

Digging deep

NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

ISSUE 1

All the latest news from the National Council for Metal Detecting

Welcome to our new look newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of 'Digging Deep' our quarterly newsletter – and about time do I hear you all say? Well I very much agree and our eventual goal is to have the newsletter delivered direct to every member's home.

There is a growing need for an NCMD interactive newsletter where members/clubs and Regions can showcase their finds or simply tell others what they are doing. It will also provide a vehicle whereby information and updates on metal detecting issues can be

disseminated on a regular basis to supplement the magazine **NCMD News Bulletins**. It was the foresight of the late Bob Baldock that started this journey some years ago, beginning with the pilot *News and Views* to assess the need for a more comprehensive

and inclusive format. Thanks to the expertise and support of *The Searcher*, Bob's idea has come to fruition.

The idea is a dynamic one and *Digging Deep* will evolve to meet the needs of metal detecting and the NCMD. Above all it is your newsletter and its success is in your hands. So please, if you have a question, an event or just want to share a great find please contact **Trevor Austin direct at: trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk or your regional representative.**

Steve Critchley, Chairman

Log on and get up-to-date!

You can log-on to the NCMD website at www.ncmd.co.uk. Here you will find information on the benefits that the NCMD offers its members. Including the latest Insurance certificate and terms and conditions, an archive of past NCMD documents, updates on the Crown Estate beach permit scheme and the latest news from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

You will also be able to download information relating to the law on Treasure and the Voluntary Recording Scheme. In fact everything you need to know about the NCMD and the hobby.

The NCMD also has a member's only forum, where you can log on and discuss the latest on a wide range of topics pertaining to the NCMD and the hobby of metal detecting.



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The Robin and Karolyn Hatt Memorial Competition

Now is the time to start thinking about this year's competition!

It is based on finds made by card-holding NCMD members during the complete calendar year, 1 January to 31 December 2008. The three categories are Best Coin, Best Artefact and Best Hoard.

In the Coin and Artefact categories, club members will have their entries go through two levels of selection. The first at club level with the winners going through to the regional competitions, the winners of which will be entered into the National Finals.

The latest for winners of the club competitions to be judged at



regional level is September/October, in order for the regional representatives to bring their overall winners to be finally judged in November, or you can attend the meeting in person (at your own expense) if you wish.

For individual NCMD members who are on the Associate Member's List, and those clubs who are on the Central Register, entries to the Coin and Artefact section of the national competition should be made initially to the Competitions Manager (Hilary Fagen), who, from the combined entries, shall select one each of coin and artefact to go forward to the national finals. See below for full contact details.

Best Hoard Category

There are no local or regional selections for this category. Competition entries for all hoards recovered by card-holding members, may be submitted by

their finders to the Competitions Manager.

This should be in writing and accompanied by a clear, good quality photo of the hoard.

The Competitions Manager will decide upon the eligibility of each entry and will request any further information required from finders.

There is no limit of hoards which can go forward to the national finals.

Information Required by all finders in all Categories

About the Finder: Name, Card No. approximate age, home address, (not for publication), title of Region and Club (or relevant details for Individual Associate members or Central Register Clubs).

It would be helpful to any additional information about the find, a brief but accurate identification and description,

approximate recovery date, (month will do), general area of recovery - county or parish, type of site i.e. plough/pasture/parkland/beach and any other significant information which would be incorporated in articles published after the Competition.

There have been some wonderful finds made last year, and I look forward to seeing a varied and full selection of entries displayed on the Competition table - let's make judging difficult...

Hilary Fagen

Please contact me if you need further information in the meantime good luck and good searching!

Hilary Fagen
Competition Manager
 alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk
 01253 312176

DCMS PRESS RELEASE

Trevor Austin is reappointed as a member of the Treasure Valuation Committee (TVC)



April 2009

Barbara Follett, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Trevor Austin has been reappointed as Finders Member of the Treasure Valuation Committee. His term of appointment will run from 25 March 2009 to 24 March 2013.

Biographical notes

Trevor Austin serves as General Secretary of the National Council

for Metal Detecting (NCMD). He became involved in metal detection in the 1970s and then in 1990, he became a member of the NCMD as a delegate for the Yorkshire Region. He was elected to the Office of Assistant General Secretary of the NCMD in 1993 and later, in 1997, he became General Secretary. He has also served as Secretary to the Yorkshire Region from 1990; a position he still holds. He first became involved with the Treasure Act when Lord Perth introduced his Treasure Bill into the House of Lords, and attended every meeting in the consultation process until the enactment of the Treasury Act 1996. He was a major consultee prior to the introduction of the pilot scheme for the voluntary reporting of portable antiquities. He writes

extensively in the metal detecting press. He has undertaken no political activity during the past five years.

Background

The TVC is a specialist advisory public body. Its task is to advise Ministers on the fair market valuation of declared Treasure finds made by the public in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which museums wish to acquire.

TVC members advise Ministers of the following specific issues: i) the value of each Treasure find (on the basis of willing buyer/willing seller), ii) where there are grounds for reducing the award to a finder or a find site owner, or paying no award at all, and iii) best practice in other aspects of Treasure,



including the treatment of finds, and the apportionment of awards between interested parties.

TVC members give their services on an honorary basis. Committee members' travelling expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties, are reimbursed.

This reappointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

DCMS
www.culture.gov.uk

Coroners and Justice Bill

and the provision for a dedicated Treasure Coroner

The Coroners and Justice Bill has been making slow progress through the parliamentary system. As far back as 2005 the NCMD took part in consultations as part of a review of the role of Coroners and in 2006 proposals were made to create a single Coroner to deal with all Treasure cases in England and Wales. This much needed change would go a long way to reducing the frequent and at times frustrating delays experienced by finders in the processing of Treasure finds.

After much delay, the bill had its first reading in The House of Commons in January, much to the disappointment of the NCMD the Government had decided not to adopt a single Coroner for Treasure. With no movement during the second and third readings, the NCMD lobbied ministers, hoping for a second chance at amending the bill during its passage through the House of Lords. On its second reading Lord Howarth of Newport addressed the house;

(Source Hansard) "My Lords, the Bill raises momentous constitutional, judicial and ethical issues which are being debated with your Lordships' customary incisiveness. I shall just consider one item from the extensive menu that the Bill presents, and that is the issue of treasure. The Minister reminded the House earlier that, since the 12th century, coroners

have had responsibility in relation to treasure. It is therefore perhaps not unreasonable that, in the 21st century, we should update the legislation. We should not be impetuous in these matters, but we should not be dilatory either... today my noble friend told the House that the Government would reinstate in the legislation the provision for a single national coroner for treasure for England and Wales... The draft provisions on treasure were widely supported when they were presented, as certainly will be the Government's change of heart announced today. Already, it has been generously welcomed by the noble Lord, Lord Kingsland, from the opposition Benches. It will be very much welcomed by the all-party group and the Society of Antiquaries, and by the British Museum ... It will be welcomed as well by the National Council for Metal Detecting, which represents the vast majority of people who actually make finds of treasure."

Although there are three other proposed amendments to the bill being considered (two of which have the support of the NCMD), this was by far the most important for finders.

Details of the bills passage and discussions can be found on the Parliamentary website at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/coronersandjustice.html>

Crown Estate

Beach Permit Scheme

As many of you will be aware the Crown Estate are in the process of updating their website to provide a permit to metal detect on beaches that Crown Estate control.

Anyone wishing to obtain a permit will be able to log on to the Crown Estate website and apply online.

Currently their website advises applicants that there is a £20 administration fee, however after the NCMD met with The Crown Estate last year this fee was waived and the terms and conditions amended (see NCMD website).

The Crown Estate has informed the NCMD that there have been

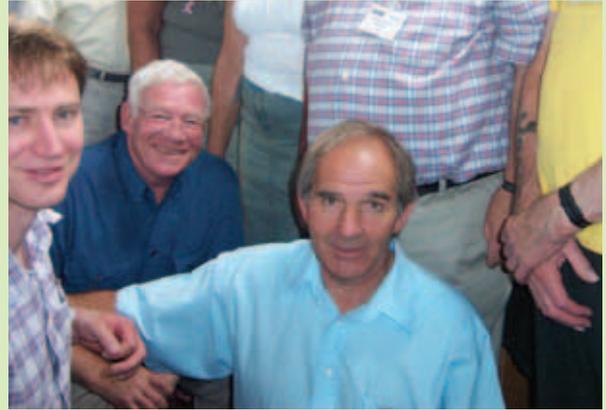
some unexpected resource delays in putting the application online. However anyone applying for a permit in writing will not be charged a fee for the permit and it is expected that the delays with the online permit will be rectified shortly.

In the meantime, anyone wishing to apply for a permit should contact:

Iain Mills, Coastal Manager
The Crown Estate
16 New Burlington Place
London W1S 2HX
020 7851 5267
Iain.Mills@thecrownestate.co.uk



OBITUARY



It was with great sadness that the NCMD reported in April the death of one of its most respected officers, Bob Baldock the NCMD Vice Chairman and Midlands Region Secretary.

I first became aware of Bobs talents in the 1990's, when as General Secretary we discussed the Coventry Loal Authority Permit Scheme, which, thanks to Bob's efforts is still in place today.

From 2003, when Bob began attending NCMD meetings his analytical approach did not go unnoticed and in 2005 was elected as Vice Chairman. This role gave him the opportunity to be one of the voices on such bodies as the PAS steering committee and recently as an observer on the Nighthawking Survey. Bob's intelligent inputs and observations were an asset when promoting the organised hobby of metal detecting in this country at the highest levels.

It will be difficult to replace Bob, both in the Midlands Region and on the NCMD Executive Committee, his calm and collective approach being one of his outstanding virtues.

Trevor Austin

MEETING DATES

8 November	NCMD Executive meeting
12 August	TVC Meeting
11 December	Portable Antiquities Advisory Board (PAAG) meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

For membership enquiries contact the Membership Secretary: **John Rigby**
6 Arkholme Ave
Blackpool, Lancs, FY1 6QJ
Tel: 01253 692313
jjrigby@sky.com

For all other enquiries please contact the General Secretary: **Trevor Austin**
51 Hilltop Gardens
Denaby, Doncaster, DN12 4SA
Tel: 01709 868521
trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk

Common Land?

One of the most frequent letters I receive concerns the use of 'common land'. Here I will try to explain its origins and uses.

People usually refer to 'common land' as a piece of land in public ownership which anyone can enjoy access to. Neither of these is true. All common land is private property, whether the owner is an individual or a corporation. Land must be registered as a common to enjoy such status. It is also a popular misconception that anyone has the right to enter 'Common land'. Under the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 this may be so, but the law as it is applied is often the same as for any other piece of land in private ownership, except for a small number of people who still possess commoner's rights.

The law on Common Land dates back to 1285 when it was decided to fence off surplus land which was outside the 'commoners' needs. However this caused much conflict between landowners and commoners and was finally amended under the Law of Commons amendment Act 1893. This has now been abolished but some do still survive to the present day. In 1965 an attempt was made to record all common lands, their owners and rights. However many failed to register and some have been de-registered.

So how do we stand today? There are about 375,000 hectares (source DEFRA) of registered common land in England; from DEFRA sources we know that:

1,900 commons have no known owners.

1,740 commons (other than the 47 in the ownership of traditional estates) are in private ownership,

679 have private owners for parts of the land,

1,230 are owned by parish and other councils and

431 are owned by a variety of organisations including charities, trusts etc. Many commons have multiple owners.

However we should treat this with caution as DEFRA says that these figures are substantially out of date. Common land is subject to 'rights of common', for example, the right to graze certain stock or the right to collect wood or turf. These rights belong to individuals (the 'commoners'), not to everyone. Often the rights have died out, and a common has no commoners; or if the commoners exist they no longer exercise their rights. However, most common land is privately owned, and as such, current laws apply to common land in the same way as to any private land.

To put things in to a more realistic perspective, at present, the general public only has right of access to common land if it is an urban common or is crossed by a public footpath. All common land is registered and you can see the register at your local county council or metropolitan borough council.

It is not advisable to assume that because a piece of land may be termed 'Common' or 'The Common' that this is its true status.

The simple solution to the question about common land, as far as metal detecting goes, is to assume that all land has an owner and even if the land has 'common rights', the rights do not include the right to metal detect.

Trevor Austin

Membership

Did you know that **you do not have to be a member of a club to be eligible to join the NCMD?**

We also have a large number of individual members who for whatever reasons, cannot or do not wish to join a club.

Individual members receive the same NCMD benefits as club members, with liability insurance of £10,000,000 a newsletter posted directly to your door, representation at NCMD Executive

meetings and the knowledge that the NCMD are always just a phone call or email away.

To find out how you can become a member of the country's largest metal detecting organisation, please contact the membership secretary John Rigby at jjrigby@sky.com or by phone **01253 692313**.

Alternatively you can visit the NCMD website at www.ncmd.co.uk

Recording the Past:



How different European countries deal with portable antiquities

7 September 2009

BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum

Provisional Programme

This conference aims to gain a wider understanding of how different European countries deal with portable antiquities (archaeological small finds) found by members of the public and promote best practice amongst finders. The key questions that speakers will address are: whether there is a legal requirement for finders of portable antiquities to report archaeological objects and whether the state claims ownership of them; whether it is permissible to search for such finds with a metal-detector or by other means; how many people (in that country) are known to search for archaeological objects (legally or not); how many objects are reported each year; and whether the systems in place (in that country) work as well as they

could or whether improvements could be made. It is hoped the conference will help identify the main strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches adopted by countries across Europe, in order to draw conclusions as to how best to preserve an archaeological record of finds found, develop best practice, and find ways to educate the public about the importance of such finds for understanding the past.

Bookings: please send a cheque for £15 payable and your contact details to The British Museum to Claire Costin, Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. Tel: 0207 323 8618. ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Brighton & District MDC Rally

6 September at Plumpton

It will be a great day out on 60 acres of stubble fields.

Added bonus of cash prize tokens and a raffle!!

Ample parking, refreshments and toilets on site

Tickets are limited and are £12 pre-booked or £14 on the day (if available)

For information / bookings contact Barry Mason on **01273 - 582 515**

or

barry.mason@tiscali.co.uk

Club Charity Dig

Charity Detecting Day – 9 August 2009

New Farm, Hurlstone, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6BU (located on the A51 Chester to Nantwich Road)

Start 10:00-16:30 (Car Park opens 08:00). Price £10.00 pre booked, £12.50 on the day.

The event is being organised to raise money for the purchase of a PlayPump. Playpumps are an innovative way of providing clean water whilst children play.

Refreshments and toilets on site and a FLO in attendance.

Approximately 100 acres of farmland, close to the historic town of Nantwich.

Application forms available from rod.stokes@tiscali.co.uk

More info: Colin Sharratt, Crewe and Nantwich MDS.

07796 383824 or colin.sharratt@tiscali.co.uk

Yorkshire Region dig



Syd Hallam

How often do we arrive on a previously undetected club site, full of eagerness to discover what lies beneath? Only to find that the initial enthusiasm fades as pieces of lead and buttons etc seem to be the only trace of any previous activity.

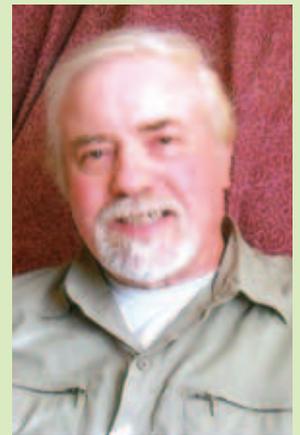
Such was the case on a recent Yorkshire Region post meeting dig. The site, which looked so promising, was just not delivering the goods. All I had to show for my eagerness was a few buttons, some lead dross and a few nondescript pieces of bronze.

However, as we all know, something of interest usually pops up unexpectedly to confound everyone. In this case, Syd Hallam had discovered a silver coin, which at the time was of unknown origin. Peter Spencer, one of our members, was on the field that day and so Syd showed Peter the coin. Peter thought the coin was Venetian, this was later confirmed after a word with May Sinclair of Spink. Armed with the information I did some research and discovered the coin was a Venetian Grosso of Pietro Ziani 1205 – 1229. obv. Christ enthroned. rev. Doge (L) receiving tall flag from St. Mark (R). DVX down flag staff.



A nice unusual find, which just goes to show what can be found on even the most unlikely sites!

Trevor Austin



Alan Lowton

It is with great sadness that the Yorkshire Region learned of the loss of one of its oldest members. Alan Lowton, was known to many in the Yorkshire Region, and more recently to those who read *The Searcher* as Old Al.

Alan was a long time member of the South Yorkshire Searchers MDC and in the 80s and 1990s was a regular on the Yorkshire Region outings.

SHRADS' Roman Coins



A hoard of Roman Coins was found by members of the Severn Vale Historical Research and Detecting Society late 2008.

Shrads Sites Officer Vick Francis said that "We can't disclose exactly where they were found for obvious reasons".

The coins have been examined by the British Museum and have been returned to the finders.

The hoard includes 41 Roman nummi, one radiate, one copper alloy pendant and one forgers mould. It is believed that the finds are from the 4th Century AD.

Caroline Barton acting treasure registrar at the British Museum

said the hoard had been assessed by the British Museum where the relevant specialist, Richard Adby had examined it.

In Mr. Adby's opinion, the finds likely represent a gradual process of site losses over the course of a century, rather than a hoard.

Caroline Barton said that an inquest would not be necessary and the coins could be handed back to the finders.

Mr. Adby said: "This group of common 4th century coins comes with an intriguing set of objects. It is conceivable, but not entirely convincing, that the coins represent a small hoard of Constantine nummi whilst the group of Valentinianic/Theodosian nummi may be unrelated finds, or form a second hoard."

All of the items have been handed back to the farmer with thanks from SHRADS for permission to search his land.

Reciprocation

During a recent meeting of the Severn Vale Historical Research and Detecting Society (SHRADS), it was agreed to make a presentation to one of the farm families for their generous support over many years. Charles Smith, who is an amateur wood turner, offered to produce a bowl for the occasion.

All his work is made from freshly felled trees, part turned, and then left to dry naturally.

An ash bowl, the wood for which came from one of his detecting sites, was then re-turned and finished. By means of decoration, leaf veneers were added to the inside. These were cut from the same wood that the leaf represented.

Charles always signs his work on the base of his projects, adding the type of wood and its origin. A title is often included, which in this case he considered

'Reciprocation' to be appropriate. At a later meeting, SHRADS Chairman, Nick Keeler received the bowl and arrangements were made to meet at the farm. A representation of the society attended and the farmer was both surprised and delighted to accept the bowl on behalf of his family.



NORTH EAST REGION

A couple years ago Mel Hepple, our chairman of the Tyneside Metal Detecting Association, rang me and said he had received an e-mail from a large banking firm. He asked, as I was the Charity Officer, would I look in to it.

The email came from a merchant banker who had seen our website and was impressed with the amount of money we had raised over the years. The amount then stood at £12,000 + mainly for Cancer and Air Ambulance. Alan the banker, now retired, told me that he was a trustee of a number of good causes and lived in North Yorkshire, and would we be interested in raising money via

rallies, as he put it *"I can get the land if you can provide the detectorists"*. Well you can imagine the response we gave to Alan!

Mel and I decided to open the rallies only to members of The North East Region (he is Chairman and I am Treasurer) we wanted to control the digs as they would be one off's and did not want any bad publicity, each club was told as members of the NCMD to follow the Country Code and all finds would be on display.

We manage three rallies a year and this year owing to wet weather had to have three weeks of digs, had no complaints there then! The formula is we charge

£10 entry fee and they get a £3.50 voucher for their lunch (which is to die for!). Alan slowly roasts a huge slab of beef very slowly and carves it at the table into large buns, tea and coffee and loads of home made cakes etc. all cooked and served by the women of the village.

Our members usually fetch a bottle and this goes in to the very large raffle we have about 4pm. Finds are judged and the winner of the best find gets a trophy. This year alone in three rallies we have handed over £2,052.00 this would not have been possible if Mel had not done so much to make it all happen. He is a whiz kid with the computer and has

turned out professional brochures packed with photos maps etc. Also he talks with the farmers answering any questions and puts their minds at rest and gives them the very important Search Agreement. A gazebo has to be in place, tables, large display cabinet, raffle tickets etc. but he loves doing it and we all appreciate the hard work both he and Helga have done in the past and I hope the future.

As I write the total our Club has raised for various charities is £18,973.00 not bad I am sure you will agree.

**Peter Lawson
Charity Officer TMDA**

NORTH WEST REGION

A Close Shave!

I went detecting with two friends at a rally near Milnthorpe in Cumbria, organised by the Kendal Metal Detecting Club. It was a little cold, but a nice day for the time of year (November) when we started detecting. As the morning progressed we had sampled three or four of the many fields available to detect on without much success, just the odd burnt-out Georgian coin and the usual grot. By this time we had worked our way down to the bottom of the hill, the headquarters being at the top, and we decided to work two small fields adjoining each other. Things started to improve in the first one we tried, with an increase in good targets, but as it was nearly time

for lunch and the drawing of the raffle we trudged our way back to base. During our break we mulled over where to try next and settled for the two fields at the bottom of the hill again, this time taking the car to save us another climb (clever stuff or what!). Anyway we carried on where we left off, finding more Georgian and Vicky coins, two nice buckles and other items of no interest whatsoever to anyone except crazy metal detectorists'. Going into the second field, which was smaller with a dyke running along one side, things were very much the same. It was now getting cold with not much detecting time left, and working my way back towards the

car along the side of the dyke I found it! But WHAT was it? Rubbing away the soil I could see it was some sort of scraping tool and called my pals over to take a look. I said that it had a 'Roman' look about it, but we came to the conclusion that with the finds from this site being either modern or Georgian, it was more likely to be some sort of tool for skinning rabbits or the like. That evening I scoured all my metal detecting books and trawled the internet trying to identify it, but to no avail. Convinced now it was relatively modern and considering that the edge was very corroded, I was going to throw it in my 'not quite made the grade' box. Something stopped me, a 'gut feeling' maybe, so I sent a photograph to Nick Herepath at Liverpool Museum asking for his help. When Nick replied I was amazed, he said I had found a bronze Double Loop Razor dating from the very end of the Bronze-Age/beginning of the Iron-Age (700BC), and quite rare. I have been a metal detectorist for over twenty years, and up until now have never found anything from the Bronze/Iron-age period, so you can imagine how pleased I am with this find. In closing I would just like to say that this find, which had lain in the ground for over 2,700 years waiting to be discovered, very nearly ended up in the rubbish box.

By Ken Phillips of the Blackpool & Fylde MDC

MIDLANDS REGION

From the Midlands Region, comes a nice socketed axehead, found by Roy Crick. The axehead dates from the late Bronze Age 900 – 700BC and as you can see from the picture, the cutting edge remains sharp. The axe is similar to South Eastern types which are characterised by their long slender body and square to rectangular mouth.

The axehead was found by Roy with his trusty Silver Sabre Plus on a club dig in Kenilworth and will be on show in Kenilworth Museum in the Abbey Fields from June.

Roy, who is retired, is 76 years young and has been detecting for 20 years. He has been a member of the Coventry Heritage Club for the past 15 years.



Bronze double-loop razor. This razor was found near Milnthorpe, Cumbria on pasture land. It dates from the very end of the Bronze Age to the beginning of the Iron Age, often referred to as the Hallstatt C period. (700 BC)
Thanks to Nick Herepath of Liverpool Museum for his help in identifying this find.



Late Bronze Age socketed axehead

King Charles' Bridle Decoration

A perhaps unique gilded harness decoration depicting the Arms of the House of Stuart has been found close to a large house in Epsom where King Charles II visited on at least two occasions – in 1662 and 1664.

The decoration was found in the vicinity of The Durdans by metal detector user Mark Davison and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Surrey FLO, David Williams.

John Evelyn writes in his diary under 1st September 1662: *"Being by my L: Geo: Berkely invited, I went to Durdens, where dined his Majestie, the Queene, Duke, Dutchesse, Prince Rupert, Pr: Edward, & aboundanc of Noble men."* The Duke referred to would have been the Duke of York.

The King's visit is also confirmed by Samuel Pepys who was prevented from visiting the Duke at St James' Palace owing to his

departure with the King. Mr Williams has described the find as *"absolutely gorgeous"* and said that while harness decorations and particularly bosses are reported frequently to the PAS this example is of the highest quality. It seems very likely that it became detached from one of the horses of the Royal Household in perhaps 1662 or 1664. The club is hoping to arrange for the horse boss to go on show at Bourne Hall Museum in Ewell, near Epsom.



Two silver coins from the Stuart period were found by other members of the Reigate-based East Surrey Research and Recovery metal detecting club during the search in January of this year.

Mark Davison

Brighton and District MDC

The Brighton and District Metal Detector Club has been active since the mid 70s and we continue to meet on the first Tuesday of every month in a local pub in Brighton.

These last few months we have been kept busy with a group of media students from Brighton University, who have been making a documentary about metal detecting, in which they chose our club to participate. They have attended our meetings, and accompanied us on a recent dig where they interviewed several members of our Club in order to gain a perspective of our hobby. They are due to return to a forthcoming meeting and present us with the finished result.

Our Annual General Meeting came

and went, with all present committee members being re-elected, including myself being re-elected as Chairman. Our Find of the Year is separated into two categories, coin and artefact. J. Eason, who presented the Club with a beautiful gold stater and a fine example of a Bronze Age palstave axe head. He won the £25.00 prize for each.

During their Science and Technology week at Mile Oak County Primary School, Brighton, members of the Club visited the school, showing children how detectors work and treating them to a coin shoot in the school grounds. This visit was arranged after Roger Mintey, Chairman of LEGISE:NCMD(SR) contacted Dave Smith, our very own Site

Officer who he met at a previous NCMD meeting.

We also had an interesting visit from Robin Hodgkinson from the Independent Historical Research Group. This is a voluntary group of detectorists who assist professional and amateur archaeologists in East Sussex on digs. Several members, myself included, have put our names forward to assist if needed, which could become a new and interesting venture for the club.

We, as a club, offer a free recovery service and our services have been called upon, for the first time this year, by a local farmer to help recover three hitch pins, lost while he was cultivating. We managed to recover two of the missing pins, both found by Pauline Bird, Club Member, with her Tesoro. This

kind of service provided by our club, is always good for the hobby and could possibly result in a new site for a future dig.

The next few months will be particularly active. We are putting on a display for the Rotary Club, which will take place at Bentley Wildfowl in July, and we are also preparing for our forthcoming Rally to be held in early September at Plumpton the details of which will be published in *Treasure Hunting* and *The Searcher* magazines. Along with club outings and a dig every Sunday, thanks to the sterling work of our Site Officer Dave Smith, there will be many a long suffering detectorist widow, awaiting our returns.

**Gordon Browne
Club Chairman**



New code of practice for Treasure Trove in Scotland

A new Code of Practice for Treasure Trove in Scotland was officially unveiled at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on 2 February, attended by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR), Norman McFadyen CBE and the Chair of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Advisory Panel, Professor Ian Ralston, of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh. The NCMD Scottish Region was represented by the Chair, Lesley Sleith and Treasurer, Des Donnelly.

Mr McFadyen said: *"Publication of the Code is a major step forward and will be of great interest, value and benefit to the diverse communities affected by it, whether they be in the field of museums or archaeology, metal detector users or indeed members of the general public with an interest in Scotland's Heritage."*

"Treasure Trove has to date been an obscure area. The concept is well known, but the detail is not. In particular, there is a lack of

public appreciation that there is a difference between the applicable law and the practical systems in Scotland and England. I am very grateful to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Advisory Panel for the care which they have taken in producing the first comprehensive Code of Practice for Treasure Trove."

Ian Ralston added: *"The Panel hopes that the Code – available at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04114930/0 and in*

printed form – goes a long way to explain the steps taken to ensure objects are allocated to public museums the length and breadth of Scotland – and that finders are properly recognized for their responsible actions in notifying their discoveries to the Treasure Trove unit. Metal-detectorists and the general public who discover any archaeological objects – not simply those of precious metal – can enrich our national collections in significant ways."

Prestonpans Battlefield Survey

At the end of February 2009, volunteers from the Scottish Detector Club and the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group assisted in carrying out an evaluation survey on the outlying areas of the site of Prestonpans battlefield. This was the first phase of an investigation being carried out by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at

Glasgow University with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust.

The Trust is campaigning to have the site of the 1745 battle – regarded by many as Bonnie Prince Charlie's finest hour – properly protected and interpreted for visitors. Further phases are expected to focus on detecting the

actual battle site and the gardens of willing residents whose homes were built on or near the site to try and uncover evidence of the battle.

The results of the first phase are still awaited, but it is doubtful if any significant finds have emerged, particularly as the area is known to have been previously detected over many years.

Alastair Hackett

Appointment of Office Bearers for 2009/10

The following members were elected:

Chairman: Lesley Sleith

Vice Chairman: Jackie Lihne

Treasurer: Des Donnelly

Secretary: Alastair Hackett

All current office-bearers indicated a willingness to continue in office, and there being no other nominations, all 4 posts were proposed for re-election by Nigel Goldsmith, seconded by Thomas Romeo.

Scottish Community Archaeology Conference

16th - 17th May 2009

The 2009 Scottish Community Archaeology Conference took place on the 16th and 17th May at Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh.

The conference was organised by East Lothian Council and Archaeology Scotland, and the Scottish Detector Club (SDC) was invited by the Heritage Officer, East Lothian Council, to present a 'workshop' session as part of the conference proceedings. The Club has had a very good working relationship with the Heritage Officer over many years, and we were pleased to accept this opportunity to promote an aspect of our work that many may not have previously considered. The workshop was led by Alastair Hackett, Club Secretary, and assisted by David Connolly, Director, British Archaeological Jobs Resource (BAJR). David is also a member of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP).

The workshop focussed on metal detecting as a means of enhancing artefact retrieval, and the general aim was to highlight the advantages of engaging the expertise of skilled volunteer metal detectorists before and during excavation work where such detecting was considered relevant to the community archaeology project. Main topic headings included:

- Potential advantages
- Assessing the appropriateness of the project for metal detecting
- Physical limitations of sites
- Limitations of detecting equipment
- Appropriate usage of detectorists during a project
- Aspects of the Treasure Trove system

Attendees were also made aware of the existence of the Scottish Region's 'sister' Club, the Scottish Artefact Recovery Group (SARG), which has always been happy to assist with site surveys within its geographic area.

Additionally, the SDC manned a display stand for the duration of the conference, exhibiting finds and literature, and overall, there was considerable interest generated which, we believe, made the exercise worthwhile and illustrated how we can work successfully with amateur and professional archaeology groups alike.

Metal Detecting, Scheduled Monuments and The Law

Over the past year, the Scottish Region has been working with Historic Scotland to revise their advice leaflet '**Metal Detecting: Yes or No?**' which clarifies the current position scheduled monuments and the law. The advice leaflet is now available online at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/metal_detecting.pdf

GPS Helps TTU

Loch Leven is in the middle of Kinross-shire and the road journey around the loch is 10 miles long. This is where I have concentrated all my detecting since 2004. Settlements around the loch include prehistoric forts, roundhouses, souterrains, crannogs, castles, medieval villages and many early ecclesiastical sites. The Pictish Kingdom of Forteviot, which included the land around the loch, provided the monks with the means to build a priory. Their priory was built on the island of St. Serf, which is situated in the middle of the loch.

All my metal detecting surveys carried out within the first few years produced only routine finds. Hammered coins, medieval pins and the odd jetton for example. Very few finds made were claimed by the Treasure Trove process. However, in the summer of 2006 this was all about to change. An almost silent field produced my very first hoard, a late Bronze Age founder's hoard. It was a scattered hoard covering a small part of this particular field. In 2008 the hoard site produced a further three late Bronze Age artefacts. During these four years I had used a hand held GPS to record each finds find spot. Doing this has proved to be an invaluable habit. Stuart Campbell,



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administrator with the Treasure Trove Unit, has plotted all finds made on a map, and, built up a very good picture of this areas importance. I have been given many hints from Stuart as a result of his work, including locations where certain important new finds could be, or, were very likely to be found. Each and every hint from Stuart has indeed produced very good results, and, his every word has come true. Four further areas within this sites location have produced Bronze Age material. A lot can be said for working WITH the authorities. Professor David Munro has informed me he will find a good use for Stuart's very important work. He intends displaying it in the yet to be completed Kinross Museum. This brand new museum is due to open to the public this coming October, and, will become a great addition to all the museums we presently have in Scotland.

My recording of finds made, and, contacts with the Treasure Trove Unit have had many hidden benefits. Becoming involved with the Treasure Trove 'Code of Practice Launch,' in February of this year. Other benefits have been becoming involved in Historic Scotland's 'Code for Metal Detectorists Launch' in April of this year, filming for the BBC2 television program Landward (not many metal detectorists are given an interview for a television program!) becoming the very first Scottish metal detectorist to win an NCMD Karolyn Hatt Trophy is another benefit, and, my most prized benefit!

Jim Crombie Sc