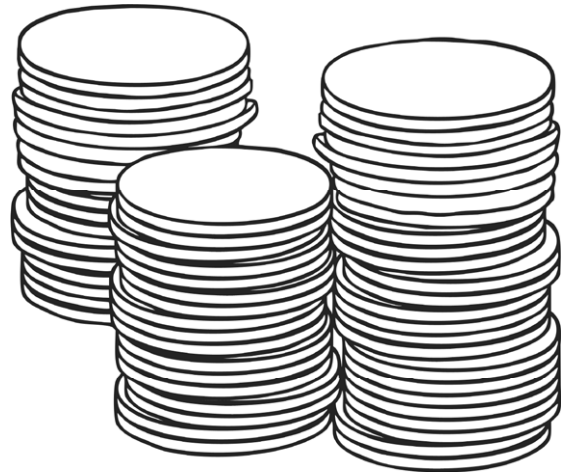

ROMAN COIN SURPRISE FOR MRS SHIP

Reported by Owen Butcher, Media Correspondent, Glastonbury

It was last year when Sally Ship, a 46-year-old secondary school art teacher from Somerset, decided to have an extension built on her home. 'We'd outgrown our house but couldn't find another one as nice,' she explained. 'Instead of moving, we decided to extend.' The builders began work in March 2014 and a few days later, Sally made a truly incredible find. 'I remember watching the builders dig up my lawn. As I was giving out their cups of coffee, I noticed something in the hole they were digging; I had a feeling it was something special.'

'Sally asked me to stop working because I was about to disturb whatever she'd seen. I hadn't even spotted them,' commented builder Karl Webb. 'Finding treasure is a first for me!' Mrs Ship told reporters how Karl had helped her climb into the hole to have a closer look. 'I noticed another one and then another one,' she added. 'I was shaking. I knew this was something important so I immediately reported the find and told the builders they could go home until I'd found out what it was. I slept in the garden all night, guarding what I believed to be something very precious. My daughter thought I was crazy!'

'I have to be honest, I thought they were some old, worthless bits of metal. When Mum said she was camping outside to guard her find, I thought she was going mad!' commented 18-year-old Jenny Ship. 'Mum and I love watching archaeology programmes. To think we had a little piece of history in our garden, well, it's unbelievable really.' Sally and Jenny have recently discovered that the nine coins are Roman and a mixture of bronze and silver. 'Mum and I were excited to find out that the coins were really old. It gets you thinking about why they were there. Had they been dropped by accident? What had they bought?'



The treasure was discovered in a garden in Somerset.

Mrs Ship explained that since her fantastic find, she has joined a local metal detecting group. 'It's great fun! After all, you never know what you're going to find.'

Further excavations took place in Mrs Ship's garden but no other finds were made. It is yet to be decided where the coins will be put on public display.

Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. When did the building work begin on Mrs Ship's property?

2. What was Mrs Ship doing when she first spotted the treasure?

3. a) Why did Mrs Ship sleep outside that night?

b) What would you have done?

4. What type of programmes do Sally and her daughter enjoy watching?

5. What exactly did she find?

6. What has this experience inspired Sally to get involved in?

7. What will happen to the treasures?

8. Can you think of an ambitious adjective to describe how Mrs Ship felt when she made her discovery? Why did she feel that way?

Roman Coin Surprise For Mrs Ship **Answers**

1. When did the building work begin on Mrs Ship's property?
The building work began in March 2014.
2. What was Mrs Ship doing when she first spotted the treasure?
She was passing cups of coffee to the builders.
3. a) Why did Mrs Ship sleep outside that night?
She slept outside to guard the find.
b) What would you have done?
Own answers with suitable justification.
4. What type of programmes do Sally and her daughter enjoy watching?
They enjoy watching archaeology programmes.
5. What exactly did she find?
She found nine bronze and silver Roman coins.
6. What has this experience inspired Sally to get involved in?
Sally now goes to a local metal detecting group.
7. What will happen to the treasures?
The treasures will go on public display.
8. Can you think of an ambitious adjective to describe how Mrs Ship felt when she made her discovery?
Why did she feel that way?
Own answers with suitable justification, which may include curious, delighted, thrilled, intrigued, etc.