

Minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 at 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies: Pam Baker, Pam Long, Pete James, Sue Line, Chris Titley, Jill Kashi, Bruce Oliver and Celia Baly. There were 21 members present and 3 visitors.
2. Notices:
  - a. Sheila reminded everyone about the flyer that has been created and will shortly be delivered to the homes of residents who have moved into the area in the last 10 years. The flyer invites them to attend the Spring Festival in May in order to meet SHS members and find out more about the society.
3. Sheila then introduced the Speaker for the evening -David Fry- and invited him to deliver his presentation –  
**‘Marton’s Cabinet of Curiosities: The Museum of Country Bygones.’**  
David explained that the collection was started by George Tims in the 1950s. Many items were donated by local farmers and craftspeople.  
George started to amass a large number of items and storage became a problem. Eventually he moved his collection to Hall Farm outbuildings and with increased space George slowly increased the amount of items he had. This was helped by changes in farming practices, fewer blacksmiths and more labour saving devices in the home. He exhibited at local country fairs including the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.  
Eventually, in 1982, the Hall Farm outbuildings were sold to free land for housing. In exchange the local council negotiated the creation of a village recreational ground and a building to house what had become a ‘village museum’.  
Unfortunately, in the 1990s George began to suffer with dementia , and local people suggested to the Tims family that they could take over the running of the museum. The family were reluctant at first but eventually in 2009 they agreed that a group of local people could take over.  
Marton is the last surviving Village Museum in Warwickshire.  
In 2023 the museum building was extended to provide a much needed storage area. This has allowed the 3,000 plus exhibits to be displayed more attractively.  
Exhibits are lent out to local organisations such as Compton Verney, Chedham’s Yard at Wellesbourne, Leamington Museum and The Motor Museum at Gaydon.  
Talks are given to schoolchildren and to residents of Care Homes as ‘Reminiscence Therapy’.  
Group visits are available including homemade teas and a tour of Marton Village. Also the Museum is open every Sunday afternoon.  
  
David then asked the audience to guess the name and use of a number of items he had brought with him. Most were to do with the slaughter of animals but there were other less unattractive items such as a little device for lifting eggs!  
Sheila thanked David for a very entertaining and informative talk.
4. The audience retired for refreshments and continued their discussion of David’s presentation.
5. The meeting closed at 21.30

N.B. Sheila has been in touch with David about a possible SHS visit to Marton. A visit, including refreshments and a tour around the village would cost £5 each. Please let Sheila know if you would like to join a group.