In July 1976, County Council workmen excavating for drains just south of Yeaveley, Derbyshire, found two inscribed pigs of lead on land belonging to Mr. F. Potter of Stydd House Farm (SK 185 399). The discovery was reported to Derby Museums where the pigs of lead were identified as Roman. They were found at a depth of three to four feet, apparently in the undisturbed natural subsoil, Keuper Marl. There was no associated material. The find was made on the Yeaveley-Alkmonton road, one mile north of the Roman road (now known as Long Lane) which once linked the two Roman forts of Little Chester and Rcester.

The dimensions of the pigs are:

- **Face**: 3½ x 19½ ins.
- **Base**: 6 x 23 ins.
- **Height**: 3¾ ins.
- **Weight**: 131 lbs., 137 lbs.

Both pigs are from the same mould and bear identical cast inscriptions:

- **SOCIORVM LVVD (arensum)** — on the face
- **BRIT (Annium) EX ARG (entariss)** — on the side.

"Product of the Lutudarian partners: British lead from the lead-silver works".

These pigs are undoubtedly products of the Derbyshire lead mines, and were cast in the place known to the Romans as Lutudarum. Lutudarum has never been located, and indeed it is not known whether the name denotes a particular mining settlement in the Peak District, or the lead-producing area in general. Comparison with the inscriptions on Roman pigs of lead found elsewhere in Britain suggests that the Yeaveley examples may date to the reign of Vespasian (A.D. 69-79). There are now twenty-seven known pigs of lead of Derbyshire origin, of which eleven have been found in Derbyshire. It is interesting to speculate how these pigs came to be at Yeaveley, for such valuable metal would not, normally, have been casually lost in transit. Buried but never recovered, they may represent the spoils of an ill-fated robbery which went wrong.

1st September, 1975.

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Roman pig of lead found near Ashbourne.  
(photo Lynn Willies)

The foundation meeting of the Peak District Mines Historical Society Ltd at Magpie Mine, Sept 7th. 1975.  
(photo Harry Parker)