

Thirty members of Grindleton WI met at Gawthorpe Hall for a guided tour of the house, a diverse and very interesting monthly meeting. This was followed by an enjoyable late supper at The Higher Trapp.

The National Trust describes the hall as “an Elizabethan gem in the heart of Lancashire”, origins dating back to the 14th century as a pele tower, built by the Shuttleworth’s as a defence against invading Scots. The present Gawthorpe Hall is a stunning structure which continues to be a tranquil oasis surrounded by urban and industrial sprawl; views from the windows capture the landscaped garden and the majestic Pendle Hill unhindered by its neighbours.

We enjoyed listening to the changes that the house has seen throughout the Kay-Shuttleworth family lineage, linking history and industrial changes throughout the centuries.

A highlight of the evening was the Gawthorpe Textile Collection, originally called the Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth Collection’s, the last family member to live at Gawthorpe Hall. Miss Rachel amassed textiles from as early as 1912 and she believed that textile craft aided wellbeing; she engaged with the local community and opened up learning opportunities for all.

An evening well spent and well worth another visit.

The competition was a small sample of embroidery, the winners were; First: Nan Clough. Joint second: Pam Ward & Gill Sharpe.

Next meeting: 7-30pm on Thursday 14th September at The Pavilion. “The Other Black Beauty” with Jack Morris from Bury Black Puddings