

Minutes of the Stoneleigh History Society meeting held at 7.30 pm on the 24th of September 2024 in the Village hall

1. Sheila welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 23 members present plus 5 visitors. There were 8 apologies.
2. Notices: a. At our next meeting which is on October the 29th there will be an opportunity for members to donate to the Poppy Appeal. b. WLHS has some morning slots available for their visit to the Lord Leycester Hospital – see their web site for details. c. The Stoneleigh Male Voice Choir and ‘Bad Vibrations’ will be performing in Stoneleigh Church on October the 18th. d. The 2025 SHS programme has been circulated and Sheila was pleased to say that 7 of the presentations will be on Stoneleigh Village topics.
3. Sheila invited Quentin Compton Bishop to give his presentation.

Quentin began by introducing his colleagues from the Warwickshire Metal Detectorists group who had come with examples of items found locally: Marie-Claire Montgomery, Peter Johnson, Kevin Lamb and Andrew Hicks. Also present was Victoria Allnatt from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

‘History unearthed: metal detecting finds from the local area’.

Background:

The Warwickshire Metal Detectorists are a small private group founded in 2004. Quentin demonstrated the different sounds a metal detector can make. A high pitched sound is made when metal is detected. There is a metal detecting code of conduct laid down by the NCMD.

The Law:

Victoria Allnatt explained the ‘Portable Antiquities Scheme’. It is funded by Government through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The most recent legislation is the Treasure Act of 1996. Items can be accessed by the public through the nationally available ‘data base of finds’.

Researching sites and identifying finds:

Finds are categorized using the British Archaeological periods in history i.e. Post Medieval, Medieval, Early Medieval, Roman, Iron Age, Bronze Age and Stone Age.

Typical finds are – brooches, buckles, buttons, lead, iron and rubbish. Modern examples of rubbish would be ring pulls from cans.

Finds from the local area:

Marton – Elms Farm field where Roman coins, Early Medieval brooches and flint flakes were found.

Long Itchington – A Late Medieval purse bar which would have been the top of a frame for a leather purse and an Early Medieval silver penny from the time of Cnut (1016-1035).

Ryton on Dunsmore – Warren Farmhouse where there were finds from 5 main sites. Medieval finds - Henry 111 short - cross pennies (1222-1236) and Henry 111 long - cross penny (1258- 59)

Cubbington – West Hill Farm where a Neolithic axe head from 4000 – 2,200 BC was found.

Stoneleigh – Stoneleigh Meadows where above the flood plain a number of items were found. An 18th C shoe patten, a Jews Harp, Livery buttons from the Leigh family, a Warwickshire Regiment cap badge, a Royal Welch Regiment of Fusiliers cap badge, a General Jacob's rifle 32- bore bullet from the 1850s and a Stoneleigh posy ring with an inscription 'Thoughts... Keep me...Wakeing...

4. Sheila thanked Quentin for his presentation and invited questions. Some related to the HS2 earthworks but the group had not been able to access the land. Sheila commented that the 32 – bore bullet found in Stoneleigh could relate to a Leigh family member who had fought in Afghanistan and might have been practicing on the meadow land.
5. The meeting broke for refreshments and an opportunity for the audience to peruse the exhibits and ask further questions.
6. The meeting finished at 9.30.
7. Next meeting: October the 29th 'Coventry War Memorial Park Remembrance Trees.'

SMC/24/9/25