

Stoneleigh History Society

Minutes of the AGM held on the 24th of March 2026 in Stoneleigh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

1. Sheila Woolf welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies had been received from: Celia Baly, Pam Baker, Maggie Moorhouse, Margaret Brown, Ruth and Bruce Oliver, Sarah Ballinger, Jill Kashi and Janice Shepherd.
3. Minutes of the AGM held in 2025: These were accepted as a true record.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. Chairman's Report for 2025: This was previously circulated and there were no matters arising. The report's acceptance was proposed by Phil Jones and seconded by Pete James.
6. Treasurer's Report for 2025: This was previously circulated. Sue Crofts commented that for the first time for a while the accounts were in credit. This was due to the reduced amount spent on guest speakers and the revenue gained from the sale of SHS pamphlets. The report's acceptance was proposed by Adrian Clarke and seconded by Lisa Reay.
7. Election of the SHS Committee 2026 – 2029: Sue Crofts took the chair whilst the election of the Chairman took place. There was one nomination for the post – Sheila Woolf – and the election of that candidate was proposed by Sarah Ballinger and seconded by Sue Crofts. There was a unanimous vote in favour of that appointment. Sheila resumed the chair for the election of the Secretary and Treasurer. There was one nomination – Sue Crofts – and the election of that candidate was proposed by Clare Clarke and seconded by Sheila Woolf. There was a unanimous vote in favour of that appointment. Nominations for Ordinary Members of the Committee: Four nominations had been received. Clare Clarke was proposed by Sue Crofts and seconded by Sheila Woolf. Lisa Reay was proposed by Peter Thompson and seconded by Derek Robinson. Sarah Ballinger was proposed by Sheila Woolf and seconded by Clare Clarke. Pete James was proposed by Sue Crofts and seconded by Sheila Woolf. All nominations were accepted by the members present.
8. Any other business: Nora Blagburn thanked the Committee for all their hard work over the previous three years. She gave a special mention to the work undertaken by Sheila and Sue.
9. The AGM closed at 7.45 pm.

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 24th of March 2026 at 7.45 pm.

1. Notices:
 - a. Sheila thanked Sarah for organising the refreshment rota and gave thanks to Clare and Adrian for serving them this evening.
 - b. On the issue of changing the dates and times for SHS meetings there was little support, so things will remain as planned.
 - c. There are many good talks, visits etc on the WLHS website so take a look. Also, Quentin and the Warwickshire detectorists have their talk on the 25th of March at the Blacksmith's Arms.
 - d. Volunteers are needed for the Spring Festival event to be held in the village on the 16th of May at 2pm.

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- e. Lisa has sold most of the booklets she created for VE Day and 1,000 years of Stoneleigh. If there is a demand for more she can get them printed.
 - f. Sue Crofts is opening her garden at North Lodge for the National Garden Scheme. Visits are by appointment at a cost of £5 and will extend throughout the year until the start of October.
 - g. The guest speaker for our April meeting is David Fry who will be bringing some interesting artefacts from the Marton Museum of Bygones.
2. Sheila introduced the guest speaker Richard Churchley.
- Richard explained that he had chosen several songs sung in Victorian times and for each he would give some information about context. He encouraged the audience to join in the chorus line of each.
- a. He began with 'Cockles and Mussels' which originates from the 1870s. There is a statue of Molly Malone in Dublin.
 - b. The next song was popular in the music halls of the 1830s and 40s. It is a folk song about a man – Jack Hall – who allegedly was hung for a crime he did not commit. The song is called Sam Hall.
 - c. The third song is a Warwickshire folk song about a farm labourer from Ilmington called Joseph Kinchin. It was sung by many school children up to the 1980s. It's called 'To my hey down down...'
 - d. The fourth song was written by the American song writer Stephen Foster, a prolific writer of popular songs during the Victorian era. It is called 'Hard Times' and is about poverty amongst the rural population in the US southern states. (1854)
 - e. Next was the 'Skye Boat Song', a traditional tune with words by Sir Harold Bolton (1894).
 - f. The sixth song was written by George 'Geordie' Ridley. It is about a 'mutton man' who is very taken by a local woman. It was written in 1862. Ridley is most famous for 'Blaydon Races'.
 - g. The next was a sea shanty which is associated with the clipper ships that sailed between the UK and Australia.
 - h. The eighth is from a collection of verses about life in the coal and iron industries of South Wales. They revolve around a man called 'Cotta Bailey' and they may be linked to the iron/coal owner Crawshay Bailey.
 - i. Number nine was a political song of the mid 1880s by Charles Coburn – 'Two lovely black eyes'.
 - j. The final song was "Daisy, Daisy give me your answer do" (1892). Before this song Daisy was not a common name, but the song gave the name and cycling a big boost. It was written by Henry Dacre and the inspiration may have been the love affair between Daisy, Countess of Warwick and the Prince of Wales.

A very enjoyable time was had by all. Sheila thanked Richard and welcomed questions, comments from the audience.

3. The audience retired for refreshments and continued their discussion of Richard's presentation.
4. The meeting closed at 21.00