

THE HISTORICAL MEDAL SOCIETY

MEDALLION CONGRESS

2026



Saturday 11th July

STRATFORD MANOR HOTEL

Historical Medal Society Accounts Summary @ 31st July 2025

Delegate fees	4,981.00	Hotel charges	4765.00
Bourse table fees		PA system	<u>102.00</u>
HMJ surplus	111.96	Expenses: printing	35.00
Refund from Delta hotel	500	badges	<u>10.00</u>
		Website costs	48.60
		Paypal fee	1.75
	<u>1,654.52</u>	Carried fwd	<u>2285.13</u>
Brought fwd	<u>7,247.48</u>		<u>7247.48</u>

Historical Medal Journal 2025

HMJ #1 Sales	7.00	HMJ#7 printing	285.37
HMJ #2 Sales	7.00	HMJ#6 postage	5.70
HMJ #3 Sales	7.00		
HMJ #4 Sales	7.00		
HMJ #5 Sales	7.00		
HMJ #6 Sales	118.00		
HMJ #7 Adverts	250.00		
		Surplus	<u>111.96</u>
	<u>403.00</u>		<u>403.00</u>

Programme for British Historical Medallion Congress

Introduction		9:15-9:30
David Pickup	<i>Mind the Gap!</i> <i>The 1926 Emergency Medal</i>	9:30-10:15
Andrew Wager	<i>The anatomy of a medal:</i> <i>Exploring Two Early</i> <i>Nineteenth Century medals</i>	10:15-11:00
Refreshments break		11:00-11:45
Rob Davis	<i>Larger than Life Medallions</i>	11:45-12:30
Anne McLean	<i>A group of Victorian wedding</i> <i>anniversary medals</i>	12:30-1:00
Lunch		1:00-2:15
Brent Ezzard	<i>Birmingham Mint</i> <i>Medals and tokens</i>	2:15-2:45
Trevor Owens	<i>Five Orphanages</i>	2:45-3:00
John Cumbers	<i>"No actual medals...have come</i> <i>to notice...."</i>	3:00-3:20
Refreshments break		3:20-3:50
Michael Martin	<i>Bygone Philanthropists</i>	3:50-4:30
AGM of Historic Medal Society		4:30-4:50
Evening meal served		6:30
Bourse will commence		7:45-11:00

Delegates Attending 2026

Particular Interests

Andrew Wager	Engraved coins and all Historical Medals especially Cricket
John Cumbers	1902 Coronation; Boer War; Schools especially Sunday
Frances Simmons Howard Simmons	Historical: Commemorative; Prize; Art; Art Nouveau / Art Deco; Contemporary
Andrew Cunningham	Breweries & Public House related
Michael Martin	Soho, George III & Victoria
Charles Riley	Welsh language; Oxford & Oxfordshire; Avignon
Philip Attwood	General
Anne McLean Paul McLean	Yorkshire: Laudatory & Exhibitions 19th Century British
Toby Williams	Medallion & Medal Design
Alan Miller	Westmorland & Cumberland; Art Union
Jonathon Miller	Sports; French assignats
Philip Barratt	Art medals & Commemoratives
Tony Gilbert	Numismatic literature
Trevor Owens Carole Owens	Orphanages, Festival of Britain & Ironbridge

two years and societies were able to come out of the organisational closet.

Symbols

With the exception of the coffin, all the symbols used are commonly found on early Friendly Society medals and regalia of some of the larger national societies.

- the all seeing eye - Masonic
- a dove - Christian
- a heart in hand meaning charity— Oddfellows
- a beehive - Co-Operative movement
- a coffin with an unidentified shield - not commonly used but it is a funeral society

The Recipients

The Rev. Richard Marshall was ordained at Carlisle in 1822 and appointed a Stipendiary Curate at Bamburgh in January 1829 moving a few months later to Lucker in April 1829. Lucker was in the 1830's a chapelry in the Parish of Bamburgh, although later it became a parish.

In 1832 he was appointed curate at Whittonstall in the Parish of Bywell-St. Peter (now Shotley Lower Quarter) to the west of Newcastle, near Consett.

So the Rev. Marshall was in the area of Monk's House in the period from 1829-31. He could easily have been involved with starting the society with medals presented when it was well established some 5 or so years later.

While researching this medal I discovered that another example was previously sold at auction in the US. The second example has the same hallmarks and the same design on both sides. It was probably made at the same time as the number of members is unchanged. The name on this second medal is R. ROSSINGTON. The name is not common in Northumberland but is found in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, and Teesside, so there could be some relation with the coastal fishing and the trade in the finished product. Another line of research!

high, flaring bow. Historically it developed along the North East coast of England, its unique design enabling the boat to launch directly into North Sea surf from a shallow, sandy beach. Most of the buildings seen in Monks House today date from the 19th one of the buildings was a tavern called St Cuthbert's Inn. But no church.

Fish have to be processed, gutted and either smoked, dried or salted so that they can then be moved to market. Seahouses down the coast claims to have invented kippers at the end of the 18th century. So there was significant if transient population at certain times of the year. There was no harbour but the beach was suitable for landing the small cobs. Seahouses a few miles south built a harbour in the 1880's, a factor which explains why Monk's House never grew in size.

Friendly Societies

Friendly Societies have been a part of British society since medieval times. Initially the trade guilds organised benefits when members became ill, infirm or died. This was sometimes extended to non-trade people. Societies usually organised in a local area. The provision of a good funeral was considered a priority by many people as an alternative to the mass grave, a pauper's grave. By the end of the 19th century there were thousands of these friendly societies, some of which had become national. Later in the 19th century some societies became the foundation of the personal insurance business.

Most of the friendly societies gave payment of funerals and burials as benefits although many included other benefits or had other reasons for their establishment e.g. women only. Many of the early societies limited membership with elements of secrecy involved as their legal status was ambiguous. Many had passwords to help recognise bona fide members. Many also drew on Masonic ritual. The secrecy was not a problem until the early 19th century. Some societies were set up with particular political aims, usually to do with wages and employment conditions.

Most notorious was the case of a group of six 19th-century Dorset agricultural labourers who were arrested in 1834 for and convicted of swearing a secret oath as members of the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers. The rules of the Tolpuddle Society show it was clearly structured as a friendly society and operated as a trade-specific benefit society. Friendly Societies (and Unions) were legal, but restricted in their activities. The swearing of an illegal oath was the trumped up charge that was used to get the workers convicted and transported. There was a huge public backlash. The Tolpuddle Martyrs were pardoned after

Delegates Attending 2026 (Continued)

	Particular Interests
Paul Rabaioni Nicole Rabaioni	Stuarts, Thames Tunnel, General
Paul Dietz	WW1 Peace Medals and ephemera
Lynda Timms	Birmingham
Alan Cope	Nottinghamshire; Isle of Man
David Pickup	Railways
Brent Ezzard Nichole Annis	Non-monetary & numismatic items produced by the Birmingham Mint
Rob Davis	Historical medals – Coronation/Prize
Dave Smith	Gloucestershire medals and tokens
John Newman	Most numismatic items
Natasha Burbridge	Early modern medals
Steve Bentley	Medallions on civil engineering, buildings, engineers and exhibitions
Steve Pearson	Commemorative Medallions
Peter Waddell	Northants & Peterborough

The Monk's House Funeral Society presentation medal

Howard Simmons

A few weeks ago I acquired an intriguing engraved silver medal. The medal is oval with an integral loop measuring 59.5mm. x 45mm. and weighs 21.75g.



It Reads: MONK'S HOUSE FUNERAL SOCIETY around five symbols in three rows, the all-seeing eye (an eye with rays) / a dove, a hand with a heart, a beehive / a coffin with a heart.

On the reverse it read:

PRESENTED / to the / REVD. R. MARSHALL / BY / 135 / MEMBERS with three silver marks above.

The hallmarks on the reverse are only partial which is not unusual with small silver objects such as medals. Many engraved medals have either no hallmarks or partial marks.

In this case the marks are

- Lion
- CR/DR/CR
- and probably the George IV punch

Both the second and third marks have not been clearly punched.



Marks with three pairs of initials are unusual so with a quick search this mark was traced to a Newcastle firm of silversmiths, Reid & Sons of Newcastle. They used this mark from about 1834-1845. The mark is for Christian Ker Reid and his sons David Ker and Christian Bruce. Christian Ker Reid (1758-1834) founded the firm in 1778 and it continued with a number of different marks into the 19th century lasting until 1886.

In London the regnal hallmarks were quickly changed when the reign changed. However, this was not always so in the provinces. Full Newcastle hallmarks changed from George IV to William IV in 1837 and the Victoria mark started in 1844. This means that using the regnal mark does not really help in dating the medal.

So the date is narrowed to the period after the death of Christian Ker Reid in 1834, and the introduction of the William IV punch in 1837.

Monk's House

But where is Monk's House?

My initial search on the website *Gazetteer of British Place Names* came up with nothing. However a search in Northumberland came up with a hamlet between Seahouses and Bamburgh on the coast opposite the Farne Islands. The settlement was founded when in 1257 Henry II gave a parcel of land to the monks living on the Farne Islands so they could build a granary or storehouse on the mainland.

By the beginning of the 19th century Monk's House was described as an extra parochial area for the Church of England. Extra parochial areas were areas outside the jurisdiction of the parish system, in particular outside the need to pay taxes levied for the relief of the poor. This would include burials. With no priest and no churchyard there were clearly problems with this arrangement. These areas were usually remote places but also include castles, monasteries, as well as the London Temple enclaves occupied by lawyers.

There was a Parochial Places Act in 1857 which aimed to clear up the problems encountered. However it was not completely successful. The Poor Laws of 1866 and 1868 finally sorted this out.

Monk's House had only a handful of residents. Yet by the end of the 18th century Monks House was an important base for sea fishing, with many cobs used in the herring and white fisheries trade. A coble, according to Wikipedia, is a traditional type of open, flat-bottomed fishing boat with a

Introduction

Welcome to the 2026 Historical Medallion Congress, the second to be held at our new venue, the Stratford Manor Hotel. I should like to begin by thanking Dave Smith who volunteered to take on the task of organising this year's Congress and who has managed what is an enormous task with his usual calm efficiency and skill. Many thanks also to Frances Simmons who "got the ball rolling" when we needed it most by negotiating the booking with the hotel. I am also indebted to David Young who volunteered to help edit and format the Medal Journal this year so that Dave could concentrate on Congress administration.

As usual we have tried to allow plenty of time for breaks where informal discussions give us the opportunity to share information and ideas, renew old friendships, and cement new ones. Our regular bourse feature in the evening should also allow all of us to go home with something new for our collections.

Sadly, since the last congress Neil Beaton our good friend and supporter of both the Medal and Token congresses, has died. He made a significant contribution to the Historical Medal Society through his articles and talks and I will personally miss his friendship and company.

On behalf of myself and my fellow organisers Dave Smith and Frances Simmons, we should like to thank all those speakers who have freely given up their time to create the speaking programme. We hope you have an enjoyable and interesting day.

Andrew Wager

Cover Image

Medal worn by David Garrick as Steward of the 1769 Shakespeare Jubilee; mulberry wood with carved Shakespeare portrait, c.1769.

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<https://images.shakespeare.org.uk/asset/1015/>

Historical Medal Society AGM

Stratford Manor Hotel 11 July 2026

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Financial Report
4. Medal Journal Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Committee appointments
7. Any Other Business

Officers Proposed for Election

Chairman/Treasurer: John Cumbers

Secretary: Andrew Wager

Committee

- **Philip Attwood** — Honorary President
- **Anne McLean and Paul McLean** — Website
- **Frances Simmons** — Publicity
- **Dave Smith** — Committee Member
- **David Young** — Journal Co-editor