

(All)Town Crier February 11th, 1999 5

# Metal detector's discovery goes on display in museum

THE Norris Museum in St Ives has a new and very rare exhibit to add to its collection.

The 'Woodhurst ring bezel' may be one of the smallest items in the museum, but the silver ring, which is dated about 400AD, has a history that goes way back to Roman times and early Christianity in Huntingdonshire.

As reported in the Town Crier last year (May 14) the historical find was discovered by Woodhurst treasure hunter, David Brown.

In October 1997 and after 25 years of searching for hidden treasure, the pensioner finally hit the jackpot when, using a metal detector, he discovered the ring and a small collection of coins on the land of his friend, farmer Terry Huggins.

The tiny piece of silver is about one centimetre square and is the 'bezel' of a finger-ring, which is part of a ring sometimes used for a jewel.

However, the Woodhurst ring bezel did not have a jewel but an inscription which gave the name of its owner and links to the early Christian church.

Deciphered, the inscription reads: 'Ursacius, may you live in Christ'.



**Mr Brown found an ancient ring with his metal detector.**

Because the object is silver it came under the new Treasure Act so Mr Brown reported his find to the Huntingdon coroner.

At a treasure trove inquest held in Huntingdon, the court was told that although the metal of the silver ring was only worth about 50p, it was a very important archeological find.

The ring was eventually valued by the British Museum at £400 and the Norris Museum in The Broadway was allowed to buy the bezel for the same amount.