

Thornborough and Thornton W.I.

Report for the Parish Council: 21st June 2018:

Thornton and Thornborough is only one tiny strand of a world-wide organisation which seeks to provide opportunities for women to be active and engaged in their own communities and to campaign about what matters in the wider world.

In terms of our community activities last year, we provided a session on Scottish dancing and a 'Spirit Night' in which hedgerow fruits were converted into strong liquor for Christmas. Delicious. There was a range of interesting speakers including one on juggling - not just the home/ job/ kids scenario familiar to most women - but the balls and hoops kind. A male juggler this was – as most are! We had a talk on how a range of scientific discoveries contributed towards the development of the mobile phone and a magnificent lecture from an expert on pearls, their history and origins. This hall was full of a most beautiful horde of pearls: jewellery that is, not W.I. members. A writer and broadcaster, Barry Hyde, came to tell us about how he became successful at age 55 following a redundancy and Chris Lowe from the RNLI talked to us about this most inspiring organisation.

In terms of the events outside our community, Teresa Connolly was our delegate for the AGM in Liverpool and she too was involved in the Bucks county show entry based on a Victorian theme: a tiny room with plants, food and furniture. We didn't win this year but there are plenty of other W.I.s in this area with talented, competitive women. We often join in with other groups for local or national events and there have been a number of opportunities to attend craft events, Fairs, quizzes and talks beyond our parish.

Within the W.I. here in the parish – we have long been known to be able to knock up a decent tea: indeed birthday parties and gatherings of most descriptions can be ably provided for. We've branded ourselves WIGS – meaning W.I. Gastronomic Services and should anyone here be in need of this service in the near future, please contact one of the team. A 90th birthday party and a number of cream teas are amongst our successes this year.

Our membership at the W.I is steady and loyal with strong monthly attendance. We are always on the lookout for new people, so although this is a report rather than a recruitment drive, please join our ranks if female, interested in the world and keen to find an alternative to T.V on the sofa for maybe one night a month.