

## Stoneleigh History Society

Meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

### Minutes

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies: Ruth Oliver, Sarah Ballinger, Sue Crofts, John Purcell, Celia Baly, Maggie Moorhouse, Jill Kashi, Pam Baker, Sue Line, John Purcell, Jean Vaughan, Margaret & Ken Wallis, Pam Long.  
Nos present 19  
Visitors 0

3. Notices.

Sheila spoke about the refreshment rota, encouraging everyone to take a turn. A discussion was had about disposable cups or possibly “bring your own”. Sheila understood that disposable cups had already been purchased.

Phil Jones reminded members about the summer serenade, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 12.00pm at Stoneleigh Abbey. Tickets will be available early June.

Nora reminded members of the forthcoming Stoneleigh Orchard Blossom Event, 29<sup>th</sup> May 3.00-4.30pm. Stoneleigh Village Club will be open 2.00pm to 8.00pm.

4. This evening’s speaker was Dr Javad Hashemi-Tafreshi. The subject of his talk was ‘the fascinating story of egg cups.’

He started his talk by describing how the breakage of his wife’s favourite egg cup and the search for a replacement lead to his interest in collecting and researching egg cups.

The Egg Cup International Club was formed in 1989, there are now 640 members across 25 countries. A bi monthly newsletter goes out to club members. Javad appeared on Channel 4 to talk about all things egg cups. The word “Pocillovist” (a collector of egg cups) was added to the Oxford Dictionary based on the Latin Pocillum Ovi – meaning small cup for an egg.

Egg cups have been used since Roman times. Examples being found dating from 75BC in Pompeii.

Javad went onto describe different styles of egg cups, decoration and materials including:-

Louis XIV (porcelain), Louis XV (silver)

Willow pattern (Chinese origin).

Children's egg cups with various themes including nursery rhymes and animal shapes. Created to encourage children to eat eggs!

Royal Dalton 1943, Dr Knox very rare 'rabbit' egg cup.

Silver christening egg cup and spoons, giving rise to the "born with a silver spoon" saying, were popular gifts in Victorian times.

Commemorative Royal occasion egg cups, including "spitting image" style egg cups.

Boer War generals on egg cups celebrating military success on the battlefield.

Souvenir ware, keep sakes to bring back from trips, visits and holidays.

Souvenirs from the Great Exhibitions, 1851, 1924 & 1951.

Commercial promotional egg cups, Guinness, Cadbury's and Manchester United.

Antique egg cups from Paragon and Shelley. Valuable egg cups included Nelson egg cup in Greenwich Museum (£2000), Faberge style egg cups.

Celebrity chef egg cups including Jamie Oliver and Gary Rhodes.

Finally a jokey "Brexit" egg cup set – "Hard Brexit" & "Soft Brexit"

The talk ended with Javad generously inviting members to have a go at lucky dip in a basket of egg cups and to view Patrick Sawdon's egg cup collection, which he kindly brought along.

5. Sheila thanked Javad for his talk.
6. Closure.
7. Date of next meeting. 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

*Clare Clarke 24.5.23*