# **Past Times**

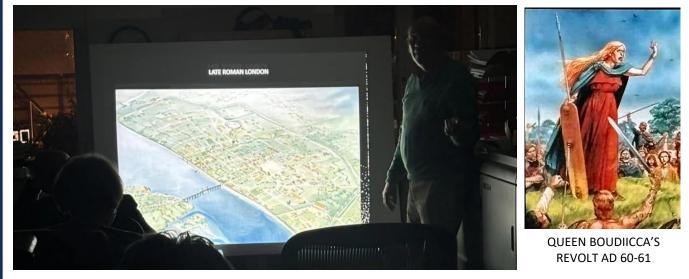
## October2024



### Chippenham & District Metal Detecting Club (CDMDC) Newsletter

# EXCAVATING ROMAN LONDON

Mike Stone this month delivered a fascinating talk about Londinium, the capital of Roman Britain for much of its history. With excavating experience and curating at various museums in London, Burton-on-Trent, Swindon, and Chippenham, Mike shared insights into the beginnings and expansion of Roman London. His presentation highlighted key civil structures, including the Basilica and Forum, the Amphitheatre, Temples, Bath Houses, as well as aspects of trade, cemeteries, and defensive works.



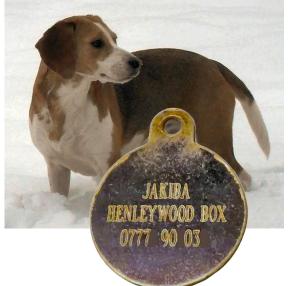
# DOG TAGS & DOG TAGS

The concept of identifying dogs dates back to the 1800s. Many detectorists have stumbled upon dog tags but often don't reach out to the owners to learn about the pets. Recently, Anthony Mims, known as "Mimzy," discovered a few more tags and decided to do something about it. With his daughter's help and her phone, they contacted the owners and have had some success in obtaining information about their pets.

This is Poppy .The owner mentioned, "Our dog Poppy lost it around 18 months ago. We've replaced it since, but she has a knack for misplacing them." The tag was found on Langley Burrell Common.



Jakiba is no longer with us but remembered forever by the owners, and now also us. "I think Jakiba was 18 or 19 when she went to chase deers in the sky"





Found at Charlton. Owner never got back even after a visit to the address and leaving details with her daughter.

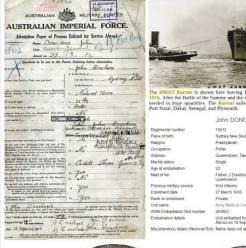


These two were never investigated and the last one has nothing to do with Richard Bennett



Royal connection Found at Brokenborough

Dog tag is also an informal but common term for a specific type of identification tag worn by







Found by "Mimzy

military personnel. The tags' primary use is for the identification of casualties; The earliest mention of an identification tag for soldiers was when the Spartans wrote their names on sticks tied to their left wrists. A type of dog tag ("signaculum") was given to the Roman legionary at the moment of enrolment. The legionary "signaculum" was a lead disk with a leather string, worn around the neck, with the name of the recruit and the indication of the legion of which the recruit was part. "Bucket list detecting find"

The British Army introduced identity discs in place of identity cards in 1907, in the form of aluminium discs, typically made at regimental depots using machines similar to those common at fun fairs, the details being pressed into the thin metal one letter at a time.

Army Order 287 of September 1916 required the British Army provide all soldiers with two official tags, both made of vulcanised asbestos fibre (which were more comfortable to wear in hot climates)

Some soldiers made their own personal dog tags like the one above, made from a Victorian florin.

Pte John Donohoue was certified active for military service on 13th march 1916 in Queensland Australia. He set sail from Melbourne on the 18<sup>th</sup> arriving in the UK 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. In France June 1917 he was shot in the right shoulder, married Florence Mat Topper Jan 2018 after recovering from his wounds in the UK. He was discharged from the army 7<sup>th</sup> July 1920.



This World War II American dog tag was discovered by Matthew Fenn, known as "Matt," who subsequently researched its historical background. Private Lawrence Elmer, hailing from Essex, New Jersey, enlisted in the Air Corps on November 2, 1942. Lawrence survived the war and lived a long life.

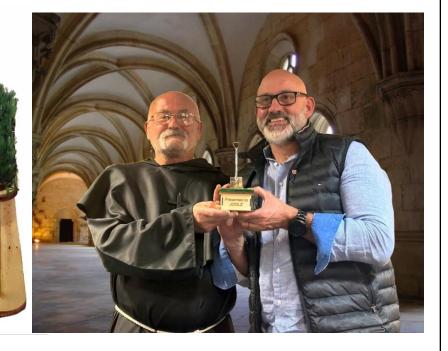
# PRESENTATION TO JULIAN THOMPSON

On September 28th, Julian "Joolz" invited "Mimzy" to his permission at Foxham. They didn't find much, just a Roman coin that Joolz discovered, so they decided to check out the fields at Draycot Cerne. When they got there, it reminded Mimzy of a scene from Series 01, Episode 6 of Detectorists. ANDY

It's the last time I promise. I know we'll find something BECKY It's going to be more difficult than you think. ANDY Why? BECKY You've sold your detector. ANDY Shit.

The only twist was that instead of a detector, it was his spade that Joolz had left behind at Foxham. He expected some light hearted teasing from Mimzy, but it never came. Instead, Mimzy waited a whole month before finally presenting Joolz with an :-

#### "I LEFT MY SPADE BEHIND AWARD"



## Treasure for Simon Morgan this month



Constantius II, Siliqua. Arles. 353-355 VOTIS XXX MVLTIS XXXX in four lines



Obv. Gratian. Rev. Roma seated facing on throne, looking left, holding Victory on globe and spear, left leg bare



DN GRATIANVS P F AVG VIRTVS ROMANORVM TRIER MINT TRPS