

Thornborough & Thornton W.I. Report August 2015

It's true that old stereotypes die-hard. There must be those from the uninitiated (i.e. those not in the W.I.) who believe that all women do when they get together is gossip, gossip, gossip or perhaps swap recipes for jam or discuss seed catalogues, but I can assure our readers that at the August meeting of Thornborough and Thornton W.I. – the only one of the year when there isn't a speaker or activity - that there was absolutely no idle gossip. Raucous laughter, yes, whoops of delight at some immodest tale certainly, and many wry comments about the news and weather, especially the incessant rain (the idea was to walk round and sit in Claire Morgan's amazing garden, but it was not to be) but pointless gossip – not on the menu!

Besides, we had to plan our next creation. Hopefully, everyone who felt even a passing interest in the rather bizarre looking woman parked up on the Dole Tree bench (Dr. Frankenstein, eat your heart out) will now understand that this is the brainchild of our W.I. to celebrate our 100 years of existence. First was our suffragette: Emily. Subsequent creations, Doreen (land-girl of WW2) and Marianne (Jagger's friend) have helped to flesh out the idea of showing women through the ages.

So at the time of writing, there are other designs in the pipeline (have you spotted Hattie Tude yet?) and deciding on who, when and why is a serious business. Truly! Deciding on our top ten favourite films, books, sports' stars, cars, foreign locations – falls into the same kind of chat and having to justify a choice takes – well, firm opinion as well as rational argument.



Emily



Doreen



Marianne



Hattie Tude

And what about the yarn bombing? Isn't that part of W.I. celebration? Certainly is. Otherwise known as pom-poms and bunting, each of these little critters took hours to make, using up (believe it or not) dozens and dozens of plastic bags. Better than for land-fill we think. For those of you who haven't seen them, they're on a tree on the Green.

You see – we're just trying to make our mark, declare our existence, defy the stereotypes but embrace and celebrate in simple ways – the business of beingfemale.

Cath Sayer