

DIGGING

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

DEEP

ISSUE 31

THE NCMD WORKING FOR YOU, AND OUR HOBBY



The NCMD is the recognised voice of metal detecting, having been established over 40 years ago and now has over 26,000 members and is growing rapidly. We represent our members at government level, and we work to protect, preserve and promote our hobby on your behalf.

It's been an extremely busy year. We launched our new website exactly 12 months ago, along with our new database and membership system. It has been a massive

success, due in no small part to our team consisting of; David the Membership Secretary, Shevie the Treasurer and Tracy the Technical Officer.

Our new membership cards have proven to be exceptionally popular. The key ring version has helped reunite several of our members with their car keys. This is as a result of the finders calling our enquiries number, giving us the membership number and we've then put them in touch with that member.



We also launched our new NCMD mobile app, which again has proven to be a huge success and is a great tool for recording your finds and find spots. Only you have access to the information. We asked for feedback on the app, and the additional functionality that you requested has been implemented, so it really has been a joint venture between us and yourselves.

Dave Crisp and I have been working with the FLOs and members of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) to try and improve the current recording process and we are having meetings with them early in the New Year to discuss ways we can help and support the process further.

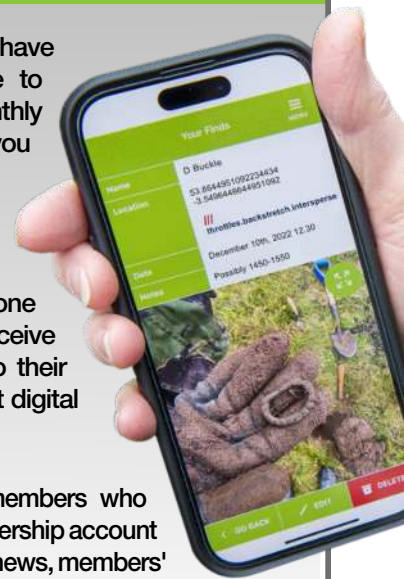
There will also be meetings with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, who are responsible for the Treasure Act revision that is currently taking place. We will be representing your interests as well as pushing for improvements to the current treasure process, improvements that are long overdue.

We hope you have had a great 2022 and a fantastic Christmas and on behalf of the NCMD Committee we wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Alan Tamblyn General Secretary

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR APP YET...?

Going forward, we now have the technology in place to provide you with monthly updates to keep you informed of everything affecting our hobby. We will also provide you with a digital version of Digging Deep, so anyone that no longer wants to receive a hard copy can log into their online account and select digital version only.



The NCMD App is for members who want to access their membership account on the go. Featuring latest news, members' forum, competitions, plus what to do in the event of a major find. There is also the ability to photograph finds and record their location using what3words.

NEW APP UPDATES INCLUDE

- When recording a find, you can specify its location by latitude and longitude.
- Photographs of your finds can now be loaded directly from your Camera Roll.
- Your finds can now be displayed on an interactive map of the UK.
- You are now able to make backups of your finds in case you need to reinstall the app or move to a different device.



As a member you can download the NCMD app for free for your Apple or Android phone. Simply scan the appropriate QR code for your mobile device.





NEWCOMERS CORNER



Another idea from the committee is to get the views, stories, ideas and finds from the detectorists new to this fantastic hobby. If you want to share your experiences, why not just get in touch? You might see your story here next time. Just send it over to Dave Crisp at: communicationsofficer@ncmd.co.uk

We are starting off this corner with a story from Claire

Hi, my name is Claire, and I have recently taken up the hobby and am fortunate to have a very good club near to where I live. I went along to a few meetings to see what it was like, and they were all very friendly and helpful.

I was even offered the use of an old machine, but I bit the bullet and sent off for a new starter model. I am very lucky as I have some friends who allow me to go on their land, and so I have plenty of places to go to until I learn all about the different club land there is available.

Dave, the chairman, even allowed me to test it out on his 12 year old test bed in his garden, where he has over twenty items buried at different depths. That was a real eye-opener with all the different sounds.

I have found lots of items, most of which would normally be called rubbish but to me a Victorian or Georgian penny is a real find. I did find a coin which I was really excited about and posted it onto our Facebook group as it looked like a gold coin. But I wanted to be sure before I started to get excited. Gordon, a member of the club, pointed out it was a modern copy as it had the manufacture's initials stamped on it. But it was nice to think it was something special for a while! It turned out to be a

modern copy of a gold Angel coin, which can be bought online or from local Museums.

I did try detecting the bottom and sides of a large hole I found in the corner of the field, but I got no signals at all. I later found out it was just one of a series of pipe trenches cut across the field by the landowner.

Well, that's all for now, I must get back out there.

Love Claire



Claire in one of the land owners pipe trenches

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Green waste is a subject at the very heart of our hobby, as it affects us all as detectorists, but it also concerns us that the landowners are allowing this poison to be spread across our fields because of the potential for it to enter the food chain. We have all been on sites where chopped up rubbish has literally been spread across the fields, and you will find plastic, brass, tin and more, all spread in the name of soil conditioner – perhaps they should change the name to 'cheap waste disposal'.

We ran an excellent article on this subject in the last edition of Digging Deep. The original author was John Wells and we unfortunately omitted to mention that fact, so for this we apologise unreservedly. The version we published had been amended by William Hargreaves, who is himself extremely knowledgeable and passionate on this subject.

The NCMD will shortly be creating a working group to focus specifically on tackling farmland green waste and other environmental issues that affect us and our hobby.



Disclaimer DD - The views and opinions expressed by any person or organisation written here in the Digging Deep magazine, on our Web site or our Face book page are those of the authors and do not necessary reflect the official policy or position of the NCMD, but are certainly not intended to malign any single person, group, club or organisation.



Dear Member,

The NCMD and its members are long-time supporters of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), and we strongly believe that the recording of our finds is an important part of our hobby and that the Treasure Act ensures that important heritage items can be saved for the nation.

For some time however, it is clear from our members feedback and indeed, our own experiences, that both the current finds recording process and the treasure process are under increasing pressure and have not been working as effectively as they once did.

We understand that the FLOs are often struggling to cope. The NCMD committee has been highlighting to Michael Lewis, the PAS Advisory Group and the DCMS that in our view, both the current finds recording process and the treasure process in their current form are not fit for purpose and as a result, are making it difficult for our members to record their finds.

Indeed, it seems that some of our members have given up recording altogether and that is a major concern to the NCMD committee. To understand the facts around the processes, including the management of lost items, we have requested a range of information via FOI

requests. In order for us to better understand the difficulties faced by the FLOs, and to help them understand the issues faced by detectorists, we recently held a meeting with them and I asked Michael Lewis, Head of PAS, to provide an expectation document so that both sides could be clear as to what the recording process is, what the service levels should be and also, the escalation process if there is an issue.

Michael has kindly provided that document, and has given his email address as the escalation part of the process, so any complaints can be directed to him. The good news is, the current system is being upgraded with the launch of a new PAS website, which will undoubtedly help to make things better. However, it is likely to be at least 3 years before it is launched, so we will continue to work with the PAS to discuss the issues and to push for changes that could be made in the short term, to improve the system for the benefit of all parties.

We will also be meeting with the DCMS to discuss the Treasure Act revision and will continue to push for improvements to the treasure process, particularly around the current timescales and also the lack of communication in a lot of cases.

I should also mention at this point that a number of treasure items have gone

missing in the NW of England and this is being treated as a potential theft. I would emphasise that this is an isolated incident and needs to be viewed as such. There is a police investigation being conducted and we need to react accordingly, so please refrain from making comments on social media until the full facts have been released. Rest assured we will continue to work with all those involved with PAS in order to push for the changes that are so desperately needed.

In the meantime, please read the FLO EXPECTATION DOCUMENT, your main contact should always be your local FLO. Please be patient as they are under huge pressure and always treat them with courtesy and respect.

Remember, if you wish to escalate any issues, please email Michael Lewis with any complaints or queries that you may have or in Wales

its steve.burrow@museumwales.ac.uk and please copy me in so that I can be made aware of it. Michael's email is mlewis@britishmuseum.org and my email is generalsecretary@ncmd.co.uk.

We will shortly be running a poll in regard to previous lost finds, so we'll be in touch again in due course.

Alan Tamblin NCMD General Secretary

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

Managing/Meeting Finder's Expectations

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) employs 45 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) across England and Wales, as well as Finds Liaison Assistants and other staff. These are usually based locally within 'host' partners (mostly museums).

The PAS is managed through the British Museum (in England) and Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales. FLOs do similar work (i.e. liaising with the public and recording their finds), but there will be some differences, reflecting the fact that FLOs also work within local priorities, directives and guidelines.

We (PAS England and Wales) are keen that there is a good degree of commonality in how the PAS functions across England and Wales, so that finders can be clear on what to expect from us. It is hope this document can help with that.

There are as many as 40,000 people metal-detecting in the UK, and although PAS is keen to record as many finds as possible, it is not practical for FLOs to record every find made by each detectorist, as well as finds made by the wider public also.

Therefore, FLOs must be selective in what they record, though they are assisted greatly by interns and volunteers, including (detectorist) self-recorders.

To help us record finds we ask finders to:

- ✓ Make time for finds to be handed over for recording.
- ✓ Show us all the finds made: finders should be prepared that we might only record some of them (prioritising the most significant).
- ✓ Provide (at least) an 8-figure NGR (National Grid Reference) for all recordable finds. In accordance with the [Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales](#), these should be bagged/packaged separately and have the NGR written on the bag.
- ✓ It is helpful if finders can provide good quality images of all recordable finds, as well as weights and measurements.
- ✓ **Please be patient as FLOs liaise with many finders.**

X PAS will not tolerate abusive or threatening behaviour towards its staff and will take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all colleagues and volunteers.

In return, finders should expect:

- FLOs to be professional. It is the job of FLOs to liaise with the detecting community (and others) to record their finds.
- Prompt responses to enquiries. Most FLOs will have 'holding replies', but we aim to provide a response within 7-14 days (this may differ depending on where the FLO is based). Finders should be mindful that FLOs have lots of enquiries, some work part-time, and there are other pressures on their time.
- Receipts to be given for all finds taken in and returned. This is so finders can be clear on what we have in our care.
- A clear understanding about when finds will be returned: this might be marked on the receipt. In terms of club visits and finds days, most FLOs will expect to return finds at the next visit. Normally this will be 3-4 months (but be clear on this with your FLO).
- Regarding Treasure, the PAS is only one part of the process. We aim to deal with cases as quickly as possible, but complex (i.e. an unusual item or a hoard that needs extensive cataloguing) will inevitably take longer.

Any complaints or comments about PAS staff should be directed to the local manager and the Heads of PAS in England (mlewis@britishmuseum.org) or in Wales (steve.burrow@museumwales.ac.uk), as appropriate. Unless you ask otherwise, we will liaise with the local FLO on [how to respond to any matters raised](#).

NCMD CHANGES

The committee have been working to improve the structure of the NCMD. As part of that, we will be introducing Trustees to protect the funds we have in place in order to protect our hobby and the interests of our members should the need arise. This is long overdue and a major step forward.

We will also be introducing work groups to support the committee. These will help us to focus on key topics such as Heritage Crime and Green Waste as well as developing the support we provide through such initiatives as the Hoard Hotline and the NCMD Hoard Fund,

headed up by Wendy Howard, who is doing an excellent job.

We will shortly be asking for help from those of our members who would like to get involved in the work that we do, so watch this space for more information in due course.

As ever, I would like to thank our committee members along with those delegates that have all worked so tirelessly on your behalf, without their hard work we wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you, one and all.

Alan Tamblyn General Secretary



NORTH WEST REGION (NCMD)

TREASURES UNEARTHED FINDS EXHIBITION AUGUST 2022

On Saturday 13th August 2022 the Northwest region of the National Council for Metal Detecting held an exhibition of club members' metal detecting finds in Chester Cathedral.



Representatives from the National Council for Metal Detecting, General Secretary Alan Tamblin, and the Communications Officer Dave Crisp,

spend the day representing their Club and the Region, all for the sheer love of our hobby. Every single member who worked on their stand should be extremely proud, as the day was hailed a huge success. Also in attendance were the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the form of Heather Beeton, Finds Liaison Officer for Greater Manchester and Merseyside, also Susie White, Finds Liaison Officer for Wales both were kept extremely busy by the seeming endless flow of visitors.

Two other guests who were kept busy were the representatives from the National Council for Metal Detecting, General Secretary Alan Tamblin, and the Communications Officer Dave Crisp.

The NCMD always support our exhibitions, but this was a first for Alan and Dave. The organisers were delighted to be able to demonstrate what an active and dedicated region can achieve.

Dan Goldbourn and Julian Evan-Hart of the Treasure Hunting magazine were due to have a stand at the exhibition but unfortunately were forced to pull out due to business issues. However, they very kindly sent along several excellent books on metal detecting and a box of their magazines. To the delight of all who had purchased raffle tickets, the books were added as extra prizes. Many thanks to Dan and Julian. Kendrick and Steve from the 'Wirral Skip Felgar' group were in attendance, both dressed in traditional pre-medieval garb. They were showing off their skills as coin strikers, creating medieval and Viking coinage to give away to our delighted visitors.

The trade as always, was represented by Unearthed UK, their stand was heaving with quality goods being pored over by the visitors. The North-West region has for some time been working in partnership with Unearthed UK at our exhibitions and the free to members rallies organised by the region.

Once again Unearthed UK in alliance with MINELAB provided three detectors for the raffle as well as 10 accessory bags (goody bags to you and I) which were given away to some delighted junior detectorists during the course of the day.

VENUE

The exhibition was held in the splendour that is the Chapter House, a beautifully vaulted section of the Cathedral with its entrance leading onto the Cloisters. It's magnificent stained-glass windows and vaulted arches were a perfect setting for an exhibition of historical finds. From the moment the venue was suggested by Cliff Passey, (NW Region Treasurer and Membership Secretary) the events team at the Cathedral did everything they could to be helpful and made the preparation so much easier. We were given access to the inner reaches of the Cathedral and trusted with entry passes for the unloading/loading of the participants' displays.

The organising committee would like to thank Richard Hodge and his events team for their valued assistance throughout the process.

PARTICIPANTS

The regional clubs that were exhibiting stretched from Kendal MDC in Cumbria to Wrexham MDC, 130 miles South. Other clubs displaying were Lune Valley, West Kirby, HSS Mold, North-West MDC, South Lancs & Cheshire, and the North Wales History Hunters.

The representatives from all these clubs spent countless hours preparing their displays, working on various aspects of the planning for the exhibition and then travelling, sometimes long distances, to



A good turnout of people attending the exhibition



Medieval and Viking coinage to give away to the delighted visitors

VISITORS

The purpose of the exhibition is to promote the hobby of metal detecting to the public, whilst also promoting the NCMD as the leading light within the hobby, so getting the balance right between our visitors who are detectorists and those from the general public is not always easy, much depends on the venue and the advertising strategy. Every time we hold an exhibition, we learn a little more. The number of visitors who came to view this exhibition exceeded our expectations and included many family units.



Goodie bags for the young detectorists from Uneathed UK in alliance with Minelab

PRIZE WINNERS

In addition to the prize winners from the raffle, there were four trophies awarded for the club display competitions, comprising Best Coin, Best Artefact, Best Themed Showcase, and Best Overall stand. The four judges for the club competitions were, Dave Crisp, Best Coin, Graeme Rushton Best Artefact, Heather Beeton, Best Overall stand, and Emily Lanigan (Cathedral Archivist), Religious Themed Showcase. Dave Crisp chose a Venetian Soldino found by Mike Evans of the North Wales History Hunters

It was a Heraldic Pendant with hanger that caught Graeme Rushtons' eye, found by Alan Whitehead from the Mold club. For Heather Beeton, the Kendal Club stand was victorious over the rest of the amazingly good presentations on show. The beautiful Religious Themed Showcase that Emily Lanigan chose also belonged to the Kendal Club.



Heather Beeton, Finds Liaison Officer for Greater Manchester and Merseyside, also Susie White, Finds Liaison Officer for Wales



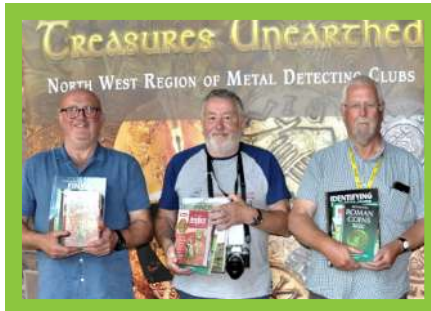
Heraldic Pendant with hanger that caught Graeme Rushtons' eye, found by Alan Whitehead from the Mold club



Venetian Soldino found by Mike Evans of the North Wales History Hunters



Heather Beeton, the Kendal Club stand was victorious over the rest of the amazingly good presentations



Books with their winners kindly donated by Treasure Hunting Magazine



The beautiful religious themed showcase that Emily Lanigan chose also belonged to the Kendal Club

The raffle prize-winners were

- 1st Mr C - Wrexham
- 2nd Stan Smith - South Lanc's & Cheshire
- 3rd Elizabeth Bailey - Lune Valley
- 4th Simon Mitchell - Lune Valley
- 5th D Baddeley - Crewe & Nantwich
- 6th Andy Monks Wrexham

Following months of planning, the day of the exhibition came and went all too quickly, to all the individuals who contributed to the day, a massive and heartfelt thank you, you were outstanding. We look forward to the next event.

Kev Gorman

Secretary North West region
(For the organising committee)



The winners of the raffle for detectors from Uneathed UK in alliance with Minelab

HOARD HOTLINE IS A SUCCESS STORY!



The Hoard Hotline was the brainchild of Steve Critchley, a former member of the NCMD committee, and its function is to support our members if they are lucky enough to find a hoard or significant item such as a potential burial whilst out detecting.

The recommendation is always that you stop digging immediately you realise you have something potentially significant, and you phone the hotline for guidance. We provide this facility to support the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and in turn, they provide support to our members.

The hotline is a mobile phone held by Wendy Howard and she has it with her at all times. The telephone number is printed on your membership card, on your digital card and on the NCMD Mobile App, so should be on hand at all times, but for your reference, its **0800 002 5808**.

When a call comes in, Wendy takes the details of the detectorist and the situation and posts them on a WhatsApp group set up by the PAS and consisting of Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) as well as representatives from Archaeological groups and the head of PAS, Michael Lewis.

The hotline has been used on a number of occasions and has helped to get vital information direct to the finder as to what they should do next. This is the case, even on a Sunday when most of us are detecting but none of the FLOs are at work, because there is always someone available via this service.

When a hoard or significant find is discovered, it can take some time for the various FLOs to secure the funding to be able to excavate the site and this can be a concern if there are circumstances where the site could be compromised or the find itself could be damaged. The NCMD have therefore made funds available to cover the excavation cost, currently set at £500 as a maximum for any one instance and with a ceiling currently of £5,000 per annum.

There is a stipulation currently that we don't provide this service for commercial rallies as they have the funds available to cover this if required, but this is under review.

So far, our hotline has provided information from an expert on the next steps that should be taken by the finder and the relevant information is passed to the FLO to deal with on their next working day. There have been three major hoard fund cases in recent months.

The first one was a site in Oxford, where one of our members found a very deep item that he believed was potentially significant because of the depth, so he immediately stopped digging and called the hotline number.

He uploaded some photos and it was felt by the archaeologists that it could well be a cauldron with the lid in place, so this could have potentially contained a hoard, or just as importantly could have been a cooking pot containing the contents of their last meal, which archeologically is a significant find. It was very important to keep the lid in place and this was helped by the fact that the detectorist had only uncovered the outer edge of one side and had immediately stopped digging.

Ultimately, it was decided that this needed to be recovered immediately in order to protect the contents, so we confirmed that we would cover the cost and it was excavated the following day.

The excavation was carried out and sadly, it was a bit of an anti-climax as the find turned out to be a modern metal oil drum but apparently, from the photos it did look like a cauldron. I've no idea what was said at the time, but I bet the air was blue and certainly the detectorist was more than a bit disappointed.

However, just like buses, you wait for ages, then three turn up at once....we have two more hoards to report on, both are Roman and are being

excavated as we speak so watch this space for an update.

The main point is that the system works, everything was done correctly and its a great example of the NCMD, our members and the PAS working together to preserve our heritage.



**FREE HOARD
HOTLINE
0800 002 5808**



As a member you can download the NCMD app for free for your Apple or Android phone. Simply scan the barcode for your device.





Is this a cauldron containing a hoard of coins...?



Sometimes a suspected hoard can be an anti-climax like the cauldron which turned out to be just a modern oil drum.

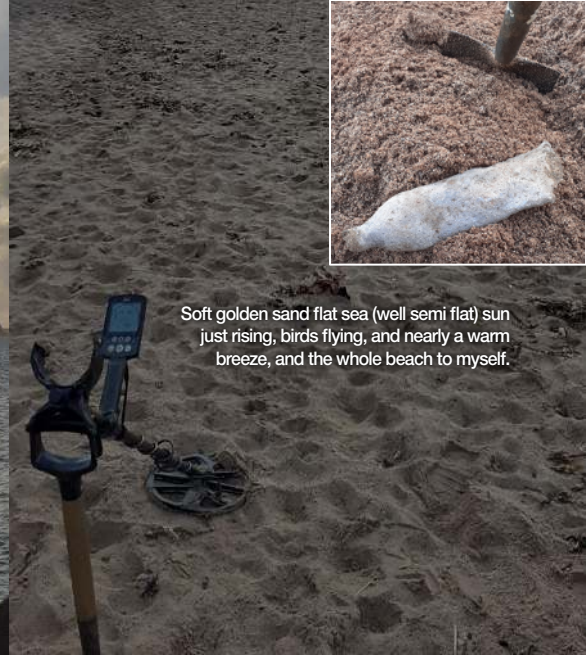


Photos above and below of one of the two hoards which have recently been reported and we are currently working on. Both are Roman and being excavated at the time Digging Deep is being published.



The Hoard Hotline is a great example of the NCMD, our members and the PAS working together to preserve our heritage.

A FEW HOURS ON THE BEACH 3 COINS OF NOTE



Soft golden sand flat sea (well semi flat) sun just rising, birds flying, and nearly a warm breeze, and the whole beach to myself.

I have a friend who disregards beach detecting, in fact he will not do it, and all he wants on holiday is to lie on some fancy beach, in some faraway place (which takes all day to get there) and costs a fortune. I go to a caravan park on the coast here and spend a few (sometimes a lot) of hours detecting just for the pleasure of it. Well, it takes all sorts in our hobby, so let me say a bit about earlier this year.

My family had gone away to the coast with their caravans and so I had the whole week to myself and I decided to join them for a night's stay, so I could do a bit of beach detecting. The first afternoon was a bit disappointing, plenty of ring pulls and modern beer caps. Why do I get a good signal on these modern twist off caps, have they changed the type of metal, or is it because they are new, and haven't started to corrode?

As I am normally an early riser, I decided to go to a small beach the next morning a bit further up the coast. The longer walk was worth it just to see the sun rise as I arrived and set up. I bet my mate doesn't see this where he goes? Soft golden sand, flat sea (well semi-flat), sun just rising, birds flying, and nearly a warm

breeze, and the whole beach to myself.

So, what did I find? Well, it was quite amazing really. My first three finds in completely different places on the beach were three £2 coins. Yes, three in completely different conditions, one was brand new, a second was discoloured and the third was really starting to corrode.

Now any beach detectorist will tell you that you don't generally find that many £2 coins. To find three on the same beach, albeit in different places, is quite an achievement. Later I found a few more coins, a couple of £1's, a few 20p pieces, some copper coins, and the normal bits that come up if you are lucky.



If your lucky a nice selection of coins can come up!

was just a few hours on the beach, I had to hurry back to the car park as I didn't want a ticket that would have cost a lot more than I had made that day.

So why not try the beach? Just don't get in anybody's way, check that you are allowed to detect, most are ok. As to my mate, I don't think I will ever persuade him, he likes his comfort too much.



The usual selection of rubbish left on the beach. Although aluminium does degrade but it takes 50 years.



A selection of the days beach finds.

With this came the normal rubbish, ring pulls bits of copper and folded alloy, all of which give decent signals, so you must dig them. I also removed the normal rubbish left behind on the surface and then it took me a further ten minutes to dig three cider cans that someone had buried. It probably took longer to bury them than it would have taken walking to the bin. (Fact - aluminium degrades in the soil/landfill, but takes up to 500 years apparently, so why not recycle?)

I also found a strange lead object, maybe it's an old lead weight they used on sailing ships to test the depth of water, I just don't know, but it will be recycled. So that



Rubbish and cider cans left buried in the sand which probably took longer to bury than walk to the bin...!

LEAD; RUBBISH OR MONEY IN THE BANK



Member of Trowbridge Metal Detecting Club - Paul Sims

My name is Paul Sims and I am a longstanding member of the Trowbridge Metal Detecting club, and I have been a detectorist for over 8 years.

Besides being one of the original members of the RCM Charity rally team, I also collect my club members' old lead, which I then sell for charity. Every year we vote on which charity it should go to the next year. At the moment it is going to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. This was a twofold decision. One it's a very well deserving charity, and two you never know, someday one of us might need one to be called when we are out in the fields.

We started lead collecting many years ago, but it slowly stopped, until I stepped in and started it again. Since then the members have been very supportive and bring it in regularly to our monthly club meetings. Sometimes the lead slows down a bit, but a few reminders from the committee gets it coming in again.

At the moment lead is worth about £1.10-£1.20 a Kg; but I normally take about 20Kg and then get a price quite near the better end of the buying price, as they are never sure that it's all lead.

Obviously, I have to go to a licensed scrap dealer (Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013) as they all should be. This ensures that they can record who they bought the item from, and it also means I don't get cash, but paid by cheque or a bank transfer, which I later pass over to the club treasurer Ray.

This is my last lot of donated lead which came in at the last September meeting. Dave found the long piece it washed up on a beach. It weighs just over 1Kg and is just over 21cm long. Most comes from his field finds, as like all detectorists, he finds a lot of lead bits. The total weight was just over 3Kg., so worth about £8-£12. The last donation we gave came to over £80 just from old bits of lead, which goes normally into the junk box.

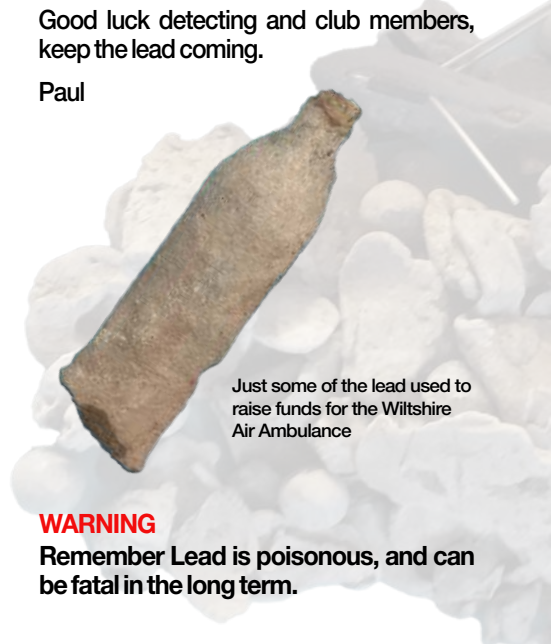
So, this is a nice source of charity income which most detectorists cannot be bothered with, and we do well with the money raised. All it takes is for somebody to collect it and sell it to a scrap dealer.

I must give you the normal warning when handling old lead, as we all know old white

lead is very poisonous if you handle it. You must wash your hands properly afterwards. This is especially hazardous to young children. So never let your kids play with it, as they are especially susceptible.

Good luck detecting and club members, keep the lead coming.

Paul



Just some of the lead used to raise funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance

WARNING

Remember Lead is poisonous, and can be fatal in the long term.

THE RALLY SCENE

We have decided to add a Rally page to this year's Digging Deep, so if you run a charity rally let us know about it in plenty of time and we will give it a mention in the next publication.

A big thank you to the detectorists, the traders and manufacturers who donated prizes, or those that could not attend but still supported us with raffle prizes, as these are a major factor in our running of the charity event. Without this fantastic support we would not have been able to donate £84,000 this year to various charities. The charities included Bath Hospital Forever Friends Cancer Charity, Brighter Futures at Swindon Hospital, and other smaller various good causes.

We would like to personally thank all the marshals and other people that gave up their time to work endlessly throughout the whole weekend doing all the jobs that needed to be done to run such a large charity event. Some even worked

throughout the year, doing what's needed to get the next year's rally organised. Every one of these friends works for nothing, but they do get an immense amount of satisfaction and pleasure from helping others, and knowing they are making a difference to cancer care for sufferers. They also pay for their own fuel getting to the site, we provide food and a hot drink for those that want it, but that's a small price to pay for all the support and work that they do.

So again, we have gone forward from our humble beginnings in the pub, back in 2018 where our founder Gary asked our Trowbridge Club members for some help to raise some money for Baths Cancer Care unit.

P.S We are planning next year's rally and already have the potential site. Many thanks and keep safe till next year.

Gary, Dave and the RCM Team



Recovering finds

If you discover an in-situ find such as a hoard or a burial.....

Firstly congratulations, it's not a common occurrence and is often a once in a lifetime event. You'll probably be shocked and excited and a whole range of emotions. Difficult though it is you need to stop digging, take a breath and just take it all in before you do anything else

- 1. Don't dig any more.** Stop for a few minutes and work out if you have found an in situ hoard (a concentrated deposit of finds) or if it is dispersed (for example a coin hoard scattered by ploughing). Coin scatters can be collected, noting the find spot of each one. If it's a hoard please see below on what to do next. If in doubt you should seek advice from your Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) before excavating further. If you can't get hold of FLO please contact the NCMD on the emergency number above, (which is also on your membership card), who can help.
- 2. If it's a hoard cover the deposit up and make a note of the find spot.** The NCMD Mobile App does all this, so is ideal, but Apps such as 'What3Words' or a GPS tracker can be useful. If you carry on digging you may destroy important archaeological information, and any treasure reward you are eligible for may be reduced.
- 3. Do not be tempted to phone all your friends and family to share the news,** or even worse, post up information about your find on social media. You need to protect the details of your site as it will take time to get expert help. People talk and the last thing you want is to worry about is the security of the find site.
- 4. You should only call two people** – the landowner, and the correct authority to provide advice and help. For human remains call the police on 101. If it's a hoard or other important historical item(s) then you can contact the NCMD major finds excavation hotline on **0800 002 5808 (and press 1)** or your local FLO. The FLO's details can be found on the PAS Web site.
- 5. If in England or Wales then you can access the NCMD Major Finds Excavation Fund.** This is a joint initiative with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and is sponsored by the NCMD. The NCMD has a list of out of hour's emergency numbers for the Portable Antiquities Scheme staff. We can contact them on your behalf getting you help and advice, and get the ball rolling to get the hoard excavated quickly and correctly. **They will ring you back.** Please note you should not share the find spot details with anyone at this stage and you will not be asked to share that detail with the NCMD. We just need to know the general area (i.e., nearest town).
- 6. The FLO will arrange everything.** We will authorise funding for the excavation with the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). The FLO will then take over arranging details and be able to advise you when an archaeological excavation can be organised. In normal circumstances this could take many weeks but with NCMD funding, it can usually be arranged within days or, if qualified field archaeologists are available, on the same day.



THE SHAPWICK HOARD



Kevin and Martin showcasing just some of the 9,000 Denarii they discovered

Cousins Kevin and Martin are two detectorists who went down in history in 1998 when they found over 9,000 silver denarii. The coins covered a time range from Mark Antony's reign in 31BC to Severus Alexander's 13 year reign in the middle of the occupation of Britain in 235AD. A total of over 200 years passed before it was buried in a pot before 235AD or just before, as there were no coins of Maximinus Thrax - the next Emperor. Severus was lynched by his soldiers as was Maximinus in 238AD a few years later.

This area had been revealing Roman finds for many years, with quite a few discoveries, but this hoard was by far the best as it detailed coins across the years, from later Siliques and Roman bronze Grots. In with these silver Roman coins there were four silver Drachmae - one of them even came from Caesarea in Cappadocia which is now a region of Turkey.

This hoard was declared Treasure by the Somerset Coroner and was later valued at £265,000 by the Treasure Valuation Committee, a sum the two Cousins shared with the landowner.

An urban villa, later found using a Geophysical survey, was dated across the Roman period. However, it was rebuilt in the middle of the Roman period after demolition of some of the villa. This first villa had been built on top of a round house of the Iron Age, so it could have been a present for a Celtic Chieftain, or just to show them who was boss. There were even coins of the famous Septimius Severus.

When they entered the field Martin

was giving Kevin a run down on how to use a detector as he'd never held one before! They were going alongside each other, so Kevin could watch what Martin was doing, and he came across a silver coin pretty quickly. A few more steps and they each found another, fairly spaced out. They decided to split up and take a different route across the field. They were turning up more, quite spaced out coins, when Martin started to



The 9,000 silver Denarii on display



Didus Julianus obverse, A very rare coin



Manlia Scantilla



Julia Domna Drachm Obverse

recognise a pattern where they were sparse around an area but started narrowing and becoming a little more frequent. His idea was that they were dragged from a hoard by a plough, so he followed this theory until he was turning up multiple coins bunched together. Eventually, he found a large area giving off the same signal and when he started to dig he hit a row of stones under the ground, placed together in a curve. He started uncovering inside the curve carefully and there they were - I believe it was roughly 7500 coins still in the hole surrounded by a ring of stones.

When they declared the find, the Time Team came out to the site, and they then excavated the area, finding the rest of the coins and discovering the foundations of the villa. The hoard turned out to be in the corner of one of the rooms, but nothing was showing to indicate there was a villa there. This corner was near where the room was adjoining a large courtyard, so it must have been a significant villa in its time. This was a completely unknown villa in an area that was over 12 miles from the Roman town of Ilchester, which itself is on the Roman road, the Fosse Way, that ran from Exeter to Lincoln.

Most of the hoard (nearly three quarters of the Denarii) were 2nd Century coins which in itself with the earlier coins must have been a family bank or a trading surplus. Remember that a few years ago we had 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound (£) and a penny was represented by the letter d from the word Denarius. The old Victorian pennies we are always finding have a picture of Britannia on she's a Roman Goddess.

There was also a very rare coin of the wife of the Roman Emperor Didus

Julianus - her name was Manlia Scantilla. Unfortunately for her and her family, he was emperor for only three months, but in that time she had been immortalised on a coin to be found nearly 2000 years later. Nowadays a coin like this is possibly worth up to £2,000 approx. on its own, but as they got £260,000 for the lot, they didn't do too badly.

Martin and Kevin discovered the Roman hoard back in 1998 and as we all know the law had been changed in 1996 and it came into force in 1997. This meant they found it literally just after the law had changed from Trove which had been in since Medieval times, to the modern law of Treasure which has now been around for twenty four plus years.

This magnificent hoard of silver Denarii is still on display in the Museum of Somerset in Taunton, where it has a whole case to itself. Maybe one day it will be joined by its big brother The Frome Hoard 52,503 Roman Radiates. The Somerset museum paid the British Museum for it twelve years ago by collecting donations.

All individual coins copyright of Somerset County Council and South West Heritage Trust, who graciously provided them from the Museum of Somerset image library.

The NCMD would like to thank Amel - the Collections Manager and the Trust for their help. The hoard was purchased with grants from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the ACE/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Art Fund and the Friends of the Museum of Somerset.



MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT STORIES

We need your stories. Digging Depp is your magazine so why not have your say? Let everybody know about something you have found and we will publish it, adding a few photos will also help.

If you need help putting it into words then tell us the facts and we will write it for you and send you a copy to check before we go to print.

Please send any stories to the Communications Secretary at: communicationsofficer@ncmd.co.uk

It doesn't have to be long, it can be as short as you like, but it should be interesting.

ROMAN LEAD MIGHT GO INTO SPACE

You have all seen articles and diagrams about roman fighting machines which they were experts at making. These were of many different types, and a lot of them used lead as ammunition or in the manufacture of weights, pipes, pot seals to name a few. Well forget all that; this is actual old lead from the Roman era which has been reused as it is perfect for use in modern technology experiments, some of which are done in space. The rest right here right now in high Tec experiments that the Romans would not, and could not have dreamed about. Fig.1



A 2000 year old lead bar off the coast of Sardinia

Why? A good question. Lead when it's mined and all its life contains an element called Uranium 235 this is mostly removed in the manufacturing process. The residue is changed but the lead still holds some radioactivity but this starts to decay and roughly every 100 years leaves only 1/8th of what started. So lead mined over 2,000 years ago has lost the majority of its radioactivity so it has a lot less in it than lead mined today. So what's the point? Well this old lead with the reduced particle emission is perfect in shielding the machines that are running experiments which need shielding.

So where do these physicists' go back in the 80s when they need old lead? Well they could come round my house, or any

detectorists that goes out a lot as we must find a hell of a lot judging by what I find. Or they could go down a lead shop that gives discounts like (Buy two, get one free) but there are not too many of them around. But what they did do was make a deal with an Archaeologist to pay from the underwater excavation Fig 3 just off the coast of Sardinia and bingo they have all the 2,000 year old lead that they need, as it has a lot less radioactivity than newly mined lead. Also there is plenty more where that comes from. So they had 4,000 Kg of old lead in the form of 120 odd bars. Each bar probably a standard 60 +Kg.

So they got the lead and the Archaeologists got all the information they needed in the form of the inscriptions of the emperor at that time or the manufacture of the lead from the Spanish mines. All they had to do was cut it off. The Romans used a lot of lead especially for water pipes maybe that's the reason they were of smaller stature and why they died young; probably from acute lead poisoning. All of this to look for some particles of Radiation, that might or might not have originated from the sun, millions of years ago. They also made sling shoots ammunition, tokens, coins, plaques even pot seals. They also used it to line the baths where Romans of the upper class bathed daily, again digesting lead in their daily life.



Digesting lead was common in Roman life

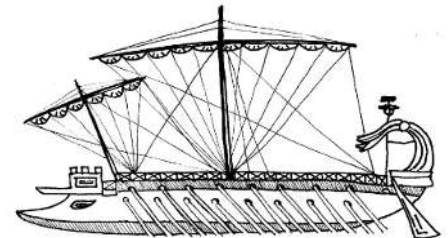


Fig.1 An intricate Roman ship

So two lots of academics both get what they want, one lot some nice new shiny Roman lead which can be used to shield high Tec machinery and computer parts, and the Archaeologists the information about the manufacture, shipping and commerce in the Roman world, also the state of the empire and the emperor at that time. As normal archaeologists would rather the whole lot stayed on the sea floor for ever, so that future archaeologists can study it at their leisure. "Thank god they don't run the world".

What would that Roman say if he came back? Would he like the idea that we are using the lead for a real purpose rather than knowledge from the past, or maybe; just maybe he would have just laughed?



A Roman lead water pipe. One of the many uses adopted by the Romans

WEEKENDS DETECTING WITH FRIENDS



Gordon's hallmarked gold dress stud



Celtic silver and a rare sandal brooch found by Gary



12-1400 Medieval horse pendant found by Dave



Richards thirty coin hoard. Probably a purse loss.

A couple of times a year, a few friends and I get together for a long weekend away detecting. We rent a couple of local cottages just a few miles away. We normally arrive early afternoon and then after having a cuppa we are off detecting. We are lucky as we have permission from a few local farmers and have plenty of land to go detecting right through each day.

This time we had an extra new field which we had only tried for an hour on the last visit as it had been pouring with rain. I for one, don't detect in the rain, I find it's not worth it, I can't concentrate enough, and I don't seem to find much. Anyway, this very large field was calling to us. So we made plans to go there first thing on the Saturday, as it promised to be a nice day.

After a good breakfast and a few coffees, we were on our way, travelling by cars to the farm a mile or so away. The field was perfect and we quickly spread out detecting. Most of the lads have a fixation on finding hammered, but I am more inclined to appreciate artefacts; probably as I don't find many hammered coins.

One time I was lucky to find three quarters of a nice silver of William I 1070-1072, so a very early coin in his reign. This coin was minted in Derby and a rare find. This is only the second coin of this mint recorded on the PAS System. As you can see the practice of biting a silver coin to check its purity, went a little too far.

I was very pleased with a nice hanging medieval horse pendant dating from 1200-1400, which still has the cross hatching and some red enamel. Nigel also found a lovely denarius which came up on the same day.

There was great excitement one day when the first of the hammered coins was found, which then turned into a hoard. I didn't get any as I waited for the scrum to die down, but by then they had all been found. It was agreed that it was Richards hoard and the others all put their coins in to the pot. After a lot of searching, they had found thirty coins between them, so it was



probably just a purse loss, but no purse frame was found. Who knows what other coins were in there? Nearby Gary then also found a very nice silver Bishop's ring from the 12th Century onwards in the same field. They went back the following year but didn't unearth anymore coins.

On one of the weekends Richard found a very nice Roman plate brooch, some still call these discoidal (which just means disk shaped with cleavage etc.). At first he thought it was Victorian, but he soon changed his mind. I bet it gave him a good signal. Gary had a nice silver Celtic and three Roman brooches. One was a rare Sandal brooch, with enamel still on it. On another trip Gordon managed to find a hallmarked gold dress stud.

These are just a few of the many great finds we have made between us over the last 4 years. This is when we come together for a few days detecting, a few beers, and a lot of laughs.

We are not a club as such, but we are a club of friends.



¼ of a William I - Derby mint 1070-72



A nice Denarius for Nigel



A nice Roman plate brooch found by Rich

THE HACKNEY HOARD

Hackney, a part of East London, is not a place where many Hoards are found. My Gran had a house there for all her life. Hackney wasn't a very well off place, just a typical London lower class area, where I spent many hours as a boy. Nowadays you need very deep pockets to buy a house there.

But it is a place that has an interesting story, about an unusual hoard and nothing to do with my Gran.

This all started in 1952 when a building was being constructed on a Hackney bomb site. In the rubble and dirt, a glass jar was found that contained gold coins. There were 82 gold 20-dollar Double Eagles, American coins. These were deposited in the war in the garden of the house where a certain Mr Sulzbacher used to live with his family. After the war he emigrated to the USA. There he was later reunited with his coins, as he could prove they were his property. He had brought them with him to UK from Germany.

Of course, all this came under the old law of Treasure Trove, which meant he was awarded the coins back, but under the condition he sold them as you were not allowed to hoard gold at that time. He received about a £1,000, that's about £33,000 in today's money. He then later flew back to USA where he died in 1981.

Then came the twist in July 2007. Another jar was discovered in the same general area, and this was then reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) whereupon the system kicked in. By this time the new Treasure Act had been in force since 1997 so it had to go to the Coroner. In this jar there were 80 of the same USA gold 20 Double Eagle coins, a few more than in the first jar fifty-five years before. These coins were dated from 1854-1913. When the PAS and the British Museum (BM) were advised about the first cache, the BM, the Coroner's Office and the Museum of London got in touch with the family in the USA who were delighted to hear the news as their father had gone to his grave without knowing the fate of the other half of his buried coins.

His remaining family had possession of his coins legally, so the decision was made to auction most of them off. Before giving the coins to the auction house they gave one coin for displaying in The Hackney Museum, where it is still on display today, along with the original bottle and greaseproof paper the coins were wrapped up in.

At the same time, they used some of



The Gold Double Eagle coins presented to Hackney museum

the money to spruce up the Hackney Cemetery graves of their family members killed by the bombs. They also kept two coins back to take to the USA as keepsakes. The sold coins raised about £98,000 in total. History doesn't tell us how much they gave the finders, but it's still a great story.



One of the double gold eagle coins



The hoard on display at the Hackney Museum



The jar containing the coins

*Images taken from the Hackney Museum

WHEN IS A COIN, NOT A COIN; BUT AN ARTEFACT

PIERCED COINS

Under the Treasure Act, single precious metal coins are not considered to be Treasure, but single precious metal coins that have been modified into objects can, if older than 300 years old, qualify as Treasure.

This modification is usually seen in the form of a conversion of the coin into a brooch or pendant, or some other form of jewellery or dress accessory, evidence of which can include the addition of a suspension loop to the top, a pin (or the remains of one) at the back, or gilding. Additionally, piercings can be present.

Silver and gold pierced coins from the Iron Age through the Early Medieval period are not found in hoards of other coins, meaning they were taken out of circulation. Therefore they should be considered as items of jewellery and reported as potential Treasure, even if there are no other modifications on the coins. See for example: Roman silver coin of Gratian (2015 T520; CAM-

E8EFD7) After 1180 AD, examples of silver coins whose only modification consists of a piercing appear amongst other coins in currency hoards, and it is from this date where we are likely to need other features on the coin (gilding or fittings) to convincingly argue that a silver coin was modified into an object and that it remained out of circulation. However, piercings along the edge, at the top or bottom of the coin (with respect to either obverse or reverse, or in such a way that any cross on the reverse would be upright) may indicate modification and removal from circulation, particularly if it is an uncommon coin. We suggest finders of such coins show them to their Finds Liaison Officer, who can liaise with the appropriate curator/finds advisor and provide further guidance.

Single gold coins after 1180 AD with any modification, including a single piercing, do not appear in currency hoards and (especially after the 16th century) were rarely used as currency anyway. Therefore, these should always be reported as potential Treasure.



Fig.1 Roman silver coin of Gratian (2015 T520; CAM-E8EFD7)

Other Alterations to coins Bent coins or 'Love tokens' Precious metal coins from the reign of Queen Mary (1553 - 1558) through to that of King George III (1760 - 1820) are occasionally found bent in a S-shape (when viewed from the side). These are commonly called 'love tokens' and the practice of gifting one to a romantic interest appears to have been at its height during the time of William III (1689 - 1702). However, it is difficult to be certain that a coin demonstrating some bending has indeed been modified for the purpose of being given as a 'love token', and indeed, bent coins from the Post-Medieval period have appeared in hoards of other non-bent coins. It would be impossible to say with any confidence, whether a single bent coin found on its own had been removed from circulation and transformed into an object, and therefore such coins should only be considered potential Treasure if they meet the standard criteria for coins detailed in paragraph 1.(1) of the Treasure Act 1996.

Portable Antiquities Scheme
www.finds.org.uk

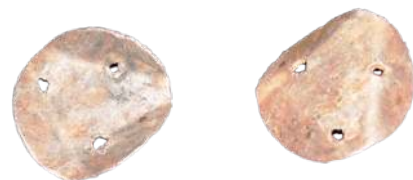


Fig.2 A pierced bent silver coin like this (unidentifiable is probably not potential treasure)

National Council for Metal Detecting

At the NCMD we love metal detecting! For over 40 years we have promoted, protected, and encouraged metal detecting for our members and the wider Metal Detecting Community. We are formally recognised by the UK Government and play a vital role in representing members on the creation of or any changes to legislation that may affect our great hobby.

NCMD Membership Benefits

Joining the National Council for Metal Detecting is not just about insurance, there are a lot of benefits:

- You can choose 1-3 year membership from as little as £8 per year
- Public Liability insurance up to £10m – with £0 excess
- Insurance cover for commercial rallies/events, private & group digs
- Worldwide cover – great for holidays (excludes USA & Canada)
- Join our friendly online community forum
- Access our free Mobile App



TO JOIN US VISIT - WWW.NCMD.CO.UK

THE LOST WALLET

It was one of the strangest finds that I had ever seen, but I must start at the beginning. We are a small group of detectorists, The Jolly Boys that go away detecting a couple of times a year in Lincolnshire.

A few weeks ago, we made plans to get away, as we knew we had some good fields ready for detecting and arrived on the Friday after a bit of skiving off work for some. That day we managed a few nice finds between us and then we made a run for it as it started to rain, and by the time I managed to get under cover it was pouring down.

We managed another day detecting on the Saturday on a new farm, with more incredible finds including Roman and Celtic coins and a few brooches. Then on the Sunday we returned and detected a new field where, once again, more decent bits emerged. Gordon had a good signal in the stubble field which turned out to be a wallet with a few coins in the small pocket. It also had over £50 in notes and all the person's credit cards. It was a testament to the new plastic notes that even after three years in the ground they were in excellent condition, as were all the credit cards etc. But an interesting thought - if he hadn't carried his change in the small pocket Gordon would not have found it.

So as all responsible detectorists would do, he decided to check out the name and return the wallet with

all the money to the person that had lost it. He also informed the landowner as it was found on his field.

"It was a really loud signal, almost certainly due to the coins inside. It just popped up in the middle of the first spade full of soil so only a few inches deep for all that time. Due to the dates on the bank cards, I believe it was lost around October-November 2017. The notes were clearly visible from the side when it came out the ground, but it was packed with soil that I washed off when we got back to the cottage. There was £65 in notes (five x £10 and three x £5) as well as just over £3 in change. Due to the loss of spending power, burying money in a field is not a recommended place to put your cash!



The lost wallet

So, all's well in the end, we have got in contact with the owner - James - and he is very pleased to hear it has been found, and on the back of that The Jolly Boys have got a completely new farm to detect the next time we go up North.



The found wallet and its contents

The Jolly Boys



TWO HALF-GROATS OF HENRY VIII



Gordon's lovely Henry the VIII half groats

Sundays in October can be a bit hit and miss weather wise and this day started as expected, a bit grey and with the promise of rain, you could say it was a little uninspiring.

But Sunday is detecting day and as I'm a creature of habit, off I go to some local club land, as I have no permissions of my own. The Club land can be a bit of a joke within our club, it's not somewhere where you're going to find huge amounts of finds. However, for those willing to put the time and effort in, it can be rewarding and I've had a nice selection of finds over the years I've been a club member.

There is a variety of land types and even outlook, from the windy slopes of Cranbourne Chase to the also windy at times Cotswolds and at almost any point of the year has somewhere available to go. But I do agree some of the farms would not necessarily be the first on your list if you had lots to choose from although, this means you do have to concentrate and deal with the land available.

This farm has been used by the club for many years before I was a member and I find it still produces interesting finds from time to time, if you know the right parts. As one of our longer serving members puts it "you've got to put the time in to finds things". I knew a field I had wanted to visit for a while but last time I had been there the maize had yet to be

harvested so I was a little frustrated to find that the farmer had already drilled into the maize stalks - that field will have to wait for another year. Looking around for an alternative there was another field of maize stalks awaiting the farmers attention, this had a couple of paths running through it, that I had been on a few times before and had been visited many times over the years by lots of club members so I wasn't expecting much to come off it.

Arriving at the field I saw a farm hand loading bags of seed into a driller attached to a tractor and as there obviously wasn't going to be a lot of time before he'd be drilling the field I got straight to it. Turning on my detector with my usual program (XP Deus with the Sonar programme) I set off for a stroll up towards the area where the paths are where I thought I'd concentrate my search, in the limited time available.

I found a couple of bits of foil on my walk up the field but nothing else until about twenty feet short of an old path crossing the field, I got a signal which centred on a lump of maize stalk. I

wish I could recall the details of the signal, but I can't remember anything about it except to say it was a clear very diggable signal. I prized the maize out of the ground and indeed the signal was right in the roots around three inches under the surface. My pin-pointer located it easily and as I brushed the soil away, I caught the unmistakable glint of a small gold coin with a shield showing. Thinking I'd found my first gold hammered I excitedly continued extricating the object when I noticed that it had folded edges that formed a square and when turned over another shield was showing, together they formed a pillow or a lozenge shape. I took a couple of photos, noted the GPS reference, and then carefully put the object in my finds box, as by now the tractor had made several runs up and down the field and was getting closer to my position. I quickly gridded the area five metres around the find spot and didn't find anything else. Knowing I could return to it in future I wandered away from the tractors path and decided to go and show the farmer what I'd found. It's not the largest of fields and the farmhand was making short work of it so my time this year was nearly up anyway. As I walked away from the immediate area of the find I had another banging signal, which turned out to be a 1939 Shilling, which I was happy with because who doesn't like a bit of silver now and again?

I wasn't able to find the farmer that

My pin-pointer located it easily and as I brushed the soil away I caught the unmistakable gleam of a small gold coin with a shield showing.

day as it is quite a large farm and found nothing else of note unless you are interested in the minutiae of four holed buttons and Georgian halfpennies so I called it quits and turned for the car, my flask of tea and the drive home.

Nearly as interesting to me as detecting itself is the puzzle of working out what some of the weird objects that we find are. I searched the Spink Coins of England and the UK book for a similar looking shield and quickly realised that the coins were both Henry VIII half groats which had been folded into each other and as they were only silver these had been gilded. Definitely Treasure I thought and then further tied the coins down to those issued to commemorate Archbishop William Warham (1509 - 1533) and Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1533 - 1544).

If you remember back to 2020 it was a rather unusual year and thus the week after I found it I contacted the FLO by email and sent in pictures with details of the dimensions and weight, it took some time for us to

arrange a meeting to hand it in and it sat in my bedside table apart from the time I took to show it to the farmer. Sadly, the day came in early 2021 when I had to give it to the FLO and she confirmed my suspicions that it would likely be wanted by a museum due to its unusual nature, but these are the rules under which we have to operate and into the Treasure process it went.

There had been an initial report created by the FLO with my initial information and I received a letter within a month confirming that the coins were treasure and would go to the Coroner for the Treasure Process. It then went quiet for a few months. By mid-November 2021 I had received an initial valuation of £250 which I felt was on the low side and politely pointed out as much in an email.

A further review by the valuing committee took note of the FLO's remarks and decided the value of £575 was more appropriate. The landowner and I decided not to query further and by the end of Feb-2022 we'd both received our payments to

our accounts. Would I have preferred to keep the item? Undoubtedly yes, but so would the landowner so it is likely I would not have been able to keep it anyway, it is after all her land and we are there by her kind permission. It is likely that the item will not be on regular display in Devizes Museum which saddens me, but I take satisfaction in the fact that for a few months in late 2020 when the world was somewhat messed up I was able to keep a small bit of history safe by my bedside.

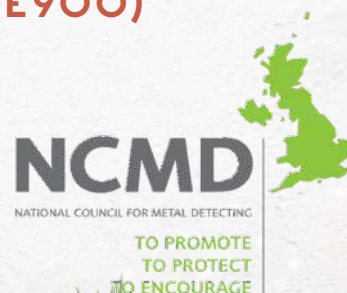
The PAS Database number for the item is WILT-BD809E for those of you who wish to check it out, good luck and happy hunting for you all in the future.

NCMD 2022 £10,000 CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

The NCMD 2022 prize draw has recently taken place. The lucky winners will be notified shortly, and a full list of winning names will be published in the members area of the website.

Prizes were:

- 1 x Deus 2 including headphones (Value £1100)
- 1 x Equinox including headphones (Value £900)
- 4 prizes of £500 each (Total £2000)
- 4 prizes of £250 each (Total £1000)
- 20 prizes of £200 each (Total £4000)
- 10 prizes of £100 each (Total £1000)



FIND THE 3 WORDS THAT ARE NOT IN THE GRID

Send us the 3 words with your name & NCMD number

1st correct answer out of the bag wins £100

2nd correct answer out of the bag wins £75

3rd correct answer out of the bag wins £50

1. Belt
2. Boots
3. Brooch
4. Buckle
5. Celtic
6. Coil
7. Coin
8. Cover
9. Detector
10. Digger
11. Dirt
12. Eyes only
13. Hammered
14. Gold
15. Grass
16. Grid reference
17. Stem
18. Head
19. Headphones
20. Hoard
21. Hole
22. Iron
23. Lead
24. Phone
25. Ploughed field
26. Pot
27. Pottery
28. Probe
29. Rocks
30. Sandwiches
31. Shaft
32. Ring
33. Silver
34. Soil
35. Spade
36. Bronze
37. Sun
38. Thermos
39. Tin
40. Token
41. Treasure
42. Trove
43. Trowel
44. Wellingtons
45. Copper

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r
1	H	G	F	S	E	N	O	H	P	D	A	E	H	R	M	P	O	O
2	S	Q	S	O	M	R	E	H	T	Z	B	X	C	I	T	L	E	C
3	G	V	U	B	R	O	N	Z	E	V	N	T	E	N	R	E	Y	H
4	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H	E	S	I	L	I	B	C	G	S	S
5	Y	S	S	A	R	G	R	B	T	S	O	V	S	N	T	N	N	Y
6	B	G	Y	G	O	L	O	E	X	H	C	U	E	J	B	O	Y	R
7	P	R	O	B	E	S	T	L	Y	V	U	R	T	K	T	V	V	E
8	X	W	E	V	P	S	C	T	B	T	E	B	N	G	Z	K	D	P
9	N	S	O	G	J	O	E	H	Z	F	R	Y	N	N	V	A	S	P
10	Z	R	O	F	G	T	T	V	E	T	B	I	E	Y	P	G	U	O
11	T	T	K	I	Y	I	E	R	U	A	L	X	D	S	Z	K	X	C
12	B	U	C	K	L	E	D	Y	R	L	D	M	H	C	O	O	R	B
13	O	U	O	V	K	I	R	I	E	S	M	O	C	R	G	N	U	B
14	O	J	I	S	R	E	N	W	C	J	A	J	E	O	D	X	L	U
15	T	C	L	G	T	G	Y	X	F	R	B	V	U	A	V	T	L	Y
16	S	F	O	T	N	M	P	F	D	F	L	Y	E	G	F	E	S	U
17	P	L	O	U	G	H	E	D	F	I	E	L	D	F	W	J	R	K
18	D	P	T	S	O	F	X	V	S	H	A	F	T	O	X	B	G	G
19	M	J	T	N	Y	S	U	B	K	F	D	E	R	E	M	M	A	H
20	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	V	Z	S	T	E	M	V	S	V	F

Once you have found the missing three words take a photograph or scan your entry and email to the address below. Or print off this page and complete your details below and post to us using the address below...GOODLUCK..!

All entries must be received by 12 o'clock on the 28th February 2023. 1 entry per member. Answers on our website after the draw.

Email: communicationsofficer@ncmd.co.uk

Post: NCMD Word Search, PO Box 13183, Gordon, TD11 9AJ



First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: County:

Postcode: Phone:

Missing words:

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. We also have an insurance policy available to cover Non-UK Residents.

For more information, please visit www.ncmd.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Dear Member,

Just a reminder that for many of you, your membership of the NCMD Expires on 31st March 2023. To continue enjoying your membership benefits including your insurance cover (with zero excess), please renew your membership using one of the following three options:

- If you are a member of a club, 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
- Only apply by post using the form below if you are unable to use the two methods above.

Please include a cheque or postal order made payable to the 'NCMD'.



Previous membership number :

First Name Surname :

Address :

Town/City : County : Post Code :

Email Telephone

You have the option of subscribing for 1, 2 or 3 years, please tick below.

- 1 year £8 2 years £15 3 years £22

Signature :

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

From time to time the NCMD needs to update members regarding PAS, PAAG, Heritage Crime, British Museum, NCMD Meeting Minutes, Prize Draws, Competitions, Digging Deep newsletter, Polls and give members the opportunity to have their say.

Please tick below which method of contact you are happy for us to use to keep in touch with you;

- Post Email Text

Prefer no contact at all

Please be aware if you tick this option you will not receive the Digging Deep newsletter or be able to take part in Draws and Competitions.

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