

# INFORMATION SHEET

## MAKING HISTORY

My Life as a Scottish  
Metal Detectorist



ALAN BAXTER

19 April 2024

**Publisher:** Extremis Publishing Ltd.  
**Author:** Alan Baxter  
**ISBN:** 978-1-7394845-4-5  
**RRP:** £12.99 GBP  
**Format:** 6.5" x 6.5" Paperback,  
165mm x 165mm  
**Extent:** 104 pages

### Thema Categories:

Antiques, Vintage and Collectables (WC), Social and Cultural History (NHTB), Collecting Coins, Banknotes, Medals, Seals (Numismatics) (WCF), Lifestyle, Hobbies and Leisure (W), Central Scotland (1DDU-GB-SC).

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## Making History

My Life as a Scottish Metal Detectorist

With its long and turbulent past, Scotland is a country filled with history. But sometimes the land can offer up fascinating details about life in bygone ages, for someone with the skill and the patience to find them.

Alan Baxter has been behind some of the most significant historical discoveries in Scotland ever to have been made by a metal detectorist. In this book, he details the fundamental rules of his craft and explains how to get involved in this fascinating activity, before taking a look at some of the amazing rarities from centuries past that he has uncovered.

Having been active in many different regions across the country, Alan recounts his metal detecting adventures over the years, along with his encounters with the historians and other experts who have helped to identify his many finds. Join him as he describes the extraordinary artefacts he has found, accompanied by full-colour illustrations, and shines a light on how you too can get started in this absorbing pursuit.

### Author Biography

Alan Baxter is a laboratory technician and a very successful amateur metal detectorist. He lives in the central belt of Scotland. He has been metal detecting for 12 years, ever since his father, also Alan, showed him the ropes of this hobby. In that time, he and his father have managed to unearth some incredible finds in Scotland dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period; the most notable is an Iron Age hoard found in Falkirk District which apparently stands as 'the most significant metallic find in Falkirk District since 1933' (Falkirk Archaeologist Geoff Bailey, personal communication, December 5, 2023), and finding a huge group of Bronze Age to medieval era artefacts from the same area in Fife. These finds collectively make this one of the most important discoveries in Fife and apparently is 'the biggest mixed metallic assemblage of Bronze Age to medieval finds from one site in the whole of Fife' (Fife Council Archaeologist Douglas Speirs, personal communication, December 9, 2023). He hopes in the future, with a bit of luck and research, to extend his portfolio by unearthing even more fascinating finds.

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An independent publishing house specialising in arts, media and culture non-fiction.

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