

# Digging Deep

**NCMD**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

ISSUE 14

All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

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## NEWS

# Guest Speakers at the NCMD OGM, November 17 2013

At the NCMD meeting held on 17 November Professor Norman Palmer QC CBE and Finbarr Lordan Customer Service Support Officer Minelab attended the meeting.

Professor Palmer gave an extremely interesting talk and presentation entitled **'Treasure Seeking in a Global Context: ANTI-SOCIAL CONDUCT OR**

**CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP?'** The presentation touched on a variety of topics from World War 2 to the present day, both English and foreign law and its possible future direction.

Finbarr Lordan from Minelab gave an equally interesting presentation on the involvement of Minelab with other European countries and their efforts to promote responsible

metal detecting. Finbarr also touched on the success of 'Exchange 2' its innovative programme designed for, although not exclusively to, the Minelab CTX3030 and its ability through Google Maps to store both finds information generally and Geohunt through CTX3030.

Trevor Austin



## CONTENTS

- P1-2 NCMD News
- P3 Robin and Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition 2012 Results
- P4 Consultation on Review of Scotland Treasure Trove
- P5 SARA AGM
- P6 ACPO at the Tower of London
- P8-10 Rally reports
- P11 Membership renewal form
- P12-15 Regional News
- P16 Book Review

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## Are you receiving 2 copies of Digging Deep?

Some of you have written to me asking why you have received two copies of *Digging Deep*.

Although we realise that there may be two persons in the household that are NCMD members and also that one copy of the magazine would normally suffice; there are

times when we may wish to include things in the magazine such as the car window sticker in this issue, membership renewal forms or the membership card wallet some time ago. It is therefore easier for us to include all members in the circulation rather

than alter the mailing list each time we need to send out to all.

If you receive two copies but are only in need of one, then please feel free to pass the other copy to friends or relatives.

Trevor Austin

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The NCMD officers wish all our members A Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year



# What to do when you find – a gold ring

I quite often get asked whether a gold ring which someone has found is Treasure. So for those of you, who may be unsure, let's have a look at why there may be confusion among new members.

The Treasure Act states that **1. Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be Treasure provided any part of it is precious metal.** So for rings made predominantly of either gold or silver the question that needs to be answered is *whether the ring is over 300 years old?*

I have heard it said by some detector users that if the ring has a hallmark then it is not Treasure. However this is not strictly true as makers marks have been used for over 300 years. Let us look at a brief history of hallmarking. In 1300 King Edward I enacted a statute requiring that all silver articles must meet the **sterling silver standard** (92.5% pure silver) and must be assayed in this regard by 'guardians of the craft' who would then mark the item with a leopard's head.

In 1327 King Edward III granted a

charter to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths (more commonly known as the Goldsmiths' Company), marking the beginning of the Company's formal existence. This entity was headquartered in London at Goldsmiths' Hall from whence the English term 'hallmark' is derived. Indeed, hallmarking is one of the oldest forms of consumer protection.

In 1363, the maker's mark was added to the hallmark. To begin with, most of them were pictorial but as literacy rates rose, the system of using the maker's initials was introduced.

Quite some time after, in 1478, the Wardens of Goldsmiths set themselves up in Goldsmiths Hall and paid a salaried assayer to test and mark items submitted to them. This led to the introduction of the date letter in order to make successive assayers accountable for their work. Hallmarking of precious metals is still a legal requirement in the UK and Birmingham Assay Office is the largest Assay Office in the World, handling over 12 million articles per year.

So as we can see the addition of marks on a ring does not necessarily mean it is less than



300 years old. Admittedly, the hallmarking of rings in the Middle Ages was not a common practice among the general populous, mainly because of the cost of assaying, and many rings from this period carry no marks at all. However, it is unwise to assume

that just because a ring carries either a maker's mark or hallmark that it is less than 300 years old, either take the ring to your local Finds Liaison Officer or examine the marks yourself with the aid of a good hallmark book.

**Trevor Austin**

## Hanging up his headphones

After 14 years with Minelab International, Des Dunne is stepping down from his role as Field Application Specialist.

Many of you will know Des well both from his numerous articles within these pages and meeting him at the numerous rally events he attended not only here in the UK but throughout Europe reaching as far as Russia and South Africa.

Des would like to take this opportunity to say a huge Thanks to all for the fantastic friendships built up over the years and to all

the Minelab Customers to whom he was readily available to offer advice on any problems they were having and how best to set up their machines.

In particular, he would like to take this opportunity to also thank the dealers with whom he has known many of you far longer than the years spent with Minelab.

Perhaps we'll cross paths with Des again very soon at a rally in 2014, but as a participant this time!

The very best of luck to you!

**From all at the NCMD**





# The Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy Competition



*Yet again the amazing quality of the entries was evident to see. As ever, voting was a long process. Your regional delegates found it difficult to come to a swift decision when faced with beautiful objects of such quality.*

The Coin section included a Coenwulf penny, 810-821, a silver denarius of Calpurnius, 90bc-67 BC, a Harold I Saxon penny 1035-1040 and a Charles I double crown.

In the Artefact section were a gold Memento Mori ring, a Bronze-Age copper-alloy looped socketed spear-head, a Roman buckle brooch and a Viking gold ring.

This year there was one entry in the Hoard section.

The group of Anglo-Saxon silver sceattas was stunning, found by six separate finders from the Crewe & Nantwich MDC North-West Region.

This was a very worthy winner, as from their photograph the coins looked in excellent condition.

The winning coin was the Harold I Saxon penny from the Down to Earth MDC found by Barry Williams.



In second place, was the Coenwulf penny found by Mike Evans, Coventry Heritage Detector Society, Midlands Region.



The other two coins tied in third place.



The winning Artefact was the Viking gold ring, found by the late Eddie Benniman of the Swale Search & Recovery Club, Southern Region.



© Courtesy of PAS

In second place was the Bronze-Age spear-head found by Chris Bingham, South-Lancs & Cheshire M.D.C.



Yet again, the other two artefacts tied in third place.



As ever voting was a long process. Your regional delegates found it difficult to come to a swift decision when faced with beautiful objects of such quality. I am sure many of you will already have decided what you will enter in next year's competition.

There have been a lot of wonderful finds this year, boding well for 2013. I look forward to it already!

**Hilary Fagen**  
Competition Manager



Trevor Austin presenting Best Coin trophy to Barry Williams



Harry Bain presenting Best Artefact trophy to Roger Mintey on behalf of Eddie Benniman



Harry Bain presenting Best Hoard trophy to John Rigby on behalf of several finders from the Crewe and Nantwich MDC

# Consultation on Review of 'Treasure Trove in Scotland, A Code Of Practice'

Between May and August 2013, a consultation exercise was carried out regarding proposals to review the 2008 Code of Practice which currently governs Scotland's Treasure Trove system. Much of the review was concerned with museum procedures, e.g., problems involving archaeological assemblages, allocations to museums, disclaimed items, excavated human remains, etc. but a significant part of the review also focussed on metal detecting issues.

On 24 October 2013, in a departure from normal practice, Scotland's Treasure Trove Panel SAFAP (Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel) met at Stirling Castle (photo) with a small number of invited guests including Lesley Sleith, Chair of the NCMD Scottish Region. Dr Evelyn Silber, Chair of SAFAP, briefly highlighted some of the responses to the consultation exercise including the ongoing success of the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) Outreach Programme, i.e., finds days at regional locations, visits to clubs, etc. This Programme has been successful in increasing the number of reported finds by almost 100%.

By the end of the Code of Practice consultation period, a total of 17 respondents had submitted comments:

- 6 representing metal detecting bodies or individuals
- 1 representing an organisation undertaking organised archaeological fieldwork
- 5 representing a museum (or museum background)
- 5 representing and archaeological or other body

Details of all responses can be found at:

[www.qltr.gov.uk/content/treasure-trove-consultation-responses#overlay-context=](http://www.qltr.gov.uk/content/treasure-trove-consultation-responses#overlay-context=)

The NCMD Scottish Region submitted a detailed response to this review amounting to c.4000 words and a report on the consultation review has now been prepared and has been placed on the website of the QLTR at:

[www.qltr.gov.uk/content/treasure-trove-consultation-report](http://www.qltr.gov.uk/content/treasure-trove-consultation-report)

Many points were raised by the NCMD which are too numerous to detail in the space of this newsletter but the key issues raised can be summarised as follows:

**1. The ex gratia award:** The NCMD argued that the valuation process should be consistent with that operating elsewhere in the UK. This however was not accepted. The report merely affirmed that:

The TTU does not have a budget to fund independent valuations and in most cases the objects are common finds which are easily paralleled on the legal antiquities market. The QLTR considers the proposal to intimate the range of valuations to finders should enhance transparency and it is for the finder to consider whether to then incur the costs themselves of an independent valuation.

**2. Finders' representative:** The NCMD suggested that a 'finders' representative' should be appointed to the Treasure Trove Panel. The response was:



The Scottish Government is content that the issues raised are addressed by the continued involvement of the Scottish Government throughout the recruitment process; this will ensure that the process used is fair and transparent. Scottish Ministers will continue to have a role in approving the recommendations made by the Chair and to appoint the Chair and lay member. All Ministerial appointments will continue to be time limited and this will ensure that the Panel regularly benefits from new members.

**3. Crediting finders:** There was agreement that museums should credit finders whose items they claim so that if an item is put on display, the finder's name can also be displayed. This would be entirely voluntary since some finders may wish to remain anonymous.

**4. Levels of reporting of treasure**

**trove in Scotland:** The NCMD went to considerable lengths to dispel the widely held view that there is serious under-reporting of finds in Scotland. Disappointingly, our views were disregarded. It was suggested that a research project should be funded to investigate the matter, and this was simply noted as follows:

**That would not require a change to the Code and would depend on the availability of resources (staff and funding).**

Overall, it seems fair to say that the review has not resulted in any important changes to procedures and practices as far as dealing with metal detecting finds are concerned (and in the current economic climate, this was perhaps predictable) but it does also seem to have been a lost opportunity to address a number of issues that continue to concern many of us in the hobby.

**Alastair Hackett**

## Chris Osborne Bernie's Buttons

I must apologise for an omission in the last edition of *Digging Deep*. The article 'Bernie Buttons' was from an original story by Chris Osborne who is an Individual Member.

## GET IN TOUCH

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**  
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# Sports and Recreation Alliance (SARA) AGM

The meeting took place on 9 July 2013; Brian Pollard attended on behalf of the NCMD as your representative to the Outdoor Pursuits Division of SARA. The meeting was held at St James Palace, London.

The meeting was chaired by HRH the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, who is the President of SARA. He took over the presidency in 2012 from his father Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was instrumental in the formation of the organisation in the late 1940's, under its original name of The Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR).

The object of the organisation is to act as a link between sport and leisure with politics, and to give

advice and support to its member governing/advisory bodies. The meeting took the normal form of reports from the officers of the activities and workings plus the annual accounts, the appointment of directors etc. This was followed by a number of sponsored presentations to clubs and individuals who have made outstanding efforts and contributions to the promotion upkeep and general management of their particular sport, pastime or leisure activity.

The meeting was followed by a pleasant buffet lunch with a glass of wine and a chance to meet and talk to HRH about our hobby. This then allowed me the chance to circulate and meet with and talk to



representatives of other organisations and guests, who could possibly have a positive influence on our hobby, or assist, with our fight of the negatives. Brian Pollard, Midlands Region. NCMD Representative to CCPR/SARA



## What do you do with your horseshoes?

Some are just thrown away, some are kept for good luck and some are collected. One idea, submitted by member William May, suggests that they could form the part of a useful garden ornament.

William belongs to the South Lancs and Cheshire MDC and has collected a number of horseshoes over the years. He then takes them to a local blacksmith (or you may own your own welding gear) who welds the horseshoes together to form a decorative plant holder.

The shoes are mounted on four hoops or bars of steel, lined with some wire mesh and filled with plants, in this case petunias.

I think you will agree from the photo that it beats hanging them on the fence. We thank William for his contribution.

**Trevor Austin**

From an idea by William May, SL&CMDC



# ACPO at the Tower of London

At around 10.15 on the morning of 18 November tourists visiting the Tower of London had the unusual sight of a stream of men and women in suits apparently searching for the new Armouries building. This was the venue for an event staged by ACPO (the Association of Chief Police Officers) the purpose of which was to launch the 'National Strategic Assessment of Heritage and Cultural Crime' initiative and in particular to promote it to the national press.

After grabbing a coffee and registering, I followed the 58 other delegates into the very dimly lit conference room, where we were all provided with a 32 page glossy hand out. This was entitled 'Heritage and Cultural Property Crime National Policing Strategic Assessment 2013'. I was there representing the NCMD.

Andy Bliss, the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire, resplendent in his uniform, kicked off proceedings. Heritage and Cultural Property Crime is defined as *any offence involving damage or loss to the historic environment, including all offences involving cultural property.*

Many in the audience were probably becoming somewhat bemused by all these technical terms and definitions but he explained that the original definition of Heritage Crime by English Heritage had been concise but had focused mainly on the

'historic environment' within England and had taken little account of cultural property such as art, literature and jewellery.

He emphasised the importance of this new initiative. Career criminals now realise that bank robberies and other traditional crimes are becoming harder to commit. Heritage Crime, in particular metal theft, is relatively easy to commit. There was an additional factor to consider. In commercial theft the victim loses exactly the same amount as the thief makes away with. In the case of metal theft of cultural objects the equations do not balance. 70 tons of lead stolen from a church roof would net the thieves maybe £70,000 but would probably cost the church far more than that in terms of structural damage including damage caused by a leaking roof. Henry Moore's 'Sundial' sculpture was a significant art work worth £500,000 but the thieves who stole it sold it to a scrap dealer for £46.50!

Bliss pointed out that new and sustained use could be made of legislation. The Scrap Metal Dealers Act of 2013 states that after 1 October 2013 no individual can transact scrap metal for cash. Advances in technology such as the use of permanent metal marking on lead roofs would also militate against Heritage and Cultural Property Crime.



Chief Constable Bliss broke off briefly to mention the presence of the press at the event. There were 59 names on the delegate list but over 70 in the room; the excess probably representing the press. The event was not, however, covered by radio or TV. Four other VIPs sat at the top table facing us: they were Mike Harlow (English Heritage), DS Claire Hutcheon (Met Police Art and Antiques Unit), William Brown (National Security Adviser, Arts Council England) and Mark Harrison (National Policing and Crime Advisor, English Heritage).

Chief Constable Bliss explained how the police were linking other types of criminal activity to 'Heritage and Cultural Crime'.

Criminals have recently targeted national treasures and works of art displayed in museums, libraries, archives and private collections. 'Operation Shrewd' is a national police investigation into the theft of rhino horn, jade and Chinese artefacts (mainly from the early Ming and Quing Dynasties) from provincial museums and private collections in the UK and Europe.

Mike Harlow, Legal and Governance Director, English Heritage, then addressed the meeting. He pointed out that ARCH (the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage) now had 200 members (including the NCMD) and that English Heritage was pleased that ARCH, which was merely an alliance of like





minded organisations, had spawned a major police initiative. Vernon Rapley, speaking on behalf of the National Museum Security Group, reminded the delegates that famous art works could sell for over £100m and that theft of art works was still regarded by many as “a bit of a caper”. A more realistic attitude to the place of art in society could hopefully militate against people wanting to acquire stolen paintings and sculptures via the black market. Museum security was expensive and used up money that could ideally be used for other purposes.

A brief question and answer session followed. Delegates from local authorities, the police, the British Library, the War Memorials Trust and the Church Buildings Council all spoke showing that the fight against Heritage Crime was being waged by many diverse groupings.

Between 11.30-12.00 we enjoyed some informal discussion. I spoke with William Brown (Arts Council) Dr. Michael Lewis (PAS)

and Mark Harrison, who was briefing a group of journalists. He made it clear that appearing in ‘Digging Deep’ meant as much to him as being featured in any national newspaper.

I also spoke with Professor Lord Renfrew, who is the Chairman of the Treasure Valuation Committee. He told me that the TVC had been very pleased that Trevor Austin, NCMD General Secretary, had been able to serve on the committee for so long and that the presence of a successor from our hobby would be much appreciated. The DCMS are short of resources and the position has not yet been advertised.

At mid-day we all had to leave and went outside for some photographs. Only a few yards away from us was a long copper cannon, which had been made in Turkey in 1501. It was later taken on an expedition to India, to drive out the Portugese colonialists. Captain H. Smith of HMS Volage

had stolen it at Aden in 1839. It had been at the Tower of London since 1844. Was this an early example of Heritage Crime, I asked Andy Bliss and Mark Harrison, who both replied that it probably was. Mark added that he refused to comment on the Elgin Marbles!

The next day Danielle Sheridan reported on the event in *The Times* with the headline ‘Police target Rhino Horn gangs as art theft hits £500m’. The event had clearly been a success.

It was quite remarkable that the evolutionary process that had created this major police initiative had begun in 2000 with an informal meeting between David Barwell, my predecessor in the NCMD Southern Region, and the Chief Constable of Kent to discuss how detectorists could keep a look out for any crime, or any evidence of criminal activity including nighthawking, on farms. Things have indeed moved on.

**Roger Mintey**



Mark Harrison



## Congratulations to Tony Maz!

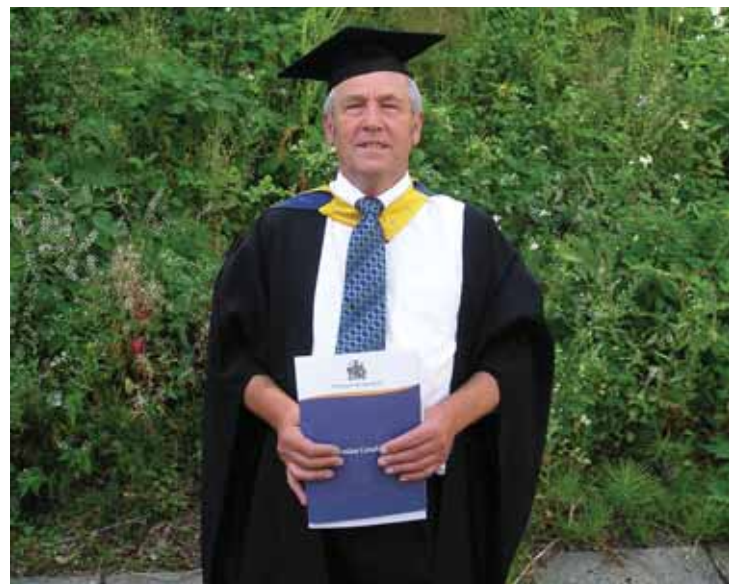
Many of you will know Tony Maz; he has attended many rallies over the years and also supplied detector users with various accessories.

Tony has just completed a two year course at The University of Glamorgan, and gained his cap and gown (PGCE/PCE) and is now a fully qualified Lecturer and Teacher of Art.

Tony along with his wife Elaine are well known personalities in the detecting world through the company they both run called 'MAZ', that manufacture headphones, box covers and a variety of products for detecting. He also is a well-established artist in South Wales and is planning to teach on a part time basis in Further Education.

We wish him well in his future career.

**Trevor Austin**



# A personal view of the Central Searchers Alford Rally

By © Roving Rally Reports 2013 - John Maloney

Running a rally is hard work. Planning far in advance when you are relying on weather, crops and people is nigh on impossible. As a hobby we must be grateful that some people are willing to put their heads over the parapet to organise events where we can meet up with fellow detectorists and friends at venues across the country.

The amount of abuse, insinuations and downright lies that have been bandied around about those willing to do the job via forums and social media has been sickening and as individuals, we really need to stop, think and consider the work being put in for us before criticizing those on the various social media outlets available.

Equally some people should take a cold, hard look in the mirror as to their behaviour at rallies. Across the country the same old moans appear ... with the same old answers!

- *"Nothing in these fields"* ... well no if your racing across a field at very fast walking pace with your coil 8" off the ground there won't be!
- *"Not filling holes ... I'm not coming back"* ... no you won't be because farmers won't let us.
- *"Leaving scrap in/by holes"*... bone idle lazy.

It's reaching the stage where rallies will become invitation only and lots of people will miss out due to their own lazy, ignorant behaviour.

Having put the soapbox away it was time for me to actually get away from organising and actually putting in some hours of 'coil to the soil at the rally'. A steady two hour trundle from Leicester saw me on site at midday Friday, as ever the event was well organised with a large marquee on site for trade stands and evening events. Who could miss the Prize Bingo or

the Pub Quiz?

Despite a last minute let down Richard had made multiple journeys from home to the site to ensure catering was in place. As the majority of people attending had traditional caravan/camping cooking facilities it's always useful to have a backup food source! The 'usual crew' of marshals were on site and in the field to help, direct and keep an eye on the attendees, special thanks to all the backup team that helped the event go smoothly.

Having registered at the marquee and got my wristband it was time to set up 'Base Camp' for the weekend. Everything sorted it was off to the Friday fields for a few hours, it was tough going with dry disc soil and a vast area to search but it was nice to be out in the fresh air and sunshine.

Personally I had little to report

from the field but others were more successful with a Richard II noble, a Roman siliqua and at least three or four hammered. Friday night was spent hiding from some 'slight precipitation' which from a detecting view was nothing but good news but didn't do much for alfresco ale supping!

Saturday dawned and I was up at 5.30am in the drizzle for a stroll around the area and scoping the available vast fields. Saturday's field was immense with a few interesting ridges and bumps. I also bumped into Richard planting tokens for the Minelab token hunt later in the day. As far as I know some 30/40 tokens remain scattered across the field which proves how much of a field can be missed even with large numbers of searchers. If those tokens were hammered coins they would still remain unfound!

Saturdays digging started with a well drilled 'funnel system' guiding





people onto the field which again was vast, somewhere in the region of 150 acres (judged by eye rather than measured) but as always many had 'done it' by lunchtime so two new fields were hastily opened ... if you add in Friday's fields we already had about 400+ acres available!

I was lucky enough to snag a scruffy voided long cross amongst various hammered others were finding as well as sovereign and axes ... some were lucky others weren't. Saturday night was bingo in the marquee ... and drinking ... and socialising until the wee small hours.

Sunday saw yet more land added (550+ acres now) and the arrival of additional entertainment in the shape of the 'Tractor of Doom' ... not Alton Towers latest ride but James's big Claas tractor and hay trailer limousine for transport to the new fields, all proceeds going to the local Air Ambulance ... well done James who gave up his bank holiday weekend to help out us and a great cause.

Sunday's fields were equally large and much more active my first decent find although what my aged lump of bronze is anyone's guess

... early medieval skillet handle seems the most apt! Plenty more targets were turning up buckles, lead etc. and all the background noise that had seemed missing from the first 1.5 days. I ended up with two definite and one dubious Roman bronze radiates.

It was nice too see other club members there and during the course of Sunday two lost their hammered virginity in the shape of two Lizzie I's, Andy P had found an Eddy penny, Canterbury mint and Andy Plumber found a pilgrims ampulla. My neighbour even tripped over a gorgeous gilded, Anglo Saxon pin head which looked as clean and crisp as the day it was made.

Sunday night was quiz night in the marquee ... and drinking .. and socialising until the wee small hours. Monday saw more new fields added bringing the acreage up to about 700 acres and an extension to the length of the Tractor of Doom ride ... nobody died and it was great service!

One of Monday's fields is known as the Rifle Field ... I think we know why now ... if you couldn't find a non-ferrous target in there then sell your machine and find

another hobby! Mixed amongst the range of militaria were a few more hammered and rumours of a gold and sapphire ring. I turned up an 1873 halfpenny pierced, maybe as a lucky token, for a trainee soldier and not far away a 1943 threepenny bit ... separated by 70 years but possibly from the pockets of young men training for duty that may never see them return.

After 45+ targets in a bit over an hour I was bordering on exhaustion so returned to Sunday's field en route to base when a lovely firm tone turned up a cracking Edward penny, Canterbury mint. The cherry had landed on my cake it was time to

pack up and head back for a bath, shave and a comfy bed!

A fantastic weekend for some; it was well-organised, well-marshalled, great social ambience, great area and great weather. Targets dug were around 130, items recorded on site five, one more to do at home as I missed taking it in to 'Kevin and Co' although I'm sure an Eastern European resident will skew those figures to suit their own agenda.

Thanks to Rich, Gill and family, the team and James also the NCMD stalwarts Trevor and John, Des and Finbarr of Minelab and Laura and Nick from Detecnicks ... next time invite only ... as long as I get one!



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In the spirit of the holiday season all of us at Minelab would like to wish all the members and staff at the NCMD a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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# NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING



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## MEMBER OF: SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE

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Dear Individual Member

Your membership of the National Council for Metal Detecting expires on the 31 March 2014. We hope that you have received prompt attention throughout the past year and thank you for your continued support of the hobby.

**Subscription for 2014/15 for Individual members on the Central Register: £8-00.**

(Please note subscription for individual members of a NCMD region may vary and individual members are advised to contact their Regional Secretary)

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

All cheques should be made payable to the National Council for Metal Detecting and returned to the address below.

Alternatively you may wish to pay online at [www.ncmd.co.uk/membership.htm](http://www.ncmd.co.uk/membership.htm) by either PayPal or Debit/Credit card.

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

**Trevor Austin**  
General Secretary



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# Midlands Federation of Metal Detector Clubs Activities 2013

The Midlands Federation of metal detector clubs, not content with organising one rally this year, managed to fit in two in rapid succession. The first was the Federation's traditional national annual rally which this year was in aid of the Shakespeare Hospice based in Stratford upon Avon. The second was a mini event with a maximum attendance of one hundred from local clubs at a farm in Barnacle, Warwickshire. This was in aid of Rotary International. Fortunately the weather was good for both events and the farmers concerned had both done an excellent job of preparing the land. The fields were very flat and ideal for detecting.

Many hammered coins were found at Barnacle, the finest example was a Henry VIII groat in very good condition.



One of the Barnacle fields



Also found was a stater.



The charities benefited with net receipts of £2,800 for the Shakespeare Rally and £1,446 for the Barnacle event. Both figures include proceeds from the raffles and catering provision. That's a total of £4,246 raised by John Well's and his team within the space of a month.



A Garret Probe was just one of the many raffle prizes on offer.

Presentations of cheques took place on the farms concerned. These were attended by the farmers, representatives from the charities concerned and members of the Midlands Federation Committee.



Field view at Bishopton Hill

The Stratford event didn't produce as much in the way of finds as might be anticipated in such an historical area, but the Barnacle event came up trumps with plenty of good finds. Notable finds from Stratford included a sovereign and a half sovereign. Also worthy of mention was an Elizabeth I coin which was double headed! This could have just been a striking error at the mint, but one has to wonder if this coin was deliberately manufactured to give the owner an advantage in coin tossing games?



A cheque for £1,446 presented at Barnacle to the Chairman and Treasurer of the local Rotary Club.





At Bishopton Hill the representative from Shakespeare Hospice receives a giant cheque for £2,800.

John, who is president of the National Council for Metal Detecting and Chairman of the Midlands Federation has had a very busy time recently as not only was he involved with the two charity events, he also organised an exhibition of metal detecting finds at the Prestigious medieval St Mary's Hall in Coventry as a part of the National Heritage weekend. The exhibition attracted 2206 visitors over the course of the

weekend and was heralded a major success, so much so that the Federation has already been invited back to next years event.

And it is hoped even more midland clubs will participate.

A few weeks later, following an invitation from Warwick County Council's Historical Environment Record office, The Midlands Federation, represented by John and two committee members from Coventry Heritage Detector Society, attended an event at the Historic Warwick School. This event wasn't open to the general public, but attracted representatives from various archaeological and historical Societies.

There were several interesting displays as well as talks given throughout the day. One of the talks, given by Kevin Watson of CADAS, (Coventry



Kevin Watson speaking at Warwick



View 1 of the Great Hall at St Mary's



A view inside the Draper's Room at St Mary's



View 2 of the Great Hall at St Mary's



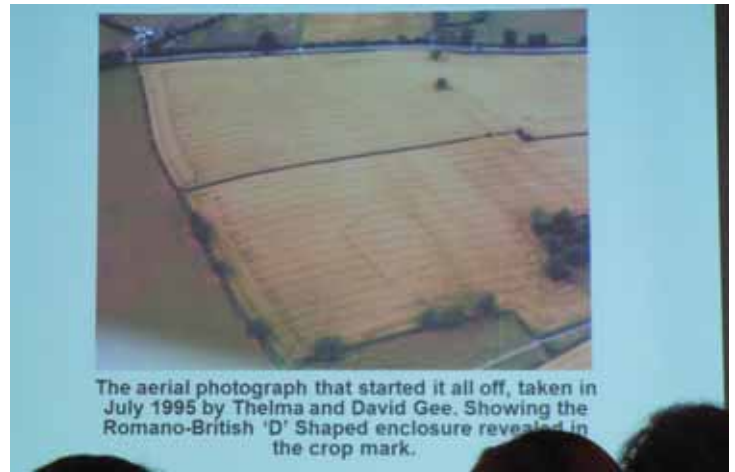
The Midlands Federation & Coventry Heritage Detector Society display.

and District Archaeological Society) was on a Romano British site at Broadwell in Warwickshire.

A Lottery funded team was established by CADAS members following the appearance of a crop mark on an aerial photograph taken in 1966. The team is known as BAIT (Broadwell Archaeological Investigation Team). The aerial photograph outlined an area which it is believed was a Roman animal enclosure, but as several items of Roman Pottery, tessera and roof tiles have subsequently been found by BAIT team field walkers it seems likely that a high status building may have existed close by. The talk given by Kevin Watson was of special interest to the Coventry Heritage Detector Society as they were privileged recently to be invited by BAIT to carry out metal detecting searches on the site.

The searches which are ongoing have revealed Roman coins and brooches as well as other items of interest. This is a good example of how archaeologists and metal detecting enthusiasts can successfully work together to mutual advantage and it is hoped that more such initiatives can work in the same way in the future.

Of course, it goes without saying that these events don't just organise themselves and John and his team are to be congratulated on achieving such a good outcome, not only in terms of the money raised for worthy charities, but also for the good publicity that is gained for the hobby generally. There are many it seems who believe that metal detector enthusiasts are merely mercenary treasure hunters plundering our



The aerial photograph showing the enclosure at Broadwell.

national heritage. Sadly, the only detector finds reported in the national press concentrate on the monetary value of finds rather than the huge contribution that metal detector enthusiasts make to the better understanding of our nation's history.

**Alan Charlish**  
Coventry Heritage Detector Society

## Illicit Metal Detecting

### A suggested approach to dealing with the problem by a metal detecting club

Times are changing and whether you agree with this policy or not we have to accept, adapt and follow good practise as members of the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) and as Club members or individuals we must all be responsible metal detectorists.

Background – The National Council for Metal Detecting has for some time been a member of the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH). The ARCH initiative was developed as a direct response to the alarming increase in heritage crime of varying types, from theft of metal from churches and other historic buildings to vandalism, theft or damage to historic monuments or the illicit use of metal detectors. The lead body for ARCH is English Heritage and the programme is led by a former Police Chief Inspector, Mark Harrison appointed as their National Policing and Crime advisor. ARCH is made up primarily of those organisations which have legislative or enforcement powers to deal with heritage crime issues and supported by other interested groups including the NCMD. All have an agreement to work towards a common aim of seeking to reduce the problems of heritage crime and ensure that prevention

and if necessary prosecution is undertaken at every opportunity.

Illicit Metal Detecting - is a very small part of the overall Heritage Crime burden, but is considered by the NCMD and all responsible metal detectorists, to be theft and so needs to be tackled head on with the same vigour as with other aspects of Heritage Crime. Using a metal detector in a protected place is an offence whilst using one on private land without the permission of the landowner is theft and is considered by the Police as going equipped to steal.

Actions – after discussions between NCMD Officers and Mark Harrison, the following action and procedures against illicit metal detecting have been suggested. Initially this will take the form of reporting incidents of unauthorised metal detecting, taking place on protected or private land, to the Police and where possible to the landowners. Not all detectorists are members of the NCMD, but it has been agreed that anyone convicted of illicit metal detecting will be expelled from the NCMD.

Heritage Crime Officers – Representatives from most Police Forces now have dedicated Heritage Crime Officers. The current advice is to dial 999 for on-going incidents where people are

seen detecting on land for which it is known that they do not have permission to be on, or using the 101 number services to report evidence where illicit detecting has taken place. As with most crime enforcement strategies, intelligence gathering plays a major role and it is vital that the relevant Police Officers are contacted when responsible detectorists become aware of an illicit detecting incident taking place or has recently occurred, particularly on land where they have permission to be. This approach has resulted in the arrest and conviction of several criminals who used metal detectors as a tool of their trade to raid archaeological sites or private land. Most of these incidents have involved attacks on Scheduled Monuments, archaeological excavations or private land during the night, but incidents of individuals targeting non protected sites or farmland during daylight hours have been noted. Tackling the latter incidents has in most cases been due to the vigilance of landowners or their employees and also metal detectorists who have permission to detect the area, coming across the trespassers and reporting their actions to the Police.

The Grantham Search Club – As a group of responsible metal detectorists and active members of

the NCMD, will make every effort to tackle these issues in conjunction with landowners and farmers. All members are charged with reporting any illegal activities or incidents they observe to the Police rather than seek to challenge any trespassers. Generally this is a low key problem within this area of Lincolnshire, but other parts have seen increased activity in recent months. There is a general agreement that responsible detectorists, with permission, are often best placed to act as a deterrent for illicit detecting as well as being extra eyes for spotting other criminal activities such as hare coursing and fly tipping.

A recent article, by the PC Jon Radcliffe Country Watch Officer from the Hampshire Constabulary, in the NCMD Digging Deep magazine issue 11, brings home with clarity the severity of being suspected of detecting illegally and the consequences that follow: arrested and locked in a police cell, whilst a warrant to search your house is executed, your detecting equipment, finds and vehicles seized, with the end result being a court appearance. He concludes with a very telling statement – is it worth it.

**Grantham Search Club**



# Reporting Hammered Coins In Scotland

Lesley Sleith, Chair of the NCMD Scottish Region has been in discussion with Dr Natasha Ferguson of the TTU regarding the possibility of online recording of the more common hammered coins which tend to turn up so that the assessment process can be speeded up.

Dr Ferguson has agreed that it will be possible to record some categories of coins remotely, such as the more common Edward

pennies and Elizabeth I coins, provided the quality of the photo is good. There is no formal process agreed but finders can send an image via email to the TTU at [info@treasuretrovescotland.co.uk](mailto:info@treasuretrovescotland.co.uk) and it will then be examined. As with any other find however, the TTU may require to take a closer look at the coin and in such cases, they will therefore ask for it to be deposited with them for detailed assessment.

If sending an image, it is important to have a neutral background and some kind of scale or reference. The TTU cannot accept dark or blurred photos for recording purposes and

in terms of image size, they would be looking for 500kb – 1Mb. Anything greater or lesser than this range will be unsuitable.

**NCMD Scottish Region**

## MEETING DATE

**Next NCMD meeting will be on the  
16th February 2014**

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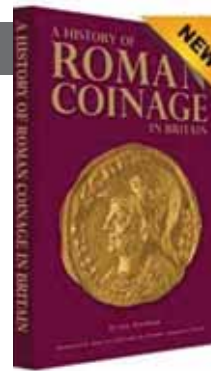


# A History of Roman Coinage in Britain

By Sam Moorhead

Price £25.00

Available from Greenlight Publishing



This book by Sam Moorhead has been eagerly awaited, based on the series of 22 articles written by Sam in Treasure Hunting magazine between 2008 and 2011.

The book is A4 in size and contains some 1600 colour photographs of coins, both obverse and reverse. There are also 30 maps showing the distribution of coins in the UK. The book illustrates the Roman coinage of Britain from the Republican period of 300BC to the 5th Century AD.

Chapter one covers the importance of recording Roman coinage, even the 'grots' that most of us have found over the years and which help to build up the distribution pattern throughout the UK. One of the most interesting chapters (Chapter II) explains the Roman currency system and explains the denominations used during specific periods of Roman history. This is followed by a list of emperors and the chapters where they can be found. Most emperors and empresses are covered in the book and I cannot stress enough the quality of the extremely good coin photographs that accompany them.

For most emperors or dynasty a distribution map of where their coins were found is included, and this provides some interesting comparisons of find spots recorded with the PAS. During the period 275-285 we find many of the barbarous radiates that so frequently turn up on Roman sites in the UK and a good sample are illustrated here. Of particular interest to me was the chapter on the Britannic Empire of Carausius and Allectus. Many of the coins have become familiar to me over the years particularly of Allectus, which seem to turn up most frequently on one of my sites.

This is a book that you can delve into time and time again when coins of specific dynasties or emperors turn up, and is certainly not a book that is used purely for identification; rather it provides the reader with an insight into each period of Roman history and its monetary system, something not normally found in

Roman coin books. In short it is a book that not only provides the reader with the information to evaluate a coin, but is also an informative read. An excellent book; and with Christmas coming

up, a great present for anyone interested in Roman currency and history I can thoroughly recommend.

Trevor Austin



Emperor / Empress	Date	No. of Coins
Macrinus and Diadumenian	217-8	19
Elagabalus	218-22	260
Julia Soaemias	218-22	41
Julia Paula	219-20	14
Aquila Severa	220-1	3
Julia Maesa	218-early 220s	80
Severus Alexander	222-35	535
Julia Mamaea	222-35	197
Orbiana	c.225-7	9
Maximinus I	235-8	84
Maximus Caesar	235-8	8
Balbinus	235-8	5
Pupienus	235-8	3

**Table 1.** League table of emperors and empresses for the period, as recorded on the PAS Database, giving an indication of relative rarity.