

# DIGGING

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

# DEEP

ISSUE 29

## BRIAN CROSS



Brian & Mo Cross

## A Hobby Pioneer

The vast majority of hobbyists today will not know the full story of the trials and tribulations of the birth of our hobby, the formation of the National Council for Metal Detecting, and the small group of stalwart individuals who fought and won, the battle to save our hobby from being permanently banned.

The whole story can be found on the NCMD website in the publications section, under the heading: **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING - EARLY HISTORY 1978 - 1982.**

Today we recognise one of those individuals, Brian Cross.

Brian was a founder member of the South Lanc's and Cheshire MDC (1978), he is still a member of this club which takes an active part in North West regional business to this day. Brian was also responsible for rounding up clubs in his County and became founder member of the North West Federation (1979) (later to be known as region) and then worked selflessly along with a handful of others to bring about the formation of our organisation. On 15th September 1981 the North West and Southern Federations were amalgamated into the organisation we have today, The National Council for Metal Detecting.

Once the National Council had been formed, Brian stepped back to concentrate on club and regional issues, then watched as the Council grew in numbers and stature.

Brian, a quietly spoken, extremely modest man, plays down his part in the early transformation of our hobby, as do most of the other pioneers I've been privileged to meet.

*Continued on next page...*

*Brian, a quietly spoken, extremely modest man, plays down his part in the early transformation of our hobby, as do most of the other pioneers I've been privileged to meet*

## Contents

**P1: A HOBBY PIONEER – BRIAN CROSS** *A true stalwart of our hobby to whom we owe so much.*

**P3: WHAT DOES THE NCMD DO FOR US – ALASTAIR HACKETT** *A humorous look at some of the day-to-day tasks of the NCMD officers.*

**P4: A FAMILY AFFAIR – JESSICA MILLINGTON** *Meet the Millington's, hobbyists in every sense of the word.*

**P6: WELCOME TO THE REGIONS – KEVIN GORMAN** *For the readers who have not yet experienced the regional community.*

**P7: TREASURE ACT REVIEW – AN NCMD UPDATE** *Ongoing information on this important issue.*

**P8: COLONIAL COINAGE – KEVIN GORMAN INTRIGUING** *insight into the early North American settlers.*

**P9: MAJOR FINDS EXCAVATION FUND** *NCMD/PAS help in the first hours/days of a major find.*

**P10: JUNIOR FINDS COMPETITION 2020 – THE WINNERS** *Heart warming stories and pictures of the next generation of hobbyists.*

**P11: ROBIN & KAROLYN HATT COMPETITION 2021** *It's that time again folk's, check out the competition date.*

**P12: NCMD COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE** *A up to date look at what we are up to on the communications front.*



HERE ARE THE NAMES OF SOME MORE INTREPID INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM WE ALL OWE SO MUCH.

**NORTH WEST FEDERATION INAUGURAL COMMITTEE. 1979.**

Alan Clark – Brian Cross – Harry Knight  
John Fargher – Marjorie Norton

**SOUTHERN FEDERATION INAUGURAL COMMITTEE. 1981.**

David Wood – John Williams – Berni Glover  
Mrs. Andrews – Derek Elliot – Mick Turrell.

**NCMD INAUGURAL COMMITTEE. 1981**

Dennis Buchanan – David Wood – John Howland  
John Shreeve – Mick Turrell.

Sadly, some of these stalwarts have passed on, we would like to feature more of the pioneers of our hobby listed here, are you one of them? Do you know one of them?

Please contact Kevin Gorman [kgorman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kgorman@hotmail.co.uk)

Brian, from the whole of the NCMD membership, and the rest of the hobby in general, we thank you and your colleagues from all those years ago, for your immense contribution to our favourite pastime.

**Kevin Gorman. General Secretary.**

I asked Brian to share some of his favourite finds, here are his choices, I've often stated that your best find might be a Victorian penny or half-penny after suffering six hours of metal detecting in a muddy, ploughed field without a signal! That find would truly feel like something special.

My very best or most special find was not immediately recognised by myself as such. I was on a Red Rocket trip a long time ago in 1998. The Red Rocket was a camper van in which myself and my wife Mo' used to go detecting to various parts of the UK. When we came back from a trip, I would write the story of that trip and they'd appear in a hobby magazine.

On that particular trip we had found two hammered coins and just took a photo of them and included that in the article. I hadn't noticed anything special about this coin except that it was tiny and Scottish.

When the magazine was launched the editor got a phone call from Peter D Spencer, a coin expert, who asked for contact to be made and better photos requested from me. Peter had noticed that my coin was a bit special.

It turns out that the coin was UNIQUE!! It was a farthing of David II struck around 1330 probably in the town of Berwick on Tweed a town in Scottish hands at that time. It was unique because of a die pairing



Farthing of David II

unknown until I found this coin. I later sold the coin to the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh and through the publicity the find had in the hobby and numismatic world a few others were found to be lying in collection boxes their owners unaware of what they had. That was my most special coin find.

Like many detectorists it's the hammered coin that gets my heart rate going. It was on another trip in the Red Rocket in faraway Lincolnshire that I found this next coin a penny of William the Conqueror. It was instantly recognised by myself and I knew I had found what to me was a sought-after coin.

It was a silver medieval penny of William I (1066-1087) dating to 1074-1077. Minted by Alef at York. BMC V, North no.845.



My next special find is one which to me was gob-smackingly different. It is a Cast lead seal dating to the Medieval period. The object is circular in plan and flat. The central motif is of a bird standing right. The bird has a long-pointed beak, and a circular eye. Grooves on the object provided detail on the breast and wing of the bird. The seal reads: SIGILIOHIS FIE PETRI +, which translates as Seal of John, son of Peter. I just find it to be a stunning find especially the bird and

the clear text and it is one of my favourites and again, found on one of our Red Rocket trips.

My last item in this piece is one I affectionately call "Mr. Happy".



This was found on a Red Rocket trip in 2002. He dates to the Roman period and was made from a copper alloy. He is obviously a figurine of some kind whose exact use has been lost in time.

Finally, I like to say that I also found my wife Mo' through the hobby of metal detecting, she was the best treasure find I ever made. For many, many years our whole life was metal detecting orientated. In those very early days, we toured clubs spreading word of the formation of the NCMD and the regional federations and then later enjoyed the hobby in our little camper van. This hobby has brought us so much joy and we've made so many friends through it, may you all have similar success.

Brian & Mo Cross

# WHAT DOES THE NCMD DO FOR US?

BY ALASTAIR HACKETT

Many members join the NCMD to ensure that they obtain public liability insurance which has become a standard requirement for attending metal detecting rallies or similar events. However, the NCMD is about much more than just providing insurance. Its Constitution defines its objectives as being:

- To promote, protect and encourage the hobby of metal detecting for its members.
- To protect the hobby of metal detecting from attack, control or legislation which inhibits or compromises existing freedoms.
- Protection of the hobby is quite a tall order given the pressures that have continued to be placed on it over many years by archaeologists and others who claim that our activities are helping to destroy Britain's heritage.

## VOLUNTEER TEAM

The NCMD has a dedicated team of volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep a watch on any issues that emerge and to react to them on our behalf as best they can. Over the past year, the team has been heavily involved in answering members' enquiries about Covid restrictions and lobbying the Westminster government and the devolved governments in Wales and Scotland to highlight our hobby's relatively safe procedures. This has been done to try and obtain relaxations for the hobby and much of this has involved hours of work dealing with email exchanges. Important statements concerning Covid-19 regulations are now posted on the NCMD's Facebook page and have also been published on the Detecting Hub forum.

**NCMD EXECUTIVES AND VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN TRAINING SCHEMES WITH THE ALLIANCE TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST HERITAGE (ARCH). THIS INITIATIVE IS AIMED AT TACKLING NIGHTHAWKING AS WELL AS OTHER HERITAGE CRIME, AS THESE ARE SERIOUS ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR HOBBY'S REPUTATION IN THE PUBLIC EYE.**

The NCMD is a member of the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SARA) and has representation here which helps to gain leverage in any consultations with central government. The NCMD also has representation on the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG) whose function is to consider issues arising from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in England and Wales.

The NCMD made substantial input into the recent review of the Treasure Act 1996, the outcomes of which are currently awaited (this legislation does not affect Scotland). The Agriculture Act 2020 became law on 11 November 2020, and is being monitored for any possible changes to the current Countryside Stewardship Schemes (CSS) that may affect the hobby. New Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) are also being introduced to gradually replace CSS by 2028. It is therefore highly important that the NCMD resists any possible attempts by archaeology and heritage groups to exploit that legislation to introduce access restrictions to certain areas covered by new farm payment schemes. The NCMD has recently obtained Associate Membership of the National Farmers Union (NFU) in view of our increasing concerns over contaminated green waste (CGW), an issue that the NCMD been highlighting for at least 8 years and one which is now recognised by the farming community.



A major current issue concerns the establishment of an initiative called the Association of Detectorists / Institute of Detectorists (AOD/IOD). It is not within the scope of this short article to explain the details of this proposal, but the NCMD sees the AOD/IOD as a long-term threat to the hobby that could result in the introduction of licensing. Details of the NCMD's opinion of the AOD/IOD has been circulated to all its members via a personal letter and can also be viewed on its website; officers continue to keep a close watch on further developments.

The NCMD website has an online form enquiry facility which allows any member to submit an enquiry which is then distributed to one or more NCMD officers to be dealt with.

Three times a year, delegates from each of the eight NCMD regions (Scotland is a region in its own right), individual members and representatives from Central Register clubs wing their way from around the country to gather in Northampton for Executive Committee meetings where a full agenda is always guaranteed. Alongside the officers and delegates at this meeting are the co-opted officers and invited guests or speakers. Finally, a range of informative videos has recently been created that has had a huge appreciative reception from the whole hobby.

So, to paraphrase John Cleese (Monty Python & Life of Brian): apart from answering Covid enquiries, lobbying central and devolved governments, maintaining a Facebook page and forum posts, answering online form enquiries, representing the hobby in ARCH and in SARA, attending PAAG meetings, monitoring outcomes of the Treasure Act review and the Agriculture Act 2020, highlighting concerns over contaminated green waste, monitoring developments in the AOD/IOD, creating informative videos and attending Executive Committee meetings three times a year... what does the NCMD do for us?

Alastair Hackett, NCMD President

# A family affair

Things in our hobby are not always rosy, so, let's hear from a family unit looking forward to happy days out detecting together as Covid restrictions are slowly lifted.

Hello, my name is Jessica, and I am a 15-year-old metal detectorist, and this is how my family started detecting as well as some of our favourite finds!



Jessica

My Mum got her first metal detector in 2017, she had always wanted to go metal detecting and by chance our postman mentioned to us that he was a metal detectorist, he had a spare detector which he let us borrow to use on the beach whilst on holiday. A few months later he asked if we wanted to buy it, so my Grandad bought it for her for Christmas! My Dad thought it would be a waste of time and that we would never find anything - which we didn't much at first. Then in 2018 we went to Scarborough and to our delight the beach had been stripped back, exposing all the treasure beneath. Loads of Victorian and Georgian coins were found as well as beautiful shiny, brass buttons! We could not believe it! I didn't have my own detector then and just used the pin-pointer to locate the items, but after all the goodies at Scarborough I was desperate to get a metal detector for myself. Scarborough made us have a desire to find even older artefacts, in which we needed a permission to do so.

It was very odd how we got our first permission; it was a stunning day, so we decided to go to the countryside and my Dad went to take a picture of the view, next to a drystone wall. He lost his balance and put his hand on the wall to steady himself, which resulted in the whole wall falling down, which the cows watched in bemusement. He dashed to the farm to tell the farmer, however he wasn't in, so we got his phone number from a nearby house and left a voicemail. At 10 o'clock that evening, the farmer finally returned his call, telling us not to worry - his Dad would sort it out. The next day my Dad went to see him, along with a box of beer to apologise. Whilst talking to the farmer he cheekily asked if we could have permission to detect his land and he said yes! We had just bagged our first ever permission, which we have spent hours searching, in all weathers!



Jessica with her Dad & Mum

I finally got my own detector in the Christmas of 2018 and I have never looked back since - it is a Garrett 400! It is the best hobby in the world!

**THEN IN 2018 WE WENT TO SCARBOROUGH AND TO OUR DELIGHT THE BEACH HAD BEEN STRIPPED BACK, EXPOSING ALL THE TREASURE BENEATH. LOADS OF VICTORIAN AND GEORGIAN COINS WERE FOUND AS WELL AS BEAUTIFUL SHINY, BRASS BUTTONS! WE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT!**

My Dad had joined Lune Valley Metal Detecting club in Lancaster as soon as we started detecting and when I got my detector, we all started going, it is the highlight of our month! There are so many knowledgeable people in the club, who have helped us identify lots of finds. Plus, there is a finds table, with four categories and a prize for the most voted artefact/coin in each category. We have regular guest speakers talking about a wide variety of historical topics. At the end of the

evening there is always a raffle, which is good fun (and expertly run by Angela). We always get excited about the several rallies the club holds each year which are held on very interesting land and it's great to know that they donate money to charity! However, because of Covid, the club has gone virtual and has been a fantastic way to keep in touch with everybody and seeing all their finds past and present!

Every time we go out detecting, my Dad takes his purple bucket to put all the scrap in as well as any rubbish we come across because we know how harmful cans are to cows when they get into the silage. Also, it is great to do something helpful for the farmers who gave us permission to detect their land!

Here are just some of our favourite finds from Lancashire.

I'll start with the silver and gold items I have found; the gold ring was found on the beach in October last year (not very deep down) - it is the first piece of gold I have found, and I was very excited! My Mum found a gold ring exactly a month later on the same local beach.



Next came a roman intaglio ring made of copper alloy, with a roman figure carved on a red stone (I am still waiting for some more information about it from the FLO) I found it in August last year on a glorious day; I nearly didn't detect the area because it had been blocked by a wall of cows! Luckily, they decided to move further into the field! It was a very low signal, very shallow and it was underneath a stone.

Groat



This Groat is only the second hammered coin I have ever found, (the first one had nothing on it). It is an Edward IV Groat dated between 1477 and 1480! I found it in February last year and I was so overjoyed I started running around the field! It was a very good signal.

The George I shilling dated 1724 and produced by the Welsh Copper Company and was found by my Mum only a month into detecting our

George I shilling



first permission in 2018. When it first came out - after I had pinpointed it - I didn't recognise the bust and said, 'It's a guy with a funny hairdo, I think it's French!' (Now I can identify coins much quicker and accurately)!

My Dad found a Queen Victoria shilling when we first went to Scarborough detecting while me and my Mum went to the amusement arcade! It is in very good condition and we never cleaned it to keep the patina on it!

On our first permission my Mum found a Robert Raikes Sunday School Medallion - which was a very loud signal - she called myself and my Dad over, we all looked down into the hole in amazement as there was a face staring back at us! (On the same day, my Mum found her first hammered coin which was Edward the III).

Hopefully, the club rallies will be able to start soon, so we can see each other in person! Happy hunting!

Jessica Millington



Robert Raikes Sunday School Medallion



Selection of silver and gold items I have found

# WELCOME TO THE REGIONS

*How times change, back in the day there were only individual detectorists, then came the clubs, then the North West region followed by the Southern region and from these two regions, The NCMD was born.*

In 1979 five North West clubs came together under the guidance of a pioneer detectorist named Brian Cross, and so, the first region or Federation, as it was then known was formed. Next came the Southern region, and through the hard work and sheer determination of a handful of hobbyists the two regions joined forces and the National Council for Metal Detecting began its life.

More regions were soon to follow, Midlands, Anglian, North East, Yorkshire, Scottish and Western.

Move forward 40 years and the ratio of club members to individual members has turned full circle, the number of individual members, and members of the Central Register clubs far outweigh regional hobbyists in fact some individual members will not be aware of the role of a region, so, here is the short story of my own region, the North West.

All 15 clubs are in touch with the regional officers at least once a month.

Geographically we are spread from Cumbria to Wales, our most Northerly club is Kendal in Cumbria and 130 miles south, is Wrexham in Wales, travelling from Cumbria you will pass North West clubs in Lancaster, Blackpool, Bolton, The Wirral, Manchester, Cheshire, and Wales.

All these clubs have a small band of officers working for their members, each club will have a monthly meeting where a set of minutes are produced, they will also have a finds table competition. Some clubs invite speakers to entertain the club members, some

clubs organise rallies and invite other North West clubs, and in return get invited to their dig's.

Every month the club's representatives make their way to the monthly regional meeting in Warrington, Cheshire, those who cannot make it may submit a report which will include the latest news and the finds table voting results.

Typically, the meeting follows a format of, regional business, NCMD news and report, and the all-important club reports which each club representative will share with the group, and where a club has submitted a report with apologies for absence, these are shared by the secretary to the group.

The whole contents of the meeting are recorded in a comprehensive set minutes by the regional secretary and these are shared with all

15 member clubs, the minutes include reports from officers, updates on the regional activities, NCMD Executive update, and all the club's monthly reports in full.

Each year a complete set of regional financial results are published to the club's representatives.

The North West region hold biennial events, one year a member's only, free to attend, detecting rally, this event has produced some amazing days

out, with venues as far apart as Cumbria and Cheshire.

These rallies will include marquees to host our guests who will typically include the FLOs from the Portable Antiquities Scheme recording and helping with identification of finds, our partners Uneathed UK with their ever-popular trade stand, hot and cold food

**OUR REGION HOST'S 15 CLUBS OF VARYING SIZES, SEVERAL OF OUR CLUBS HAVE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS IN THREE FIGURES, GIVING THE REGION A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP THAT FLOATS AROUND 900/1000**



Site for our 2018 free rally



Exhibition raffle winners

stall, and of course the mega raffle where there are usually 2 or 3 detecting machines up for grabs donated by Uneathed UK.

Every other year we host the 'Treasures Uneathed Exhibitions' at the Chester Town Hall, an event where regional clubs will exhibit their finds, proudly displayed in each club unique style. This is a day that the hobby has supported in their thousands over many years, and the North West Region and partners thanks all the hobbyists for your support at this popular event.

Four independent judges choose the winners of, the best coin, artefact, overall best club display, and the themed showcase, each receive a trophy to keep.

The responsibilities for these events, and indeed the administration of the North West region are shared among volunteer club officers, this is a group where loyalty matters, and serious disagreements are a rarity.

The officers of the North West Region are, Chair, Dave Edwards Wrexham club, Secretary, Kev Gorman North West MDC, Treasurer, and membership Secretary, Cliff Passey South Lanc's and Cheshire club, and finally Vice Chair Phil Moy West Kirby club.



Phil Moy



Cliff Passey



Dave Edwards



Kevin Gorman

These officers have scores of years' experience both as hobbyists and as club and regional representatives, like all other club officers around the country they give up their time to enhance other hobbyist's enjoyment of this amazing pastime we call our hobby.

Kevin Gorman.

# TREASURE ACT REVIEW AN NCMD UPDATE

In December 2020, the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) released a response to the consultation on the revision of the Treasure Act 1996 and the accompanying Codes of Practice. This review used the 1461 responses from the public consultation which began in February 2019 and closed in April 2019. If you haven't already seen a copy of the report, we suggest you search for 'Treasure Act review' in your browser to quickly locate a copy of the response at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Following the publication of the response we have been in regular contact with DCMS and, more specifically, the Cultural Property department responsible for the Treasure Act in DCMS. We had a web meeting with the Head of the Cultural Property department in January 2021, where the report findings were presented to us and we had the opportunity to ask questions. Discussions were wide ranging but mainly centered on the following topics:

**A new definition of treasure** – the NCMD was asked to participate in the further development of a range of 'significance' definitions. In March 2021 we were interviewed by the consultant tasked with developing these definitions. These have now been presented to DCMS by the outside consultant, but have not been published at the time of writing this update. DCMS have warmly welcomed our offer to invite you, our members, to provide feedback on to these definitions once published. We have been assured that this will take place this summer to fully understand the 'on the ground' impact of the different options before the decision is made on which will be used. Please watch out for emails from us if you'd like to know more and want to be involved.

**Commercial rallies** – A reference to 'look further' at commercial rallies was included in the report. We have been promised that this is not part of the Treasure Act review, but will be looked at in 2022. Be assured that whilst we do not represent any commercial organisation, including rally organisers, we are committed to protecting the hobby's freedoms to detect lawfully in the UK. We will be actively involved in the discussions on commercial rallies in 2022. We will talk to you more on this, including asking for your input as we develop our approach, later in 2021.

**The process and valuations** – We are concerned that the budget for the treasure process is not sufficient for the growth in treasure items declared. This is leading to unnecessary delays. For example, the budget for valuations has not been increased since 2007 but the number of treasure cases has more than doubled since. As a result, the valuation budget was exhausted 6 months into 2018 and again in 2019, meaning for 6 months of these years further valuations couldn't be commissioned. Similarly, cuts to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) budget have meant planned improvements to systems haven't happened and staffing levels have been reduced. Our focus will be to work with DCMS and the BM to speed up the process, improve the efficiency of the system and ensure it is financed to meet the needs of any new treasure definition.

DCMS plan to lay changes to the 1996 Act before Parliament by the end of 2021.

# COLONIAL COINAGE

*From time to time. 17th century coins from the Massachusetts Bay Colony of New England are found in the fields of Great Britain. These coins are not common and almost always of the one-shilling denomination even though there were coins of the 2 pence, 3 pence and 6 pence minted alongside the shilling.*

## The story of the first Massachusetts Bay mint is one of TRIAL AND ERROR. INTRIGUE. AND OPPORTUNISM. But more of that later.



Massachusetts pine tree shilling

Here you see a pictured of a fine example of a Massachusetts pine tree shilling that was found on a club dig by a friend of mine Hal Roach back in 2005. When we arrived at the designated farm on that day, the fields allocated were overgrown and undetectable. After several grumbles and a few phone calls, we were on our way to another club permission, still not too happy because the alternative farm had not produced anything of interest for some considerable time. But hey ho, you work with what you are given. After a blank few hours and in the final hour of detecting, Hal found the coin, none of the members recognised it for what it was, a Massachusetts Bay shilling. After all, there's no monarch's head and none of the usual clues in the legend and so, having shown the farmer the 'nice' thing, assumed to be a token that he had recovered, he took it home.

Hal sent a picture to the hobby press asking for an identification, sometime later the story was published.

The following Sunday I arrived at the club dig which ironically was only a mile away from the find spot of the shilling. Hal came over armed with the September 2005 edition of a hobby magazine, Inside was a picture and write-up on his Massachusetts Pine Tree shilling. Hal stood there, magazine in one hand, coin in the other beaming from ear to ear! There was great excitement and congratulations all round. It's always good when any member finds something that is a first for the club, and in our case, the first and only Massachusetts coin to be found.



The story of Colonial coinage begins in Boston, Massachusetts in 1652. After years of using goods and local produce as a means of bartering (the Massachusetts Bay colony used corn and beaver skins) some foreign coinage came on the scene, mainly from trading with England and the Spanish West Indies. The most common coin of the time was the Spanish eight reals of the 'pieces of eight fame'. Silver coinage was welcome, but problems arose due to the colonies all having their own idea of the worth of the various coins and allocating values to them.

By 1652 shortages of coins were severely restricting trade and something had to be done. The problem was that all the colonies were under British rule and needed to be granted authorisation from the British Monarch to mint their own coinage. However, in 1652 the civil war in England was over, Charles II was in exile and the country was living under a Commonwealth of England banner. In the absence of a Monarch, the General Court of Massachusetts seized the moment and granted an authorisation to the Massachusetts Bay Colony to mint their own coins.

The Court appointed John Hull to be Master of the mint and Robert Sanderson as his assistant. The first coinage rolled out in June 1652 and these coins are known as New England coins. First to be minted were the New England shilling. These coins were such a disaster that they ceased minting in October 1652 just four months after commencement. The coins were circular pieces of silver with the letters NE on one side and Roman numerals on the other denoting the value. So poor was the design that counterfeiting and clipping

**HAL STOOD THERE, MAGAZINE IN ONE HAND, COIN IN THE OTHER BEAMING FROM EAR TO EAR! THERE WAS GREAT EXCITEMENT AND CONGRATULATIONS ALL ROUND. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD WHEN ANY MEMBER FINDS SOMETHING THAT IS A FIRST FOR THE CLUB, AND IN OUR CASE, THE FIRST AND ONLY MASSACHUSETTS COIN TO BE FOUND.**

quickly became widespread and minting had to cease. This gave birth to the minting of the 'Tree' coinage.



Willow tree Shilling



Oak tree Shilling

First came the Willow tree coinage with denominations of 3 pence, 6 pence and shilling, followed by the Oak tree 2 pence, 3 pence, 6 pence and shilling, and finally the Pine tree 3 pence, 6 pence and shilling.

It is significant that all the coinage minted except the 2 pence retained the date 1652 regardless of when it was minted. Over the years people more qualified than me have put forward theories of why the date did not change on the Massachusetts coinage. I like the account that suggests the date was not changed so that the coinage would always show a mint date of the year that England did not have a Monarch and therefore no laws were broken when the mint was authorised.

In 1684 the charter of Massachusetts was revoked by Charles II now restored as king and the mint was forced to close.

Kevin Gorman, General Secretary, NCMD

## NCMD - MAJOR FINDS EXCAVATION FUND



The National Council for Metal Detecting are delighted to announce that a fund is now in a place to help assist our members fortunate enough to uncover a major find, this fund will pay for an accredited, PAS recommended, archaeologist to perform the initial excavation of the findspot, thereby helping to preserve important archaeological information, whilst reducing the period of time that the find may be vulnerable.

We have been working on this project for a considerable amount of time and are quite excited at the prospect of it finally coming to fruition.

The exact location of the findspot should only be given to the archaeologist who will attend the site to perform the excavation. The NCMD officer who takes your initial call will not ask you for the exact findspot. The officer will pass on your details to the archaeologist assigned to you, so you can offer directions.

There is a strict set of conditions that must be met when a finder applies for the funding.

1. Only finds made by current members of the NCMD will be eligible for the funding assistance.
2. Funding assistance will be given to the excavation of any major finds made by NCMD regional or central register club members along with Individual members detecting on permissions with the landowner's consent. Funding assistance will not be given to the excavation of major finds during commercial rallies, where it is expected that the rally organisers will have accrued adequate funds to assist accredited archaeologists involved in the excavation.
3. Most major finds are made outside normal working hours i.e., weekends or bank holidays. This will require a contact number being made available to allow an NCMD representative, working closely with the PAS. To be on hand to advise the finder of best practice regarding the securing of the site until such time as an excavation team are available. The NCMD representatives contact number is 07983 897442.

### The finder will be required to furnish the following data.

- Confirmation that the find was made within the above parameters.
- Their name – NCMD membership No – contact details.
- The landowner's details including address, post code, and phone number.
- Full description of the in-situ finds (photo's where possible)

4. The PAS will appoint liaison officer(s) to be the recipient of the requests by the NCMD representative to provide accredited archaeologists to attend the excavation site once the cost of the initial excavation which is to be funded by the NCMD has been agreed. The excavator will be expected to contact the NCMD representative with a brief update at the conclusion of the excavation.
5. Unless there are good reasons to the contrary, finder(s) should be given the opportunity to assist in any surveys of the findspot i.e., checking spoil heaps, findspot periphery, fieldwalking etc.
6. Funding will be made available by the NCMD up to a limit of £500 for any single excavation and up to a limit of £5000 in any calendar year for multiple excavations.
7. The role of the NCMD in any funded excavation must be acknowledged in any media coverage of the find.

Kevin Gorman, General Secretary, NCMD.

# JUNIOR FINDS COMPETITION

# 2020

The idea for a competition involving the ever-growing band of youngsters in our hobby grew from the inventive mind of our NCMD General Secretary Kevin Gorman.

Having run the Hatt competition for years, I could not believe the idea had not occurred to me, but what a wonderful idea it was.

There are always youngsters on the fields with their parents and I love to see them showing what they have just found. They are pretty tough too as they are not just fair-weather detectorists but are to be seen digging in the rain in their waterproofs and wellies.

It is pretty exciting for us as we never know what a turn of the shovel may bring into view, so just think how a youngster must feel, be it a new penny or a hammered of which there were a few in the Coin Category.

Entries began coming in and with them photos of young, happy, smiling faces, proudly showing their newly discovered finds.

The winners and runners-up are to get a trophy each, and we decided that all those who entered would get a goody-bag.

The feedback from the parents was overwhelmingly warm and joyous, I was told that those youngsters whose entries were not placed were just thrilled to have entered, and happy to receive an unexpected goody-bag.



Junior trophies

## HOARD CATEGORY

# WINNER



**NINE HORSE HARNESS RINGS**



**ISABELLE GOUGH, AGE 10**



**LISA JONES**

*With her goody bag*

I have been running the Hatt Competition for many years and have never had anyone win in two categories, so Lewis Lomas winning both coin and artefact really was a first. His groat was the star find of a rainy weekend rally he and his father attended.

I would like to thank all entrants to this new competition for taking the trouble to enter. The entries were both interesting and varied, and it has been a pleasure to communicate with parents and their children alike as the competition progressed. Here's to next year.

**Hilary Fagen.**

**Competition Manager.**

## COMPETITION RESULTS

### COIN CATEGORY

# WINNER

**KING HENRY VIII GROAT**



**LEWIS LOMAS, AGE 9**

**FINN JACOBS  
AGE 14**



**KING JOHN SHORT-CROSS PENNY.  
1166-1216. MONEYER GIFREI. (NORWICH)**

# RUNNER-UP



### ARTEFACT CATEGORY

# WINNER

**ROMAN DISK BROOCH COMPLETE WITH PIN AND ENAMEL**



**LEWIS LOMAS, AGE 9**

**PATRICK HOOPER,  
AGE 14**



**BRONZE-AGE RIBBON GOLD USED AS A PIECE OF PERSONAL ADORNMENT.**

# RUNNER-UP

## ROBIN & KAROLYN HATT COMPETITION 2021

As you all know, I have organised the Hatt Competition for over fifteen years now and thought it time to explain how it came into being.

Robin and Karolyn Hatt owned and edited the Searcher magazine.

After they passed, their daughter Harry took over as editor, and it was decided to organise a memorial finds competition in their name.

Three beautiful trophies were bought upon which the winners have the honour of having their names and regions engraved, keeping them for the best part of a year, along with a plaque which they can keep permanently.

Runners-up also receive a plaque to keep.

The basics of the competition were easy to decide.

Membership of the N.C.M.D. was steadily growing with interesting finds being discovered all over the country.

These finds determined the three categories, Coin, Artefact and Hoard.

As Hoards were not discovered in great quantity, it was decided that all found would automatically be entered.

So, the competition began....and I learnt a very valuable lesson.... when a volunteer is being sought, never let an interest be seen.

At one of our National Council meetings a new Competition Manager was asked for. A deathly hush filled the room. I asked what work was entailed and in a matter of seconds Trevor Austin our much-missed General Secretary, elbowed his fellow committee member in the ribs and with a huge grin yelled "Hilary's going to do it" He was right of course.

The N.C.M.D. is extremely proud of the fact that ALL members are

included, from Regional clubs, Individual Members and Central Register Clubs, all are encouraged to enter, and all have a chance of winning.

All entries are finds from the year before the competition is held.

We have never banned photographs from the competition table, as hoards and artefacts may already be in museums or going through the Treasure process, so there is usually a mix of single coins, artefacts, and photographs, all with descriptions to aid the voting process.

Voting is extremely hard.

I sit watching great deliberations, with delegates deciding between age, condition, and rarity.

It is extremely hard to choose a winner, especially when everything is the best it could possibly be, but eventually three winners are chosen and trophies are presented to joyous delegates, it's a wonderful day.

The Hatt competition is the pinnacle of the detecting world, highlighting the wide variety of finds detectorists regularly discover.

They add to the nation's history, swell the contents of many museums, and with the constant discovery of unique and unknown coins, shed light on hitherto unknown dynasties that once ruled the country.

Now is the time to send in your entries for the find's year 2020. All finds must have been discovered from January 1st. to December 31st. 2020 inclusive. If possible, a PAS or Treasure recording number would be extremely helpful, also good quality photos please. See the NCMD website for entry forms, simply click onto 'competitions' fill in your details and click 'submit'. Good luck everyone.

Hilary Fagen - Competition's manager

*During the last 12 months we have been focussing on improving the information available on detecting legally and responsibly in the UK. Working with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Treasure Trove Scotland, we developed a series of short videos covering both the laws on treasure and more general advice on detecting responsibly. Five videos have now been released. To the beginning of June, the videos have had over 10k views. If you have not already seen the videos, you can find them on our YouTube channel @TheNCMD*

*A leaflet on responsible detecting has just been completed. You will find a copy included with posted copies of this issue of Digging Deep. It is aimed at people new to the hobby but is also a useful reminder for everyone who detects. Distribution of the leaflet will be through retailers, regional clubs and detecting events. An electronic version will be added to our website.*



## Press & public relations

There have been numerous articles we have contributed to in the last 12 months including the Guardian article on illegal detecting and Country file Magazine article on the fight against heritage crime. Radio interviews include Talk Radio (Jan 21), on the popularity of the hobby, and BBC Radio 4 (Feb 21) on the Treasure Act report and detecting as a hobby.

### OTHER ACTIVITY

We have automated our membership card process following the retirement of John Rigby as Membership Secretary in March. This has allowed us to provide an immediate proof of membership, with the allocated membership number via email for all online applicants. The traditional cardboard cards have been replaced by a newly designed cardboard card with a plastic coating for added durability. These are sent out for us by a mailing house within 7 days of payment being received and have dramatically speeded up the process at busy times.



## Plans for 2021/22

*Our main aim for the coming year is to improve our member communications. With this in mind we are hoping to employ a contractor for our communications. They will be responsible for regular member newsletters, the website content and lots more. If this paid position is voted through, it will be advertised.*

*We are planning to create a brand-new website as the site uses software that restricts some functionality, like the ability to add a proper postcode checker. Also, lots of advice is missing. We need a beginner's section, information on the Treasure Act 1996 and Treasure Trove, more on detecting legally and a member's only area. Competitive tenders will be used to choose a website agency.*

*We may be investing in a press relations expert. We recognise the importance of positive press, radio and TV articles and know we need to do more proactive work here. We will tell you more about our plans for this in the coming months.*

### STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is an important organisation for our hobby to ensure the Treasure process in England and Wales is administered efficiently and to allow our finds to be recorded for posterity. Thanks for your input to our member research (April/May 2020) this has been invaluable to understand the reasons why some of you do not record with the scheme. We have used it to try and improve access to PAS and the process for recording general finds and treasure. Progress is slow so far, but we are confident that we can find ways to make things better.

We are affiliate members of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and are working with them on Green Waste and advice to landowners on detecting.

Dept. for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) are an important contact for us. We have had numerous video meetings on Covid restrictions, the Treasure Act review, etc. The DCMS have sought our input to the review and welcomed our offer to be a way to get a wider input from the hobby. We have had formal presentations on the review plan, been interviewed by the external consultants as they develop new definitions of 'treasure', and officers will be involved in the round table discussions this summer as well as facilitating your input to any new definition of treasure.

We are full members of the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SARA). They have helped us to lobby the DCMS on getting Covid restrictions changed in February. Looking forward they are keeping a watching brief for us on the Agri Agreements. We know there is more to do on building advocates in the House of Commons and the House of Lords to be our voice in tabling amendments and speaking on our behalf on any bills. SARA are happy to help us do that.