

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.
- e. Lisa has sold most of the booklets she created for VE Day and a 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 a number of 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