

# LEGISE NEWS BULLETIN No:4

Summary of LEGISE meeting at Maidstone Museum - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023



## Attendance List: -

### Name

Clive Sinclair

Geoff Burr

Lesley Burr

Roger Mintey

David Barwell

Fred Cooper

Martin Miles

David Villanueva

Phil and Joan Castle

Ron Watkins

Paul Everest

Ordinator

Dr. Andrew Richardson

### Club / Organisation

LEGISE General Secretary

West Kent Detector Club /

LEGISE Treasurer

West Kent Detector Club /

LEGISE Membership Secretary

East Surrey Research & Recovery Group / LEGISE Chair

The Royal Phoenix Detecting Group / LEGISE LLG Chair

The Royal Phoenix Detecting Group

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Swale Search & Recovery Club

Independent Detectorists' Representatives

Mid Kent Metal Detecting Club

Cinque Ports Detecting Club /East Kent KAMSU Co-

Isle Heritage CIC

- **Election of Officers:** No one had volunteered for any Officers' position, therefore all the Officers agreed to stay in post.
- **Treasurer and /Membership Report:** A Profit & Loss Statement for the Period 1/4/2022 to 31/3/2023 was distributed. LEGISE had £5161.73 in its bank account. Membership stood at 203.
- **Format and Frequency of meetings:** It was agreed that face-to-face meetings provided many benefits which Zoom, or other online meetings lacked. It was agreed that the continuation of two face-to-face meetings a year should continue.
- **Kent FLO Report:** Joe Ahmet had left the post in September. Lori Rogerson had replaced him temporarily but had then moved on to become Essex FLO. Isabelle Diggle (isabelle.diggle@kent.gov.uk). would become Kent FLO on 9<sup>th</sup> May. In the meantime, Dr Andrew Richardson had been both clearing up a backlog of PAS recording and Treasure finds. This work also involved ensuring that the Treasure process was acting both correctly and efficiently. This had not happened for some time. Disclaimed Treasure had been one notable problem; there had been delays in returning these finds.
- **Detecting on archaeological and development sites:** It was agreed that once any land had been sold to a developer, problems arose. The obvious solution was to try to carry out a detecting survey, maybe with Field Assemblage recording, before the developer bought the land.  
Land owned by developers was continuing to pose problems. Both Planning and Health & Safety regulations were constantly changing. Archaeology and detecting were finding it hard to keep up to speed in this area. LEGISE would continue to address this problem.

- **Treasure Act Review:** LEGISE officers had studied both the PAS proposals and the Hansard Report of the Commons Select Committee for extending the definition of Treasure. Both the PAS and the Select Committee had estimated that the amendment would increase Treasure finds by around 100 per year. David Barwell had written to Mike Lewis (PAS/Treasure) expressing LEGISE's reservations, mainly concerning the ambiguity of the extension of the Treasure Act to cover "objects of outstanding, historical and archaeological importance" or of "exceptional national, regional or local significance". LEGISE hope to meet with Mike Lewis later this year to review how the new Treasure process is working.
- **Countryside Stewardship Scheme Update:** LEGISE had written a summary on the present Mid-Tier and Higher-Tier Schemes which had been sent to the delegates before the meeting. 3 sections of the handbooks were included in full, those on
  - a) **Protecting Historic Features.**
  - b) **Metal Detecting Requirements.**
  - c) **Archaeological Fieldwork Requirements.**
 Details of these could be obtained at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-stewardship-manual>
- **Proposed LEGISE Roadshow:** This is intended to promote information about hobby matters, such as easy methods of landscape recording Treasure information and finds conservation. It will help novice detectorists in these areas. It will be a joint organisation between detectorists, PAS & archaeology.  
The LEGISE Roadshow will not be just talks, it will need other ingredients such as finds, brought in by participants, together with their Landscape Context.  
Other detecting groups and even indies could maybe approach LEGISE, when they saw how it was benefiting the hobby.  
LEGISE would also approach national archaeological bodies with a mission statement and a brief history of LEGISE with a view to becoming a National Detecting organisation, which represents the hobby's interests rather than merely selling third party insurance.
- **First Aid Finds conservation courses:** Dana Goodburn's workshop on 4<sup>th</sup> February had gone well. Photos of the event were on the Facebook Group. A repeat event is planned for July.
- **KAMSU Surveys.**  
**Lossenham Priory Farm.** The postponed surveys for 23/24 November 2022 have been rearranged for 10/11 June 2023. The site, attendees and parking arrangements will be the same as before.

**Hawkhurst:** This is a new site on Woodlands Trust land on the Kent/Sussex border. Andrew Richardson invited KAMSU to survey the site on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, with up to 10 detectorists.

**Post meeting note:** See the LEGISE Facebook Group for a report and photos of some of the finds made.

**Lees Court:** Keith Parfitt was about to retire and would be able to get more involved in the project. He would endeavour to get KAMSU to carry out metal detecting surveys. Before Covid, Keith suggested carrying out landscape surveys for all LEGISE / KAMSU clubs. This will now be discussed again after an initial archaeological excavation. The site excavation has been organised by KAS, LEGISE / KAMSU are still waiting to be accepted as a member organisation of the KAS.

**Field Survey Activities:** The Search Day planned for 10<sup>th</sup> February had been postponed and it is hoped that another one will take place later this year.

- **National Activities - PAAG/Landscape Recording:** On the 14th of March representatives from AMDS made a Zoom presentation, together with David Barwell from LEGISE representing ARMD (Affiliated Regions for Metal Detecting) to PAAG (Portable Antiquities Advisory Group) in a bid to join the group on behalf of all the members we all represent.  
**Post meeting note:** This has since been accepted.
- **Website & Facebook Group:** This was still under discussion. A Facebook Page could be used to advertise LEGISE to the public.  
**Post meeting note:** A public Facebook Group titled 'LEGISE Landscape Metal Detecting Group' has been launched. Its purpose is to attract new members to LEGISE.
- **Finds Specialists on the Facebook Group:** LEGISE had recruited several experts to help identifying finds.  
**Post meeting note:** The names of these experts and their areas of expertise are listed on the private Facebook Group. These specialists will help LEGISE to become a **Hobby Information Centre**.  
Club reps were reminded that photos for finds posted on the LEGISE Facebook Group should include a scale strip or at least a modern coin.
- **LEGISE Hobby Information & Activities Centre:** LEGISE is effectively a 'Hobby Information Centre' to promote liaison between the MD hobby, PAS, Archaeology with help and advice within the following categories: -
  - Treasure Act.
  - Treasure finds.
  - Treasure delays.
  - First aid finds conservation.
  - Finds conservation courses.
  - Finds identification.
  - Finds identification specialists.
  - Recording your finds.
  - Simple & easy self- landscape recording method.
  - Metal detecting field surveys conducted by KAMSU (Kent Archaeological & Metal Detecting Survey unit for detecting surveys on archaeological sites across Kent.

With 40 years of experience starting from fighting the proposed metal detecting ban in the late 70's to today's collaboration that benefits everyone that enjoys our past.

**Clive Sinclair**

**Roger Mintey**