always obvious to the beginner which I will clarify without getting too technical.

● Before we go any further we will assume that everyone is aware of the current laws pertaining to treasure:

*The following finds are Treasure under the Act, if found after 24 September 1997 (or, in the case of category 2, if found after 1 January 2003):*

1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.
2. Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date\* that come from the same find (\*see note 3 right).
3. Two or more coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found and contain 10% gold or silver (if the coins contain less than 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them). Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:
  - Hoards that have been deliberately hidden.

- Smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may of been dropped or lost.

- Votive or ritual deposits.

4. Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure.

5. Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category.

● Notes:

1. An object or coin is part of the 'same find' as another object or coin if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground.

2. Single coins will not be treasure, unless they are found in association with objects that are treasure, or unless there is exceptionally strong evidence that they were buried with the intention of recovery. Section 3 (2) of the Act defines the term 'coin' as including any metal token that was, or can reasonably be assumed to have been, used or intended for use as or instead of money. This definition only includes coins and tokens made after the introduction of the first coinage into this country during the Iron Age period and excludes objects made earlier such as iron currency bars. Jettons or reckoning counters are also excluded from this definition.

3. "of prehistoric date" means dating from the Iron Age or any earlier period.

So in this scenario, you are



having a nice day's detecting when you suddenly come across a couple of silver coins in close proximity, the coins are obviously Roman and therefore from roughly the same period, no more coins turn up and therefore good reason to believe that the coins were lost together and under the Treasure Act would indeed constitute treasure and should be reported at the earliest convenience to your local Coroner/Finds Liaison Officer; quite simple and straight forward.

However let us go one step further and assume that other coins similar to the two you have just found start turning up in large numbers scattered in an area of about 50 square yards/metres. Again the coins are similar in appearance and all look to be made of silver, as with the other two, in all probability they were deposited together and constitute a scattered hoard and there is a good chance they are treasure.

If there are no signs of any container and the coins are in the plough soil it is advisable to collect up the coins recording their find spots with a GPS if one is available. It should be remembered that if you are in any doubt about their age then assume they are older than 300 years and may constitute treasure. Once you have reported the coins the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) may wish to visit the site to examine the context of the find and the find spot.

We have looked at this as it is the easiest type of hoard to deal with, a scattered hoard on the surface. But what if you detect signs of further coins buried deep below the plough soil and in all probability in a pot. This confronts the detectorists with a new set of problems. If it is possible the best

option is to locate the find spot with a GPS and recover the pot until it can be excavated by more experienced persons. This will ensure that any existing context is not destroyed by careless removal of the pot and coins.

However, there may be occasions whereby it is impractical to cover over the pot and await expert help, which could take several days. There could be numerous reasons for this, you may be on a rally with lots of prying eyes, you may be on a building site which is due to be bulldozed that day or the landowner may be insisting it is removed immediately.

If the find must be excavated at once then great care should be taken to try to remove the container in its entirety, with as much of the surrounding soil as possible. The find should then be taken to the nearest Coroner/FLO. **Do not be tempted to empty the pot or container;** there may well be organic material inside that needs careful removal under controlled conditions and the sequence in which the coins were deposited inside the container can often provide as much information as the coins themselves.

Of course hoards do not necessarily need to be comprised of coins, take the Staffordshire hoard for example, the largest hoard of Anglo Saxon gold ever recovered. The finder however merely discovered a number of artefacts, some of which were visible on the surface, and from the number of similar artefacts that he discovered below the surface it soon became obvious that there were more to be found at a greater depth; in this case the finder acted correctly and telephoned the local FLO who arranged for the hoard



© PAS

to be expertly excavated by a team of specialists in Anglo Saxon metalwork.

What is important to remember about the Staffordshire Hoard is that the finder recognised the need for expert help in the removal of the items from the ground; and unquestionably any such large assemblage of potential treasure should be treated in the same way, whenever possible.

There may of course be occasions whereby a number of coins, more than two from the same period, which may appear to be a scattered hoard, but are not a hoard at all. Market sites, Roman occupation sites etc. turn up coins in large numbers, but because they were not deposited at the same time or lost at the same time, do not constitute a hoard as defined in the Treasure Act.

How do you tell? Well generally this will come with experience, but if you were to walk onto a field you have never detected before and you suddenly started to find Roman bronze coins for instance, the first thing to do would be to locate the find spot using a GPS, then working around the area where the coins were found see how many more you can find, look at the type of coins, are they from the same period, are there a mixture of types of coins e.g. silver and bronze, are there also artefacts, brooches and other small Roman military fittings etc., if the answer is **yes**, then the chances are you have come across a Roman settlement or some kind of military installation and the coins etc. are probably losses over a long period of time and would



Never be tempted to empty the contents of a container without expert help. © PAS

not be treasure, unless of course there were any artefacts over 300 years old which contained more than 10% precious metal, this would make those items treasure in their own right.

However, on the other hand if after searching the rest of the field and the answer is no, or only a few more are found, the likelihood is that you have discovered a small hoard, either scattered, or a small purse loss and as such should be recovered and reported to the coroner/FLO as soon as possible.

So basically once you have established the nature of your find; is it a hoard or not, scattered or a buried assemblage in a container, you have to decide whether to excavate the find yourself or report the find for expert excavation. Either way, **the important thing to remember is to preserve any contextual material and do nothing that will damage what could be a potentially important site which may result in the abatement of any reward.**

**Trevor Austin**



A Hoard as large as the Frome Hoard obviously needs expert excavation. © PAS



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## One from the 'old school'

In the summer of 1994 Cyril Askew and two other members of a well established club in the North West made the decision to leave the club and form another group. The decision wasn't taken lightly as all three men had forged some good friendships, but each felt that they needed a new base to further their ambitions within the hobby.

Cyril became the chairman of the new group, the North West MDC and set about building the membership. The intention from day one was always to limit member numbers in order to keep a tightly knit group that would all participate in club events. The membership quickly arrived at the agreed limit, and it has remained at that number for 26 years.

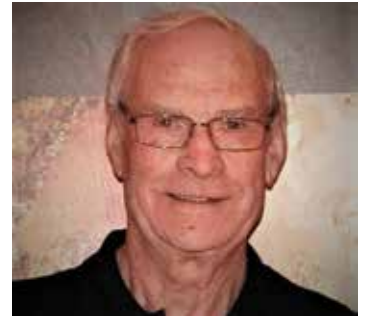
Due to the dedication and resolve of Cyril and other club offices, notably Tony Bardsley, the club has a dig every Sunday of the year. This was their goal when the club was founded and remarkably this tradition continues today. Another goal laid out in the constitution written in 1994 was their allegiance to the NCMD and the commitment to always have the club represented at the monthly regional meetings. In fact, Cyril was one of the representatives at the regional meetings for the first 20 years of the club's existence.

Like all other clubs, the North West has had its share of happy moments and some not so happy which have needed strong leadership to overcome. Cyril has

been at the helm through all of these moments and guided the group to its position today of a stable, happy club that contributes much to the North West Region and to the hobby.

Alas, the time has come for Cyril to call it a day and hand the Chairman's responsibility to someone else. That person is Glenn Lister, a long term and much respected member of the group.

Cyril has earned the genuine warmth and respect that he receives in abundance from all the members. He intends to continue attending meetings and digs when Grandparenting duties allow. His presence from 'the chair' will be missed, and we all send him our very best wishes.



We're delighted to report that following a request from the members, Cyril has accepted the position of Hon President for life, of the North West MDC.

**Kev Gorman**  
North West MDC  
North West region

## A 'eureka' moment

We've all seen the recent adverse publicity our hobby has suffered so I thought I'd share this short story with you all.

Whilst enjoying a club dig recently I found a nice example of a catchment plate from an early 6th century Saxon long brooch. It was the complete lower half of the brooch and in really good condition, but was missing the decorative top section. At lunch I showed the other club members in the hope they may come across the missing piece, or any parts of it, but alas this was not to be.

Two weeks later the club were back on the same field. I spent the whole visit searching for the missing piece or more likely pieces. Again it was not to be. Although I did find a nice Elizabeth I three pence in the process. By now I'd made my mind up that I'd have to wait for the next plough and search again.

Fast forward another three weeks and I was attending our club meeting which was on a Monday night. The club had been on a dig the previous day which I could not attend. However it turned out they were searching the adjacent fields to the one where I found my broken brooch. One of our members John Benstead, came to show me a find from the previous day. It was a

cruciform head of a Saxon brooch. "Do you think this could be the other half of yours?" It looked so good, in one piece, pitted with age, great patina. To be honest my first thoughts were that it was slightly big to fit my half, but we agreed I'd take it home to check.

When I arrived home I dropped everything and immediately checked the two pieces. When I put them together it was a eureka moment. They were a perfect match (fig 1). The next day I rang John and told him the good news. We talked it through and John very graciously gave me the piece he'd found and I promised I'd make sure it was repaired and returned to its original state.

The first two attempts at a repair failed due to the positioning of the break. Then I worked out what was necessary to safely hold both pieces together (fig 2). I made my mind up not to make any attempt to conceal the repair. What we are left with is an honest artefact

which says, I was lost and broken, and thanks to the hobby of metal detecting, I was found and put back together.

After all this brooch has its own story to tell. The fields where the separate parts were found are next to each other, but separated by a mature tree hedge. A 19th century estate map tells us that these hedges were laid down in the 1700s, which surely tells us that the two pieces of the brooch were separated over 200 years ago, maybe a thousand years ago who knows. What we do know is, they were brought back together by two different people, on two different days, from two different fields.

I cannot think of any other set of circumstances, apart from this hobby, which could've resulted in this beautiful 6th century brooch being saved from further harm and possibly complete destruction.

**Kev Gorman**  
North West MDC  
North West region



# Treasures Unearthed **Exhibition**

Venue – Chester Town Hall Date – 22 August 2020 Time – 10am to 4pm

Admission – free

Metal detecting enthusiasts from across the North West and beyond are expected at the 2020 Treasures Unearthed Exhibition – an exhibition of metal detecting discoveries.

Detecting clubs of the North West Region stretch from Kendal in Cumbria to the Welsh town of Wrexham, and their members will be setting up stalls to show some of the most interesting and beautiful discoveries made whilst pursuing their hobby of detecting. This is a one-day event **FREE** to everyone and it's also open to the public too.

If you're a detectorist and would like to see what's on offer, you will be made most welcome by the organisers and club members alike.

Amongst our guests will be two representatives of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Heather Beeton – FLO for Cheshire/Merseyside/Greater Manchester and Susie White – FLO in Wales.

They will be delighted to identify and record finds from both detectorists and our visitors.

The trade will be represented by Unearthed UK who will have a complete array of detectors and detecting accessories available, with Graeme and Mel on hand for information and advice. Unearthed UK in conjunction with Minelab and Teknetics will also supply four metal detectors to be raffled to the regional members.

Each of the stalls will have a 'themed' showcase on display. The theme for this year's exhibition is 'Military'. These showcases will hold an array of military items from Roman, through medieval to present day.

There will be four trophies to be won, Best coin, Best artefact, Best themed showcase and Best overall club stand, these categories will be judged by four knowledgeable and respected hobby enthusiasts.



For our younger visitors we have a Medieval coin striker ready to show you how silver coins were made 1000 years ago, be sure he gives you a coin to take home. There will also be a touch tray on each stand where you may find something interesting.

John Rigby, Membership Secretary who will be available to answer all NCMD related questions and will be delighted to sign up new members, or point them in the direction of their local regional branch.

**Dave Edwards**  
Chair – North West Region

The NCMD will be represented by



## Changing address? Don't forget to tell us...

A significant number of copies of *Digging Deep* are returned to the NCMD by Royal Mail marked 'Gone Away' or 'Not known here'. Please make sure that the details we have for you are correct.

If you are changing address, please make sure that your Regional representative is notified or contact the Membership Secretary: John Rigby, 6 Arkholme Ave, Blackpool, Lancs FY1 6QJ or telephone: 01253 692313.

### DIARY DATES

- The next OGM 9 February**
- The next AGM 14 June**
- The next PAAG 25 March**

### 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)**

# News update

There are now 17 clubs in the Western Region, and the area covered is from Gloucester, throughout Wiltshire, across South Wales, Somerset, and into Dorset and Devon at present. There's no cost for clubs in our area to join the region, for more information please see [www.westernregionncmd.co.uk](http://www.westernregionncmd.co.uk)

The meetings, attended by representatives from the clubs, take place at a venue close to the M4 Junction 18. Dates are posted on the website at [www.westernregionncmd.co.uk](http://www.westernregionncmd.co.uk). There is also a Facebook group that enables representatives to communicate easily with each other.

At the AGM the representatives elect a committee to oversee the duties within the region.

Additional meetings are being planned for 2020 near to Exeter,

and in South Wales to enable clubs in those areas to become more inclusive.

The region representatives also attend NCMD Council meetings throughout the year, and enter finds for such as the Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition producing a winner in 2018 and again in 2019 going to Terry Kearton of the Chippenham Club.



The region also has a trophy for what is voted the regional Find of the Year, and this was presented to Tony Brown of SHRADS for his lovely Neolithic ground and polished axe head. He retains the trophy for one year, but also receives a smaller engraved trophy that he can keep.

Another regional rally is being planned for 2020, and the Chippenham Club are holding a detecting exhibition between 18 January and 22 February in Chippenham Museum, Wiltshire offering good marketing opportunities for the hobby, and how we work with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The region also partners with the Police Rural Crime Unit in several force areas to help with the prevention and detection of



Tony Brown receiving his Find of the Year trophy from Nick Keeler

illegal metal detecting and heritage crime, criminal damage, and the theft of livestock and farm property.

**David Rees**  
(Chairman Western Region NCMD)

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