

'Threads of Life' by Clare Hunter

At first sight, I thought this exploration of the joys and power of sewing an odd choice for a non-fiction history book group. However, it proved to be a fascinating account of the role of needlework in politics, protest and identity across the centuries. Hunter includes stories from such diverse contexts as a POW camp in Singapore, an imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots, and even two Edinburgh binmen participating in a sewing project. The only disappointment in this interesting read was the absence of illustrations.