

Thornborough and Thornton W.I. Report for March / April 2018

There's probably a zillion answers to the question, '*What has Science ever done for us?*' so it was quite a task for George Higgins to answer that question at our last month's meeting without handing out a list a mile long.

What he did, was talk about the colour revolution in the 1960s, evidenced at the National Museum of Fashion in Bath, the work of electro-magnetism maestro James Clerk Maxwell, Augustin Fresnel's development of optics, MRI scanning, Alexander Graham Bell's stealing of the idea of a telephone, Marconi's experiments with wireless telegraphy and the accidental discovery of liquid crystals by Friedrich Reinitzer in 1888.

Get it?

OK, only our brightest and best members realised early on that George was talking about all the different strands of science necessary for the development of the mobile phone – the kind we all use and depend on today (well, most of us). How neat a structure was that?

Furthermore, it served to make or imply the point that all scientific discovery, perhaps any kind of progress is an amalgam of a whole range of knowledge and experience.

We all had to concentrate hard on this talk, but that's not always the case at our meetings and that's what's good about the W.I.

Line dancing one-week (4th July) spoilt rotten with a Clarins demo (June 6th) chat in a lovely garden (August 1st) hard core science to start the year.

No sign of jam making or singing Jerusalem you'll notice.

Speaking of science, let us remember the remarkable engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette who designed the Victorian sewer system. There was a visit to London to the Cathedral of Sewage at Crossness organised by the Bucks Federation of the W.I. last year and aptly titled 'The Great Stink'. It was an excellent demonstration of what Science has done for us!

Why not come to one of our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm in the village hall to find out more?



Cath Sayer