

April 2009

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

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.