EXCLUSIVE !! ROMAN HOARD IMAGES INSIDE !
DEREK MCLENNAN : HAVE YOUR COKE & REJECT IT !
MINELAB SUCCESS STORIES ! INCREDIBLE FINDS !
EXCLUSIVE !! ROMAN HOARD IMAGES INSIDE !
Welcome to the first ‘Special event edition’ of The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine—this issue we are pleased to be at the marvellous DETECTIVAL event and able to present to you this Minelab Detectival Special.

The FOURTH regular edition of our magazine is also available for free at our stall in the main Marquee, come and pick up a copy and we we also have some finds boxes and archmdmag patches at a very good price.

Myself and Dave wanted a big thanks to all who are a part of the archmdmag community and those that have helped in being able to continue enjoying growing the magazine. Many names come to mind but in particular we would like to thank: Minelab Metal Detectors, Mark Becher and The Metal Detectives Group, Peter Turrell from Leisure Promotions, Dilek Gonulay, Wiola and Arek, Gary Blackwell, Gary Smith, Scott and Kimmie Dubay, Siren Kimmie, Area Metal Detecting, Andy Sampson, Richard Lincoln, Tim Le Veine, Lance Goolsby, Mike Haer, Digger Dawe, Bleeps, Scotty Bea, Andy Sampson, Dean stainton and many others. Your contribution and support has been invaluable.

What we do here at archmdmag is not a professional outfit—we try to be as professional as we can but in reality our ‘offices’ are respective mancaves and just like you we love the hobby and archmdmag for us is an extension of the hobby we all enjoy. The Archaeology and Metal Detecting magazine truly is a magazine made by detectorists for detectorists. We are not striving nor would we be capable of replicating the quality and editorial perfection of the likes of Treasure Hunting magazine but none the less we hope you enjoy reading.

We will be broadcasting live from Detectival via two channels this year—Both available on Spreaker, so it would be worth downloading the Spreaker app—It’s free—so if you are not in the fields detecting you can keep up to date with cards and event happenings. We will be interviewing the manufacturers, suppliers and personalities of the event as well as anyone who wishes to come and talk about detecting! 

We also have a couple of really good versions of the ‘BBC Detectorists’ theme to play a few times during the podcasts, one with a female vocalist and the other is one on a rare version! You have to hear it!

It is easy to listen simply download Spreaker and look for both the All Metal Mode UK podcast and the Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine in the search bar.

It would also be worth ‘liking and following’ the Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine on Facebook—we have lots of people out in the fields able to post up any updates and pictures throughout the event.

Good luck all—Happy hunting!—Luke.

HOW I STARTED METAL DETECTING by Dave Sadler

I was bitten by the detecting bug when as a 4 year old boy, I would go on many detecting trips with his Dad and Uncle.

Here is my story.

How did I start metal detecting? That’s a question I’ve had to consider and look back at.

In the 1970’s as the image included attests, my dad – my hero, and my uncle both acquired metal detectors visiting the beaches of North Wales and Anglesey and fields local to the area I grew up in Cheshire.

As families, we all were involved having picnics and snake hunting. But for a 4 year old this new thing was mesmerising. My uncle claims still to this day, that one of my early words, which I repeated constantly was Archaeology. So my years growing up and having to visit historical locations, metal detect and play scramble! Probably pointed me in the direction of Archaeology and Metal detecting.

When my dad passed away, his early C.Scope 600 was passed to me, at a time that I wasn’t really into having a hobby; it was left in my cupboard for many years.

Forward to the early 2000’s, I was lucky to have a friend who knew a man who ran an archaeological group and acquired us an invite onto new dig.

Wow, what an experience, I was actually practising what I always wanted to. I learnt a hell of a lot in a very short time, and inadvertently found a Roman road surface and a possible ‘Lost’ holy well.

Throughout this period I also utilised my dad’s early C.Scope 600. We were able to discover many items on all sites which added to the historical story of each location. Some of which were put on show in Llangollen museum in North Wales.

Unfortunately at this point, several things in life occurred which made me unable to participate in my hobbies, and I sold my used machine and lost my Dads C.Scope whilst moving home.

Cue the early 2000’s. One of my friends with his Whites metal detector, was invited to survey a site, currently undergoing an active dig, under the management of archaeologist – Mark Ollry. I was able to acquire a cheap Garrett metal detector and joined my friend on site and this developed into us becoming part of the Celtic Warrington Project archaeology group and join in the excavations on a site at Llanarmon y iail in North Wales.

These were tremendous times where I learnt much about actual archaeology and have access to important sites to hone my metal detecting techniques, while offering important information to the Archaeological context with the discovery of historical metal finds.

Life continued to get in the way until 2013. Via another group in a different subject, I met the landlord of my local pub. Graham was a metal detectortist, and with his pal Dave, generally sat at the end of the bar sorting finds. And again I was engrossed. I kept asking Graham to form a group, and received a surprise on my 40th Birthday of a brand new machine. Off I went to Graham and a brief conversation was had and myself found a way onto new dig.

Unfortunately at this point, several things in life occurred which made me unable to participate in my hobbies, and I sold my used machine and lost my Dads C.Scope whilst moving home.

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I had a great few years, discovering many artefacts, upgrading machines, making new friends and organising charity events. Again life intervened and from a period of depression, I found my therapy swinging my coil. But my mind was not occupied and I wanted to do more.

On March 1st 2016 the Archaeology and Metal Detecting magazine was launched, and something very dear to me was created.

I have made a lot of friends and met a lot of people via the subject, I have been privy to some amazing artefacts being discovered and myself found items of consequence.

Life and health recently again intervened, but although I am sometimes unable to be actively involved, my Dad, my uncle, an old C.Scope 600 and a lot of luck have given me a future filled with possibilities within the historical world.

So long windly… that is where my passion for archaeology and metal detecting comes from. Hope to see you at the stall this weekend! Dave.
Welcome to
The 2019 Detectival
Metal Detecting Rally & Trade Show

Bringing The World of Metal Detecting Together

A very warm welcome to this year’s visitors to the 2019 Detectival Metal Detecting Rally and Trade Show.

Whether this is your first rally or you are a experienced rally attendee, we hope you have a fantastic weekend and enjoy all that is on offer.

The Detectival Event has many wonderful stalls, exciting demonstrations, additional activities as well as the detecting itself on 1000 acres of land, 600 of which is previously undetected. The new land belongs to an Estate and they have never allowed any detecting until Detectival this year. Over the last two years the events in the same area have seen hundreds of finds being recorded through the P.A.S on site, at the event. We are confident this year will be as productive.

We are also proud to have MINELAB as the title sponsor for the 2019 Detectival Event as well as many other great manufacturers, dealers, suppliers, and stall holders.

There are so many people who helped to make this weekend as special as it is, and if we listed them all here their names would fill this, but we are very grateful to them all and all the work they put in on both the run up and on the event itself.

As we as being a great fun weekend, the Detectival event is also raising much needed funds for our two chosen causes, Let’s Get Ellis Active and Fight For Charlie. All proceeds from the charity raffle will be going to these causes. For more information on these charities please visit http://www.detectival.com/chosen-charities. So to all the attendees, staff, fundraising team, sponsors, traders, entertainers and the many more contributing to the event, we would like to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting our 2019 Detectival Metal Detecting rally and we hope you have a fantastic weekend.

The Detectival Team.
The Detectival App
Download it today

Download the Detectival event app via the Attendify app today! Find out event updates, announcements, finds, competition prizes, giveaways and more!

Features:
- Interactive maps
- Schedules for the weekend events
- Share your finds with fellow detectorists instantly with live streams
- Discover what’s happening and where
- Live content updates and announcements

Finds Recording Team
Record your finds at Detectival

The Finds Recording Team are on site located in the finds recording marquee. They are here to help you identify and record your finds.

The Treasure Act: In England all finders of gold and silver objects, and groups of coins from the same finds, over 300 years old, have a legal obligation to report such items under the Treasure Act 1996. Prehistoric base-metal assemblages found after 1st January 2003 also qualify as Treasure.

Export Licences: All UK archaeological objects found in the ground and at least 50 years old need an Export Licence before they can be exported overseas.

Once you have recorded your find in the finds recording tent, if you are an international detectorist and your find requires an export licence please talk to the finds recording staff for further information.
Re-enactments
Entertainment for all

**Hwitmearum**
Early Medieval Living History Group.
Displays of combat and archery demos
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I'm Jack, a 16-year-old boy who lives on a farm in the United Kingdom and after club metal detectorists going on our fields and finding a few coins I thought that I would buy myself one and after reading up about different detectors I decided on an Equinox 600. One day after I had been detecting for about eight hours I got a strong clear high my Equinox set in field mode one and I began digging. I began to remove the mud from it by brushing it on my trousers as you do and I remember the patterning that caught my eye and I remember realizing it was a gold hammered coin that I had just found. —It was the greatest day of my life!

MINELAB SUCCESS STORY: BOY FINDS RARE HAMMERED COIN
FOUND BY: JACK, 16 YEARS OLD USING THE EQUINOX 600 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

MINELAB SUCCESS STORY: THE BOURNE VALLEY HOARD
FOUND BY: TONY, USING THE EQUINOX IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Early September 2018 I attended a small rally run by my club The Detectorists Investigation group near Salisbury Wiltshire. After an hour I had a small Roman coin plus a Roman ring for my efforts when I suddenly received a very strong signal reading at 21 on the EQUINOX screen. After digging down 12" with no sign of the target in the plough soil I carried on digging into the chalk and gravel layers with the help of my son Paul. At 15" the rim of the pot suddenly appeared and we halted digging to evaluate the next course of action. Lots of those present including the farmer wanted us to dig the pot out. It was finally decided to try and contact an Archeologist to carry on the excavation. After a lot of phone calls we managed to contact experts from the British Museum who were so pleased we had stopped digging they offered to come and do it themselves the next day. Monday morning at 11.00am we had six experts arrive with digging tools who duly started the excavations whereupon after several hours we had the pot out of the ground complete in one piece and full of coins. As a reward for our efforts we received an invitation from the museum to visit them to view the last of the contents being removed from the pot. Final count of coins was 1820, The hoard included a mixture of Bronze and silver wash coins from 265AD to 350AD and included coins minted by a large number of Emperors.

MINELAB SUCCESS STORY: MEMENTO GOLD RING
FOUND BY: DAVE, USING THE EQUINOX 800 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

I have been detecting for about 6 months now with my EQUINOX and it has found me some amazing finds but nothing compares to what I found when out with the Shropshire and North Wales metal detecting club.

We were detecting a farm in Powys mid Wales which is steeped in history from Iron Age hillfort, Roman occupation and a Welsh medieval castle. I was walking down an old sheep path when I received a lovely number 14 on my equinox, I slowly dug around it and out popped what I thought was a toy ring. I put it in my finds bag and carried on detecting, at the end of the day I showed it to Mark William who runs the club and he was amazed he said you do not have a toy ring that is a medieval gold ring. I went home and did some research and was shocked when I found out what it was.

A 15th century Memento Mori gold ring. These rings where popular in the Middle Ages and where worn to remember a loved one who had passed away. I have now handed the ring into the British PAS scheme and it should be appearing in a museum within a year.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEFT BEHIND?

Don’t waste your time by leaving anything behind for the other guy to find.

With an EQUINOX, you’ll find treasure that the other detectors miss.

Stay in front with TRUE multi-frequency technology. More data in, means more data out.

So you’ll find more. Time after time.

EQUINOX. Get in front. Leave nothing behind.

14 Carat WHITE GOLD RING

EQUINOX WITHOUT EQUAL

MINELAB
While metal detecting in Lincolnshire, Stuart unearthed a silver WW1 identity bracelet. He set about trying to learn more about the soldier, with the hope of finding surviving descendants — and a remarkable story emerged.

L.H (Leonard Healey) Harrison was born July 10, 1898 in Stretford, Lancashire, England and died January 5, 1959 in Cheshire, England. At the age of 16, he signed up with the Durham Light Infantry and was commissioned into the 5th North Staffs regiment in 1917 after being wounded. Despite recovering, he was determined not to be fit enough for the front line and in 1918, he was transferred to the newly formed RAF.

He was demobilised in 1919 and went on to be a bank cashier at Lloyd’s Bank in Newcastle. In 1933, the bank was robbed. Leonard was instrumental to the capture of one of the robbers after chasing him and locking him into the vault until the police arrived.

He died in Cheshire in 1959 — he was married twice, but with no children. However, his sister has three sons, now in their late 50s. Stuart managed to trace one of these great nephews, who has described himself as being “bowled over” by the find. He sent Stuart photos of his uncle Lenny. The ‘dog tag’ has been returned to the family, who have elected it for it to go on display in a Warrington museum, alongside Leonard’s story.

MINELAB SUCCESS STORY: FAMILY REUNITED WITH WW1 IDENTITY BRACELET
FOUND BY: STUART WITH THE CTX 3030

SUCCESS STORY: FUNCTIONAL FIBULA FOUND AT DETECTIVAL 2018 FOUND BY: ALEX WITH THE CTX3030 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

I attended the Detectival rally in Oxfordshire with excitement and anticipation of detecting on the land with a Roman connection. I detected the Friday, Saturday and woke up on the Sunday morning of the event and with determination and a renewed energy, I took off with my CTX 3030 once again and tried a new field that I had not been on. I decided to slow my stepping and my swing and boy did it pay off.........I ended up with this beautiful Polden Hill style roman fibula brooch in excellent condition for a brooch that’s around a incredible 1942 years old. I was totally blown away with the condition as the pin was intact and moving like it would have done all those years ago. It still blows my mind to think that someone wore this brooch so long ago and i found it.

It has been a busy few months at The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine as we produced the Third copy of our FREE magazine which launched at The Rodney Cook Memorial Charity rally, Issue 4 and of course The Detectival Special you are reading now.

The plan in 2020 is a minimum of four copies per year with ‘big rally’ specials thrown in and we are hoping to have issues sent out with products sold from a major UK supplier.

The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine is made by hobbyists as a hobby and as such this really is a publication made by detectorists for detectorists—you do not have to have found a hoard to grace the cover of this magazine or feature within its pages.

We work closely with The All Metal Mode UK and Global Detection podcasts and recently debuted our own podcast—‘The BIG detecting podcast’ at The Rodney Cook Rally.

ALL of the platforms we have, archmdmag.com, the podcasts and paper magazines are here for you ALL—so please contact us if you have a story to tell or a group or youtube channel etc.... To promote, we would be pleased to hear from you!
Equinox—Have your Coke and Reject it too
By Derek McLennan, Minelab Detexpert.
This article first appeared in Minelab’s Treasure Talk, March 2018,
www.minelab.com

Gold coins, micro-gold nuggets (0.7g) and cut quarters, located in the ground under coke, are no problem when you wield the new EQUINOX! I hate hearing coke, as it breaks your concentration and you always end up thinking “what have I missed.” This is the main reason I moved onto the Minelab multi-frequency machines. Hopefully this blog will put you at ease with a commonly asked question on Facebook and various forums – “Does the EQUINOX hear coke?”

Both Sharon and I have worked over many months with Minelab during the development testing on the issue of coke and the fine-tuning of the new Multi-IQ technology. Coke contains carbon which is conductive and therefore can be detected with a metal detector. This usually happens when the coke is encountered on the ground surface, or just under it. Coke/carbon also shares Target ID responses with some very fine gold. This coke problem can lead to a lack of confidence in finding tiny ancient gold coins and gold micro-jewellery, especially with users of single-frequency VLF machines.

There are many different types of coke. During testing, Sharon and I collected various pieces from all around the UK, all with differing target responses. We then worked intensively with Minelab to make the EQUINOX as ‘coke free’ as possible... if, of course, this target response suits your particular detecting environment and expected finds.

The problem with coke is that it can produce different target responses depending on what type of composition it is, what shape it is, how deep it is, how large it is and how wet it is!

As I said, many months of testing have eliminated almost all coke responses, without using coarse discrimination, or broad filtering; albeit there were a couple of varieties from the UK that still gave a distinct response. However, such is the stability of the Target Identification numbers (TID), any coke that could typically be heard, would come in at a solid TID 1 and very infrequently and scratchy at TID 2. As such, the rejection of these two TID numbers would eliminate ALL coke.

Now, the reason that most single-frequency VLF machines cannot successfully notch out coke is because they do not operate in simultaneous multi-frequency and do not have accurate TIDs. The numbers for coke generally fluctuate massively due to the various conditions, size and depth of the coke. Therefore, they hear coke as a loud target response and many users tend to simply put up with it and not discriminate it out. Otherwise, they would have to notch out a wide range of TIDs and hence miss a fairly large range of good targets. Newcomers to detecting will be interested to learn that coke does mask good targets when they are located under or beside it. You will simply hear the coke noise and not the good target. The masking of targets, when combined with the ongoing concentration-destroying signal responses you get from coke, leads to massive frustration when using single-frequency detectors. You tend to register the sound and TID numbers as coke and move on without digging, but not when you use the EQUINOX.

The EQUINOX is the perfect machine to combat the coke problem anywhere it is encountered throughout the world.
This is especially important within the UK and Europe, due to the historic uses of coal and the spreading of it upon the fields. However, some very fine gold (sub-gram nuggets or micro jewellery) can still also be unintentionally discriminated out. This is also true for certain TIDs that would give an iron response to tiny fragments of ferrous material, which would be discriminated out by most users not running All Metal. **BUT**, with the EQUINOX you have the ability to adjust the settings and hear the coke and tiny iron responses (-3 to +2 TID) if you wish to search in an area that does not have a multitude of coke, but does have the type of fine gold targets mentioned above. A relevant point from the EQUINOX Instruction Manual is: “**Field 1 Multi-IQ, even with Target IDs 1 and 2 accepted, will reject more coke than Field 2 using Multi-IQ.**”

**Note:** while the Field Modes excel at rejecting coke, dedicated beach hunters and gold prospectors should use the Beach and Gold modes designed for those respective purposes.

To date, we have found many examples of low conductors, including a Victorian gold half sovereign in a coke infested field, an Edward 1 hammered penny and also micro jewellery (sub gram gold and silver earrings) on the beaches in Hawaii – these were all found with the default factory settings, using only an increase in Sensitivity or a reduction in Recovery Speed to gain a little more depth. So, from all of our testing, we can confidently say to you, “Go forth and use your EQUINOX straight out of the box, whatever the environment you play in.” If you have not yet made the leap from single-frequency to true simultaneous multi-frequency, perhaps now is the opportune time. Catch you all later on from the wet, windy and mysterious detecting islands of Hawaii or the wet, windy wilds of bonny Scotland! Slàinte.

**MINELAB SUCCESS STORY: RARE TUDOR RING**

**FOUND BY:** MORAY HUNTER WITH THE EQUINOX IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

After the Saturday being violently windy and having a leg injury over the last couple of weeks I was desperate to get out detecting. One thing I was considering was going down to attend a toddy’s digs, which I like to attend as much as I can manage. Being a moderator on toddy’s site I try to make the effort. But where to go. There was a new permission that I had not visited and looking over the land it didn’t look promising. However doing some research, I found out that there was a reputed medieval chapel on the site and perhaps a religious shrine.

So after checking the Minelab EQUINOX 800 was charged and headphones also, I set off with no great expectations. But the weather was set fair and the sun was shining and a gentle breeze an ideal detecting day, nothing lost nothing gained.

The detecting was rather slow at first and I was starting to think, nope the field looked as if no one had ever walked over it. Then I noticed some medieval pot shreds and thought well I’ll give it another hour. At this point, I was running the EQUINOX at 22 on the sensitivity in the program with very little feedback through the headphones then the ground started getting noisy so backed the sensitivity back to 20 and turned off all metal. First target dug was a 16thc lead religious token next was a penny from 1940 followed by bits of lead and bronze pot shreds, might get a hammy here I thought. Next out was a medieval looking iron key of some size. I’ll give it another hour. At this point, I was running the EQUINOX at 22 on the sensitivity in the program with very little feedback through the headphones then the ground started getting noisy so backed the sensitivity back to 20 and turned off all metal. First target dug was a 16thc lead religious token next was a penny from 1940 followed by bits of lead and bronze pot shreds, might get a hammy here I thought. Next out was a medieval looking iron key of some size.

Next beep was showing 12 on the screen and I had just dig a piece of lead at the same numbers but the tone sounded different but that might just be my imagination. So spade into the ground and sod out scanned the hole I had just dug and another spadeful had to come out, and there in the sidewall of the hole there was a gleam of gold. My first thought was a gold hammered coin but then I noticed that it was too thick and decided it must be a thin gold band. I reached down and gently extracted the ring from the hole and then I noticed the two stones and I almost lost my breath. In my hand was a most beautiful gold Tudor ring. Being of a rather cool nature I refrained from doing cartwheels and somersaults but maybe managed a very loud, you beauty or something similar that cannot be printed.

On arrival home I looked up Tudor rings and seen several that were similar to mine in shape and form. So next part of the story is out of my hands and that is the mysterious workings of the Scottish treasure trove department, where the ring will be tested for gold content and dated formally. The ring is of very high gold content as it makes my wedding band look white. In My 30 years of detecting this is my prettiest find!
1297 A.D.
EXCLUSIVE!

ROMAN HOARD DISCOVERED

By Mark Middleton.

On September 30th 2018 I got up about 5:30am on a cold frosty Sunday morning and was getting ready to leave about 6:00am to attend North of the Tyne metal detecting rally in Bellingham with my dad. We arrived at Bellingham about 7:15 and got checked in at the dig and got our stuff ready for the dig starting at 8:00. The dig started and off we went detecting. It was a slow start not many signals in the first field so me and my dad headed to another two fields. In one were a small group of cows which in about half an hours detecting began to stampede and broke through the fence across the road into the field opposite so staff closed off both fields for the safety of the detectorists and opened another two fields for everyone to detect.

First new field me and my dad headed for was an old fair site where we found a few targets, some faceless coins lead and usual bits and bobs and my dad found a roman bronze coin, after detecting another hour or so we decided to go across the road to the last field that had a small group of detectorists in it. When we got to the field we spoke to a couple people in it who had found a few silver roman coins and hammered coins so looked promising. After a few targets I found a couple of bronze roman coins stuck together and my detector and pin pointer was still picking up other targets in the hole so I proceeded to dig deeper and started to find more coins and bits of stuff I thought was just rubbish but later discovered it was parts of silver braided roman jewellery, then yet more coins came up.

Group contacted the local archaeologists and notified them but they could not attend until the Tuesday so the decision was made to end the dig.

On the way home I was buzzing just couldn’t believe I had found my first hoard and to top it off I found it with my dad.

I couldn't wait to go back down on the Tuesday to meet with the local archaeologists, members of the North of the Tyne detecting the farmer and landowners to see if there was anything else found.

Tuesday morning came around quick and me and my dad set off to meet up with everyone at Bellingham. When we arrived we all had a good talk and a laugh and we’re all a nice friendly group off people. The archaeologists set off about there work excavating the hoard site while me and my dad, Scotty Bea an a couple other people started scanning the spoils of dirt and recovered a few more coins to add to the hoard.

It had been an exciting couple of days and the total artefacts found by myself and my dad were 4 long sections off silver braided chain 2 short sections of silver chain 16 bronze sestertius 2 silver necklace finals 1 unidentified bronze object ,2 silver clips and 14 silver denarius.

I am not sure on the total of other artefacts found related to the hoard as still waiting for the procedure to go through and hear back more information regarding the hoard. I would like to thank everyone involved on the day for there help and also the land owner. Thanks all.
the kettle on and get some biscuits said Ron. It was the richest field in Britain, the field was just outside Peterborough in the village of Water Newton.

Ron Rowland was in Peterborough doing an interview for Coin Monthly, before he left for home he had a day spare, so he went out looking for some ploughed fields to search. He found some that looked interesting and asked the farmer for permission to use his detector, the farmer agreed and Ron set off searching.

After about an hour he still hadn’t found anything and then all of a sudden he felt chest deep into a hole, luckily the farmer saw him and ran over, he couldn’t pull Ron out so went to get a spade, after some digging Ron scrambled out. The farmer said he’d never known any holes in this field, Ron borrowed the spade and dug down, this was a big hole and Ron could see stonework, and then Ron stood on something, he had put his foot through a vass full of Roman coins.

Archaeologists were called and it turned out Ron had fallen into a Roman building which was part of the Roman Town of Peterborough, (Durobrivae.) For a while Ron worked with the archaeologists on the dig which turned out to be a major discovery.

I got a phone call to go to his house, I sensed adventure. Ron opened the door and I went into his front room, there was tea and biscuits waiting for me on the table and maps opened all over the room, some he had written on and books opened at certain pages and photos of fields pinned on the wall. Ron sat down and told me a story, I felt privileged that Ron trusted me, we had travelled many miles together, as a new member to treasure hunting I had soaked up all his experience, his knowledge and vision. Ron, taking a sip of tea told me that during his time in Peterborough whilst working with archaeologists he had heard a story which dated back hundreds of years about a field near to where the Roman dig was that said it was the richest field in Britain, the field was just outside Peterborough in the village of Water Newton.

Ron said he was almost certain which field it was, but said he didn’t feel well enough to go on another trip. It was now December, cold and dark evenings, Ron said it was best to go as soon as possible before someone else did. I’ll never forget Ron’s next few words, he put his cup down and looked at me over his reading glasses and said “what do you think.” I think he already knew my answer.

When I got home I rang Norman, Roger and Joe, but only Norman could go, it was Christmas after all. So it was all set, me and Norman would go on New Year’s Day, the first day of 1973. We set off very early in the morning, the weather was ok, dry but very cold. We had Ron’s maps and photos so we were sure it wouldn’t take us long to locate the field. Norman drove, we talked about Ron and how ill he must have felt not to have come with us, after all his hard work researching, Ron’s days of long trips and digging were over.

We were about an hour away from Peterborough when the weather changed, the sky went dark and it started to snow, not heavy but it was cause for concern. We made our way to Water Newton and the snow was getting worse, we checked the maps and photos and found the field, it was a massive field, now white with snow. We approached the farmhouse not knowing if we would get permission or not, Norman knocked on the door, dogs started to bark and the door opened, the farmer looked half drunk from the night before, I told him what we wanted to do. Norman said “ok, but don’t leave a mess or any holes” then he shut the door in our faces, I looked at Norman and said “I think that was a yes.”

We parked the car near the opening to the field, it was now snowing quite badly, we put our weatherproof clothes on, Norman was ready first and switched his detector on, I was just getting my detector out when Norman got a signal near the field entrance, just near the surface was something shiny, Norman quickly picked it up, it wasn’t old, it was a man’s silver bracelet, but to our astonishment there was a name engraved on it.

“NORMAN” we looked at another, what was the chances of that, Norman said, if that’s not a good omen I don’t know what is. We walked onto the field and split up, after about thirty minutes I still hadn’t found anything, the snow and hail was getting worse, I looked across to where Norman was, he looked like a snowman, he looked back at me and gestured we go back to the car. Norman hadn’t found anything either, the weather was just too bad. We got back in the car and decided to call it a day, it was the first time ever the weather had beaten us.

We set off back home, the roads were just about passable, we couldn’t stop talking about the bracelet, a sign from the gods maybe. As we approached Newark the weather changed, the snow stopped and there didn’t appear to be much snow on the ground. We had about two hours of daylight left so we decided to go to a field near Newark that always produced something, during those two hours I found a Saxoon brooch and about twenty Roman coins, Norman found an Edward 1st silver penny, a few Roman coins and part of a sword handle, possibly Roman. We set off back home, at least it wasn’t a wasted trip.

We went to Ron’s house and told him the news, he said to wait for better weather and try again, but time rolled on and there was other places we wanted to go, over time we put it in the back of our mind, but then two years later in February 1975 we would be hit with a bombshell, the farmer at Water Newton had ploughed the field up and discovered one of the largest hoards of Roman silver ever found, it would be known as the Water Newton Treasure and is now in the British museum. The gods were playing with us that day in 1973, one god sent a message in the form of a bracelet with “NORMAN” on, one god made the weather so bad we couldn’t search for long, and one god sent us on other adventures instead of returning to Water Newton.

When I look back I can still smile, Ron was right and we almost found it, I’ll always remember it as the snow field, a blizzard from hell, on another day who knows, so many factors came together that day. Ron never let me forget it, it sure was a lesson learned. Then one day at Ron’s house he said “Have you ever heard of a village called Eagle?” I said “yes I have, why do you ask?” then Ron said “it’s a very old village, it’s even listed in the Domesday Book, I’m sure it’s connected to the disappearance of Rome’s Ninth Legion “Legio IX Hispana”, they never found it you know,” “never found what” I said, Ron replied “the Eagle, no one has ever found the lost Roman Eagle, just look at this map and this book on page 85 while I put the kettle on and get some biscuits”.......