

THE ARCHAEOLOGY & METAL DETECTING

MAGAZINE **LOCKDOWN** ISSUE



XP RUCKSACK REVIEW



NCMD—THE EARLY HISTORY

THE CAVALIERS TREASURE

SIREN KIMMIE— A SHINEY NEW DETECTOR

THE CURSE OF OAK ISLAND BY RANDALL SULLIVAN REVIEW

FROM GHOST HUNTER TO TREASURE HUNTER !





'UK IN LOCKDOWN' - Who would have possibly believed a headline like that just a few months ago ? Crazy days indeed.

This magazine was originally due to go to print for the Spring Detectival event and would have been distributed free to all attendees of the event—With that event having been put on hold for the foreseeable we have pressed ahead and decided to release a PDF version instead.

A BIG thank you to Gary from XP, Wiola and Arek of Rutus, Graham of composite cleaning pencils, Dilek and Nokta Makro and of course Pete of LP > Without whom we would not be able to produce these magazines—and also thank you to the NCMD.

Another BIG thanks to all who have contributed to this and previous magazines and in no particular order a shout out to : Digger Dawn, Addicted To Bleeps, Mike Smith, Mike Haer, Kev Marchesi, Graeme Stokes, Niall Bailey, Julian Evan Hart, Tony Cawood, Arron Weedall, the Dubays, Ken Samson, Andrew Jones, Barry Lawton, Ray Warren Child, Stephen Grey, Siren Kimmie, Lance Goolsby, Tim Le vine and many, many more that have contributed in whatever way to what we do at archmdmag.com If have not included you in the list above—Next issue I promise :)

This PDF version of the magazine is an altered version of the original publication as some stories now not being relevant and a few others that we have decided we want to save for whenever we are able to make our next printed edition. Some articles read as if the event itself is still 'on' . Some of the images within the magazine are not high resolution enough to appear perfect when printed—they are OK but not perfect but again if the magazine was having a print run this would have been remedied. This issue is not what it would have been but we hope it is an enjoyable read none the less.

Luke and Dave.



" M M M M M..... I just can't wait for Dave to start talking detecting every Thursday LIVE at 8pm on Sreaker on The BIG UK Detecting Radio Show and I am sooooo excited I can see Dave and guest in person on youtube each week"

Debbie—regular listener (Honest)



DETECTING TV & RADIO SHOW

THE UK'S ONLY METAL DETECTING RADIO SHOW—LIVE EVERY THURSDAY AT 8PM ON SPREAKER & WATCH THE SHOW TV STYLE ON YouTube

The B I G Metal Detecting TV and Radio show airs LIVE EVERY THURSDAY @8pm.

Since launch the show has featured Celtic Chariot finder Mike Smith, the finder of the Leekfrith hoard Mark Hambelton, Kevin Randle the author of the official history channels 'Curse Of Oak Island' book, treasure Hunting magazines Julian Evan Hart, Pete Turrell of Leisure Promotions , Dilek Gonulay from Nokta Makro, Addicted to Bleeps, Digger Dawn and many more personalities from the world of metal detecting.

You can watch the show air live on : the Reality of Metal Detecting—UK Dirtfishing youtube channel or live on the facebook page of the archaeology and metal detecting magazine and numerous detecting facebook groups.

The audio version is LIVE on spreaker bu searching for the 'B I G podcast network on Spreaker.

The shows are interactive and YOU can ask questions that will be displayed on screen for the host and guests to see as well as the other viewers.

COME AND JOIN THE B I G GEST DISCUSSION IN DETECTING LIVE EVERY THURSDAY—THE B I G TV AND RADIO SHOW.



“I don’t think we could have easily anticipated what was to unfold that glorious weekend last April at the first official Spring Detectival 2019 in Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire. Which was hosted by The Metal Detectives Group’s Mark and Karen Becher and Leisure Promotion’s Peter Turrell and Ashley Kordowski”

Several weeks prior to the event, the buzz and excitement had started to settle into place amongst the metal detecting community though out all the social media, and day by day it approached. This would be the first big rally me and my wife Huntress Kimmie would ever attend and it certainly did not disappoint. You were allowed to camp that Friday night with detecting to follow for the next two days. With our car loaded up with all the amenities required for a full on weekend out in the field, we headed into the 3 hour journey. Spring Detectival here we come! As we drove to the destination, the roads became smaller as our excitement grew bigger. At last we had arrived! Greeted at the gate by the ever so friendly event marshals, we were directed to the registration tent to get our parking permit and wrist bands, we made it at long last.

It was still rather early in the day, and some event goers had already arrived with many more to follow. We parked up and made our way to the community area where there was a massive fire pit smack in the middle of all the food trucks, the main tent, and the mobile pub to give us a very warm welcome. There was really no one on site yet, as we were two of the few that had arrived, but immediately ran into a couple people that we knew from online conversations, but hadn’t yet put a face to, which was absolutely fantastic. As the day went by the hazy cloudy sky darkened as the fire pit began to roar with massive logs stoking the one and only heat source around on that very cool evening, in turn drawing everyone closer for the night’s festivities. Music was coming from the dj and dance floor area located nearby as muffles of campfire conversations created a real sense of comradery among friends and strangers alike. It didn’t matter what country you were from, or what detector you used, it was about metal detecting. We were all there for the same reason, to have fun and enjoy our hobby that we love so much. Nobody knew that the next day, that tomorrow, some of us would change the history of this antiquated town on the river Thames.

Saturday morning came as did the slow moving morning mist which blanketed the surrounding hills. Everyone was making their way to the start off line in the middle of the camping field. After some brief instructions from the master of ceremonies Mr. Becher, the horn blew and off went 100’s of detectorists set of on the adventure of a lifetime. The area was steeped in so much history, even having a massive Roman villa on the adjacent property next to the event, that we all knew something substantial would be unearthed this weekend.

Saturday morning came as did the slow moving morning mist which blanketed the surrounding hills. Everyone was making their way to the start off line in the middle of the camping field. Kim and I had planned to go to field 2, and we were about ten minutes behind the main pack of hunters, so we ventured in that direction. Upon arriving there we noticed a ploughed field in the distance of the pasture we were standing on, and decided to head that way. Half way to that field, and all of a sudden, there seemed to be a commotion at the end of where we were going to, with vehicles racing past us on the dirt road. The word quickly spread with people yelling a hoard was found through the landscape. We both quickly high stepped it directly to the spot, only to witness a taped off area and several people jumping up and down in excitement. Literally right before my eyes handfuls of hammered silver coins were coming up, and then it happened, the first gold noble. The cheers let out echoed through the valleys. This was one of several hoards to be found that weekend. I immediately began swinging my detector in close proximity, and got a very solid signal. About 4 inches down I discovered what seemed to be a silver necklace pendant, right next to this hoard! I yelled into the group, as there were several officials on location at this point, to show them what I had found. One of them came over, looked and held it, and said yes that is treasure. My heart was in my throat, had I really discovered something incredibly significant. I pulled out my mobile phone and videoed for several hours what was to unfold, watching gold coin after gold coin come up, and with each one another bellowing cheer you could probably hear for miles around. At this point the cordoned off area spread to about half of the field for investigatory purposes, and I went back to detecting. We spoke to many people that day, making new friends along the way, asking them if they had found anything so far. Some people hadn’t yet, but those that did showed me and Kim. One gentleman had went just inside a forest line for a half hour and came out with three silver Roman coins, another had found medieval sheath for a dagger, another found 3 bucket lister finds in less than an hour of metal detecting. I am very sure at this point, everyone of us knew that this land is holding more incredible finds.

That night after detecting was over, everyone communed at the centre of the events yet again, to warm themselves by the fire, have a well deserved celebratory beverage, and rub elbows with their peers.

Sunday morning came, same as Saturday’s, but with an additional spring in everyone’s step. The anticipation of what could happen today after all of the day prior findings, riddled everyone’s minds. The horn blew and once again hundreds of keen enthusiasts embarked on the day’s journey, wishing and hoping that one of their metal detecting dreams could come true. Many more items came up that Sunday. Kimberley found a nice array of coins and artefacts, as did I. We must have walked miles searching throughout this beautiful countryside, and finally we called it a day so we headed back to the main area. We said our goodbyes to whom was left, and ventured back to reality all well knowing that we had just participated in, and witnessed one of the most amazing discoveries we will ever see in our lifetime and hopefully this years Spring Detectival will bring equally exciting finds !

See you over the weekend— Scott and Kimmie Dubay.



A Shiny New Detector

Whether a seasoned “professional” or a beginner, we all started our detecting adventure the same way, awkwardly fumbling around the back garden with an excited grin plastered on our faces. I am oh so thankful I lacked the foresight to film my auspicious first time, sparing me from the abject humiliation of any witnesses. I shuffled around with the wide-eyed wonder of a two year old on cartoons. Swinging wildly I began to concentrate; listening for what might be a good target. The detector dinged and binged, flashing numbers more akin to a mad scientist contraption processing higher-math problems than anything I thought would suggest what metals were under the coil. Yet the potential had my mind whirring. I read the manual at least ten times, back to front, but had no idea what the detector was telling me. Only after months and months of practice did I memorize VDIs, perfect my swing, and train my ear.

Metal detecting is not something that just comes naturally; there is no metal detecting gene. While personality traits or abilities like patience and analytical thinking play a major role in success, the mechanics remain the same for everyone. Thankfully learning how to swing and knowing what to listen for is relatively straightforward. Because of this, the hobby has seen an influx of new enthusiasts. Likewise, manufacturers have responded to this demand with so-called, “turn on and go” machines. Though that term is a bit of a misnomer. New detectorists still need to learn the basic skills, no matter how easy a machine is to operate.

Last year Nokta Makro rolled out a new detector aimed at the beginner to intermediate market called the **Simplex+**. The name alone shouts “easy to use,” and in all fairness, it really is. However, I was shocked when customers reached

out in frustration citing faulty machines, when in actuality their problem rested solely on poor technique. When we say, “turn on and go” in the metal detecting industry it is intended the same as, for instance... a car. Sure, you can start it up and “head out on the highway,” but if you don’t know how to drive, or the rules and laws of the road, things could get *very ugly*.

Further, no matter how long you have been detecting, you can *always* learn something new. Going back to the Simplex+ example, there were also a number of complaints by seasoned detectorists who expected to waltz right in and have that almost-intimate relationship born from years of experience using their previous machine. It does not work that way. Metal detectors vary from model to model and from manufacturer to manufacturer. Everything from VDI and tones to frequency and the type of swing employed can be markedly different. Advanced detectorists who have been around for 20 or 30 years will tell you, each detector can have its own language and may be suited for specific environments, targets, and hunting styles.

When I reflect back not only to my first days as a new detectorist, but remember what it was like switching machines, I know how overwhelming it can be. In either situation, it is easy to become frustrated. The best advice would be to get out of your own way. Take a step back and start with the basics. Focus on mastering technique, or in the case of the advanced user, the swing required by your chosen new machine. Then get out and start digging *every target* to learn the tones. Do not waste time depth testing newly buried coins or running your machine through its paces to build confidence. And while YouTube videos and social media advice are great tools, in the end you have to hone your skills and learn how your machine speaks in your environment. Remember, just like any relationship, trust goes both ways. If you are not doing your part to learn the machine, it will not do its part to reveal the treasure. Get out there and dig, dig, dig! That’s when you will start to see your shiny new machine... Well, shine!

XOXO Siren Kimmie—Girls Rock Metal Detecting.



Lesser known YouTubers worth a watch.....

Digger Dawn , Anglo Celtic, England's history and Addicted to bleeps are examples of the big guns in UK Metal Detecting youtubers they produce entertaining videos each and every week

—But a lot of new and upcoming youtube channels are also well worth a watch and a subscribe !

Each issue we feature one of these channels and get to the people behind the videos.

So without further ado lets meet the first of our future youtube stars of British detecting....



Jamie Evans A.K.A Big Finds and Tom Evans A.K.A Small Finds have been life long friends who enjoy the hobby of metal detecting either on organised club digs or on their own permissions. They have a few very good permissions in the south east of England their most recent being extremely rewarding due to the history of the area with finds spanning from predecimal right through to Iron Age. This particular farm they have visited on four occasions with three finds currently going through the treasure act.

They first become interested in the hobby after watching The Curse Of Oak Island. The challenge of permission hunting, the thought of what they may find each time they go hunting as well as learning and understanding coins and artefacts and the history behind them is what makes them tick.

Away from metal detecting Jamie runs his own successful photography business as well as working as a coast guard. Tom Evans works part time at Herstmonceux castle and is currently building a portfolio as a pencil artist producing portraits.

They have created the YouTube channel BigFindsSmallFinds Metal Detecting UK after 8 months of detecting to document their finds and produce content showing their detecting adventures.

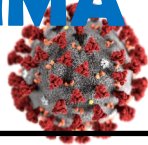
The idea behind the channel name is the difference between Jamie and Toms height as Tom has a rare form of dwarfism as well as scoliosis. Despite his conditions he manages to put them to one side to get out in the field and enjoy the hobby.

Although they have been detecting for a relatively short time they have found a considerable amount of coins and artefacts including a roman denarius, medieval jewellery and hammered coins. On top of this they have found just shy of a month apart from each other a gold quarter stater each. Jamies stater is a willets nipple from the regini tribe dating 60-20 BC. This coin is listed as rare because it has been struck from a miss matched die with only 49 previously found. Toms stater is a verica, little horse rearing from the atrebates and regini tribe dating AD 10-40.

This is just the beginning of their journey and as their progression continues it appears they will have many more stories to tell and finds to show. Their YouTube channel is becoming increasing popular and will continue to produce content for viewers.

Check out BIG finds , small FINDS on youtube

COVID 19 ENIGMA



BATS ARE BLAMED WHILST FAKE NEWS HAS SPREAD MORE QUICKLY THAN THE VIRUS HAS.

There have now been more than 436,000 cases of the virus around the world, as of March 25, 2020 and it shows no signs of easing up.

So far more than 19,600 people have died from the killer bug.

The infection broke out from Wuhan between 12th and 19th December 2019 and quickly spread around the world.

Chinese health officials have posited an animal origin for Covid – 19 with some of the first patients being employees at the Wuhan wet market.

A study in *the journal of medical virology* compared the genetic sequences of Covid-19 and likened it with all other known coronaviruses and suggested that, like SARS bats could be the origin of Covid-19.

It appears that at least initially that Chinese authorities sought to downplay the severity of the virus. Dr Li Wen reported his concerns and notified officials in December and was told by police to “stop making false comments” and was as a result investigated for ‘spreading rumours’. He has since died from the virus.

Written above are facts and theories I feel may be true but many theories have since appeared on social media that range from ‘possibly’ to the outright silly.....

A *withdrawn scientific paper* drew attention to the “uncanny” likeness to the virus to HIV-1 virus at a structural level and Chinese doctors have tried treating the virus with HIV medication.

Russian media outlets *without an ounce of proof* have blamed the US for Covid-19 claiming it is a biological weapon engineered by American scientists to weaken and destabilise China.

The Hal Turner show claimed videos of ‘people dying in the streets’ to be true—the *later debunked* as a mix of fake footage and footage from road accidents.

Another popular conspiracy is that China released the virus in order to control its population and instigate draconian measures over the population.

Claims have also been made that drinking hot tea or coffee, taking vitamin C and blowing a hot hairdryer up nostrils can kill the virus.

Some of the theories are interesting but one thing is for sure — however fast that the Coronavirus spreads the fake news spreads faster.....



THE WORLD'S LARGEST TREEHOUSE

Harvard Burgess began to create the world's largest tree bouse in the 1990's in East Tennessee and continue until the local fire authorities closed construction down.

Harvard said “ I got a message from God and He said ‘if you build me a treehouse I will make sure you never run out of wood’ When Noah built the Ark people were skeptic”

Sadly in 2019—It did catch fire and was destroyed.



Pareidolia—to see a pattern or similar object, often a face in an object often in clouds, tree trunks or rock.



THE CAVALIERS TREASURE

A warrior prince, lost treasure, a shape-shifting dog who became an army's sergeant major general, a stone heart and the devil in disguise – a motley crew that may have connections with Leek in Staffordshire.

This long and winding road travels from the Bronze Age to the English Civil war and, more recently to a hippy pop group of the That group, a 'prog rock' ensemble known as King Crimson, composed a song entitled Prince Rupert's Lament, referring to Prince Rupert of the Rhine, a nephew of King Charles, who was a cavalier soldier who headed the royalist army in and around England during that war.



Prince Rupert was the iconic Royalist cavalier of the conflict and was frequently the subject of Parliamentary propaganda. He owned the dog called Boy, who often accompanied Rupert into battle, featured heavily in this, and was widely suspected of being a Witches familiar.

Boy was also "able" to find hidden treasure, was invulnerable to attack, could catch bullets fired at Rupert in his mouth. Royalist soldiers also promoted the dog, as their adopted mascot to the rank of Sergeant Major General.

Reportedly, Boy had other endearing attributes, such as cocking his leg when he heard the name of John Pym, leader of the Parliamentary forces.

It is the dog's so-called magical abilities that connect it with an ancient site in Leek, known as Cock Lowe. This site between Waterloo Road and Spring Gardens was demolished (although I would describe it as destroyed) in 1907 despite protests.

Cock Low, recorded as 'Cattleslowe' in the later 16th century and as Cock Lowe or Great Lowe in 1723, probably dated from the Bronze Age.

In 1851, when it was described as 40 yards in

diameter and 18 feet in height, an excavation by William Carrington uncovered a flint implement and fragments of an urn and of human bone.

The mound was destroyed in the course of the development of the area, but an urn containing a cremation burial of the early or middle Bronze Age was discovered, as also a heart-shaped carved stone.

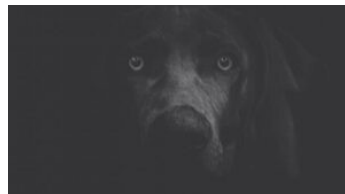
These had been missed by earlier excavators – but the mystery of

Prince Rupert, his treasure-hunting dog plus the King of England, remains. The cavalier prince knew of possible treasure to be found in the mysterious ancient mound that went by the name of Cattleslowe or Cocklow. And the question is – was this the 18 feet mound?

Rupert applied to his uncle, Charles 1st, to be granted a royal warrant for treasure trove at a lowe he named Cocklom in Staffordshire, that could very likely be Cocklowe. Many historians and other scholars agree.

In December of 1680 an application was made for a royal warrant to the Clerk of the Signet for a privy seal. It was for a grant to Prince Rupert, Count Palatine of the Rhine and Duke of Bavaria and Cumberland, of all and all manner of treasure trove of gold, silver and other things whatsoever hidden in or near the hill called Cocklom, co. Stafford, which shall be found within three years now next ensuing; with full power to them or such as they shall appoint to dig in or near the said hill during said term and to do all things which the King can lawfully authorise them to do in order to the finding the same; and to sue all persons in the King's name or the said Prince's who shall take away or withhold the said treasure contrary to the law or to this grant.

Whether this was acted upon or not is not known. A 1976 book by Leslie Grinsell entitled Folklore of prehistoric sites in Britain says: "Cock Low, Leek (map reference SJ 9855 approx), is a destroyed round barrow originally c 40 metres in diameter and c 5.5.m high; almost certainly the 'Cocklom' which was the subject of a treasure -digging authorisation issued to Prince Rupert c 1680."



It goes on to say that to this site may also relate to a tradition of a phantom dog – and perhaps this is a memory of the so-called supernatural dog.

Cocklowe was excavated by Thomas Bateman of Middleton Hall in Derbyshire on the 29th December, 1851; and a headmaster Samuel Carrington, who was present, described the operation : "We proceeded to excavate the Cock-low, a large barrow close to the town of Leek, measuring forty yards in diameter, and six yards in elevation, composed of sand only, and standing upon a floor of red sand, without any mixture.

In 1907 when Cocklowe was being demolished the Rev William Berrisford recorded that a double-lipped urn fell from the diggings; the urn broke into pieces but within there was a very rare heart-shaped stone, an iron ring, and a parcel of chopped-up animal bones along with what were considered parts of a child's skull. As the destruction carried on some large stones were pulled up from near the bottom of the mound – these had been arranged into something like a circle (the burial itself). Some of the stones were apparently painted red and blue which for a time were thought to be wode, but later disputed.

But the mystery does not end there. Apparently there was another lowe or burial mound in Leek also known as Cocklowe, or Cattleslowe. This was apparently around the site of Big Mill and Belle Vue – but of it there are no records.

By Doug Pickford



Awesome
Saxon Brooch
6-9th Century



"I cannot believe this machine only costs £299.. great build quality, super deep with lightning fast recovery speed.. Simple to use but performs like a pro. What's not to like about the SIMPLEX+!"

Sid Perry from Worcestershire UK
Metal detecting every opportunity for the past 10 years.

"I already had a Nokta Impact Pro which I found to be a very well made deep machine. I had seen the reviews of the Simplex+ and was stunned that it was giving such great performance for such a decent price. In addition to this, I liked the aesthetics of the design and especially the way it collapses down so neatly. I thought I would purchase one. On the 27th Of December myself and my detecting partner visited a pasture farm in Cumbria. His machine was on the blink so he was without his machine so I lent him the Simplex+ for him to try ...he really liked the Simplex and was amazed at the depths he was getting signals from. Over the next hour and half we found a total of 31 coins, all Henry VIII groats of second and third coinage. The coins were all approx. 8 - 10" deep, the Simplex+ found 19."



Stephen Newby from Lancashire, UK



Hadrian Sesterius
AD 117- 138

"Just a few lines on my amazing find of a Hadrian Sesterius AD 117- 138 found with my trusty Simplex+, unearthed on a very worked site with a solid signal and great VDI of 64. Nothing compares to holding something that was lost 1900 years ago, history in your hands! You have built an amazing, easy to use detector."

Joe Jameson

**For dealer
inquiries:**



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Phone: 01635 597975
E-Mail: info@leisure-promotions.co.uk
www.leisure-promotions.co.uk



"My Nokta Makro Anfibio finds the biggest hoard ever found in Ireland."

Paul Reynard

"Second time out today with the Multi Kruzer on the same field and I pulled up my first silver crown from 15 inches deep, amazing 1889 Queen Victoria Jubilee Head and over 1 ounce of silver."

"Just been out today for the first time with the Multi Kruzer, what a machine...! I was on a very difficult site which is very mineralised with loads of hot rocks and iron. This site has been worked to death with machines from other high end manufacturers but I still managed to pull 28 targets from it in only three hours including 2 coins, one of them a lovely George the fourth silver shilling dated 1826. . Keep up the good work Makro, from now on there will only be one manufacturer for me, Makro. Thanks again for providing what the metal detecting community wants a truly great detector at the right price, well done!"

Alex Clark from Falkirk, Scotland



Gold earring found in wet sand in beach mode



Bronze Age axe head on pasture about 22" down in between two electric pylons



"The Kruzer is not only a beach detector but it makes a great rally detector in the 3 tone mode. No need to worry about getting caught in the rain any more. It does the job for me!"

Daniel Obeirnes from UK



From **Ghost Hunter** To **Treasure Hunter**



What makes a Paranormal Investigator want to turn his back on hunting ghosts in large beautiful manor houses to getting muddy in fields?

I started Metal Detecting in 2016 after 12 years as a Ghost Hunter, the aim of ghost hunting was to prove to myself there was life after death. It was something I needed to know after losing a very good friend, one night in a place called Charlton House in London I finally saw my first "ghost" it had taken almost 10 years, in that time I had written many articles in paranormal magazines and even had a book published. I had done it, I had come face to face with the after life, I could finally give up the hunt. But what was I going to do? I needed something new, something that offered the same mystery as Ghost Hunting, something that allowed me to step back in time. I had always had a thing for metal detecting from a young age, finding buried treasure is something all kids wanted to do at some point. I found myself watching metal detecting videos on Youtube, I came across a channel called GoAndGarrett that was fronted by a guy called Stephen, his antics while out searching captivated me and reignited my love for wanting to find that illusive buried treasure.

My first detector was a Garrett Ace 250 just like many people when they first start out, and I know some still use them and swear by them now. It was at this point my channel on Youtube was given a rebirth, I'd had the channel for years but didn't know what to do with it so it became South Coast Detecting. I never really documented my ghost hunts so I made sure that all my hunts with the Ace 250 were filmed. After watching a few other youtubers such as 180 Felixstowe Hunter and Hades Detecting it encouraged me to try my hand at beach detecting, yes with an Ace 250! so I started to record from the fields and the beach and have loved it ever since.

After a couple of years making videos I got contacted by Pete at LP and was asked if I wanted to join the Youtube team, it turned out he was a fan of my no nonsense approach when filming my hunts and the way I offered handy tips that I had picked up along the way. Now I'm using machines such as the Kruzer, Simplex+ and Vanquish while I'm out and still making the same style videos as I always have. I've met some fantastic people while doing this hobby and have found some interesting things but like ghost hunting we're all searching for that one special "find" will I ever find a gold coin, or a hoard, or even a nice fibula brooch? Probably not, but I'm going to enjoy searching for it!

GL&HH

Let's Dig!

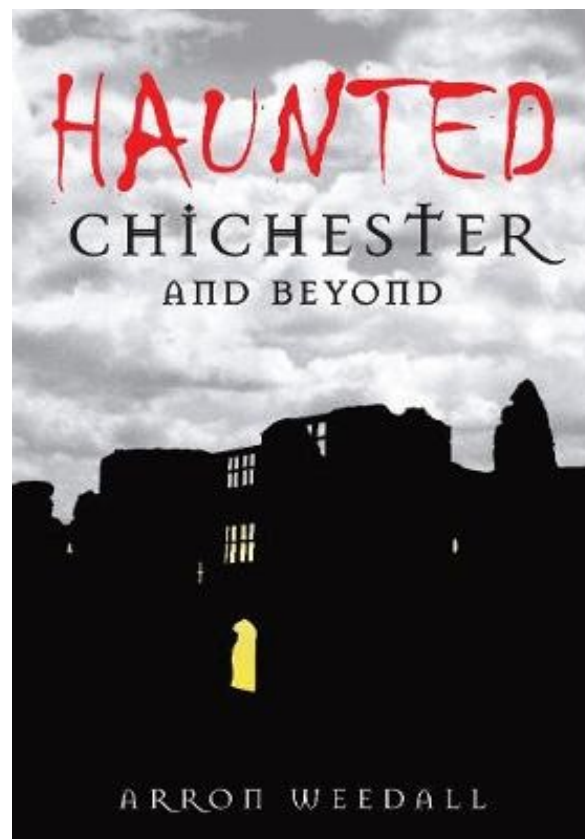


Metal Detecting




Metal Detecting

You Tube



DIGGING DEEP EXTRA—THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE NCMD

National Council for Metal Detecting Early history 1978-1982 By Kev Gorman, North West Region

The National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) that exists today is a professional organisation which has a very large, healthy and growing membership split between eight regional bodies stretching from the Scottish region, down through the North West, North East, Yorkshire, and Midland regions into the Western, Anglian, and Southern regional areas. Also included are the Central register clubs and the independent detectorists.

Every single one of these detectorists, whether regional, central, or independent have their own delegates representing them at the National Executive meetings that are held three times a year. The NCMD also provides representation at numerous committees and government departments.

It was the early 1960s, and into the 70s that metal detecting gained popularity with the public here in the United Kingdom, this interest gave birth to the early modern-day range of metal detectors. Wonderful names like: C-Scope, Arado and Tesoro, these were used by a growing number of detectorists, a few of which would, through sheer hard work and determination set the wheels in motion that would lead to the organisation of individuals into clubs. Clubs into Federations, and eventually the formation of the NCMD.

During the late 1960s there were a few intrepid individuals who were seeking places to detect, but they were few, far between, and very lonely ... “

...I began detecting in the mid sixties, I didn't clap eyes on another detectorist for three years, so I gave up and only started again, when I saw two other men in a field, the three of us were still detecting together 30 years later....”

Brian Down – North West MDC
The 1970s saw a huge rise in the number of people taking up the hobby and during the mid-70s, small groups of people began

Forming into clubs.

In the hobby press of the day the Treasure Hunter Magazine, people were learning about the emergence of clubs, and placing messages for people from their area to join forces and form more new clubs. One such individual from the North West was Brian Cross, who placed a message in the May 1978 edition, giving his address and asking interested people to contact him, and contact him they did.

The result was the formation of the South Lanc's & Cheshire MDC. This club is still going strong and plays a full and active part in the activities of the North West Region.

During the early months of 1979, Brian, (who'd been joined by John Fargher) was already considering the possibility of the coming together with other clubs to form a federation. Therefore strengthening the hobby and be in a position to defend against the increasing poor publicity being generated by the various elements of the archaeological world.

Brian began to visit and re-visit the other known clubs in the area to convince their members that forming a federation was the way forward. Eventually his persistence paid off and a meeting was arranged.

On 26 July 1979 the following clubs represented by 18 delegates gathered at the Legh Arms, Knutsford, Cheshire:

Thameside MDC Founded 1977

By Colin Sumner **South Lanc's & Cheshire** Founded 1978 Brian Cross **H.S.S. Mold** Founded 1976 Norman Butterworth Eldon Jones / A King **Crewe & Nantwich** Founded 1979 Steve Murphy **Bolton** Founded 1977 George Wood Jean Verrey Mr & Mrs Taylor

And so, the first Federation of detecting clubs was born. The October 1979 edition of the Treasure Hunter magazine carried the report on the meeting.

“... An inaugural meeting of the North Western Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs was held in Knutsford, on the 26th July 1979 when eighteen representatives of clubs from the area met to discuss arrangements for the proposed aims of the society. The aims of the Federation are 'to protect the interests of metal detector users, to promote a favourable public image of the hobby and to encourage all metal detector users to abide by a code of conduct'.

Sub-committees were formed for, finance, legal affairs, dealing with proposed legislation, by-laws, etc. publicity, press and TV relations, relationships with Archaeologists and Museums, recruitment of clubs to the Federation and the extension of the Federation into a National non-profit organization. It was agreed that only a non-profit making organisation set up on a democratic and voluntary basis would be accepted by the majority of metal detector users.

It is hoped that Federations will be formed and established throughout the country and eventually combine to form a powerful and acceptable National Organisation for the benefit of all metal detector users. The Federation will audit and publish its accounts annually and provide itself with a democratic constitution...”

North Western Federation first elected committee. Chair: Alan Clarke Secretary: Brian Cross Treasurer: Harry Knight Liaison offer: Marjorie Norton

You would be forgiven for thinking at this point, that all was well in the hobby. The fact is, that it was the exact opposite. The Council for British Archaeology supported by several other archaeological groups were already planning an anti-metal detecting campaign that would, if successful severely limit or total ban metal detecting. The hobby had other ideas; the formation of a counter campaign, lead and supported by some formidable individuals

STOP TAKING OUR PAST (STOP) CAMPAIGN

The introduction and accessibility of commercially available detectors in the early 1960-80's was viewed with equal amounts of excitement and trepidation - depending on whether you were a detectorist or an archaeologist

These early years could, and should, have been a crucial period of development between the two groups. Alas, due to failures on both sides, it became a fractious affair, with both sides vying for the support of the public.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA), supported by several other heritage organisations, began planning the STOP campaign in 1979. After several months of planning, their campaign was launched on 12 March 1980. The campaign was accompanied by grotesque posters and cartoons painting every detectorist with the same, tarnished brush. It asked the public to 'please report their activities and encourage prosecution'. The campaign also applied pressure on local councils to ban detectorists from their land. In November 1979 and in direct response to the STOP Campaign, the Detector Information Group (DIG) was formed. Organised and managed by Frank Mellish, Tony Hammond and Geoff Fry the DIG campaign was set up to counteract the harmful misinformation being broadcast by the STOP campaign. What followed was a sustained war of words and actions that would see the DIG campaign gather momentum, and the support of the whole of the detecting hobby.

Operating only on voluntary funding, DIG was clearly a well organised group. The aim was to raise the public profile of metal detecting and to challenge STOP at every level, including government departments. DIG organised a rally of its supporters in Parliament Square. On 16 December 1979 over 1,000 detectorists from all over the country descended on Parliament Square followed by a march to Downing Street to hand in a petition at Number 10. It was also successful that in July 1980, with its petition to the House of Lords against Clause 100 of the County of Kent Bill, it managed to stop an attempt to restrict the hobby in the county.

Later DIG was invited to a meeting in Paris of the Council of Europe and the Committee on Culture and Education. In June 1981 it also attended the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, to discuss and contribute to a report on metal detectors and

archaeology.

DIG held the line against the STOP campaign until the NCMD was up and running. It continued to work with the Council along with the newly formed Special Purposes Committee, headed by John Howland, whose job it was to root out and combat the very worst of the misinformation being spread by the CBA and its supporters.

Much has been written about the STOP campaign but, drawing a conclusion from the dissemination of reports from both camps, the consensus must be that it did the archaeological world a lot more harm than good, and was certainly responsible for the initial fractious relationship between detectorists and archaeologists. The campaign lasted barely a year, and its failure, among other things, accelerated the galvanisation of the detecting groups around the country. However, ironically, it was seen to be the beginning of the coming together of the two sides. Whilst there are still varying levels of distrust between detectorists and the archaeological world, the record levels of detector finds recorded each year speaks for itself.

Meanwhile back in the North West, the newly formed Federation was up and running with Alan Clarke and John Fargher at the helm. Brian Cross roamed the countryside in his trusty camper van, recruiting the other North West clubs into the fold. This was to be a successful venture with the number of clubs reaching 17.

News of the impending STOP campaign was being leaked and caused a great deal of concern. At a meeting of the Federation it was agreed that attempts should be made to meet with the representatives of the DIG campaign to agree the best

path forward. Brian Cross contacted DIG, who were based in the South of England, and a meeting was arranged in November 1979 at a motorway services situated half way between the two parties.

Present at the meeting were Brian Cross, Dennis Buchanan and the three members of the DIG campaign Frank Mellish, Tony Hammond, and Geoff Fry. The conversation quickly revealed that both parties were seeking the same end, and that a National body that would give the hobby some credibility. Frank Mellish reported to the meeting that he thought the immediate way forward was to seek membership and recognition of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, (CCPR) which was an important body, and supported the rights of individuals to enjoy their chosen recreations.

...''It was a eureka moment, I was sat in my dentist waiting room reading the Telegraph, when I spotted a tiny item about how the frisbee users association of Great Britain won a battle with councils who had banned their use in recreational spaces, the victory was due solely to being recognised and accepted into the CCPR...' Frank Mellish

It was agreed that Frank Mellish and Tony Hammond would seek a meeting with the CCPR and put forward the case for the hobby of metal detecting, to be accepted as a recreational pastime.

In the Summer of 1980 the two parties met again. This time at the North West Federation meeting venue, the Legh Arms Knutsford. Geoff Fry and Tony Hammond addressed the delegates of the Federation which was by now 12 clubs strong, and 30 delegates represented the clubs at the meeting.

On the agenda was the meeting between DIG and the CCPR

Frank Mellish reported that they had met with the chief executive of the CCPR, who told them that our hobby 'would' be eligible for membership. However, they could only accept organisations that were a recognised National body. So the race was on, to bring together other groups within the detecting fraternity to form a National body.

What followed was several months of hard negotiations and meetings with the numerous clubs in and around the South of England, in collaboration with the leaders of DIG

On Saturday 9 May 1981 several clubs within the Southern area answered the call and descended on the Greenwich Community Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to thrash out any issues regarding the formation of a Southern Federation. The following month, July 1981 the Treasure Hunter magazine recorded the meeting.

"...Southern Federation formed." A meeting was held at Greenwich Community Centre on Saturday 9 May to discuss the Formation of the Southern Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs, 15 clubs attended covering a large area of the South East.

David Wood of the Wessex Metal Detecting Association opened the meeting by expounding the need for clubs to organize themselves into a Federation. DIG is unable to help with all local bans and clubs will be able to achieve more if they band together.

The other advantage of the formation of a Federation would be, the increased power to promote the hobby and improve both communications between clubs, and public relations.

Guest speaker Geoff Fry from the DIG campaign, spoke of the reasons why DIG was formed and gave a resume of the work they have done so far. He explained DIGs continued need for funds and support and why he believes a Southern Federation would be beneficial to DIG and to the hobby

In general.

A proposal to inaugurate the Southern Federation of Metal Detecting Clubs was passed unanimously and a committee was nominated as follows

Chair: David Wood Wessex MDA
Vice Chair: John Williams West Kent MDC
Secretary: Berni Glover Serendipity MDC
Vice Secretary: Mrs Andrews Bedford
HSS Treasurer: Derek Elliot
South East London MDC
PRO: Mick Turrell Wessex MDA

The encouragement of other areas to form Federations continued via the trade press as well as club meeting visits, and word of mouth. But the priority now was to bring together the two Federations from the North West and Southern areas and thrash out all the requirements that come with the formation of a National organisation.

It would be four months before this happened, but it finally happened on 15 September 1981 when a delegation from the Southern Federation travelled to Cheshire to meet with the representatives of the North Western Federation. Fittingly, the Legh Arms was the same as the one used, when the first Federation was inaugurated in July 1979. The North West was represented by Alan Clarke, Dennis Buchannan, and John Fargher, whilst the Southern delegates were, John Howland, David Wood, and Ernest Souchs.

With all parties working towards the same goals the business was amicably concluded on the night, the first committee of the new metal detecting National body was voted in. The first executive committee for the Council is made up of an equal number of members from both the Northern and Southern Federation:

Chair: Dennis Buchanan
Vice Chair: David Wood
Secretary: John Howland
Treasurer: John Shreeve
PRO: Mick Turrell

Following the completion of an

agreed constitution and rulebook came the first public announcement that the new National body had been formed and named, the National Council for Metal Detecting. The chosen date and venue to make this announcement was 21 November 1981 at the North West Conference and Exhibition held in Blackpool. Once again, the hobby press carried the announcement:

“...We are pleased to announce the formation of the **National Council for Metal Detecting**. The National Council is the representative body of metal detector users and is fully backed by the Northern and Southern Federations.

This formation came after many months of careful negotiation and it was decided to announce it at the Blackpool Conference and Exhibition on the 21st November, 1981 so that the officers of the council would be able to answer questions put to it by the press and the metal detecting fraternity.

The aim of the council will be to promote, encourage and protect the hobby at all levels of representation, including central government.

DIG will be continuing their good work as a pressure group, but will now have the financial backing of the council to help them fight for our hobby. The National Council have given DIG a mandate to work on their behalf.

Plans are now being made to start further Federations in those areas not covered by the Northern or Southern Federations. The National council would welcome any club or individual who is willing to set one up.

The Council is currently engaged in negotiation to have the hobby recognised as an official pastime and the signs that this will come about are encouraging.

We will also attempt to contact

the archaeological lobby, in order to thrash out our differences we are therefore throwing out an open invitation to the CBA to meet our members and see for themselves that they have nothing to fear from the many thousands of responsible hobbyists.”

In just 28 months a small but dedicated group of hobbyists from opposite ends of the country, had pulled together several independent clubs into Federations, and the Federations into a National organisation, ready to stand and fight on behalf of the growing number of detectorists around the UK.

Almost immediately the call for more clubs to band together was answered and other Federations beginning to emerge. Joining forces with and strengthening the National Council.

MIDLAND FEDERATION

(founded December - 1981) On Wednesday 9 December 1981, four clubs from the Midlands area gathered to form a new Federation.

Three Spires MDC: John Wells
Castle Bromwich MDC: Barry Catley Arley
Relic Hunters: Ken Jones Hinckley
Search Society: Terry Palmer

ANGLIAN FEDERATION (founded – 1982) On Monday 28 June 1982, three clubs from the Anglian area gathered to form a new federation: St Neots & District Artefacts club
Northampton Historical Detecting Society and
Huntingdon & District Locators Club.

NORTH - EASTERN FEDERATION (founded – 1982) In July 1982 three clubs from the North East gathered to form a new federation: Northern Local History & Field Archaeology Society, the Sunderland Relic & Artefacts Recovery Club and South Tyne History & Field Archaeology Society

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION (founded – 1983)

On Sunday 24th April 1983 five clubs from Yorkshire gathered to form a new Federation, the five clubs represented, hailed from: Barnsley – Doncaster – Hull – Leconfield – York.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION (founded-1985)

In June 1985 the Scottish Federation was formed and the first elected committee was:

Chair: E Bailey, Scottish Detector Club
Founded-1977 Bill Baptie

Vice Chair: J Fearek S.A.R.G.
Founded – 2003 Colin Irvine

Secretary: R Fortheringham N.M.D.
Club Founded – Unknown Colin Irvine

WESTERN FEDERATION (founded 1987)

In early 1987 four clubs from the Western region gathered to form a new Federation:

Ischem Relic Society Weston
Historical Research and Detecting Association, Severn Vale Historical Research club and Detecting Society and the Swindon Artefact Searchers.

The Federations listed above, along with the two founding Federations, are the eight Federations (now regions) who are the current members of the NCMD.

Following two executive meetings between the founding Federations. North West and Southern, the first National Council Conference was held on 23rd of May 1982 in Coventry at the Arley Miners Welfare Club. The content of the meeting was recorded as follows.

NATIONAL COUNCIL (NCMD) CONFERENCE

Chair: Dennis Buchannan
Vice Chair: David Wood
Secretary: John Howland
Treasurer: John Shreeve

The first Delegates conference was held on 23 May in Coventry and was well attended. The delegates from the member Federations had travelled from all over the UK

The conference was opened by the Chairman, Dennis Buchanan and there then followed reports from the regions. This gave everyone present an insight into the problems being experienced by detector clubs.

Geoff Fry, the DIG representative spoke at some length on the need for raising capital by which anti-detector legislation could be fought. Unless this capital was forthcoming, survival of the hobby was indeed imperilled. It was a sobering thought when Geoff Fry announced the cost in fighting the Kent Bill and the Cumbria Bill. From what Geoff said, we all should be most grateful to the efforts of DIG and C-Scope Ltd and to the many clubs that raised money in support to protect the hobby. George McRae of Whites Electronics Ltd echoed these sentiments but went on to say that the NCMD must be helped to secure a future for the hobby.

After the lunch break, the serious matter of proposals to guide the actions of the NCMD were determined.

FUNDING

Funding was discussed at some length. It was finally decided that each of the member Federations would make a levy of £1 per club member, per member club. This per capita levy would put into the fighting fund some £8,000. Together with other fundraising schemes by clubs, rallies etc, a sum of £20,000 could be reached within a short space of time.

With this sort of capital behind it, the very best QCs and public relations agencies could be employed. It would be in a position to crush any restrictive legislation whether at Central or Local Government level.

THE INDIVIDUAL

David Wood, Vice Chairman then proposed that the NCMD offer some type of membership to the Individual enthusiast. These are, as David pointed out, those hobbyists who for some reason or another, find it impossible to join an

established club. George McRae said that Whites Electronics Ltd could assist in this area by putting a card with every new detector sold. A meeting with the trade members and the NCMD Executives would be arranged to discuss the implementation. Mr Colin Hanson was elected to become the Membership Secretary for this proposal.

METAL DETECTORS / ARCHAEOLOGY

Metal Detectors/ Archaeology John Howland, General Secretary, then outlined the proposals of a meeting that David Wood and himself had with Dr Henry Cleere and Richard Morris of the CBA. These proposals for co-operation between the NCMD and CBA were discussed at some length, the outcome of any co-operation would include the delegates intoned, the following actions by the CBA as a sign of good intention.

The NCMD has asked the CBA to consider the following amendments before co-operation can ensue. The CBA should:

1 Recognise the hobby of metal detecting and that this hobby has no connection with orthodox archaeology. That this non-archaeological hobby does not have any detrimental effect on orthodox archaeology.

2 That local councils influenced by information supplied by professional archaeologists with the intention of suppressing the hobby of metal detecting have such information withdrawn.

3 That all official reports on metal detecting are amended to show there is a 'hobby' of metal detecting which does not interfere with orthodox archaeology (i.e. the Council of Europe recommendations, information leaflets held by the House of Commons Research Division).

4 That the recovery of small items, coins, badges, buckles etc, lost on footpaths, beaches, river banks, or similar places does not cause harm to archaeology

5 The acceptance of these proposals by the CBA be transmitted to the press.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The General Secretary then asked the delegates to consider a new Code of Conduct, or, did a Code of Conduct need to be implemented? Geoff Fry addressed the meeting with the view that the existing one is recognised by the Department of the Environment and that any changes to it might have a detrimental effect. The delegates voted to adopt the existing code for the NCMD.

The Conference also supported the concept of 'treasure hunting', provided it was done Legally. It also recognised the many followers of 'treasure hunting' be they the many sub-aqua clubs or non detector users choosing to follow this concept

DETECTOR LICENCES

The Chairman then asked the delegates whether they were in favour of the re-introduction of detector licences. This was rejected.

The closing address was made by the Chairman who thanked Mr Ray Horton of the Midlands Federation who had done a superb job in organising the venue and refreshments.

All things considered the Conference was a huge success. The NCMD now had a mandate from the members. With the help and enthusiasm shown at the Conference, the hobby of was now slowly blossoming into one of the best outdoor family leisure pursuits.

On 24 March 1983 the NCMD was admitted to the membership of the Outdoor

Pursuits Division of the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The NCMD was represented at committee meetings by John Howland and David Wood.

Acknowledgements: My sincere thanks to the following for their contributions to this item:

Brian Cross

John Fargher

Frank Mellish

John Howland

Mollie Thomas

David Dickenson

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RUTUS EXPERT TEAM



Luke

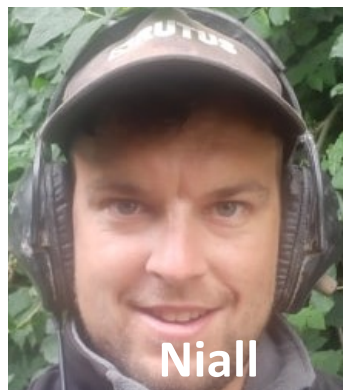
Each issue we will take a look at three members of the Rutus Expert team—We start in this issue with Myself (Luke) Niall and Tony.

The Rutus Alter 71 is one of the most versatile machines on the market. A mighty machine without the Mighty price. I genuinely believe that the Alter is able to compete with any machine on the market even those that cost twice the amount! Recently I have been using the machine in All Metal Mode, listening to everything under the ground, I run in dynamic but switch to dual mode on occasion. A lot of my land is surrounded by electrical lines and fences and the ability to switch frequency to avoid the worse of EMI is priceless to Me. I have found many hammered coins, Roman coins on my holiday permission in Devon, Bronze Celtic units, a fob seal, Votive Axe and A beautiful Saxon strap end as well as many silver pre decimals. I have found gold ring but a gold coin continues to allude Me! I work on The Archaeology and Metal Detecting magazine, The B I G Detecting TV and Radio show and run the South East Metal Detecting Rallies group along with Niall and Ray.

I have now been detecting for just over 2 years and I can definitely say it is now a big part of my life and not just a passing hobby which I have had many of! I have always been fascinated by British history and historic places from a young age so a couple of years ago I finally decided to bite the bullet and buy an entry level machine to take my love of history further.

Luke upgraded his machine to the Rutus Alter 71 and instantly started finding much more. So not wanting to be out done and left behind I copied him and purchased an alter 71 too. It is the machine I still use today. I love it, it really is a hammy hoover and since using it we can't stop pulling them out from our permissions!

It is hard to describe why I love detecting in a single sentence as the hobby brings so much to me. It is the banter and friendships created, being out in the fresh air in some beautiful scenery and of course finding cool relics!



Niall



Tony

My interest in detecting was initially piqued when someone suggested I watch 'Detectorists' as it's a great lesson in brilliant comedy writing - my other hobby is writing screenplays.

And I loved the show from the start, though it didn't immediately result in me taking up the hobby. No, that came a couple of years down the line when a birthday left me with a small pile of Amazon vouchers and nothing that I needed to spend them on.

So a brief but sucessful couple of months with a Chinese detector and I was hooked and ready to get a proper machine. I watched Youtube, read magazine articles and reviews, compared features and finally decided to get an Alter 71 due to the combination of great switch and go settings and a wealth of settings for me to grow into as I became more familiar with the machine.

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THE CURSE OF OAK ISLAND



The Story of the World's
Longest Treasure Hunt

RANDALL
SULLIVAN

From longtime *Rolling Stone* contributing editor and journalist Randall Sullivan, [*The Curse of Oak Island*](#) explores the curious history of Oak Island and the generations of individuals who have tried and failed to unlock its secrets.

In 1795, a teenager discovered a mysterious circular depression in the ground on Oak Island, in Nova Scotia, Canada, and ignited rumors of buried treasure. Early excavators uncovered a clay-lined shaft containing layers of soil interspersed with wooden platforms, but when they reached a depth of ninety feet, water poured into the shaft and made further digging impossible.

Since then the mystery of Oak Island's "Money Pit" has enthralled generations of treasure hunters, including a Boston insurance salesman whose obsession ruined him; young Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and film star Errol Flynn. Perplexing discoveries have ignited explorers' imaginations: a flat stone inscribed in code; a flood tunnel draining from a man-made beach; a torn scrap of parchment; stone markers forming a huge cross. Swaths of the island were bulldozed looking for answers; excavation attempts have claimed two lives. Theories abound as to what's hidden on Oak Island—pirates' treasure, Marie Antoinette's lost jewels, the Holy Grail, proof that Sir Francis Bacon was the true author of Shakespeare's plays—yet to this day, the Money Pit remains an enigma.

[*The Curse of Oak Island*](#) is a fascinating account of the strange, rich history of the island and the intrepid treasure hunters who have driven themselves to financial ruin, psychotic breakdowns, and even death in pursuit of answers. And as Michigan brothers Marty and Rick Lagina become the latest to attempt to solve the mystery, as documented on the History Channel's television show *The Curse of Oak Island*, Sullivan takes readers along to follow their quest first hand.



Randall Sullivan appeared on the The All Metal Mode UK Podcast and will soon be featured as a guest on the B I G Detecting TV and Radio show.

The podcast shows can be found on the 'Curse Of Oak Island Project' pages on archmdmag.com

'The Curse Of Oak Island' By Randall Sullivan is published by Atlantic Monthly Press and is available on Amazon and has an average review score rate of 4.7 of 5.0

Hardcover £17.99

Paperback £12.99

A must read for fans of the long running TV show.

XP metal detector backpack 280 Review

Is it worth the price tag of 179 Euro's (£149.95) including the optional metal detecting finds pouch ? Lets find out !



26th February 2020

XP Metal Detectors are proud to announce the launch of their new XP BACKPACK 280.

This product combines comfort and functionality.

Although this style of product is very often an essential part of the detectorists kit, to date no other metal detector manufacturer has developed a backpack to our standards. XP Metal Detectors are always looking for new design challenges, so they took on the task and are now offering the first backpack specifically manufactured for XP users, from beginners to seasoned prospectors.

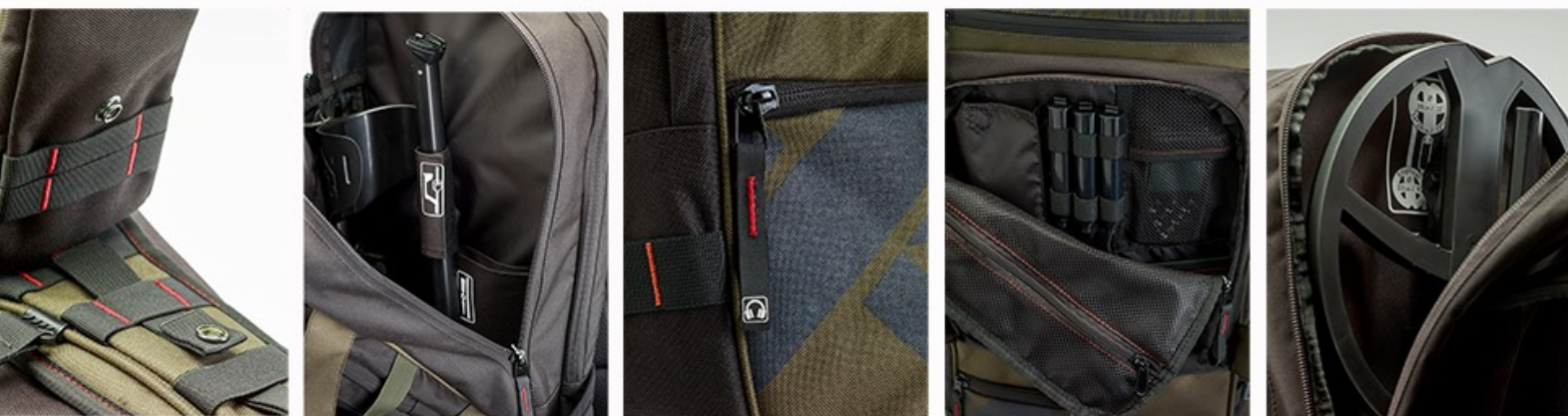
Comfort and sturdiness:

Composed of ultra-resistant materials (polyester 600D and 1000D), commonly found in high-end trekking backpacks, the XP BACKPACK 280 is robust and suitable for outdoor use whatever the weather conditions, thanks to its rain cover.

XP head designers wanted to go a little further and combine sturdiness with comfort. In addition to its back padding and large padded shoulder straps, it also has 9 adjustment straps distributed over 5 different zones, allowing a simple and personalised adjustment. The quilted belt ensures stabilisation and even load transfer across the hips. All this, combined with the breathable back ventilation system, maximizes mobility and reduces fatigue during long detecting sessions.

Functionality and versatility:

By designing this product, XP Metal Detectors wanted to allow their community to be able to safely transport all their necessary equipment in only one backpack. Its multiple dedicated pockets and compartments allow optimal organisation of equipment. Two large compartments accommodate the main elements of the detector, such as coils and lower stems, the other compartment for stems and digging tool.



THERE ARE NO LESS THAN 10 POCKETS ADDED TO THESE COMPARTMENTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPACE FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS. THERE ARE POCKETS FOR PIN POINTER STORAGE, ACCESSORIES, HEADPHONES, PERSONAL BELONGINGS, PLUS MANY OTHERS. ONE THING IS FOR SURE, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF SPACE USING THE XP BACKPACK 280.

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Location icons have been integrated into the backpack. The correct storage zones are visible on the pocket opening strips and inside the main compartments.

But there's even more! you can further customise your own backpack by adding a wide range of XP or aftermarket accessories thanks to the MOLLE® (Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment) attachment systems. This universal system, widely used by NATO forces, allows the attachment of various accessories via horizontal bands sewn into flat loops. Finds pouch, remote control cover, pinpointer holster, are just a few suggestions. There are so many objects that you can fasten to your backpack and keep them within easy to reach whilst out detecting.

The XP BACKPACK 280 is as user friendly as it can be. Once equipped and properly adjusted, it will be one of those products that you will find indispensable.

XP FINDS POUCH:

This accessory is the perfect addition to the XP BACKPACK 280, and ideal for storing and protecting your finds. It can be fastened to the backpack with the MOLLE® attachment system or on the waist with its adjustable strap. Easily washable, it also has multiple storage compartments and a water drainage system for underwater use or wet weather.

The XP BACKPACK 280 is sold at the suggested retail price of €159 (VAT included) or accompanied by the finds pouch for €179 (VAT included). The XP FINDS POUCH is available at a price of €24.95 (VAT included).

Is it worth the money ? Yes—absolutely and Metal Detecting Media gives this product a 5 star rating !





WORRYING ASPECTS OF THE NEW TREASURE ACT By John Webb

Who's read the new Treasure Act proposal??

John Webb is a veteran detectorist, one of the first in the country (starting in 1960) and we are sure many of you will have heard of him, owned his books or even one of the metal detectors he made!

There are several VERY worrying points up for consultation on the new Treasure Act proposal – cleverly snuck towards the end and vaguely written – presumably so they can bend the rules as they wish. As metal detectorists, John believes these proposals threaten to put a stop to our hobby.

Point 142 is where these potential new restrictions are listed

To this end we are putting forward several initial suggestions as the basis of discussion on the future form of the treasure process.

- 1. the introduction of a process similar to that in Scotland, whereby all Archaeological objects become the property of the Crown**
- 2. the introduction of a regulation as in Northern Ireland where archaeological digging of any sort (both by professional archaeologists and others) is only allowed by permit. – also**
- 3. this one is a rumour, which I cannot find any written evidence for, however I feel it is worth a mention as, if true, will seriously affect us all- . Any Coin sold or brought must, by law, have proof of provenance be recorded by the British Museum**

Some of the veterans reading this will no doubt remember the STOP! Campaign. For those who are too young to remember, in the 1970's, various groups lobbied to ban metal detecting. John was one of the most out-spoken against the proposal, which was eventually prevailed over by a counter-campaign called DIG.

WE ARE WORRIED THAT HISTORY IS TRYING TO BE REPEATED.

John urges everyone to have a proper read through the new proposals – especially pages 40/41, and email/write to their MP's protesting against the proposal, which could spell the end of the hobby we love!

We need to make as much noise as possible, otherwise they will quietly try and pass a new law whilst the country is distracted by big issues like Brexit.

Thanks to John Webb for highlighting this information and Mike Walker for adding it to various social media groups on his behalf.



Composite Cleaning Pencil

The Composite Cleaning Pencil is completely different in material and handling from other cleaning pencils. Designed for precision cleaning around the smallest of detail and removing hard surface encrustment to reveal its hidden detail. Popular in the UK and sold to 36 other countries around the Globe. Includes two Individual inserts specially designed for maximum performance.

Preserve IT

Microcrystalline Wax Blend



Preserve IT wax is a modern blend of high quality Micro-crystalline waxes which provides a protective high gloss finish to most surfaces. Simply applied with a cloth and then buffed like any other wax-polish this multi-purpose product can be used for a wide variety of items and surfaces, the formulation is based on the same technology as museum and archival products available in most metal detecting shops in the UK. Preserve IT wax seals the surface it's applied to from oxygen and moisture making it suitable for the protection of Bronze Coins and Bronze Artefacts and protects from oxidation and dulling whilst enhancing the patina shine.

GLADIUS



Coin Cleaning & Antiquities Solution

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