

DIGGING

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

DEEP

ISSUE 32



MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

The NCMD Committee has been working hard over the past 18 months to ensure that our systems, processes, and structure provide the best available facilities and support for our 37,000 members. Our latest updates include:

Membership Upgrade

we've recently upgraded our specialist detecting insurance of £10 million of third-party cover with no excess charges.

Committee Members Cover

We now also cover members that sit on the committees of registered detecting clubs, covering them for any activities they organise.



Families Detecting Together

Under 16's are now covered by our insurance, provided they are accompanied by a parent or guardian NCMD member.

Carer Cover

We've extended our insurance to cover a carer, if you need one to assist you whilst detecting.

NCMD COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

Times have changed, and looking to the future it was important for the NCMD to modernise and keep up with progress. We have therefore moved away from the old structure that served us so well for so long, and we've updated our structure accordingly.

At an EGM convened in November 2022, the NCMD Executive Committee (Regional Delegates) voted unanimously to dissolve the regions and the regional structure that they had formed, and in its place, to incorporate a Policy Committee and Board of Trustees.

The Committee agreed on a process for recruiting additional committee members and trustees directly from our membership. Those

members that applied went through the same recruitment process, and the same questions were asked of each candidate.

At the EGM convened in June 2023, following the recruitment of Trustees and additional Policy Committee Members, the new structure and Constitution were ratified by the Regional Delegates. The old regional structure was dissolved, and the delegates formally handed over to the Policy Committee and Board of Trustees.

Following the ratification of the new structure, the new committee and trustees convened for the 2023 AGM

The AGM Minutes and associated paperwork including the revised NCMD Constitution and the 2022/2023 Financial Report, all of which were checked and signed off by the new Board of Trustees, can be found via the links below.

The most important factor is that all major decisions going forward will be made by our members, rather than a handful of delegates as was previously the case.

The NCMD "Fighting Fund", our Constitution and overall actions of the Policy Committee are overseen by our Board of Trustees, who have the final say on all major spending, access to our ringfenced funds and the terms of our Constitution and associated Policy Documents.



The new NCMD Committee & Trustees





Alan Tamblyn
NCMD General Secretary

NCMD WEBSITE

It's great to see so many members taking advantage of our interactive website, in particular the members forum, which is a great place to ask questions and gain knowledge from members who have been detecting for decades.

You can also update any changes to your personal information, download or print a copy of your digital membership card or find all the latest information on our amazing hobby.

We are also building a new, more interactive website to provide more access to more information, as well as the ability to provide much more information for our members,

In addition, based on our members feedback, our free Mobile App has had a number of upgrades since it's launch. It's a fantastic tool for recording your finds, as well as mapping their locations for future reference.

The information is securely stored on your phone, but you also have the facility to backup your finds data to a secure server, should you ever lose your phone for instance.

REMEMBER

Only you can access this, we cannot see your data, however we are building a portal to allow you to share this information with your local FLO if you choose to do so. We are also building a new, more interactive website to provide more access to more information, as well as the ability to provide much more information for our members, all designed to help you get the very most out of this incredible hobby.

REMEMBER, WE ARE HERE IF YOU NEED US

We always welcome constructive feedback, suggestions, or questions you may have. You can contact us via telephone, email and social media. Please remember that we all work part-time, so if you don't get an immediate response, please don't worry, we'll get back to you shortly.

Happy Hunting everyone, here's to a fantastic year ahead.

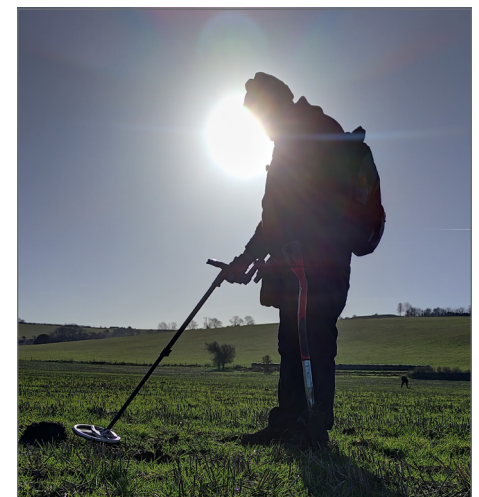
Alan Tamblyn
General Secretary NCMD



A BIG Thanks

We sincerely thank all those who came before us over the past 43 years, for all that they have done to protect the hobby we all enjoy, in particular we thank our immediate predecessors; Steve Critchley, Kevin Gorman, Wendy Howard, Catherine Lange, William Hargreaves, Hilary Fagen and Alastair Hackett.

Also, my sincere thanks to our Treasurer, Shevie, our Membership Secretary - David, our Communications Officer - Dave, and our Technical Support helper - Tracy, all of whom have worked so hard to implement the changes that will allow us to take this organisation forward for the next 43 years.



Remembering our Founders

It's important for us to remember the founders of the NCMD and all it stands for: Trevor and Sue Austen, who are sadly no longer with us. There is no doubt that we owe them the freedom to detect that we all enjoy. We are currently working on a fitting memorial to give them the recognition that they deserve.



Download our App
www.ncmd.co.uk



Simply scan the QR code to visit our website and find out the full features all included in your membership.

The formation of a new Committee & Trustees to help run the NCMD

Dave Crisp
NCMD Communications Officer



When the decision was made to restructure the NCMD committee and include a board of trustees, we felt very strongly that every one of our members should be given the opportunity to apply for a role.

At that time, we had 34,000 members and we offer our sincere thanks to all those that took the trouble to reply and volunteer their services to join the NCMD committee and board of trustees, whose role is to protect our members interests and oversee how the NCMD is run, both now and in the future. This obviously includes overseeing the NCMD funds and ensuring that our money is spent wisely.

We now have a dedicated team of 7 committee members and 3 trustees from across the UK to take us forward. Every one of the roles is open to scrutiny and the majority of roles are unpaid, however, given the workload and levels of responsibility, we have 3 roles that receive a small, part time remuneration. The General Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary are paid for 20 hours per week, however

they work a similar number of hours unpaid as that is the nature of the role. In addition, the unpaid roles are communications officer and 3 other committee members as well as the board of trustees who are also unpaid.

We are extremely grateful to our new committee members and trustees, they have made a massive difference to the running of the organisation and to the service we provide to our members.

Ultimately, we are all detectorists, we are all passionate about the hobby and we all recognise the huge part the NCMD has played in protecting our hobby and supporting our members over the past 40 years. This new structure will ensure that the work of the NCMD will continue for the next 40 years..

Dave Crisp
Communications Officer



ALAN TAMBLYN

I started detecting 24 years ago and joined my local detecting club shortly after. The hobby has helped me through some tough times and also has given me some of the highlights of my life. Certainly, the people I've met and the friendships I've made have been the most valuable things I've found, but I do have some nice finds too.

After 30 years in the corporate world and a decade as a property developer, I decided to move to semi-retirement, just as the vacancy came up for the role of General Secretary of the NCMD. I have held the position since October 2021 and although the last two years have flown by, it's fair to say we've achieved a huge amount in that time. Our main aim was to create a more transparent and inclusive organisation, and with the introduction of a new structure and the implementation of new systems, we've been able to achieve that. We are working hard to ensure that our members are fully supported with all the information they need, as well as representing the NCMD at all levels in order to ensure that our right to detect is maintained and the heritage we help to uncover is recorded and preserved for future generations.

GENERAL SECRETARY



ADRIAN TYRRELL

I live in Devon and have been metal detecting since 2015 when I joined the local Exeter club. I am married with two grown up kids, and I work for Network Rail and previously for Lloyds Bank, EDF Energy and the University of Exeter.

Other hobbies include cycling, watching live music and globe-trotting whenever I can afford it. I applied for a position on the NCMD as soon as I received the email, I believe it's a very worthwhile role and I appreciate all that the NCMD has done over the years.

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



MARTIN BRICKELL

I have been detecting for almost 50 years albeit on and off. I am a management consultant in logistics which means extensive travel, so coupled with a young family I have extremely limited time. However, I wanted to give something back to the hobby so being a Trustee allows me to provide input and support to the NCMD and our hobby.

To help safeguard its future for everyone as well as the next generation to enjoy. There are few hobbies that offer the ability to go out into the countryside, be close to nature and have hands on history. You don't find anything unless you are searching so, see you in the field...

TRUSTEE, VICE CHAIR

MEET YOUR NCMD TEAM



STUART WILKINSON

I am a keen detectorist based in Halifax, I use my XP Deus and a trusty old XP Gold Maxx Power. Unfortunately, the local permissions are not very productive, but we live in hope. I am married to an Archaeologist so get on some very interesting sites.

Prior to my retirement I was the Regulatory Affairs Manager for a large International Chemical Company, and I am also the Honorary Secretary of a large International Royal Chartered Charity. It is great to have the opportunity to ensure that the NCMD is run in the interests of its members, and help protect the hobby against the ever-present threat of outside control.

TRUSTEE



Ralph Green

I have been Metal Detecting a little over 10 years, having started shortly after I retired in 2013 when I very soon became hooked on the hobby. I live in Rotherham, South Yorkshire with my wife, we have two daughters and six grandchildren. I previously worked within the heavy Earthmoving Equipment Industry retiring as Service Manager for a main Construction Equipment supplier.

Together with metal detecting my other hobbies are DIY and Motorcycles, I still ride but only in fine weather these days. I joined the NCMD central committee as I wanted to have some positive input into the way forward for the hobby that we all love and enjoy.

POLICY COMMITTEE



SIOBHAN LIEHNE

I have been Treasurer for the NCMD since 2019. I am married to a die-hard detectorist, Jack, and we live in a fairly remote area of Scotland. I am disabled now, so no longer able to detect myself, but enjoy my role on the Policy Committee.

I have enjoyed several hobbies over the years, such as dressmaking, beading, reading and watching TV. I love to travel too, even if I do have to do it in a wheelchair. I like to help improve things for disabled people and to that end I campaigned on the committee, along with the General Secretary, for carers to be covered at nil expense so that disabled detectorists can enjoy their hobby alongside their able-bodied companions more easily.

TREASURER



STUART GREATOREX

I am a retired Engineering Manager, originally from Nottingham, I now live near Cardiff in South Wales where I spend time detecting, diving, and digging my (four) allotments.

When I worked as an Engineering Manager, I gained extensive experience of Committee work, as an international expert in my field, I attended National and International technical standards meetings where I represented the UK as Chief Delegate for many years. I am currently Secretary of Cardiff Scan Club and a Committee Member of a local Allotment Association. With 20+ years of detecting I live in the hope of one day finding something worth reporting as Treasure!

POLICY COMMITTEE



MATHEW LINES

Hi there, I have been a member of the NCMD and metal detectorist for around 5 years. I have had a keen interest in Archaeology since I was a youngster and never missed an episode of Time Team! After my first five minutes on my first dig, I wondered why I hadn't started years before! I can happily spend 8 hours wandering around in the mud with only a few buttons to show for it and be happy, then do it all again the next day!

My favourite finds to date are a couple of Crotal Bells that still ring after so many years plus a handful of Roman coins where it is still possible to see the emperors face after nearly 2000 years. When the opportunity came up to play a part in the future of the hobby, I couldn't get my application in fast-enough. I am very happy to be able to volunteer some of my time each month and proud to have the chance to work with such a passionate team of people.

POLICY COMMITTEE

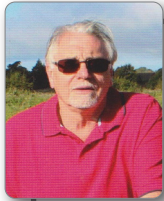


DAVID MILLINGTON

Hi all, I was appointed Membership Secretary in June 2021. I have been heavily involved in the creation and development of the new state of the art membership system and database which sits behind the new website. Whilst the job is part-time there isn't a day that goes by without me logging in to respond to membership enquiries via email and over the phone.

I detect most weekends and holidays and detect in all weathers with my wife and daughter on our permissions across the country and we're also members of a detecting club where I'm also the Membership Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



DAVE CRISP

I have been a detectorist for over 36 years now and I am still as passionate about our hobby as when I started out all those years ago. I have found and recorded over 1400 individual finds and still go out regularly with my mates and with members of our club. Being part of a club is great as you get to detect and meet like-minded people.

I do a lot of work for the NCMD, and like most of the Committee and Trustees, it's voluntary, I am not paid. It's a labour of love I am happy to do, it's a very worthwhile role to help keep the NCMD running smoothly for the members.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

A NEW RANGE OF SERVICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

We recently reorganised the NCMD to ensure that we can provide the best possible facilities and services for our members. When this new committee was formed, we agreed from the very start that we should try harder to work with PAS and the BM to try to fix the problems that they have with their ever diminishing resources, The new digital recording portal we are currently developing for our members will reduce the impact of resource loss.

We are currently developing a new, more interactive website that will make all our information much easier to access, it also allows us to provide more facilities such as our club register, making it easier for our members to find clubs in their area and also helping clubs to recruit new members.

We also now have the facility to help members create local clubs of their own by putting local members in touch with each other, so if you are interested in setting up your own local club, please let us know and we'll do our best to help.

We will be hosting our own webinars, so we

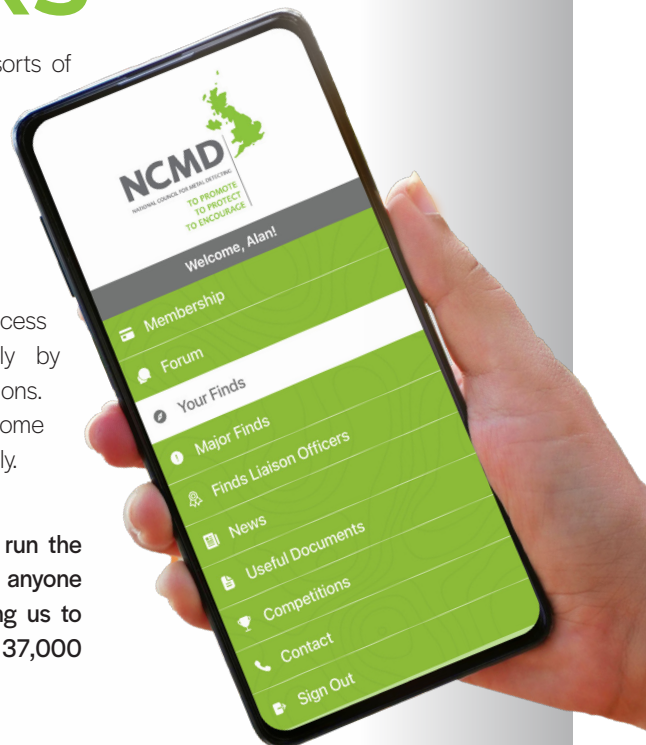
can have guests on to provide all sorts of information and guidance. We'll also use it to do our Christmas draw live and as well as running other NCMD finds competitions that we'll be announcing shortly.

Our mobile app has been a great success and you've helped us immensely by providing your feedback and suggestions. These have been acted on and some enhancements will be launched shortly.

The NCMD relies on volunteers to run the organisation on your behalf, so if anyone would like to get involved in helping us to support this great hobby and our 37,000 members, please let us know.



Simply scan the QR code to visit our website and find out the full features all included in your membership.



Our mobile App has been a great success and will have some enhancements shortly.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS



For many years now, our membership fee has remained at a flat £8 per year, whilst we have continued to provide many new facilities for our members.

We recently introduced a way of helping to reduce waste and save our members a little money at the same time by offering:

2-YEAR MEMBERSHIP OPTION AT £15

3-YEAR OPTION AT £22

5-YEAR OPTION AT £35

These options save our members £1 for each extra year, it also reduces our supplier costs and more importantly, reduces the impact on the environment.

DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

An even bigger way to help the environment is for members to elect to receive a digital card only, that can be stored on their phone, can be printed off if required, or held in the free NCMD

app to be shown whenever needed. This option is now available in your online account, simply log in and select 'Digital Card Only' and this will automatically be applied to your account.

These measures will mean we can hold off an increase in fees for a good while longer. It would give us the opportunity to increase our investments so that we can continue to **Promote, Encourage, and ultimately PROTECT our hobby, for you, our members.**

FREE UNDER 16 MEMBERSHIP

We now offer members the option of adding up to 3 under 16's to their membership account, free of charge. This free membership is available for ages 10 to 16 years, each registered child will receive a junior membership card.

If an under 16 would like to use the mobile app or the forum, they will need their own email address and their own account, which will then require the normal membership fee. This would be available for anyone over the age of 13 years.

COVER FOR CARERS

For those of our members that need a little help whilst detecting, we have now included carers in our insurance cover, so they are fully covered while they are supporting you to continue with the hobby you love. They are not covered to detect, merely to support you while you detect and its done automatically, so you don't need to do anything.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Overseas members can now join the NCMD (Digital NCMD Card Only) with up to 7 days detecting insurance at a time, but there is no restriction on the number of trips you can make and you will have the same insurance cover enjoyed by our UK members while detecting in the UK.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY

You can now renew your membership up to 90 days before your expiry date, without losing any of your current membership. You will need to log into your account online to renew.



THE SCOTTISH TREASURE TROVE REVIEW

By Alan Tamblin

The Scottish Treasure Trove laws are being reviewed during 2024 and the NCMD have been invited to take part to ensure that the interests of our members in Scotland are represented, and to make sure that everyone has a voice in that review.

Dave Crisp and myself were invited to a meeting at the Scottish Government offices in Edinburgh for an introductory meeting ahead of next year's review meetings. We met with members of the KLTR, which is a treasury department and is the Crown's representative in Scotland. We had an extremely open and candid discussion with the KLTR team and we are confident that if any changes are made, they will be for the

better. The KLTR team are also keen to include the feedback from Scottish members as part of the review process, so members will be given the opportunity to get involved in due course.

The NCMD will be creating a number of working groups including one to represent our Scottish members and one to represent Northern Ireland. We will be forming the Scottish group soon and an invitation to join will be sent out to our Scottish members shortly.

The remit of the Scottish Treasure Trove review, as well as the Bailie report can be found on the NCMD website newsfeed and www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk



Alan Tamblin and Dave Crisp representing members of the NCMD in Scotland.

THE NCMD EMERGENCY EXCAVATION FUND

This is also known as the 'Hoard Fund' and was introduced by the NCMD committee in order to ensure the safe and timely extraction of a hoard or significant item found by an NCMD member. This includes any hoard or significant find made on a personal permission, club day out or found at a commercial event, as long as you are an NCMD member, you are covered.

The most important thing to remember is that as soon as you think you might have discovered a hoard or significant item, **STOP DIGGING!!**



FLO and finder's working together

You should call the NCMD hoard hotline on 0800 002 5808

This number is shown on your membership card, is on the NCMD Mobile App and is also shown on our website.

We have access to PAS representatives who will contact your local FLO and will begin collating all the relevant information, they will also provide any relevant advice to the finder. The finder should then inform the landowner

and request that the site be protected, for instance by parking a trailer over it, or loosely refill the hole and carefully mark the findspot. The NCMD app has the facility to record the exact findspot, as can What3Words or similar.

Each FLO has access to funding groups that they can contact to try and cover the cost of excavating the find correctly, so that the context can be documented, and any additional information can be gleaned.

The most important thing to remember is that as soon as you think you might have discovered a hoard or significant item, STOP DIGGING!!

Unfortunately, it can take FLO some time to get the funding for an excavation signed off and as is often the case, the funding might not be available at all, which is where our emergency fund comes in.

If the find is deemed to require a quick response, we can give the go ahead straight away and the find can often be excavated within a few days from when it was discovered.

THE MAGIC KEY

We currently provide our members with 3 membership cards, the first is a digital one that is emailed to you when you join, is available via the mobile app and is available via your account when you log into the website. So you have access to it wherever you are as long as you have your phone with you.

We also provide you with a recyclable plastic card for your wallet that contains all your membership information and our contact numbers and as an added bonus, we provide you with the small card that can either be attached to your detector or to your car



keys. This little card has turned out to be a real bonus because an increasing number of our members have misplaced their car keys and whenever anyone has found them, they've called the NCMD phone number, quoted the membership number and we've been able to call the member and reunite them with their keys.

On some occasions, we've found them before the member concerned has even realised they were missing!

P S I put mine onto my key fob as soon as I heard this, you never know when it might come in handy.

Bob Whalley's Lump of Silver



A tribute to BOB Whalley an NCMD Veteran and a true Gentleman. Our freedom to detect in the UK was hard fought for by the likes of Bob and others.

The first is of a lump of silver Treasure, the second and more importantly is of a man who was a detectorist for most of his life, a man of integrity and a stalwart of the National Council - Bob Whalley. Bob was a detectorist through and through and

We have our pastime now thanks only to people like Bob, and the recently departed Trevor Austin and his wife Sue.

believed passionately in our right to be allowed to pursue our hobby.

Our freedom to detect has previously been under serious threat from the establishment, and Bob was there, with others on the National Council, fighting to keep our hobby alive.

We have our pastime now thanks only to people like Bob, and the recently departed Trevor Austin and his wife Sue. Bob served for many years on the committee and as the NCMD treasurer; and along with other officers had several meetings in the House of Lords during the debates on the new proposed Treasure Act. These visits were to ensure that our interests were well represented. The NCMD continues to protect, preserve, and promote our hobby to this day.

When I started in this hobby in the 80s, the curator of my local museum was okay with me, but to tell an archaeologist I was a metal detectorist, was like telling a vicar I was the devil. Now we have a hobby, where, apart from a few dinosaurs on both sides, we get on well, and our finds get recorded

for everybody to see and that is all down to people like Bob.

A few years ago, Dave Wally (Bob's brother) showed me a burnt lump of silver, which had started out as a small pile of hammered coins and he mentioned that this had belonged to his brother Bob, who had sadly passed away a few years before. I knew the story well from his brother Bob, who had sat on the same committee as me quite a few years previously.

Dave Wally kindly supplied Bob's thought-provoking written account and his letters to the coroner, and he also filled in a few of the other facts.

It had all started when Bob was cleaning out his car one day back in 1995. A friend who was there picked up an old lump of lead, still covered in dried clay, from Bob's rubbish box and noticed that where the clay had fallen off he could see some writing. He showed Bob and they took it in and gave it a good wash. It revealed the faces and edges of hammered silver coins. He immediately realised that this was treasure under the then Treasure Trove Act.

But there was a problem: after all this time, he didn't know when or where he had found it.



Bob and Dave showing off their finds over the years detecting together.

Like Bob, all good metal detectorists take home their scrap metal finds like cans, iron, bottle tops and lead. All of this dross should be examined carefully before being disposed of in the correct manner. Lead could be recycled, and the money is always useful for a local charity. Bob's lump of lead could have been like my container shown here: in the car for months, and a piece of lead enclosed in dried clay would just be another piece of waste.

Before handing the item over, Bob had a friend sketch and photograph the lump. He then informed the Coroner on the 12th of May of the find and of the circumstances surrounding it. Later he travelled to the office of the coroner to hand in the coins and the list of a few of the coins which could be seen. For all of this, he was given an official receipt (now we tend to hand it to our FLO), but I personally with potential Treasure always inform my local Coroner first.

Remember this was in 1995, no FLO's and no PAS. At this time, the fence was still up, with us on one side and the archaeologists and academics on the other, although people like Bob in the NCMD were working hard to persuade them we could be of use, and we could work together to find and record our history and our Heritage.

So, on the 26th of July Bob had to attend the inquest held in a Coroner's Court and had to swear before a jury the circumstances of the lump of silver that was in his waste bag in the back of his car. Anyone who knew Bob will tell you that when Bob spoke, people listened so there was no doubt that he was telling it just how it happened. On the 9th of November that year he had a letter from the British Museum disclaiming the coins and returning them to him. It was interesting to note they also offered (with his permission) to try to separate the coins but did state it would probably not provide any more real information than they already had.

So, what did Bob find? Well, at least 24 hammered silver coins. Most of the

coins were unidentifiable, but there were possibly five Charles 1st shillings and three sixpences, with one possible shilling of Queen Elizabeth 1st. Looking at the coins visible, they estimated that the total came to about £1. 18s, a fair bit of money then. This was all taking into account the bits of motto's which could be read, the couple of visible mint marks, the distortion of the burnt coins, and the clipping of some coins. The total weight is 100 g, that's about 3 1/2ozs in old money. I have photographed and examined them, and I don't believe they are very far out.

Thanks to detectorists and the PAS Scheme, that there have been a few of these small burnt hoards found by metal detectorists and recorded. Therefore there must be still more out there. There might even be

“Bob, both the NCMD and its members will always be in your debt”.

a gold one, now that would be interesting. These burnt lumps of coins range from Roman right through to post medieval, even modern coins are represented.

So that's Bob's story of his lump of burnt

silver coins. Of course, his find came under the old Treasure Trove law, but the results seem to be the same now under the new 1996 Treasure Act. Was it just a lump of silver? No, it's part of our Heritage, it's our history in a small pile of coins, but found by a true gentleman of our hobby. (My thanks must go out to Bob's brother Dave, for his help with some of the facts and photos.)

“Bob, both the NCMD and its members will always be in your debt”.

Dave Crisp



Bob and Dave showing off their finds over the years detecting together.



Dave's best example of melted alloy shaped like a fish.



Cows & Detecting

Black and white, brown, cream, Friesian, South Devon, British White. Cows come in many shapes and sizes, most of the milking cows in the UK are Holstein-Friesian and there are about one and a half million dairy cows spread across the UK's fields.

Don't they look pretty standing around in a field on a summer's day, just standing there munching the green grass, not a care in the world. Except you want to detect or walk across that field. Well, you have permission, and farmer

Brown said, "they are like sheep, but a bit curious and they won't bother you if you stay away from them".

If you do decide to go into a field containing cows, then you must be very careful, as cows are large, fast, and very inquisitive and if they have calves in the field, they can get aggressive. There might also be a bull amongst them, and you must never get between a bull and his ladies.

Remember, a cow can run up to 25 miles an hour, can you? But running is not the answer, its better if you are more cautious when around cows.

A lot of people have been hurt by stampeding cows, at least 17 people have been seriously injured or even killed.

Two people have lost their lives in the last few years, so you must always be on your guard.

Remember cows have a right to be there as its their home, whilst you are only a guest so it's probably better not to go near them at all. But if you do, then always be on your guard.

If you do get into a situation, the advice is always to stay calm, don't run, just move steadily away from them without turning your back on them.

But as always it would be better if you just didn't go into that field. Better safe than sorry.



Treasures Unearthed' Metal Detecting Finds Exhibition Chester Cathedral



On Saturday 19th August 2023 THE NORTH WEST GROUP of NCMD registered clubs held their annual metal detecting finds exhibition in the Chapter House and Cloister Room of the Chester Cathedral.

The setting could not have been more perfect, the area allocated to our exhibition was adjacent to the cloisters and boasted beautiful stone archways and magnificent stained-glass windows, all lending themselves to create a most suitable atmospheric ambience for participants and visitors alike. A huge thank you to Cliff Passey from the Group and Richard Hodge from the Cathedral for enabling this venue

Seven of the Groups clubs brought together thousands of finds which they displayed in showcases of their own design all making for a magnificent spectacle, each club hoping to collect one or more of the four trophies on offer for the best coin, best artefact, best themed showcase, and best overall stand.

Four independent judges spent the day browsing the endless collections of finds to eventually come up with the deserving winners.

Among the participants were the Portable Antiquities Scheme representatives, Heath-

er Beeton, Finds Liaison Officer based at the Liverpool Museum, and Susie White Finds Liaison Officer, from the Museum of Wales, both were kept very busy throughout the day by the visiting detectorists and the general public. As part of the exhibition, Heather and Susie provided a presentation relating to the recent revision of the Treasure Act 1996 and what the definition of 'significant' means to the detectorists, the presentation took place in the Cloister room of the Cathedral which is adjacent to the Chapter House it lasted

just short of an hour and was attended by over fifty detectorists and other interested parties, everyone agreed it was an excellent presentation. As always Unearthed UK was in attendance representing the trade, the proprietors Graeme and Mel were on hand giving help and advice to all the would-be detectorists who had been wooed by the exhibits on show.

Each year they invite a coin-striker from 'Wirhalh Skip Felagr' a local Viking re-enactment group, Steve Banks was kept busy by inquisitive adults, and youngsters demanding that he 'strike' a Viking coin for them, this he did, for no charge along with his stories of the Danelaw period before the arrival of William the Conqueror.

The four independent judges who had been searching for their favourite finds finally came up with their choices, the judge for the best overall stand was the FLO for Wales Susie White, and she chose the Kendal club stand for their excellent display

Emily Lanigan-Palotai the Cathedral archivist, once again agreed to be a judge and she was given the task of selecting the best themed showcase, which this year featured 'Roman



Heather Beeton & Susie White. Finds Liaison Officers



Joyce Brown (Kendal) accepting the Best Stand Trophy



Joyce Brown (Kendal) accepting the Themed Showcase trophy



John Ogden best artefact winner



Go-Find prize winner R Hamilton (collected by Cliff Passey)



Vanquish winner Andrew Critchley South Lancs and Cheshire club



Gill Taylor of the Mold club with her equinox 700 prize



Coin striker keeping the young ones entertained

The raffle featured several amazing prizes, six in total, three detectors and three pinpointers and the winners were...

Gill Taylor - Mold club
Minelab Equinox 700

Andrew Critchley - South Lanc's & Cheshire
Minelab Vanquish

R Hamilton - South Lancs & Cheshire
Minelab Go-Find

Glyn Holmes - Wrexham
Pinpointer

Arthur Davies - Wrexham
Pinpointer

A Barton - South Lanc's and Cheshire
Pinpointer

Winners

finds. Emily also chose the Kendal Club's entry which again was a deserving winner.

The best coin and artefact are of course, always the most difficult to judge, simply due to the volume and quality of the finds on show, these tasks fell to Catherine Lange (artefacts) who chose a magnificent Bronze Age boars head found by John Ogden of the Stockport club, and Graeme Rushton (coin) who chose a beautiful gold Noble found by Dan Cameron of the Mold club.

Many thanks to our four judges for their time and effort, and many congratulations to all the winners.

A Huge thanks to Minelab and Unearthed UK for supporting the exhibition, and to the many individuals who contributed and attended the day's event.

NCMD FIGHTING FUND

£435,000

A lot of money, isn't it? Enough for anything? Well, that is the sum total of NCMD (National Council for Metal Detecting) cash that has currently been ringfenced to be used to protect our hobby from any form of outside interference and sadly, it's nowhere near enough.

Way back in the 1980's the NCMD was formed to Promote, Protect and Encourage the hobby of metal detecting and almost immediately it had to fight off attempts to all but outlaw metal detecting in the UK, just like it was, and still is, across mainland Europe. The NCMD succeeded then, and it needs to be prepared to have to fight again. We are the only organisation with anything like the resources that would be required to undertake this.

If the Government were to decide to outlaw or license metal detecting, as many other countries already do, the NCMD would have to gather its resources and fight for the right of all its members to continue enjoying their hobby in a responsible manner. The relevant Government department has already rewritten the laws around the Treasure Act. We have worked

very hard to minimise their proposals, but still they have changed.

We need to be prepared and that means, sadly, that we need a sizeable battle fund. We would require the services of a highly qualified, knowledgeable barrister, maybe more than one. Very few people realise how much they would cost? At the very least they would cost £2,000.00 per day. Trust me, I have checked. Let me repeat that, £2,000 per day, each! Nice work if you can get it, eh?

We have ringfenced the sum of £435,000 to be used exclusively for our 'Battle Fund' and we are in the process of transferring it into high interest savings accounts, purely for the use of hiring legal counsel for any attacks on our hobby. At £2,000.00 a day that would give us just 217 days' worth of their expertise.

That is not nearly enough. The process could easily drag out for months or even years. There are approximately 40,000 metal detectorists in the NCMD who would mind and approximately another 27 million of taxpayers who simply wouldn't

care enough to help us fight the fight. We would run out of money, and therefore badly needed counsel, very quickly indeed.

We have not set a figure on what we believe to be a sensible total battle fund, but it could easily come in at a couple of million, maybe more, who knows? That figure is what we would need to build up to, by investing as much as possible each year.

Already we are at a stage where I, as Treasurer of the NCMD, would recommend that our initial investment should be of the order of some £500,000.00, perhaps even a little more. At the present time interest rates in the UK give a decent return, ensuring that the sum we invest would grow nicely. But it would still need adding to and interest rates may not always be as good.

Siobhan Liehne - NCMD Treasurer



The Gordon Heyworth initiative

A true gentleman detectorist



Photo of Gordon (on the right) at a display day of finds at a Young Farmers Day.

In our club which was started in 1986 we have now a new project which we have called the Gordon Heyworth initiative, which is to use a couple of slightly older revamped detectors for a free loan scheme for anybody who is thinking about taking it up as a hobby.

So, if we get a new potential member who is thinking about taking it up we can give them a taster after they have been on our waiting list for the 3 months. This kit consists of what you need to start with to go detecting.

We were kindly offered all the old kit by the widow of one of our old members (Gordon Heyworth) who had sadly passed away. So this is a great way to remember him as he was a very good detectorist, a keen member of the club and a true Gentleman.

So we are helping a newcomer to our great hobby to get started, by loaning them a detector just to try it out, and see if they get the bug.

By showing them the right way of doing things like how to dig a neat hole and replace the turf, how to detect, where to go, how to get your own permission etc. We also as a club recommend recording even though its not so easy now.

But saying that, the FLO has just started coming back to our meetings after a three-year break.

So this is a win win situation; we get a keen new member, the hobby gets a detectorist who knows how to do things right straight from the start.



www.tdmdc.co.uk

THE GORDON HEYWORTH INITIATIVE *(A beginner to the detecting world)*

My name is Nick, and I am very new to metal detecting, I was a professional photographer but last year I retired and became interested in metal detecting. I had recently moved to Wiltshire and found that there was a club local to where I was now living, and this year I applied to join them via their web site.

What a nice reception I got, as they are a very friendly club and everybody talks to you. Anyway, there was a bit of a waiting list, but three months later I was voted in, and I didn't even have my own detector.

But they soon rectified this as they have a couple of spare detectors that they loan

to new club members if they don't have a machine to start them off. It was explained to me by the Chairman that they had previously belonged to an old member called Gordon Haywood who had unfortunately passed away and his kit was donated to the club by his widow. Now they are loaned out to any new member who needs a machine.

So that Sunday I was the proud owner of a slightly older machine, but it was a great start, and allowed me to detect before I decided which detector to buy. There was not much land available as crops were growing in all the club's farms where they have permission to detect. Dave even gave

me a demonstration on how to use it in his large garden, where he has a buried test bed laid out, so I could hear the different type of signals. That was very beneficial as I had never used a detector before.

Now I am an old hand (well, 4 months) and am really getting to grips with it and I'm looking forward to finding lots of amazing finds like the rest of my club mates.

I certainly recommend that joining a club is a great way to get into the hobby, which is why the NCMD have created a club directory to help put new members in touch with local clubs.

THE TWO WINNERS OF THE SPINKS 2023 COMPETITION

The first was a lovely gold quarter Stater with the PAS number 9E612E and was found in Hampshire and dated to about 50 BC you can read the full report by Greg in here today.

The second article was an Anglo Saxon hanging bowl, The bowl and its fittings were found in Weaverthorpe area of North Yorkshire by a detectorist and is recorded on the data base number 59523A Anglo Saxon hanging bowl.



First prize, 50BC gold quarter stater

It is made of a beaten copper-alloy material which was formed into this charming Saxon hanging bowl. It was made about 600 AD and a really nice find as it is still decorated with the three Escutcheon shields which look like upside down wishbones, and they still hold the three rings that the hanging chains would have

been fixed to. Unusually, it also contained some animal bones after 1400 years in the ground. Were these from a meal or were they an offering? We will never know, but at only 8 inches across it is quite small, so maybe just a quick snack?

There are hanging bowls as well from the Roman period, but this Saxon one may have come from a burial as they were prize objects to be taken into the afterlife.

Whatever it was for, I am very pleased it won the artefact category in the competition. If you want to read more about this great hanging bowl then go to 59523A in the PAS database. Now read Gregs article on the winning Coin.



The bones contained within the hanging bowl.



Second prize, an Anglo Saxon hanging bowl



Gregory Edmund

Head of numismatics at Spink

Uncovering a King - *The Story of Esunertos*

The discovery of a previously unrecorded Celtic ruler within British archaeology would always be a red-letter day for Iron Age historians; for it to have come so unexpectedly through the discovery of a rather unassuming gold Quarter-Stater in an otherwise unprepossessing stretch of farmer's field in glorious Southern England, a moment to truly rejoice for numismatists.

From meticulous documentation through all appropriate and official heritage channels; this fingernail-sized coin would be splashed across the pages of national newspapers, and ultimately sell for a new world record sum at Spink – the auctioneer who truly believes in the strap-line they carry: Where history is valued. In the author's view, this is the best legacy

for a find, and indeed the wider celebration of the powerful contribution that metal detectorists and hobbyists alike are making to the story of the British Isles with each and every sweep. No wonder we found it so easy to vote the find a worthy Spink RCM 2023 Find of the Year winner.

But the start of the story is like any other. A simple urge to go prospecting on a field 'you've done to death'. Maybe one last go before 'its seeded' will change that run of bad luck; that trend of dry spells; that empty

finds pouch. For some unearthing a Victorian Penny is the highlight of their week, for others it may take a Roman 'grot' or a battered Edward I Penny to pique their interest. Very few ever consider the Iron Age as the benchmark of detecting success, let alone Celtic Gold.



Spink RCM 2023 Find of the Year. An entirely new discovery for Iron Age Britain

I am sure there would be universal agreement amongst the readership that such constitutes a 'special day', not just a merely 'good hunt'.

For Lewis Fudge, back on Saturday 11 March 2023, that special moment happened in the well-tilled plough soil of a familiar arable field in Hampshire.

For the lucky few who can relate, it goes something like this: signal recognition – signal shifting – find identification – confusion – realisation. Depending on the quality of set-up you're rocking in the field, this activity could take seconds or minutes if it includes the addition of an over-eager pinpointer chirping in between the pebbles and loam, or a more a careful hand-to-coil sifting operation until finally the object exposes itself to daylight for the first time in millennia. For Lewis, the recognition was instantaneous. This was no mere bottle cap, gilt button or piece of green-waste. Having been blessed with Celtic gold before that fateful day, his familiarity with the object he now delicately cradled in his palm was all too familiar. And yet at the same time it was totally unfamiliar, the designs looked inconsistent with the images coming into his mind: Durotriges? Dobunni? Atrebatas? Perhaps Belgae, he thought....

The mental somersaults would continue that night on social media as the find was revealed to the metal detecting forums

The mental somersaults would continue that night on social media as the find was revealed to the metal detecting forums. Confident attribution and counter-attribution intermingled with each and every congratulatory message. It was a Saturday after all, and the sight of Celtic gold is always pleasant to see on your screen as your look up from your guilty pleasure takeaway of the week! That's where I stepped in, in similar circumstances to how I handled the discovery of the Henry III Gold Penny found by Michael Leigh-Mallory in Hemyock. Half-desperation, half-over confidence, I commented every single observation I could as I flicked through the pages of *Coins of England and Chris Rudd's 'ABC'*. The 'Tadley Wheel' type kept surfacing, but so too did an example listed as "an unusual uninscribed coin" on the Portable Antiquities Scheme recorded back in September 2014 (PAS HAMP-9E612E).



The coin shared with Dr John Sills of the Celtic Coin Index at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxon). © Courtesy of Winchester Museums Service

By the close of play we were no clearer, so I elected to communicate with Lewis directly and share images with his blessing to Dr John Sills of the Celtic Coin Index at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxon) PAS HAMP-9E612E. Our comparison coin from several hours of rather fruitless searching!

My email started with a wide drag net:

(Sunday 12 March, 09:55):

"Good morning John, I hope you are well! I have seen this posted on one of the metal detecting forums as a Hampshire find, and it has completely thrown me. It appears to be of the Remic persuasion with the derivative triple-tail horse left and annulate body styling, but the wheel motif in the centre of the obverse and apparent legend reading VN-DTOC has completely thrown me. Clearly one for the CCI, but any clue as to attribution? Is it a special issue like Huxtable eagles or a completely unknown type? With best wishes, Gregory"

Having conversed with John since 2017, I had learned to finesse my correspondence to more specific recording characteristics and questions, in recognition of the number of enquiries he handles on any given day – joining Spink I can see it was good training for me too!

DISBELIEF

But as with every great major discovery, the first response was one of quite understandable disbelief: (Monday 13 March, 01:25)

"Hi Gregory, My first reaction is 'modern forgery', it's very crudely engraved and doesn't resemble anything on earth. The engraving of the obverse wheel, the line attached to it and the arcs above is very hesitant and doesn't ring true. It would also be unprecedented for an early South Thames local issue to have a name on it, let alone one with this style of unusually large lettering. My guess is we're supposed to read it as -VNIRTOS or similar but until whoever made it favours us with another one featuring the start of the name we'll never know."

My own email ping-pong responded: (Monday 13 March, 01:27): -

"John, Most kind, it was found metal detecting in Hampshire yesterday, and I have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the finder - so it truly is baffling! The closest I could find was ABC 806 - the Tadley Wheel variant. Hope to speak soon, Best wishes, Gregory"

REALISATION

Ever the consummate professional, John emailed me back after a good night's rest to inform me: **(Monday 13 March, 12:14)**

"Hello again Gregory, I'm going to have to eat humble pie on the Hampshire quarter - not for the first time. David Robinson (who's doing the Durotriges) has just pointed out to me that it's a near die match for a completely genuine coin on the PAS website, HAMP-9E612E, which shows the upper part of the beginning of the legend. Full reading could be something along the lines of ASVNIRTOS or CVNIRTOS. Hope I haven't caused too much damage, must stop writing emails after midnight!"

My response clearly shows my growing excitement: **(Monday 13 March, 12:23)**

"John, Not at all, this is a truly wonderful discovery, and judging by the E monogram looks contemporary with Commios' E-Type series. I have instructed the finder that we should go to the British Museum for full PAS recording, weighing etc, but now the challenge, what does this new legend mean! With best wishes, Gregory"

A NAME EMERGES

By nightfall, John responded once again with the most dramatic news yet, and proved if any more were needed, why he and Daphne Nash Briggs are pre-eminent specialists in the Celtic discipline: **(Monday 13 March, 19:45)**

"Hi Gregory, I sent the new coin to Daphne Nash-Briggs earlier today we've come up with a provisional reading ASVNIRTOS or IIVNIIRTOS combining the two known examples. She's found a superb parallel for the second element in Delamarre's 'Dictionnaire de la langue gauloise', where he cites the Gaulish word nerto-, 'force, vigueur, puissance' and lists a known Gaulish personal name Esunertus, which is an exact match. Esus, Aesu and the many variants thereon is a very common name element, as in e.g. Esuprasto of the Icenii, usually assumed to be derived from a Gaulish divine name that passed into general usage."

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE

With the recording now firmly underway, the sublime start to the rediscovery of Esunertos, gave way to the somewhat ridiculous, when it was now my turn to share a discovery with Dr Sills. **(Friday 21 April 2023, 15:51)**

“John, Most appreciated. I have forwarded the findings on to Sam and Andrew at the BM for secondary recording on PAS. Now here comes the almost separate discovery. But once you’re looking for something! On another consignment that has sat in Spink vaults since July 2021 which contains a mixture of obvious Haslemere Forgeries and [previously condemned] genuine Celtic coins I have reappraised a Silver Unit reportedly found at [redacted], Hampshire. It would appear to be a base silver issue of Esurnitos [sic] of the diameter, weight and design specifications of these Quarter Staters. Weight: 1.05g, Diameter: 12.5mm. x 11.5mm. In any case, I share this important additional discovery as it clearly adds something to our understanding of this surprising discovery. With best wishes, Gregory”



Another consignment that has sat in Spink vaults since July 2021

Despite being an entirely new discovery for Iron Age Britain (and evidently a name that even I was struggling to get to grips with), in reality it had actually taken two separate finds over more than four decades to appreciate the significance of Lewis’ coin. In the subsequent months, between recording and sale day on 28 September, the revision to the Treasure

Act (1996) and the inclusion of ‘finds of significance’ came into force. Whilst still in its infancy, this clause would unsurprisingly affect the subsequent communications I had with National Finds Advisers and Finds Liaison Officers, as it was confirmed to me that recording with the Ashmolean Museum (Celtic Coin Index) would not be sufficient under the terms of the new legislation. Readers should note this, as it also affects those items separately recorded on the Early Medieval Coin Corpus (EMC) and the United Kingdom Detector Finds Database (UKDFD).

Helpfully over the summer of 2023, Spink came into the possession of an X-Ray Florescence (XRF) gun which can non-invasively test the surface contents of any object for its individual metallurgical signature.

Helpfully over the summer of 2023, Spink came into the possession of an X-Ray Florescence (XRF) gun which can non-invasively test the surface contents of any object for its individual metallurgical signature. In even rudimentary comparison between the earliest signed coinage of Commios and the new coin of Esunertos, it was immediately obvious how similar the gold signatures of the two coinages were. Both on an artistic level, and now on a scientific level, we as a team could be confident about the time-period in which this coinage was struck. This would prove critical for dating, as the evolution of uninscribed issues to inscribed types is not yet fully understood within British Iron Age numismatics, but is largely attributable to the decades after Julius Caesar’s first incursions in 55 and 54 BC.

During the latter campaign, Caesar is known to have subjugated tribes south of the Thames and installed client-kings to rule in his absence. Commios is one such individual, and now, just perhaps Esunertos is a second. What has been shockingly taken for granted, but is actually the most surprising feature of all during this period, is the sudden birth of classical language on the native British coinage. It shows fundamentally how Caesar impacted the island through the import of continental Graeco-Roman concepts, and ultimately paved the way for Emperor Claudius’ successful invasion almost a century later. Once mutual communication was established, the seed had been sown. As the fate of those at Hod Hill testify, the whirlwind was on

its way.

Before those Roman storm clouds could gather, lived the mysterious figure of Esunertos. His name translates as ‘Mighty as the God Esos’, a theophoric anthroponym relating to a Gallo-Belgic deity previously known from a handful of inscriptions centred around modern-day Paris. Although Esos is invoked in a medicinal context for the curing of sore throats, his worship is directly associated with human sacrifice. Later transcriptions of Roman writer Lucan have even associated Esos with the Roman god Mars. Those unfortunate enough to be chosen, would be tied to a tree and flogged to death by his worshippers. No wonder our war-mongering male figure wanted to be associated with a battle-hardened and blood thirsty figure. His coinage of course raises two distinct possibilities. Esunertos was evidently of Belgic extraction and clearly literate in the Classical language. Was he a trusted deputy or Commios, or was he a direct challenger to the ‘collaborator’?

The Roman histories are frustratingly silent on the matter, with no obvious contemporary record of such an individual or indeed rivalry, although such internecine conflagrations are well documented elsewhere. Nevertheless, the existence of a bimetallic coinage for Esunertos points to his inherent authority, and indeed tenure as a prehistoric ‘ruler’ in the Test Valley area. The association with Barry Cunliffe’s record of 1st Century BC activity at Danebury Hill Fort is highly attractive, but by no means proven at this stage. However all three of the known coins of Esunertos have secure and localised British findspots close to this well-documented Iron Age site. As such they reconfirm the critical importance of recording your finds accurately in the furtherance of the archaeo-numismatic discipline pioneered by myself at Spink in the wake of the success of the Henry III Gold Penny (PAS DEV-C34DA6) and industry and heritage colleagues more widely in the pursuit of historical conservation.

It may come as a surprise, but as an auctioneer, my attention was never fixated on the potential market value even as the sale day fast approached. My preoccupation was simply on ensuring that whatever could be learned was extracted, so that no matter the outcome, knowledge was forever preserved and shared. I had spent my undergraduate dissertation at the University of Warwick wrestling with the enormous challenge of reinterpreting Iron Age coinage in respect to the Roman Invasion of

Britain. I now truly sensed the humbling significance of this new coin. With its existence came a new witness to those events. A new name, a new art form, a new perspective on Julius Caesar. The possibilities were almost endless. Cue therefore my drive for the direct contribution of Dr Sills and Daphne in the auction catalogue, and several late night arguments with the Wikipedia administrators as I fought to create a new page for our new 'King'.

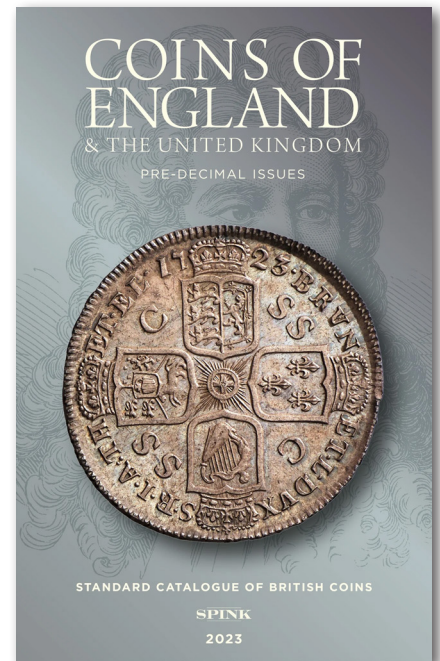
The result as you have all seen was worth it. £20,400 from a single hole. A world record is a marvellous feather in the cap for Lewis and a proud achievement for me personally in an industry that I find can truly value the finds being made in Britain's soil when handled with due reverence. We can lament the many things that we do not know, nor will ever know about our past. But like any historical jigsaw, each additional piece builds towards a greater canvas of knowledge whether it be curated behind museum glass, or in the digital domain of an internet

web page. Where once there were shadows, there is now light. As so often the case in metal detecting, one just never knows what will be uncovered with the next swing...

Gregory Edmund is the Head of Numismatics at auctioneers Spink and co-editor of the metal detectorists' annual bible 'Coins of England'. He has handled some of the most well-publicised metal detecting discoveries of modern times, including the Hemyock Gold Penny of Henry III; the Ellerby Area and Ashley Green Hoards and countless single coin discoveries of regional and national importance from Iron Age Britain to Saxo-Norman England.

He would be happy to hear from you about any issues raised in his article, the importance of diligent recording or simply for an impartial appraisal of your own finds. He can be reached at gedmund@spink.com

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The detectorists annual bible 'Coins of England' co-edited by Greg

A MEMBER'S DAY IN THE FIELD

A bulla to be proud of

The day started with my normal routine of listening to the detectorist theme tune while traveling to my mate Brian Whitehead's permission in Cumbria.

The sun was shining, the birds were tweeting everything was set for a perfect day. We started by combing the outside of the first field and next to the river. I was using the dew on the morning grass to help cover the field correctly. It wasn't looking promising at first, an hour in and nothing to show but a few bits of lead and a farthing.

Then with a howl and a cry my eyes bulged open with the glorious sight of lead but not the ordinary lumps as usual, this lead had patterns writing and faces. It was a pope VI lead bullae around 14 inches down. I had never seen one in my life before, my trusty Vanquish 540 had done it again for me. Set on my usual settings of relic mode she had done me well and pulled up an actual relic.

We were near a rectory and not far from the church itself. The vicar soon heard of our find and came to join us in the field. He was more than happy to fill us in on the significance

of my find and was even more thrilled when I let him hold it. I've only been detecting 18 months so finding a treasure of a lifetime in such fantastic condition is something I won't forget and hope many more is to come.

Garry Moore



(NB this is a 37mm papal bulla of Pope Innocent VI who was pope for 11 years from 1243 to 1254 St Paul and St Peter is on the back. Normal front with PP, which stands for Shepherd of shepherds. This is a fancy lead seal which was used on official documents, but in great condition considering its nearly 800 years old.)



CAN YOU WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THIS MAGAZINE?

Are there any budding writers out there? We are always looking for stories and articles, ideally with photos. They can be about something you have found, something that happened, like a Treasure item that took four years to traverse the Treasure process. It might feature your good or bad experience of PAS.

It might be that you would like to praise somebody or highlight the short recording process by your FLO.

We are always looking for articles from our members, if you would like to put something forward, please email Dave at:

communicationsofficer@ncmd.co.uk

DETECTING AND THE LAW

IS IT MINE IF I FIND IT?

No, Yes, Maybe are the three options that might be relevant to any item found, so let's take a short look at what might be the answer to the question, and where all this came from

OLD LAW

In 1996 the law changed to the Treasure Act, which came into force in 1997 from the old medieval system of Treasure Trove. Previously, it meant that anything found belonged to the King / Queen that was sitting on the throne at the time. In the past, the penalties for non-compliance were harsh as if you were found guilty you could lose a hand, and that was one of the softer punishments. There was a recorded case where somebody found some poor quality bronze coins and reported it, but by the time the authorities came to collect the coins they were crumbling due to drying out, and the finder was held responsible.

ENGLAND & WALES

Remember the Law of the land in England & Wales, if it's not potential Treasure then it belongs to the landowner, no ifs, no buts, no 'finders, keepers' it belongs to the landowner. Even normal, everyday finds, so in theory you should give the landowner everything you find. That's why it is so important to have a written agreement using the search forms

that you can download from the NCMD website. It is important to state on there, how you are going to split any finds. Most agreements are based on the fact that you keep all the normal finds, but anything over a certain amount you would split 50/50, either by selling them or one party gives the other party half the cost and gets to keep the item. Usually, this is after showing the finds to the Landowner, and of course, any potential treasure items would also be reported to the landowner and the coroner, and any reward would be split 50/50 between the finder and the landowner.

AGREEMENT

It is important to note that an agreement between you and a tenant farmer is worthless unless it has also been agreed by the landowner because the rights of the landowner override anything you agree with a tenant farmer. That is why the NCMD always recommends you get an agreement sorted out as soon as you get permission. One of the best ways is to use the NCMD agreement form which is downloadable from our web

site. It is a good starting template so you can change it to suit your personal circumstances. Once you both have agreed what is going to happen to your finds, write it in with any other details and both sign it and date it on both copies. You will need to keep a copy as will the landowner. If you do change anything then please ensure you acknowledge it on the form. We get numerous calls and emails from members who have come unstuck because they don't have a written agreement, and it can be a hard lesson to learn if you find something really nice and the farmer decides he wants to keep it, because without a written agreement, in law he is entitled to keep it as legally, it belongs to him.

TREASURE (BELONGS TO THE CROWN)

Potential Treasure; two very important words as it's never Treasure until the coroner has ruled that it is. But as the coroner gets most of their advice from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), they tend to follow what they are told however, you are perfectly entitled to



A nice William III Half guinea...BUT can you keep it?

tell the coroner what you think and to provide evidence to support your case.

The PAS itself is a government department comes under the DCMS (Department of Culture Media and Sport) and is run by the British Museum. Remember this when they recommend your find should be classed as Treasure as it's only their opinion and you are fully entitled to tell the coroner your opinion, or even get your own expert to give his/her opinion.

Remember it's up to you to tell the local Coroner about your find of potential Treasure within 14 days of when you realise it is potential Treasure. You can ask your FLO to do this, but it's still your responsibility. Remember to get a clear receipt for the item/s, from your FLO, when you give it to them to record.

I have only given the basics here as there is a good guide on our web site to all the ins and outs of treasure. Currently, any two coins that

If a find is ruled by the Coroner to be treasure, then it has to go through the whole Treasure process which at the moment could take anything up to several years to complete.

contain more than 10% of gold or silver that are found in the same location and are more than 300 years old are classed as a hoard and therefore are treasure. Any item that is not a coin that contains 10% or more precious metal and is more than 200 years old is potential treasure. There are a few exceptions, you can see the full list on our web site or ask your FLO. There is also a copy in here of the excellent article by Sam Moorhead on pierced coins as potential Treasure, it's also on the PAS web site www.finds.org.

If a find is ruled by the Coroner to be treasure, then it has to go through the whole Treasure process which at the moment could take anything up to several years to complete. During this time, the TVC (Treasure Valuation Committee) will look at the item/s and decide from experience and/or outside valuations of what they think it's worth and as the finder, you can also submit your own expert's opinion on this, or valuations from an auction house. The TVC will then write to both the finder and the landowner to update them on their opinion and again, you or the landowner can write back and object and ask them to reconsider.

If they disagree and stick to their guns, then

you can write and complain to the Minister of State who can rule for or against but remember that he is advised by the same people who have already advised that it's treasure and have already provided a valuation. That said, both the coroner and the TVC have been known to change their mind off the back of expert testimony put forward by the finder.

If a museum either doesn't want or can't afford to pay for your find it will be "disclaimed", a legal term meaning the Crown doesn't want it. The Coroner will then make an order to return the item to the finder, after giving the Landowner and /or farmer a chance (28 days) to object. If the Coroner receives no reply, they then tell the BM to release it to you.

If you and the landowner cannot agree to share, divide, or sell the item they will hold on to the item till you can agree. Again, a good working relationship and a signed agreement might have helped. I had one query from a member asking, "what if the landowner wants to keep all my finds?" I advised him to find another farm and to sign an agreement that you are both happy with.

If the museum does want the item, then the farmer and landowner will have an equal share of the amount paid. It is important to note that this payment is classed as a reward, rather than a purchase fee as once it's classed as treasure, the find automatically belongs to the crown not the finder of the landowner.

SIGNIFICANCE

Since 31st of July 2023 we now have an addition clause to the Treasure Law under the word SIGNIFICANCE.

The 'Significance' clause has potentially a great impact on our finds. So, if your find falls into the category of outstanding National or Regional significance or 200 years old, it basically means a FLO can check to see if it should be classified as potential Treasure, either because they believe the find might be significant as an item in its own right, or because it is rare to find such an item in the area / county where it was found. Remember that you can provide your own evidence or an experts written evidence if you wish to. The bar for classifying an item as significant is set very high, and so far, only two items are being considered as potentially meeting the criterion. Once an item is classed as significant, it will then go through the treasure process in the normal way - Dave Crisp

SCOTTISH TREASURE TROVE LAW

Treasure trove law in Scotland is significantly different from that in England, Wales, and N. Ireland. Under centuries-old Scottish Treasure Trove law, all humanly made objects whose original owner or rightful heir are unknown become the property of the Crown. The territorial cover of the law extends to low water mark and includes harbour waters, it thus overlaps with maritime law. The law applies irrespective of what the object is made of and neither the finder nor the landowner has any legal title to the material. If the Crown decides to claim an object, a reward equivalent to the full market value is normally paid to the finder.

Although finders have no legal obligation to share their rewards with landowners, it is strongly recommended that a sharing agreement be reached at the time when landowner's permission is obtained, otherwise the hobby risks being brought into disrepute. Landowners should also be advised that you have a duty to record find spots as part of the reporting process.

Technically, finders are required to report all finds but in practice, informal screening takes place as 19th and 20th century objects are unlikely to be claimed and can usually be disregarded. Finds can be reported directly to the Treasure Trove Unit, National Museum of Scotland or a regional or local museum. If you are unsure what your find might be, or whether an object needs to be reported, photographs can be sent to the Treasure Trove Unit by post or email.

Finally, as in other parts of the UK, be aware that metal detecting on a scheduled ancient monument is a criminal offence punishable by a heavy fine and that it is also illegal to sell or buy a Scottish antiquity if the Crown hasn't formally given up its right of ownership – there are records of auction houses having to withdraw from sale, Scottish antiquities that had not been cleared through the Treasure Trove process, so please exercise care - Alastair Hackett.

For further information go to:

www.treasuretrovescotland.co.uk

LOVE TOKENS? OR LOVE TO HATE?

A MARMITE OF THE DETECTING WORLD?

You know what I am talking about? These coins which have been folded into a slightly wavy 'S' shaped pattern I have found a fair few in my time, so have you ever found a very nice silver or gold coin, but it turns out to have been bent into an 'S' shape?

So, do you hate it for being misshaped or do you see the story behind these enigma coins? The archaeologists say they might have been a token of love, but they could also be a keepsake, which if you give it to somebody, as a keepsake, maybe it is a token of love, hence why most detectorists know them as 'Love Tokens'. The main thinking is that they were given by a man to his sweetheart as a sign of their betrothment, which today is the equivalent of getting engaged and giving your sweetheart a ring.

I recently had to collect my love tokens up for photographing from my various display cases and boxes and even I was surprised at how many I have found in over 35 years. They range from Elizabeth 1st right through to Williams milled coinage. I have even got a few made from copper coinage.

On the PAS database I have recorded 4 gold love tokens and 32 milled coins comprising of 14 gold and 18 silver of various denominations. There are over 1,000 of these 'S' shaped silver coins on the PAS database, with 19 gold and just over 50 copper coins made into this distinctive shape. As I have never found a gold one, I am showing a gold quarter Guinea of George III (AD 1760-1820), dated 1762. The coin has been bent to form a Love Token that was found in Debenham Mid Suffolk. Here's a fun fact; on the database 640 of those coins were 6d pieces. I do have quite a few silver ones, but they don't come up very often, this Elizabeth 1st sixpence which I found back last

April on some ground that had produced a Saxon brooch and Post Medieval bits.

All the other 14 have come up over the years, one I found near an old stile on a rally which made me think of the old Nursery Rhyme "Crooked Man" from back in the 1840s.

There was a crooked man, and he walked a crooked mile. He found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile. He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse, And they all lived together in a little crooked house.

So, were these love tokens, which people gave to their loved ones? Instead of a ring? We don't find that many of them so maybe it was a cheaper method, but then even some of the silver ones were worth a fair bit of money back then as 10 shillings was a week's wages, so 6d (6 pence) is about a third of a day's wages.

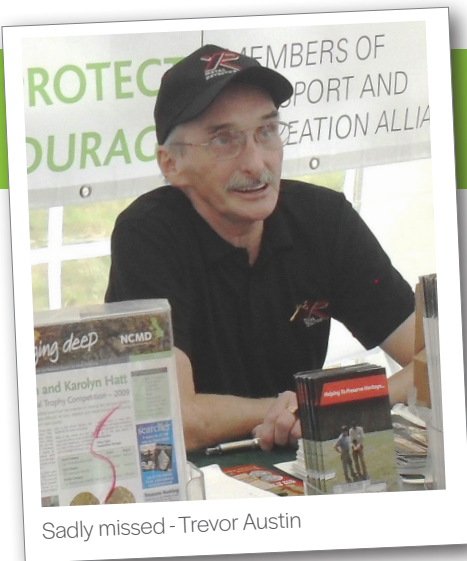
So, love them or hate them, they are piece of our history, and were very personal to somebody. If you find one, do you think it's just a bent coin that is ruined, or a piece of our history and has a story to tell? Was it given as a betrothal gift, then lost in the field by accident, or was it thrown away in a fit of rage? We shall never know, and that is what makes them interesting to me.

N B. Last week I found yet another love token but this time an Elizabeth 1st shilling, dated to 1587/9. Unfortunately, the face is quite worn and scratched but I was still very pleased with it. So, love them or treat them as ruined coins, they are still in my view, a very nice find.

Dave Crisp



TREVOR AUSTIN By Dave Crisp



Sadly missed - Trevor Austin

I wrote this recommendation in 2018 for the SARA awards for outstanding achievement within (SARA) the Sports Organisation.

Sadly, Trevor is no longer with us, nor is his wife Sue who took over his role on the Council and became an outstanding delegate, but sadly she too passed away early this year. Trevor was an active member of the metal detecting community long before the National Council was set up. He was an avid detectorist right up to he passed away in February 2016. In the 1980s, metal detectorists were getting a lot of bad press from the archaeological and academic establishment who wanted to see our hobby banned. Trevor was one of the few stalwarts that realised that we needed a voice to actively counteract the amount of misinformation that was being bandied about. So, with a few other like-minded people they formed what was to become the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD). Trevor took on the top job of General Secretary to help guide this newly formed committee into a National identity, which is where it is today.

Trevor served continuously from 1990 as

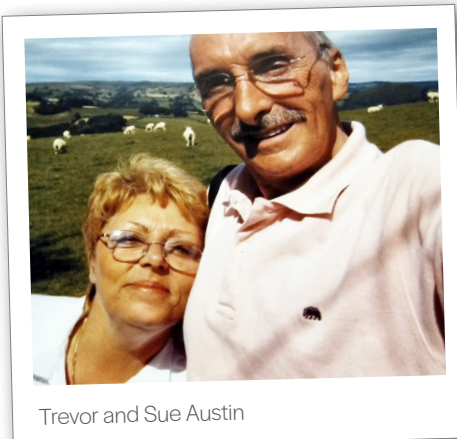
As General Secretary he had a lot of input into the negotiations for the reforming of the old medieval law of Treasure Trove,

General Secretary of the NCMD as well as still finding time to act as Secretary to the Yorkshire Region which dealt with all the clubs across this large area. I can only summarise here what this man dealt with, and then achieved over this long period of time. His workload took in everything that was needed to be done to

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ensure our hobby was allowed to continue, against the many different organisations and different departments within the Governments of the day. As General Secretary he had a lot of input into the negotiations for the reforming of the old medieval law of Treasure Trove, and the introduction of the new 1996 Treasure Act which now applies to everybody, not just from our hobby. With this also came the governments Code of practice for responsible Metal Detecting, both of which took hundreds of hours of dealing with government departments, reading, and understanding, and then explaining to our many regions, clubs, and individual members the proposals that would make our hobby safer and better for the future. He travelled to many meetings with various different organisations like the British Museum, English Heritage, and the Council for British Archaeology. Here he attended conferences and gave informal talks and lectures to get across our points about our hobby



Trevor and Sue Austin

to save and record lost items of our Heritage, and where it could fit in with the Official view.

He was also instrumental in dealing with the Ministry of Justice and both houses of Parliament who were seeking to establish a single coroner for dealing with Treasure when it came before the courts.

An offshoot of this he was asked in 2003 to sit on the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC) which is a National body set up to Value

items that had been ruled by a Coroner as Treasure under this new Act. In 2009 he was reappointed for a second term, which was an appreciation of his commitment.

Always impartial, but always remembering his grass roots as a champion of our hobby, Trevor was instrumental in influencing the NCMD to become a member of the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), and the sports organisation (SARA) With all this he fitted in many well written articles for various magazines, and national newspapers. He also gave Television and Radio interviews where his calm style, sense of humour, and knowledge of the subject came across very well, and he was often asked to return to do follow up consultations.

When he was approached to help set up and guide the new formation of a European Council for Metal Detecting (ECMD), he gave his time freely. This organisation is now up and running, due partly to good advice and guidance from Trevor. In his role as General Secretary of the NCMD he gained great respect amongst his fellow officers of the council, past and present, and consistently demonstrated a willingness to take on new responsibilities and levels of work commitment far beyond the duties of his post as outlined in the NCMD's Constitution.

In conclusion, Trevor Austin was highly respected amongst the metal detecting community, and he was regarded as unique in his personal dedication to the hobby and his tireless promotion of responsible metal detecting as a key contributor to the nation's heritage. His dedicated service to the hobby over the last 35 years was nothing short of outstanding and he will be sorely missed.

Article written in June 2018 as a nomination for the SARA awards, Unfortunately Trevor didn't win the SARA award, but in our opinion, he should have won it twice over



LOST A FENCE..?

It was a normal sort of day till one of my farmers phoned to ask if I could help to find some old fence posts. Well, he did not have to ask twice as both my detecting buddy Dave and I had some free time so I arranged for us to go over and discuss it further with the farmer.

It turned out they had removed some old fencing between two fields to make one very large field. They had used farm machinery to pull up the main parts of the old iron fence which had been in the field for over fifty years or more.

Thinking that they had removed all the fence posts, they proceeded to level the soil and make it flat between the two old fields and to get it ready for planting the winter crop. The next day they started again and Mike the farmer noticed that one of his tractors tyres was going down. They then realised that they had a punctured tyre because an old fence post had been missed and they had driven over it. So, this very large tyre had to be repaired and that was the reason he had called, as he didn't want it to happen again.

The farmer showed us the pile of old iron fencing that had divided the two fields and then drove us across to show us the line of the old fence. Well, I have been in plenty of big fields in my time but this one was massive. "You can see where the fence ran, he said, but we must have

missed one or two of the fence posts", and you could see there was a marked difference between the two old fields.

We realised that we would have to detect in all metal mode to find all the bits as in discrimination we would miss some. So, kitting up we started to search and straight away we found two bits of the fencing in a new gateway, and that's how it went on for the next two hours and piece after piece came up.

Eventually we reached the end of the field and I phoned the farmer to come and pick us up. So how did we do? Well, the farmer was amazed as he drove us along the side of where we had just walked. There were 18 broken pieces of posts sticking out of the ground where we had left them sticking up, stretching right across the field. There was also 12 broken pieces of plough, these came up as we were in all metal and normally get filtered out. So, two hours work, and we might have saved the farmer many more punctures and a lot of expense. He was very pleased and tried to pay us but we both refused, so he gave us a donation to put into our charity box.

We were both pleased and so was the farmer, he might even tell his friends and you never know where that might lead to.

Mike



THE NCMD 2023 CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW

The NCMD Free Xmas draw took place on the 14th of December with numbers chosen independently using a random number generator. The lucky winners are listed below and have been contacted by email.

The winners were;

NCMD-4V9U-6M9L TP	West Yorkshire	NCMD-3S9S-3W6C MS	Lincolnshire
NCMD-2A1X-1R4G KWS	County Antrim	NCMD-319M-7X.60 MW	Gwent
NCMD-9Y9C-8L3W MC	Somerset	NCMD-4A6U-9X9G AP	Norfolk
NCMD-9NSA-1V4J GB	Cumbria	NCMD-6Y8M-407R MR	Derbyshire
NCMD-7S2M-712A JT	Kent	NCMD-1N2P-7Q4G RW	Bristol
NCMD-217D-7E90 RR	Surrey	NCMD-9T9R-2S8A MS	Devon
NCMD-8G6V-5T4M DG	West Sussex	NCMD-SY8U-1QSA AL	Worcestershire
NCMD-4G3S-7A9R JM	Lincolnshire	NCMD-6Q1E-SK4U LR	Lanarkshire
NCMD-2B3B-8Y4P PL	Conwy	NCMD-6U3P-8Y8E DH	Cornwall
NCMD-4ZSQ-2D3Z YS	Essex	NCMD-3H20-3S3V vs	North Humberside
NCMD-8E31-5V6D MD	North Yorkshire	NCMD-9A1V-8N1U DW	Hampshire
NCMD-SW8R-4M4L CC	Isle of Wight	NCMD-7X4M-7J9G SR	Clwyd
NCMD-9F9K-9U40 SC	Merseyside	NCMD-2CSB-7L3H GS	Bristol
NCMD-3M3F-6D8K KH	Fife	NCMD-3Q9U-5R3D CL	Isle Of Man
NCMD-3Y1T-SQ9M RH	Wiltshire	NCMD-5R2P-8K1C SC	Hampshire
NCMD-1L9Y-2S3E AH	Suffolk	NCMD-3A9T-2P1C JB	Aberdeenshire
NCMD-7C3E-3Y1U DM	Roxburghshire	NCMD-5K6Q-8D3D MP	Rhondda Cynon Taff
NCMD-302J-5N6N MR	County Durham	NCMD-4U71-2N7D EH	Norfolk
NCMD-5H7J-8K9G DLV	Kent	NCMD-4J8P-8K6W TA	Tyne&Wear
NCMD-2N3K-4E9A cc	Hertfordshire	NCMD-2C4X-9R6U AB	Leicestershire

WORDS TO FIND

- CROSSBOW
- THEALBY
- AUCISSA
- DISC
- LA TENE
- ZOOMMORPHIC
- WROXETER
- ROSETTA
- DELTA
- STRIP
- PSHAPED
- HEADSTUD
- THISTLE
- AXIS
- FLAT ENAMELLED
- GILDED
- DRAGONESQUE
- COLCHESTER
- INVOLUTED
- HOD HILL
- KNEE
- POLDEN HILL
- NAUHEIM
- FOOT
- CONICAL
- DOLPHIN
- LOOP
- PIN
- UMBONATE
- BOW AND FANTAIL
- PLATE
- BOW
- LUGGED
- PENANNULAR
- CATCH
- AESICA

FIND THE BROOCHES

MORE THAN £1000 TO BE WON

WHAT FOUR BROOCHES ARE IN THE GRID MORE THAN TWICE?

r	e	t	e	x	o	r	w	b	i	x	d	e	s	z	o	r	c
p	s	h	a	p	e	d	v	d	e	t	u	l	o	v	n	i	r
k	i	y	x	e	j	u	p	e	n	a	n	n	u	l	a	r	o
y	n	l	a	f	s	v	m	e	p	l	a	t	e	q	w	g	s
q	j	i	d	t	k	i	g	b	a	t	l	e	p	k	l	o	s
j	k	y	h	r	t	n	c	a	o	d	e	g	g	u	l	j	b
a	t	l	e	p	i	e	f	a	x	n	k	c	s	i	d	r	o
l	k	j	l	h	l	b	s	j	k	i	a	q	j	e	q	e	w
i	l	l	i	h	d	o	h	o	t	g	s	t	l	j	j	t	l
a	u	c	i	s	s	a	d	v	r	n	k	l	e	f	y	s	l
t	c	k	j	v	d	r	a	g	o	n	e	s	q	u	e	e	i
n	a	t	h	e	a	l	b	y	v	m	j	c	d	k	l	h	h
a	t	j	v	n	e	n	e	t	a	l	r	e	s	t	p	c	n
f	c	m	i	e	h	u	a	n	p	o	d	t	s	e	n	l	e
d	h	j	e	t	l	g	e	o	s	l	r	i	f	i	r	o	d
n	y	n	o	a	j	t	o	b	i	i	h	q	p	l	f	c	l
a	k	o	f	l	a	l	o	g	p	t	a	e	s	i	c	a	o
w	f	j	q	l	s	z	a	s	t	i	k	a	k	y	j	j	p
o	m	i	f	i	r	m	c	i	h	p	r	o	m	m	o	o	z
b	q	c	o	n	i	c	a	l	k	d	u	t	s	d	a	e	h

1st PRIZE £500.00

2nd PRIZE £350.00 3rd PRIZE £150.00

Once you have found what four brooches are in the grid more than twice, simply enter the names below and either post or scan/photo to the email address below. Or complete the form below and post to us before 12' o'clock on 30th April 2024.

NCMD membership No:

First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: County:

Post code: Phone number:

The 4 Brooches:

ONLY ONE ENTRY PER MEMBER. The answers and competition winner details will be on our web site after the draw
 Email communicationsofficer@ncmd.co.uk with a photo or scan with the four brooch names in the 4 boxes.

NCMD MEMBERSHIP



Dear Member,

Just a reminder that for many of you, your membership of the NCMD Expires on 31st March 2024. 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 NCMD membership number:

First name: Last name:

Address:

Town/City:

County: Post Code:

Email: Telephone:

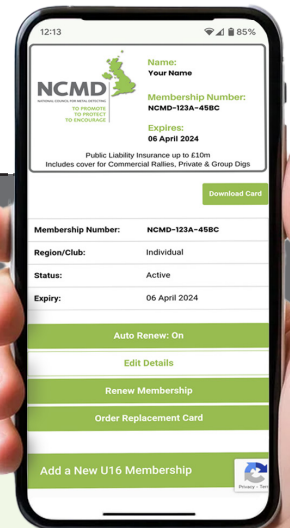
Please tick below your chosen length of membership.

- 1 year £8 2 years £15 3 years £22 5 years £35

Please send this form and a cheque/postal order to:

National Council for Metal Detecting
Membership Secretary
PO Box 13183
Gordon
TD11 9AJ

Remember: You can renew your membership online as well as choose 'Auto Renew'



Any membership queries, please email membership@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 your preferred method of contact you are happy for us to use to keep in touch with you;

- POST EMAIL TEXT I DO NOT WISH TO BE CONTACTED (You will not receive this publication)

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