

Thornborough and Thornton WI Report: April and May 2018

Those of us who remember or who know about Thor Heyerdahl's trip across the Atlantic in 1970 will be aware that he used a boat made entirely of reed to make the crossing. Heyerdahl – besides being an adept sailor - was making the point that the trip was possible in such an apparently unsophisticated vessel, built with the help of a Bolivian craftsman. What we may have forgotten (or never knew in the first place) was that this amazing trip supported other evidences that there were probably journeys made from South America to Europe over 5,000 years ago in similar sailing crafts!



This one tiny story above is typical of the kind of information Ray Rolinson shared with our group last month. To augment his narrative – full of historical detail, everyday knowledge and jaw dropping facts – is the stunning photography (projected on screen) and although we've heard his talks before (on Ethiopia and the Silk Road) this was the first time he confessed to being a professional photographer (in a previous life) and a digital whizz-kid.

What a treat to hear of the Rolinsons' first view of Lima, an earthquake zone with clever construction of resistant buildings, a massive football stadium and weird weather: mist and moisture with little rain. The trip covered the Sacred Valley, the extraordinary Machu Picchu, Cusco, Bolivia, and La Paz, amongst others, all of which had their own stories and small details concerning the local food or architecture or music, art, warfare, technology, ornamentation, even birds. A quite incredible travelogue from two intrepid travellers: beating the neighbours' holiday slides by a country mile.

At our May meeting there was discussion about this year's national W.I. resolution, often if not always, a vital source of pressure on government thinking or funding. This one concerns mental health and the need to reduce the stigma attached to it. This topic is so much in the news at the moment so that hopefully, the voice of our organization will add significant volume to the general cry for more attention and help for those in need.

Why not join us for the June meeting? Visitors are always welcome.

7.30pm in Thornborough village hall Wednesday 6th June

www.thornboroughandthorntonwi.org

Cath Sayer