



Wolston WI News – November 2016

Within a few days of hearing that our friend and member Margaret Hodges had died we were sad to hear that Elsie Yeaman, who was an ex-member, had also died. Elsie left W.I. because of health problems but some current members still remember her as a hard-working committee member and a lovely person. One of the events Warwickshire Federation recently arranged was a “Poppy Making Day” which was held in Wolston Village Hall. There were several tutors including our own Ruth McCartney, who demonstrated ways of making a poppy using different craft skills. An interesting day and well attended by members of Warwickshire W.I.s.

Paul Thompson came to our meeting to talk about “Dressing the Knight” accompanied by his squire. I don't think the squire (also known as Paul's dad) thought he would still be helping his son get dressed when Paul was an adult.

Paul gave us a lot of information about the clothing worn in the 15th century and some items were passed around for us to examine. He brought with him his own personal armour and explained how important it was that you dressed according to your station and could be imprisoned for not complying with these rules. A knight needed a squire to dress him, and it was long process, so if he was going into battle he would have to get ready the night before and sleep in his armour.

Armour was very expensive so if a knight was killed in battle then the armour would be taken and sold. Contrary to what you would expect Paul told us the armour is quite comfortable and he could walk around without any problem and with less noise than you would expect. The main disadvantage was the weight, particularly when the helmet was in place. He did give us a warning that if we did not wear some form of hat (in the 15th century men would wear a pork pie hat and ladies a wimple) the evil spirits could get to your brain and send you mad!

We are hoping to take part in various activities over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas and also have plans for the New Year including Paula Cornwell giving a talk entitled “Mind Your Motoring Manners” at our meeting on Thursday, 12 January, 2017.

Jean Morgan