

DIGGING

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

DEEP

ISSUE 30

NCMD – NEWS UPDATE

As many of you will know, the NCMD was formed over 40 years ago by a group of Detectorists who came together to promote responsible detecting and to protect our hobby from outside interference.

At that time, there were a number of National organisations that were trying to shut down or seriously control our hobby. The original NCMD committee, and all those that came after did a fantastic job on our behalf, which is why we enjoy today the freedom to detect, a freedom that was and continues to be, hard fought for.

Both our former and current committee members have worked tirelessly on our behalf and deserve our thanks and gratitude for all their hard work.

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Today, the NCMD is widely recognised by the UK government and all national organisations such as the PAS Advisory Group, English & Scottish Heritage, the British Museum etc, as the official representatives of our hobby with a membership that currently sits at over 23,000 across the UK.

The outside threats to the hobby are as real today as they were 40 years ago and as we speak, we are in discussions over the proposed changes to the Treasure Act that will potentially affect us all. There is also a working group that is campaigning very hard to seriously control and reduce Detecting Rallies across the UK, we are officially involved in those discussions, fighting hard to prevent it on your behalf.

For many years, the NCMD just quietly got on with protecting and encouraging our hobby, with most members blissfully unaware of what was going on, but the current committee recognise that change is vital to our future and to this end, our NCMD website is being upgraded to become far more interactive and will include a mobile app, giving us the opportunity to better communicate with all 23,000 of our members and giving you all a voice and an update on everything that is being done on your behalf as well as a vote on key matters.

A working group is also being formed from leading advocates of the hobby to discuss new initiatives going forward.

This will help the NCMD committee achieve its aim of being more inclusive, informative and interactive with our membership.

Anyone wishing to comment or give feedback on any of the above information, please feel free to email generalsecretary@ncmd.co.uk



Dave Crisp, the new Communications Officer for the NCMD

Contents

- P1 NCMD – NEWS UPDATE**
- P2 NCMD - New Committee Members**
OUR THANKS
- P3 A COIN OF DISTINCTION;**
& a field to Remember
- P4 GREEN WASTE – WASTE NOT WANTED** *The following report from The National Council For Metal Detecting.*
- P6 THE HEMINGTON HOARD**
- P7 STOP WISHING, GET DIGGING!**
- P8 THE RODNEY COOK CHARITY RALLIES**
- P10 THE ROBIN & KAROLYN HATT TROPHY COMPETITION**
- competition results
- P11 JUNIOR FINDS COMPETITION**
- P12 NCMD FACT CHECKER**
- P13 PAAG MEETING**
NCMD MEETING WITH HEAD OF PAS
STOP PRESS
- P14 NCMD CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW 2021**
- P15 AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS**
WINNERS OF THE SCOTTISH REGION CHRISTMAS DRAW
- P16 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**
STOP PRESS
NCMD INSURANCE



NCMD - NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS



WENDY HOWARD, NCMD CHAIR WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE NCMD COMMITTEE.

Dave Crisp has now been voted into the role of Communications Officer and as many will know, Dave has been detecting for over 40 years, is one of the main organisers of the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally and was for many years, Secretary of the Trowbridge & District MDC and Chair of the NCMD Western Region.

Dave also holds the record for the largest single coin hoard ever found in the UK, when he discovered the 'Frome Hoard' of over 52,000 roman coins in a single clay pot. Dave was praised by the British Museum for having done everything by the book when he first made his discovery and is widely respected both inside the hobby and with those agencies that we have to work with.

Alan Tamblyn has been voted into the role of General Secretary having been detecting for some 23 years and was previously chairman of the Trowbridge & District MDC.

Alan also a member of the Rodney Cook organising team, so will have met many of you before.

Alan is from a corporate background, was chairman of a national veterans association for 6 years and around 4 years ago, was invited to attend a number



Alan Tamblyn, the new General Secretary of the NCMD



Alan Tamblyn, the new General Secretary of the NCMD. Out detecting, with Gary Cook and John Lydall and mixing business with pleasure!!

of NCMD committee meetings to propose some ideas for better communication with members.

The aim was to create a process that gives all our members a better understanding of what was being done on their behalf and to give a bigger say to all those members not affiliated to a region, which is now by far the majority.

His proposals were put on hold at that time, but now he's been given the opportunity to help the committee achieve their aim of being more inclusive, informative and interactive with our membership.

Our new, interactive website and mobile app will play a big part in that, as will our new Facebook page.

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In the meantime, our NCMD existing website has a wealth of useful information as well as previous copies of 'Digging Deep' and documents relating to the NCMD Committee.

www.ncmd.co.uk

Our Thanks

We would like to express our gratitude to Catherine Lange and Kevin Gorman for their hard work and commitment to the NCMD, sadly they have decided to step down having played a pivotal role in helping to move things forward.

Catherine will continue working with us as a delegate and Kevin remains a valued member of the North-West Region.

We would also like to pay tribute to Alastair Hackett, who has decided it is time to retire from his role of President, having been with the NCMD in various roles for some 14 years.

Alastair remains a valued member of the Scottish Region and will continue to represent them as a delegate at NCMD committee meetings.

Anyone wishing to comment or give feedback on any of the above information, please feel free to email Alan at generalsecretary@ncmd.co.uk

Kind Regards & Happy Hunting from the NCMD committee

A coin of distinction; & A FIELD TO REMEMBER

I'm getting on a bit now and I like my comfort; especially when out detecting I like flat fields, ploughed and rolled, I don't mind grass but it's got to be short and not too many cow droppings, and easy digging; so soft dirt well drained and not too many rocks. So I don't want a lot; but you detect what you have. Its alright looking at the next field knowing it's just right, but you have not got permission, and will not get it in a month of Sundays.

So just what did I end up with on that day a few years back it all started when a archaeological watching brief was held on some of my land, due to some development work for the railway. And they found a small Roman settlement? So as the contractors were picking up the bill they decided to dig it. I was only involved in the last few days and recovered a few (40+) coins (grots" sorry Sam") on the roman surface which was about 18 inches down, that's nearly 1/2 a meter in new money. Anyway come Saturday morning the archaeologists had left and the contractors back filled everything with clay sub soil and rolled it flat. They even covered up a Roman well (Fig 1). It was at this stage my farmer stopped them putting back the top soil as everything was drenched as it had rained well on and off for days. This was to stop the top soil being mixed up with the Clay sub soil. They were not happy bunnies, but it was in the

contract they had to wait till he said ok. So I had a small Roman settlement covered in sub soil; so what happened, it rained for days and it turned into mud; a soft claylike mud but I had to give it a go.

It was like walking through cold treacle, it was awful to work but I had only searched the two long heaps of moved top and sub soil lightly so it was worth the discomfort. I had to walk one foot at a time and drawing my other leg out of the glue swinging my detector and then repeating it across half a long field, it was a nightmare.

But it was worth it. The first item to emerge was this small bronze tube, it was well decorated but I had no idea what it was. Neither did the FLO till he found an illustration of one in an abandoned chest Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall. It was a Roman chair leg decoration, dating from 200BC to 400AD (Fig 2).

Then a bit later after some normal bits I got a very loud signal and there was a Roman

THEN A BIT LATER AFTER SOME NORMAL BITS I GOT A VERY LOUD SIGNAL AND THERE WAS A ROMAN SESTERTIUS IN FANTASTIC CONDITION



Trajan
103-111
AD

Trajan
Reverse

(Fig 3 & 4)

Sestertius in fantastic condition. It was the Emperor Trojan dating AD 103-111. So for about four hours I had struggled through the muddy clay and only had two really good finds; but it was worth it. (Fig 3 & 4).

Later the next week my farmer allowed them to return the field back to normal, but I know what's down there, and I will keep going back, maybe I will find another chair leg.

Keep safe
Dave



(Fig 1) Well



(Fig 2) Chair Fitting

GREEN WASTE – WASTE NOT WANTED

The following report from The National Council For Metal Detecting.

Many Detectorists will be aware of the issues caused by Contaminated Green Waste, Mixed in with Metals and plastic it can make prime land undetectable, However the impact of Green Waste on our hobby is just the tip of the iceberg and a far larger problem exists.

This contaminated waste is being sprayed over thousands and thousands of acres of our land on the fields that we grow our crops and the fields that our livestock graze upon.

It's not just Metal its plastic and the Chemicals contained in MDF etc that is seeping its way into the Earth. How long will it be until this enters the food chain ? Or has it already ?

Recently The Guardian reported on the evidence of 'Micro plastics' having been found in the human gut for the very first time and studies on Fish and Insects have also revealed the presence of Micro Plastics. In Birds the plastic has been found to disrupt Iron adsorption and add stress to the liver.

Ultimately Green Waste is a problem of huge significance – what do we do with the plastic we discard ?

WASTE: NOT WANTED

Arable: The UK is the fourth largest producer of cereal and oilseeds in Europe. Cereals are grown on over 70,000 farms, mainly along the drier east side of the UK.

Dairy and Beef : Around 42,300 beef and dairy farms in England and Wales manage over 160,000 square kilometres of land

Green waste (Definition) Is biodegradable waste that can be composed of garden or park waste, such as grass or flower cuttings and hedge trimmings, as well as domestic and commercial food waste. The definition green identifies it as high in nitrogen, as opposed to brown waste, which is primarily carbonaceous.

This definition identifies those elements that when composted singly or together form nitrogen rich material that when added to existing soil serves to enriches and aids development of plants and crops. Green waste is often collected in municipal curbside collection schemes or through private waste management contractor businesses and subject to independent audit.

Each type of waste has a "European Waste

Code" with definitive methods of disposal. Legislation states that certain items cannot be put into landfill sites due to various states of decomposition and reactions to compaction and wetness and the amount of methane gas produced by these items. Such items should be incinerated.

However, the so called green waste now

However, the so called green waste now being spread upon fields cannot be classed as green waste. A high percentage of the content is not compostable and needs to be controlled in exactly the same way as refuse going to land fill or incineration plants.

being spread upon fields cannot be classed as green waste. A high percentage of the content is not compostable and needs to be controlled in exactly the same way as refuse going to land fill or incineration plants.

On the surface, The Government initiative encouraging Local Authorities to collect green waste and compost would seem to be a good one. However, it is an unfortunate fact that householders do not routinely place only garden waste into their garden waste bins.

Whereas many householders are responsible people there are many more that are not, and as a consequence all manner of domestic waste finds its way into the green waste chain.

As most local authorities send the collected waste to a contractor, their control over the final product is minimal. Typically the Local Authority has an agreement with the contractor that states that a small percentage of contamination is acceptable. It would of course be unrealistic to expect that there would be no contamination at all. This unfortunately is open to interpretation and possible abuse.

Individuals and contractors must ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and causing harm to the environment. In particular without risk to water, air, soil, plants and animals; without causing nuisance through noise and odours; without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.

As mentioned previously, Green Waste, like any other type of waste, has a European Waste code. However recent experiences show it is seldom that the code is strictly adhered to. The statement below from the Borough of Broxbourne, a typical council, which started green waste collections in

Contamination of green waste occurs when non-compostable items are placed in the green waste bin. Some of these non-compostable items are listed below:

Items NOT accepted for green recycling

All types of plastic including:

- * Plastic films
- * Supermarket carrier bags
- * Polystyrene seedling trays
- * Hypodermic syringes
- * Energy saving lightbulbs (they may contain mercury)
- * Plastic refuse sacks
- * Flower pots
- * Ridged plastic (e.g. lego, toys etc.)
- * Batteries (contain cadmium, highly toxic)

Laminated, waxed and foil lined cardboard packaging – such as 'Tetra-Paks', juice cartons or washing powder boxes

Soil/rubble

Treated wood

Glossy paper and magazines

Glass

Metal

Nappies

Fire Ash

Dead animals

Pet faeces

Textiles and furniture including carpets, duvets and pillows

Hazardous wastes including garden chemicals, asbestos etc.

2010, sums up the problem pretty well. It can be taken as read that other Local Authorities have the same problems even after longer periods of time.

Extract from the Borough of Broxbourne website.

Hazel Jackson, Councillor for Direct Services said *"There's a problem at the moment with the amount of plastics and other non-compostable material cropping up. Bins containing non-compostable material may not be emptied as, if the contaminated waste makes it to a recycling facility, the whole lorry load may be rejected. It would then be sent to landfill, which has both financial and environmental consequences."*

Councillor Jackson continued *"Our residents have really taken to recycling green waste and it's a shame that a few people putting the wrong waste in the green wheeled bins could undo everyone's great work. Please take a moment to think about whether the right things are going in the bin. And if in doubt, leave it out!"*

The green waste, food and cardboard collected in Broxbourne is processed at an in-vessel composting facility before being spread on local farmland to fertilise crops. As the compost is spread on farmland and supports the food chain it is important that the material delivered to the composting facility is of a high quality and only contains green waste, food and cardboard. If other items are found in the waste it could affect the quality of the land and damage the local environment. Issues are currently being experienced with the amount of plastics and other non-compostable material amongst the green waste. Bins containing non-compostable material may not be emptied. (Annual report 2011/2012)

It is stated in the foregoing that a whole load can be rejected if it is found to contain non-compostable items, but how often does this actually happen? Hardly ever! The whole load is tipped and whatever non compostable material is contained therein is, at a later date, tipped onto the land.

Are farmers aware what is being dumped on their land under the guise of 'green' waste?

Farmers, in the belief that they are doing the right thing for the community are being conned, and having their land contaminated with plastic, aluminium, glass and all kinds of other products, containing chemicals and substances, which not only destroys the appearance of the countryside, but also puts at risk the health of wildlife, our waterways and

human beings.

Thousands of tonnes of this toxic rubbish, containing syringes, bottles, gloves, toys, glass – some of which will not decay for hundreds of years, are being tipped on the fields each year.

The dumping of green waste on farm land is not only ruining our hobby it is also contaminating the land for decades to come. If this continues metal detecting in this country will become a thing of the past. The dumping of this material is nothing short of legalised fly tipping and has to be stopped.

If someone was to fly- tip an old three piece suite down a country lane there would be uproar from all those who love the country side and its wildlife. However, if that same three piece suite were shredded and unrecognisable as such, and then spread onto the land, those same people would be as concerned, if not more so. That is exactly what's happening along with wood, plastics, metal, rubber and accompanying chemicals and poisons.

What incentive do farmers have to accepting this so called green waste on their land? What farmer in his right mind would endanger the long term efficacy of his land or endanger his livestock and incur expensive bills from animals ingesting rubbish and other toxic substances? The NCMD believes that 99.99%

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of farmers and landowners in these islands care passionately about their land and the future of their livelihoods. Time and time again farmers and landowners have demonstrated their concern for the environment and have striven to ensure that the land they are currently stewarding will be fit for future generations

The grim fact is that the Government is aware that the so called green waste actually contains all manner of contaminants and non- biodegradable items. In the past, these items would either end up in a landfill site or be incinerated, but as the European rules now state that landfill sites must be eliminated completely in the near future and there are not

enough incineration plants available, where is it to go? The consequence of this is that the land has then become a landfill site, only instead of the landfill site being in a known area with a chance of some sort of control measures being in place, the entire landscape is covered with rubbish.

Yet another Government incentive has dire consequences for future generations. A lot of the waste being dumped on farm land is undeniably toxic and worse still it is not bio-degradable. In other words it is there for eternity ruining the countryside and endangering the wildlife that other Government initiatives are purporting to promote.

It is no use denying that long term damage is being caused not only to the environment and wildlife, but also to public health. The human food chain relies on the goodness of the earth and unfortunately the goodness of the earth is being endangered by the practice of spreading contaminants across the Nation's countryside.

As detectorists you will now be aware *"green waste" has become the biggest threat to our hobby. It is nothing less than "agro vandalism"* Please support the National Council of Metal Detecting in bringing a halt to this disgraceful state of affairs. We are not alone in our concerns as other countryside organisations are waking up to the fact that rubbish is being strewn across the countryside in the name of "Green Waste" recycling.

Local councils have a duty of care to ensure that only green waste goes towards composting.

Composting contractors also share this responsibility ensuring that once shredded and composted no other contaminants are then added to the waste and ending up on farms, and other horticultural property.

Further stringent government legislation may be necessary to drive home the importance of toxic non- compostable waste being dumped in the name of recycling.

We have moved away from it being solely a Detecting problem to it being a health problem for the future, our children and grandchildren are going to suffer with this for years to come if it's not stopped and addressed now .

The NCMD are fully committed to campaigning against this issue and will be lobbying MP's and the media until something is done.

John Wells, Main Contributor

THE HEMINGTON HOARD

Today I would like to tell you about a small hoard that I had a few years ago, it consisted of seven hammered coins of Elizabeth 1st.

It all started when Gary and Steve asked me out detecting one Sunday on one of their many sites. We parked up early that day on a farm where the fields seem to go on for ever, but it was like rolling hills and I didn't realise then that there was a large dip where the field fell away. The first field looked like it had been turned and then left as it was quite nice to walk and detect across.

We all started off at the same time but soon we started to walk in slightly different directions with me going to the right and the other two going straight up the field. I soon became engrossed in detecting and was

three sixpences all with the rose mark behind the head. Now I was really over the moon and started to search a lot slower and going over the same ground again and again. There was still no sign of the other two so I just carried on detecting.

Next to come up was a much smaller coin but again of Elizabeth, it also had the rose so I guessed it was three pence. It was a bit smeared and worn, so I was a bit disappointed. But the next coin really made up for it. It was a shilling, a large clean looking, and not actually marked very much at all. That made up for the condition of the threepence coin in trumps. The condition was so good I could see a bird Initial mark which was the



searching in the low valley that runs across the end of the

field. It doesn't always pay to stay together and as I normally detect alone I was pleased that I didn't follow them. But saying that, it could have been the other way round.

So that day I ended up with seven coins of Elizabeth from 1560-1591 with five different initial marks 2 Pheon, 2 coronet's 1 hand, 1 Ermine and a Martlet. The last coin issued was one of the sixpences with the mark of a hand being dated to 1591. Elisabeth died in early 1603.

Gary said the owner of the estate would probably claim the hoard and put it in the local museum, but I was ok with that even though they were great coins, at least they would be on display together. I always believe that you should play fair with your farmers because if it wasn't for them we would not have a hobby

Anyway after showing the tenant farmer the coins I reported them to my local FLO and into the system they went, as potential Treasure. The Coroner was informed at the start and in due course PAS recommended that they should be Treasure as they were obviously over 10% silver and over 300 years old. (There's no fooling PAS a clear date is on some of the coins), anyway they were disclaimed (No museum wanted them). The Coroner informed the landowner and myself but never heard back from the landowner. So he told PAS to return them to me, which they had to do.

So did I feel bad having got a small hoard of coins off Gary's and Steve's land? No its all swings and roundabouts, Steve had a gold stater off my land once and Gary has had plenty as well, I remember well him proudly showing me a Roman belt stiffener that I would have died for. Also; I have just remembered Steve had a gold quarter stater off another of my fields many years ago, so I reckon he still owes me a day out, as I was never asked back to that field.

**Have a great day detecting
All the best
Dave**



Photo: shillings

finding all the normal bits which was ok for me, but I think the lads were bored as they soon passed me and vanished up and over the brow of the hill where they disappeared from view.

It was about half an hour later I hit my first coin which was a hammered sixpence of Elizabeth, well I am no stranger to a few hammered coins but that one really pleased me, and I wanted to show the lads but they were gone. So as everybody says always check your hole, which I did and, nothing, not a whisper. So back in went the dirt and I started off detecting and not two paces there was another, sixpence and a few more feet more another. I now had

Martlet (also used in a family's coat of arms to represent a fourth son). (Note, history lesson, Liz was unmarried and did not have any children).

Well there was no stopping me now I just had to carry on still checking from that central point, and slowly making my way outwards. I was now thinking I might find the purse bar as it seemed obvious it was a purse loss. Well I never found the bar, but I did manage to find two more sixpences.

So I had a total of seven hammered coins all in quite good condition one a little scuffed but overall in good condition. I showed the lads when they finally appeared, they had been

Stop Wishing, *Get Digging!*

Many of us got into this amazing hobby by joining a local detecting club, where we were helped by members who share their knowledge and experience freely, and who support those who are new into the hobby and often take them under their wing.

At meetings, many clubs have a raffle, with prizes donated by members and the proceeds maybe going to a local charity. Sound familiar?

But what happens if there isn't a club locally to you, or maybe you are on a waiting list because your local club is full. What then?

Well, the world of the internet has opened up a whole new world to detectorists, lots

of online groups available to join. Some are run as businesses, organising paid digs, others are there for huge numbers of detectorists to share finds and experiences, but can be very daunting for newcomers or the less experienced.

There are however, a number of online groups that are run along the same lines as the local detecting clubs we all know and love, except they are online, have many more members and they can literally, meet every day. One such club is called SWGD, or Stop Wishing, Get Digging – great advice indeed, but it's also a great group of people.

The founder member is Simon "Ringmaster" Webber (*Fig 1*), his wing man is Mickey Richardson and they are supported by a team of 17 admins and moderators to ensure that

everything runs smoothly.

The club is only two years old but has an incredible 2,000 members, many of whom

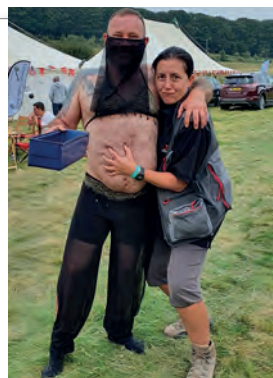


Fig 3: Fatima Fodder, raising money for Cancer Care with Julie Argent



Liz Tickner with her Bronze-Age spearhead



Fig 1: Simon Webber, founder of SWGD

are newcomers into the hobby. It's a great place to go for advice, without being belittled, which sadly happens on some other sites. They have some amazing finds being made by their members but are just as happy to praise someone that has just turned up with a Vicky penny. They don't tolerate swearing or bad behaviour in their group and everyone is treated like a friend.

It's also great to hear about their detecting stories, including the incredible hoard of 234 hammered coins found by Mickey Richardson, ranging from Edward VI to James VI. Mickey immediately reported the find to his local FLO, who was happy that he had done everything by the book. Not bad for someone who at that time, was a relative newcomer into the hobby. (*Fig 4 & 6*). There's plenty of gold dancing going on too (*Fig 8*) found by Si Webber.

Fodder Phil & Mickey Richardson after their charity detect-off



Another relative newcomer to the hobby is Liz Tickner, who found a fantastic Bronze Age spear head while on a day out (*Fig 2 & 7*).

As well as being a great online club, this amazing group regularly raise money for charity, including £500 raised for veteran's charities.

This beautiful painting of Captain Tom (*Fig 5*)

was painted by the wife of club member Vic Vandervelden and made £200 in an online auction which was donated to the NHS.

At the Rodney Cook Weekender Rally earlier this year, one of the site moderators, Fodder Phil, aka "Fatima", dressed as a belly dancer and walked around shaking a bucket and his belly, raising an incredible £400 which he donated to the RC Cancer Care fund (*Fig 3*) and Ricardo Lees did all the RC banners for free.

At a later one day event, Fodder Phil teamed up with site admin Mickey Richardson for a detect-off between the two. It started as a bet but was thrown open to the general detecting community to make donations (*Fig 9*) At the end of the days detecting, there was a vote to decide the one with the best haul of the day and Fodder Phil was victorious, with Mickey a very worthy runner-up. In truth, they were both winners, having raised an incredible £1,400 on the day, which is an outstanding amount from two great lads, every penny of which went to Cancer Care, a charity that has special meaning for Phil.

So, if you're looking to join an online detecting group, there are plenty to choose from, but you won't go far wrong if you give the guys and gals at SWGD a go. What a fantastic bunch they are.



The gold ring is 13thC found by Simon Webber

The Rodney Cook Charity Rallies



This is not about the great finds made at our Rallies; and there have been plenty of them. There was a great article with plenty photos in Treasure Hunting Magazine a couple of months ago. Here I would like to give you some of the background to the rallies and the charities we help, and the people who make that possible.

It's not all been plain sailing for us as the organisers of the rallies, we have had to deal with some vastly different circumstances, some of which I cannot talk about here as it brings up too many bad memories for some of our members. But saying that we have had a great time overall. So how did it all come about?

Like life in general something good sometimes comes out of a tragedy, in this case it was the death of Gary's father (Rodney) from Cancer back in 2018, which prompted him to do something to help raise money to give something back to the Cancer unit in Bath hospital. At the time Gary was a member of our club (The Trowbridge & District Metal Detecting Club) and he turned to us for help raising money as Detectorists. I personally jumped at the idea to help; because as metal Detectorists we are not always given the chance to show our full potential. At our very first meeting (In the pub) we laid down the basic groundwork which we needed to run a good organisation. Which was, and still is; a group of friends working together to raise money for charity, and we still keep to that ethos even now. We do not have a chairman,

AT OUR VERY FIRST MEETING (IN THE PUB) WE LAID DOWN THE BASIC GROUNDWORK WHICH WE NEEDED TO RUN A GOOD ORGANISATION. WHICH WAS, AND STILL IS; A GROUP OF FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY, AND WE STILL KEEP TO THAT ETHOS EVEN NOW.

so everybody is just as important, and everybody has a say on how things run.



We did our first rally back that year when Gary got us permission from a landowner who made us very welcome and included in the deal was use of a wedding barn to host the evening event. This was our first adventure into the world of eventing over a weekend. Many items came up as it was right in a Roman area just outside Cirencester with a Roman road close by. We were not too lucky with the weather on the Saturday, but detectorists are a brave lot and they just made the best of it. It cleared up by Sunday and the finds increased by leaps and bounds.

Our 2nd was the

next year 2019 where we had a vast amount of land over by Bath. This one went down well as we had pushed out the boat, doing more of the correct things which we had learnt on the first one.

Our 3rd event the same year was a one day dig on three hundred acres and we limited it too 300 so giving each detectorist an acre each of land to search. We got this land from one of my farmers who had heard about how well we did for the Cancer charity and asked me if we could do another on his land for his charity. Well what could I say even if it meant letting 300 detectorists on part of my permission. It opened my eyes as to what they found it was amazing. I never dreamt of the assorted items that came up, Right across the board from Celtic, Roman, Saxon I now search that 300 acres a lot more carefully.

We were on a roll, we thought we were doing things right and that is what counted. So we started to plan another big one in 2020, and that's when everything collapsed; COVID hit and we were left with a quandary would we be allowed to go ahead. Well in the end we pulled the plug just so that it would be final for that year. It was the right decision, as so many people were being affected in so many horrible ways by Covid. We put out a statement that all tickets would be fully honoured. But if anybody could not make the



Alan, Gary and Dave presenting the cheque to the charity "Brighter Futures" at Swindon Hospital



The Rodney Cook Marshalls presenting a cheque to the Clic Sergent cancer charity

new dates in 21; then they would get a full refund. But as soon as things started to look a little better early this year, and detectorists were looking for events to go to we decided to restart the planning which we had put on hold, just in case we could go ahead. I had added a Covid policy where we planned for any eventuality to keep everybody secure.

So this was going to be our biggest event ever we had over 1,000 acres of excellent land, which Gary and me walked (Twice) and detected 3 fields of the twenty seven before just to check that there was no green waste, which is a curse across some farms. This

initial check told us there would be some great finds, and they were right. This farm land was so big we had to hire four Gaters (a type of dune buggy) to reach the far corners of the site. We also had a farm shooting

trailer with seats to move detectorists around the site this was pulled by two 4X4s which John and Aaron worked at hard throughout the weekend.

We ran a large token hunt as we normally do and it was very well attended, although not all the tokens were found, there were over 140 still left in that corner of that field. (Which when you think about it; that is the equivalent of 140 normal finds still out there,) not found in that small part of one field; and some Archaeologists still think we strip the fields bare.

I believe this weekend was a glowing success, praised by the detectorists, traders, manufactures and of course the landowners, who praised the good humour of the detectorists and their attitude right across

the whole weekend. We also must pass on their thanks for leaving the seeded fields unmarked. Even the controlled explosion by the Bomb squad on that suspicious item dug up by a young lady called Ela Johns didn't have any impact on the final growing crops. They even waited while we brought Ela back so she could see it blown up.

We then did a normal one day dig, again well supported with enough finds to make most people happy.

I must now tell you about the people who made all this possible; no not Gary and myself, but all the Marshals; Marshals who we could not have done without. They were fantastic and we could not have attempted this amount of work without the help and cooperation of these friends. Mostly they were

members of our Trowbridge Club but we were well supported by friends from other parts of the country who travelled just to help us out.

So to all of them and the non-detectorists volunteers who also helped "THANK YOU VERY MUCH" from the Committee and all the people who will be helped by the money raised.

The second group that I must thank is all the detectorists who came to have a good time, and paid money just to detect and to help people with Cancer.

Others who must be thanked, are all the traders and the Manufactures who supported us throughout the last few years, and without their generosity we would not have raised so much money.

So what did we raise and where did it go? Well



Rodney Cook Organisers presenting a cheque to the Forever Friends cancer unit at the Bath RUH

over the 3/4 years we have raised and donated to charities over £115,000, yes with your help we have given to charities like Forever friends who are raising money for the new Cancer treatment centre at Bath hospital. Also Click Sargent who help children with cancer, and various other smaller worthwhile charities.

So we Cracked £115,000+; yes we as detectorists have helped raise and donate through sheer hard work over one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds for charity.

Yes it was hard work right the way through the year, as it takes that long for us to put in place a good rally. Gary and I have already started talking about next year, and we have already been given permission from a great landowner, on land that looks very promising.

Please Note the NCMD presence at the last rally had to be cancelled as the lady did not feel she would be physically safe from verbal abuse from the Trolls. We later reassured them that at our next rally they would always be welcome, and made to feel safe from the people who abuse them regularly on line. We believe the NCMD is changing, and has to change but only to bring it into the new world of Social Media. But we also believe they are still working to protect our hobby.

See you there

Dave

So what did we raise and where did it go? Well over the 3/4 years we have raised and donated to charities over £115,000, yes with your help we have given to charities like Forever friends who are raising money for the new Cancer treatment centre at Bath hospital. Also Click Sargent who help children with cancer, and various other smaller worthwhile charities. So we Cracked £115,000+; yes we as detectorists have helped raise and donate through sheer hard work over one hundred and fifteen thousand pounds for charity.



THE ROBIN & KAROLYN HATT TROPHY COMPETITION

I think we can all agree that 2020 was not the year we would wish for, with lockdown and all attendant Covid difficulties.

As the year drew to a close I was beginning to wonder if organising the competition would be feasible, but after much thought, decided it should go ahead.

There were odd times when we were able to detect, so it was a case of not wanting to let any of you down as I am sure you all dashed out to the fields during the short amount of time we were allowed.

Digging Deep was issued at the beginning of this year, delivered to

every member, giving me an ideal opportunity to let you know we were going ahead in the article about the competition.

I was able to explain the rules, how to enter the competition, and direct you to the online entry form on our website, with plenty of time for you all to send in your entries for the final judging.

The quality of finds in the three categories, Hoard, Coin and Artefact was outstanding.

Here are the results.

COMPETITION RESULTS

COIN CATEGORY

WINNER

VERICA BUTTING BULL SILVER UNIT

James Maynard, Brighton & District M.D.C. Individual member.



GOLD CELTIC BELGAE TRIBE, QUARTER STATER. Matthew Fenn, Chippenham & District M.D.C. Western Region.

RUNNER-UP

ARTEFACT CATEGORY

WINNER

AN ENAMELLED ROMAN DRAGONESQUE BROOCH.

Stephen Booth,
Trowbridge & District M.D.C.
Central Register club.



GOLD MOMENTO MORI RING ENGRAVED WITH A SKULL & CROSSBONES

Steve Pulley, Northampton Detecting Association, Individual member.



RUNNER-UP

HOARD CATEGORY

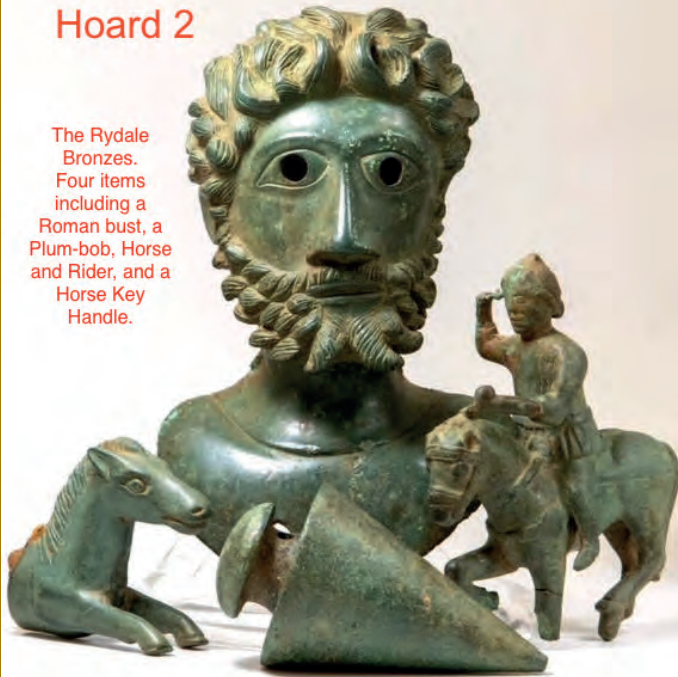
WINNER

THE RYDALE BRONZES CONSISTING OF A ROMAN BUST OF A HEAD, PLUM BOB, HORSE AND RIDER, AND A HORSE KEY HANDLE

James Spark & Mark Didlick, Individual members.

Hoard 2

The Rydale Bronzes. Four items including a Roman bust, a Plum-bob, Horse and Rider, and a Horse Key Handle.



THIS IS A TIE BETWEEN A VIKING HOARD FOUND BY KATH GILES, WITH A GOLD ARM-RING, MASSIVE SILVER THISTLE BROOCH AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINDS Manx Detectorist Society, and The Peebles Hoard found by Mariusz Stepien



A BRONZE-AGE COMPLETE HARNESS WITH BRONZE FASTENINGS AND A PENDANT SWORD IN THE SCABBARD. Scottish Detecting Club, Scottish Region.

RUNNER-UP

*Congratulations to those placed,
and many thanks to everyone who took part*

JUNIOR FINDS COMPETITION

I am pleased to announce the second outing of the Junior Finds Competition.

For the first time last year we decided to showcase the enthusiastic efforts of the many youngsters we see detecting with their parents.

This was a happy process which I am anxious to repeat.

Entry forms will be found on our website from January 1st.

All entries must have been found in 2021 between January 1st. - December 31st inclusive.

Age. Old enough to hold a trowel, up to and including 15 years old.

Hilary Fagen.

Competition Organiser.



NCMD FACT CHECKER

The recent changes within the NCMD committee are designed to ensure that we are more inclusive, informative, and interactive with all our members and we look forward to exciting times ahead.

Sadly, not everyone is as keen as we are to give every member a voice and a vote, and there are some wild rumours in circulation that we would like to put to bed.

During the Covid lockdown, the committee decided that we would use Zoom meetings just like most of the rest of the world. There were some regional delegates that opposed this and felt we shouldn't be meeting at all, which made no sense at all to the committee as during lockdown, the NCMD had more work, not less.

We were in constant contact with the UK government, fighting hard for them to allow metal detecting. Their decision to allow detecting to go ahead was hard fought for and hard won.

Zoom meetings meant that we could continue to function safely as an organisation, and it proved to be a hugely successful way of doing business. It also meant we could save money – it costs on average around £3,000 for us to host a physical meeting, including overnight accommodation, reimbursement of travel costs, meeting rooms, food etc. Yet the same people that opposed the use of zoom meetings, claimed that we were somehow wasting money by not having physical

meetings. If you can work that one out, please let me know.

Up to four delegates are allowed to represent each region at every NCMD executive committee meeting, every region has a vote and to-date, every region has had an invite to every executive committee meeting that has been held. The delegates that refused to represent their regions via online committee meetings, accused the committee of not allowing their regions to be represented, which makes no sense. I wonder if those individual delegates offered any places to any of their regional members to attend?

It is very unfortunate that the abusive behaviour of certain individuals became totally unacceptable, resulting in them no longer being recognised as delegates by the NCMD Committee.

Sadly, their abuse got worse and caused a number of committee members to step down.

After some weeks, the positions remained unfilled, so Dave Crisp and Alan Tamblin stepped into the roles with the committee following the process exactly as stated in the Constitution.

The NCMD committee is very strongly supported by the remaining regional

delegates, which means that we still have a voting majority, and every decision is voted on and ratified.

The new General Secretary Alan Tamblin, wrote to the regional delegates offering to meet them at a time, place, and venue of their choosing to discuss and agree a resolution. This offer was rejected.

Interestingly, the accusations of past wrongdoing come from long-standing delegates, who were on the committee at that time, so it would have happened on their watch. Most of the current committee joined after these alleged events, so are in no way linked to these claims yet are being directly accused.

You really couldn't make it up, except that clearly someone has and interestingly, the same delegates that have caused all these issues and spread these rumours have seemingly formed their own organisation, so we suspect there was an agenda all along.

The good news is, we have carried on regardless and we look forward to another great year ahead with a whole range of new tools for our members.



ZOOM MEETINGS MEANT THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION SAFELY AS AN ORGANISATION, AND IT PROVED TO BE A HUGE SUCCESSFUL WAY OF DOING BUSINESS. IT ALSO MEANT WE COULD SAVE MONEY – IT COSTS ON AVERAGE AROUND £3,000 PER MEETING

PAAG Meeting

10th October 2021

Two members of the NCMD attended a Zoom meeting with PAAG to have input into the different aspects that concern our Hobby.

At the recent PAAG meeting (Portable Antiquities Advisory Group) your NCMD representatives brought up the concern of members that when somebody finds a possible Treasure item / items its recommended that they stop digging and inform the PAS. This then could be days before a Archaeologist comes to inspect / dig / remove the find, and in this time it is down to the finder to secure the site and any possible treasure.

It was pointed out that on a rally the whole thing could be on social media within minutes.

The chair and members present had no real answer to this, except (" the local FLO should have local protocols for dealing with in situ finds , which should involve relevant people like the County Archaeologist and HER Officer etc.")

"This doesn't mean that an Archaeologist will be available".

PAS are trying to update and improve their image with the General public, as being in partnership with the British Museum. As we pointed out people who we talk to outside metal detecting most say "WHO" then we have to explain what they do.

They reaffirmed their passion that FLO's don't attend large scale rallies to record finds, but might go to promote best practice.

They expect rally organisers to take more responsibility for "finds, exports, Treasure, recording etc."

We will continue to talk and attend meetings with all sections of PAS and the BM and to attend meetings and put your views to further Cooperation as long as it's in our member's best interests.

NCMD MEETING WITH HEAD OF PAS



On the 19th November, a meeting was held between Michael Lewis, Head of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and Dave Crisp, Wendy Howard and Alan Tamblin from the NCMD.

The meeting had been called by Wendy Howard, NCMD Chair, to discuss a number of topics, which included clarification on a number of points that have a direct bearing on our hobby.

For some time, there has been talk of plans to bring in a requirement for detectorists to undergo training in basic archaeology and to have a license to detect. This coincided with the emergence of the Association of Detectorists, a private business offering training courses in basic archaeology that is being offered to detectorists, so it seemed that this was a rumour with merit. The topic of detectorists being licensed has also been around for some time but seemed to tie in with the introduction of the training courses.

Following our discussions, I can confirm that, although there are certain agencies that would like to see it happen, there will be no requirement for detectorists to attend training courses nor to become licensed.

I can also confirm that the AoD is a private company, not part of the PAS in any shape or form and their basic archaeology courses are available for anyone that would like to pay for them.

I hope that this will put your minds at ease regarding these topics. We will be in further meetings to discuss the subjects of detecting rallies and the revised Treasure Act and we will keep you informed of any updates.

Following our discussions, I can confirm that, although there are certain agencies that would like to see it happen, there will be no requirement for detectorists to attend training courses nor to become licensed.

STOP PRESS > STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

The NCMD Code of Conduct for Responsible Detecting has been in place for decades and all members are required to adhere to it. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has followed a similar code as shown in the format in their recent video on responsible detecting, but the NCMD committee at that time decided against endorsing it as there were still some unresolved issues that we needed clarification on.

Clearly, the NCMD supports responsible detecting, but we could not support or endorse any organisation connected to our hobby, unless we were sure that it was in the best interests of our members and our right to detect.

There were very good reasons for us to be concerned, but following our recent meeting and the assurances given to the NCMD committee by Michael Lewis Head of the PAS, the committee has decided to endorse the PAS scheme on behalf of our members.

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NCMD CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW 2021

HELD AT MIDDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2021

There were 40 prizes, each comprising a £250 voucher to be used against purchases from one of the following retailers: Regtons, Uearthed, Spin a Disc, Crawfords and Joan Allen

NCMD

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

TO PROMOTE
TO PROTECT
TO ENCOURAGE



MEMBER OF: SPORTS AND RECREATION ALLIANCE

Congratulations to all winners!

Winners' membership numbers and prizes are listed below

00016	SPIN A DISC	00473	SPIN A DISC	00979	CRAWFORDS
01251	UNEARTHED	01311	CRAWFORDS	01792	SPIN A DISC
02361	CRAWFORDS	02392	JOAN ALLEN	04793	UNEARTHED
07237	JOAN ALLEN	07388	REGTONS	08010	UNEARTHED
08315	REGTONS	08819	CRAWFORDS	10957	REGTONS
10987	CRAWFORDS	12353	CRAWFORDS	12954	SPIN A DISC
13597	REGTONS	13942	JOAN ALLEN	15224	UNEARTHED
16909	SPIN A DISC	18513	JOAN ALLEN	18586	REGTONS
18731	JOAN ALLEN	19289	UNEARTHED	20999	UNEARTHED
21210	REGTONS	21646	REGTONS	23452	CRAWFORDS
23459	SPIN A DISC	23639	SPIN A DISC	25163	CRAWFORDS
25303	SPIN A DISC	25353	UNEARTHED	25810	JOAN ALLEN
26073	JOAN ALLEN	26148	JOAN ALLEN	26365	UNEARTHED
		SCO04592	REGTONS		

*Winners will be contacted directly by email, or if no email is provided, by post.
Happy Christmas, and a peaceful healthy New Year to you all from the
Executive Officers and Delegates of the NCMD.*



An early Christmas Present **FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS**

Developments in technology now give us the opportunity to better communicate with all 23,000 of our members, giving you all a voice and an update on everything that is being done on your behalf.

To that end, we are pleased to announce that during December, we have an exciting new and interactive website being launched, which includes many new features, including;

- A members only area, complete with members forum to communicate with each other, with the NCMD committee and with leading figures from the hobby.
- An interactive mobile App with many new features including easy access to our web site, storing your membership card details for easy access, Insurance details, the hoard hotline number with a directory of Finds Liaison Officers and much more.
- We will be able to directly inform you of all new developments within the hobby.
- We will be able to give you all a vote on key subjects, which has never been possible before.
- We can update you on any key detecting events and provide you with feedback.
- Easier access to enter the annual Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial competition for the best Coin, Artefact and Hoard found by our members that year, as well as our junior competition for detectorists who are aged 15 and under.
- Once the interactive platform is built, it will allow us to turn on a whole range of new facilities and tools as we go forward.

We hope you like your early Christmas present and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas from us all at the NCMD.



Winners of the Scottish Region Christmas Draw.

There were ten winners chosen at random each will receive a £100 voucher to spend at the designated retailers, who were also chosen at random. There was also a bonus winner as one of last years prizes went unclaimed.

04459 SPIN A DISC
3423 CRAWFORDS
15117 CRAWFORDS
18622 REGTONS
3593 JOAN ALLEN
3578 SPIN A DISC*

19083 REGTONS
4383 JOAN ALLEN
4575 SPIN A DISC
04492 UNEARTHED
3461 UNEARTHED

(*UNCLAIMED FROM LAST YEAR SO BECAME A BONUS PRIZE FOR THIS YEAR!)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Dear Member,

Just a reminder that your annual membership of the NCMD Expires on 31st March 2022.

To continue enjoying your membership benefits including your insurance cover, please renew your membership using one of the following three options:

- If you are a member of a club or a region, the renewal process will continue as before.
- If you are an individual or a new club, please visit our website at www.ncmd.co.uk/membership
- Alternatively, if you would prefer, you can apply by post using the form below and include a cheque or postal order made payable to the NCMD.



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

Address.....

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

E-mail.....Telephone.....

Previous Membership Number.....

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

**Please send this form and a cheque/postal order to Membership Secretary, PO Box 13183, Gordon, TD11 9AJ
Any queries, please email membershipsecretary@ncmd.co.uk**

STOP PRESS

We welcome any articles and photos from clubs, regions and individual members, so if you have something you would like to feature in our next edition of Digging Deep, please email generalsecretary@ncmd.co.uk

Many thanks.



NCMD Insurance

In addition to promoting and protecting our amazing hobby, the NCMD, at the request of the National Farmers Union, provides each individual member with insurance cover of up to £10,000,000 for any accidental damage to the Landowners property whilst detecting legally and with the landowner's permission.

This insurance covers our members for any detecting where they have permission, whether detecting as an individual or as part of any type legally organised detecting event.

Please note, there is £0 excess charge with this policy.

The National Council of Metal Detecting (NCMD) is a member of SARA (The Sports And Leisure Alliance).

If you have any queries or require more information on the NCMD, please visit our website at www.ncmd.co.uk

Alternatively, please email generalsecretary@ncmd.co.uk