

The Association of Detectorists CIC – Board Members

Tom Redmayne

A metal-detectorist and self-recorder for the PAS and recently retired from a role as commercial manager for a national food company. I grew up on a dairy farm in Lancashire so have always had an attachment to the land and its history. I started metal-detecting in 2005 when I moved to Lincolnshire and, after making my first few exciting finds, I discovered the PAS and its work recording finds and acting as a bridge between metal detecting and archaeology.



Very quickly, the whole ethos of recording to the most accurate find spot and with the most accurate description was something that I became dedicated to following.

Soon I was identifying most of my own finds and offering a detailed description with full coordinates when I handed them in for recording so, in November 2010 I was set up as a self-recorder.

In 2013 I began to study and classify a type of medieval buckle called a 'disc-on-pin' type. My research and classification was published as Find Research Group Datasheet 47 in 2015.

Metal detecting and archaeology is certainly a two-way interaction with both disciplines having much to offer to the other. My experiences so far have proved

this to be the case and I see it as essential to the future of responsible metal detecting in the UK to build on, and grow, this relationship.

Anni Byard

I am a small finds (metalwork) specialist and archaeologist (MCIfA). I worked in commercial archaeology for several years before joining the PAS as FLO for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. In the 11 years I was with the PAS, I identified and recorded c. 17,000 artefacts and developed strong working relations with independent metal detectorists, clubs and rally organisers. I've helped organise MD surveys for parish councils and university researchers and put local history groups in touch with detectorists to help in their projects. I enjoy public outreach and have given many talks to a wide audience on the benefit of recording detecting finds and using them in research.

Since leaving PAS in 2019 I've continued to be involved in the metal detecting world. I am interested in objects in the landscape and conduct research into ploughzone archaeology, focussing on metal objects. I am a strong supporter of utilising the skills and knowledge of metal detectorists and detecting as an archaeological tool in field-based work. I currently work part time for Oxford Archaeology (South) as their small finds specialist while conducting research for my PhD on Iron Age and early Roman coin hoards (University of Leicester and Ashmolean Museum, AHRC funded).



Peter Dight

An ex-archaeologist, teaching metal detecting skills and best practice in Cambridgeshire.

I worked for a summer as an archaeology assistant straight out of school in the early 1980's, returning to the topic later in life as a hobby detectorist ten years ago. I quickly saw how local detecting club finds were not being recorded, so compiled my first ad hoc report on finds, which then became a talk given to local landowners, archaeologists and our FLO.

Over the next ten years I became involved with JIGSAW, Cambridge's award winning network of community archaeology groups, supported with training and equipment provided by Oxford Archaeology East; where I authored and ran a metal detecting standards and training course for their members; and also completed pottery ID, plane-table, dig recording, field walking and geophysics courses. I then ran my own dig on the site of an iron-age banjo enclosure, only the fourth discovered in Cambridgeshire and the first to be dug. I also ran a three-month metal detecting survey for the National Trust on land adjacent to a scheduled monument that was being night hawked, where we documented and photographed 400 nice, mainly Saxon and Medieval, finds.



I'm one of the first PAS self recorders in Cambridgeshire, attending various PAS training courses. My wife and I live on a farm near Huntingdon, where I have installed a detecting test bed with over 100 buried targets, designed to enable both new and experienced detectorists to learn more about their machines and detecting skills. We have access to a classroom and barns with ancillary facilities, enabling us to deliver talks/seminars/training at a venue just 10 miles from Cambridge. As I once told a local radio reporter, there is nothing as exciting, as discovering lost settlements and being the first person to hold an item that was lost over two thousand years ago!

Alix Smith:



I've been an amateur archaeologist for about 15 years, working on digs first in Surrey, and now in Wiltshire, where I live in a small village just outside Salisbury. I took up metal-detecting approximately four years ago, and quickly realised the value of accurate recording, so joined Salisbury Museum as a volunteer for the PAS.

My main goal is to promote the use of metal-detecting as a complement to other archaeological tools, particularly during digs, and I currently work closely with Southampton University on their ongoing Sarum Project to demonstrate this in practice. I have taken part in one commercial dig but have generally been disappointed by the reluctance of local companies to employ experienced detectorists. As part of the PAS I have done various British Museum courses and workshops on recording, pottery, heraldry, metalwork, small finds and, my principle interest, numismatics. I have also published papers on metal detecting and numismatics. The idea of the IoD providing various educational opportunities for all detectorists really appeals to me.

Peter Twinn

Peter is an archaeologist who has been involved with the metal detecting scene for 40 years, and in that time has been participating with archaeological projects including commercial excavations, and research excavations, including the award-winning Berkeley Castle Project as a supervisor for 10 years. This involved teaching students from Bristol University, but also using a metal detector, the cleaning and conservation of small finds with their identification ready to go into interim reports and a final dig publication.

For 10 years Peter was involved with the largest metal detecting site on the internet called UK Detector Net (UKDN) as an Administrator using that time to interact with metal detectorist across the UK in promoting 'responsible detecting' by following the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Code of Practice, which was very successful in promoting a recording ethos.

Peter has spoken at many conferences about the benefits of using metal detectors on both commercial and research projects using his 40 years of experience. Peter is currently undergoing research for a PhD about how the Romans influenced the use of settlement and landscape in the Gloucestershire region between 43 and 410 AD.



Di Johnston



I am a full time, serving Police Officer approaching retirement. My career has included many years of response policing in the Northeast and latterly West Cumbria where I have settled with my husband and our two dogs. I have worked in a number of investigative roles including Public Protection, Drugs and Integrated Offender Management Units. I am currently office based in a Corporate Support role.

I have a clinical diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have found metal detecting has been really beneficial to me in the management of it, and the research of my finds a fascinating diversion. I am a huge advocate that metal detecting is beneficial to mental health wellbeing, but perhaps unsurprisingly with my background I am passionate that the hobby is undertaken responsibly, and that the rules around finds and reporting are adhered to.

I am interested in community archaeological initiatives, reading landscapes, research of locations etc, and anything that adds to our knowledge and understanding of both local and national history.

Clive Hammett

I have been metal detecting for over six years now and I am an active member of local clubs, working with our local FLO within the PAS. I recently attended an archaeology field school run by Mercian AS and a course in Roman glass blowing techniques by The Glassmakers. I found both courses immensely enjoyable and educational. A keen member of the Devon Archaeological Society and the Roman Finds Group, I have a special interest in the archaeology of Devon and the Southwest of England where I live.

I believe that the metal detecting Clubs around the UK offer a great focal point for setting good standards in best practise, offering a large potential source of talent and expertise that could be harnessed by archaeologists with the appropriate training.

I've had a deep interest in archaeology since I was a small boy, but I went on to gain a degree in Physics from London University and became a Chartered Engineer in 1987. My initial career path was in Systems Engineering and I'm keen to redress that balance. To those ends, I have been offered a place at Exeter University to take an MSc in Experimental Archaeology.

I've spent the last 40 years working as consultant within large corporate technology companies such as IBM, Oracle, SAP and FICO in the field of Advanced Analytics, Optimization and Artificial Intelligence. I also founded a company that focused on helping small local businesses in eCommerce, social media and marketing techniques. The skills I have gained in strategic planning, market development, partner recruitment and training, will be useful in helping the Institute of Detectorists to promote the use of metal-detecting in archaeology.



Nathan Portlock-Allan



I've been an amateur historian and archaeologist for the last 15 years - I have a special interest in Roman and Post-Roman archaeology and have taken part in various Roman digs both in Oxfordshire and North East Somerset. I started metal-detecting around eight years ago to compliment my interest in the discipline. Having entered metal-detecting already knowing the importance of the context of historical finds, I started to realise the importance of accurate recording and description.

In my working life, I am a professional photographer and a historical documentary filmmaker. I am very lucky to be able to frequently work within my field of interest and use these skills as part of my own research and recording.

I am a great advocate of the promotion of responsible metal-detecting and the education of others in the significance of accurate recording with both PAS and other official bodies. It is becoming increasingly useful for trained metal-detectorists to work alongside archaeologists and add to the historical record using both fieldwalking and detecting.

I look forward to being able to help educate and promote this relationship between archaeology and metal-detecting and bringing about a change in how this fast-growing hobby is viewed.

Martin Fox



I have been metal detecting for over 35 years and am passionate about the hobby, have been a club secretary, and am a keen member of the Kent Archaeological Society. I've lived in various parts of the UK, now living in Kent. I've always gone out of my way to understand the archaeology, history, landscape history and landscape ecology of the area's I've lived in.

Some of my most enjoyable times with the hobby were as part of a Leicestershire detecting club. The club was, and is, well run and organised; finds were shown at digs, Treasure was declared, a close working relationship was established with the FLO leading to regular recording, educational talks were arranged. Clubs like this, that exist up and down the country, are the bedrock of detecting and through their activities and management of digs they educate, maintain and raise standards, by the way they are run and managed.

My academic background is in ecology and conservation and this neatly overlaps with those other interests of archaeology, history and landscape history. I've been employed in the public sector for over 30 years and I've become a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). I chose to join the CIEEM and follow the Chartered route voluntarily, to demonstrate my expertise and competence to a certain level.

Having played an active role in an institute sitting on its professional affairs committee and having worked across government delivering policy and managing large delivery teams I have a lot of skills to offer, as a private individual, to help build and promote an Institute that establishes firm links between archaeologists and detectorists; in my view this helps build the standing of the hobby and the well run clubs, helps demonstrate to government and government bodies that detecting is a responsible hobby actively finding and recording our heritage and adding to the knowledge-base of this country.