

Thornborough & Thornton W.I. Report July 2014

Georgian mansion with 17 acres, in the pretty village of Marcham, near Oxford, going for a song at £16,000. Seriously? Well it was; indeed was bought for that amount in 1948!

Like all these gorgeous houses, there's a long history of various owners and uses. It was first built for the Elwes family, one of whom was an infamous miser. There was a fire in the late 17th Century and during WW2 it was requisitioned by the RAF. Just after the war, it was bought for the W.I and named after Lady Denman who was chairman of the national federation of W.I. for thirty years. The building above then, is no other than Denman College where women from the institute, men and families, members and non-members attend courses for a few days at a time, on a range of subjects and matters of interest.



At the July meeting of the W.I. Elizabeth Webster (ambassador for Denman) spoke with passion about the college, its history, its provision and courses and urged everyone to attend a course in order to protect the future of the college and because there are literally thousands of testimonials from those who have attended and been inspired and invigorated by a few days away from home to learn new skills and extend horizons. Interested persons should check out the website and book!

Readers of this column will know that in May, members of the W.I. walked round Thornborough to support the endeavours of the ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). We learned this month that Bucks W.I. members raised between them nearly £900 in sponsorship and donations. That's an impressive amount - enough to purchase a sizeable wing of Denman College back in 1948 perhaps. It'll be interesting to learn what £900 can buy in terms of human rights in 2014.

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