Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025

Next Monthly Meeting - 26th August 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Gail Wooliscroft - a member of the L&R Federation board of trustees and the food and drinks committee is due to set our taste buds tingling with a demonstration of decadent deserts, all made within 45 minutes.

As a demonstrator, but not a chef, for over 50 years Gail likes to share her recipes and tips with members of the WI at cookery demonstrations



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I would like to update you on the situation facing YOUR WI after the AGM in October, when I will be stepping down.

As President, I have been working with the existing committee members to ensure a strong committee will be in place, but despite our efforts to encourage members, we still have just FOUR committee members lined up. This situation is totally unsustainable but most importantly, we do not currently have a member who is willing to take on the Secretary role; according to WI rules, we cannot carry on without one.

Therefore, the committee has slimmed down the Secretary job description (a copy of which is attached with this newsletter) and we are appealing again for one of you to step up to do this 'reduced' and hopefully, more manageable role. Please give it serious consideration and ask yourself "Is this a small way I can help my WI?" If you would like to discuss the role with me, please feel free to do so at Tuesday's meeting, or at any other time.

We will be welcoming Gail Woolscroft from WI House to our meeting for a cookery-based talk on Decadent Desserts. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Thanks

Jackie

Remember for the meeting:

- Please remember to have the correct money (£1) for the door fee together with £1 for the raffle if you want to take part.
- Wear your lanyard so that everybody knows who everybody is.
- Any small change for Peppers a safe place.
- Bring your cheque book to pay for events if you do not use internet banking.

Please also ensure that you carry a note of who we can contact in the case of an emergency and details of any medication that a first responder might need to know about. This should be carried in an easily accessible place when attending meetings and events.

You do not need to send apologies if you cannot attend the monthly meeting but we would appreciate it if you let us know if you cannot attend a booked event.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025

Payment for events/activities

When paying for events/activities in which you are taking part, could we please ask that you pay either directly online by bank transfer (the preferred option) to:

Oakham Women's Institute

Sort code: 08-92-99 A/c no: 67228391

or by cheque, handed directly to our Treasurer - Linda B - or another member of the committee acting on her behalf.

We would prefer if you **DID NOT** pay cheques into the WI account, because although these show on our bank records, we have no reference with which to reconcile the payment; we can not see who has made the payment, or what it is for.

Your cooperation in this matter would be very much appreciated.

Oakham WI WhatsApp group

If you would like to join the Oakham WI WhatsApp group- a fun and informal way of keeping in touch with other members, sharing local information, etc - please email Jackie on oakhamwi@gmail.com, giving her your mobile number and she will send a link for you to join.



Please remember WhatsApp is an open forum, visible to many of our members, and sensitive, confidential or private information should not be shared.

HISTORY GROUP

The Oakham WI history group met on Wednesday 13 August and heard talks from Diane Bates and Jackie Cooper.

Diane continued with the history of the Percy family – the Earls and Dukes of Northumberland from 1478 to the present day – and their ancestral seat, Alnwick Castle.

Throughout their history the Percys have had many connections to significant historical events and characters, with the fourth Earl involved in the political manoeuvrings of the last Yorkist kings and the sixth Earl who was in love with Anne Boleyn. The Rising of the North, the plots to liberate Mary Queen of Scots, and the Gunpowder Plot each claimed a Percy among their supporters.

Ralph the current Duke, succeeded on the tragic death of his older brother by suicide in 1995. Hugh and his wife Jane are patrons of various local groups and have developed Alnwick Castle and its wonderful garden as a tremendous visitor attraction.

Jackie gave a 'potted' history of tea-drinking in the UK, from its discovery in China over 4700 years ago, through its growth in popularity in the 17th and 18th centuries, to its status today as the national drink, enjoyed by over 84% of the UK population. Tea has a chequered history. It helped to fuel the British empire, underpinned the slave trade and led indirectly to the Opium wars with China.

The informal group meets regularly on the second Wednesday in the month at The King Centre, Barleythorpe, at 2.15pm and welcomes new members. If you would like further information, please speak to Liz Hemming, who leads the group.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Recent Events



August Ramble from Ridlington

For our August ramble, ten members set off from the pretty village of Ridlington, with its impressive bus shelter, complete with mosaic and rose bushes.





We walked along the ridge with fine views towards Manton and Rutland Water, before descending to the valley floor, pausing by the River Chater and wending our way back through sheep fields and around ploughed fields to return to Ridlington.





Sue He, Jackie, Maureen, Phil, Jenny Se, Pam, Gill P, Sue Y and Jill





On returning to Ridlington we walked through the pretty village admiring the houses with views over the valley before going onto Rutland Water Garden Centre where we rested our weary limbs and enjoyed a chat. A lovely morning in good company.

All members are welcome to join us, we walk at a leisurely pace and enjoy a chat as well as the ramble.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Recent Events

Visit to the Stained Glass Museum at Ely

Thirteen members set off by train from Oakham for the hour-long journey to Ely. The time passed quickly with lots of chat and laughter.

On arrival we walked to the Almonry Cafe where a room had been set aside for our use and we could enjoy a coffee before our tour.



Our guide then took us around the museum, telling us about interesting pieces, including the work of Mary Lowndes, a stained glass artist who set up a studio that opened the doors for other women to become stained glass artists and was also a suffragette.

All too soon our tour was over but we had time to look around the museum and visit the shop, where there were lovely items to buy.

We then adjourned to the Almonry and enjoyed lunch before returning to the station for our train back to Oakham.





We then climbed the stone stairs in the cathedral to be greeted by our lovely tour guide who welcomed us to the museum. The museum was founded in 1972 to rescue stained glass windows from redundant building. It is the only museum dedicated to the art of stained glass in the Uk and has thousands of pieces, only some of which can be displayed.

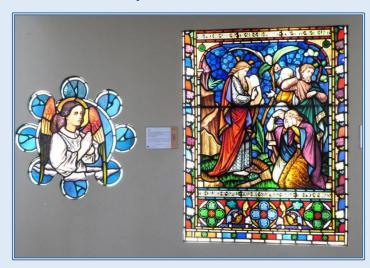
The oldest stained glass in the collection (left) is dated to the 13th century and came from Soissons Cathedral in France. The colours are so vibrant it looked as if it could have been made a few years ago.



Jackie, Sue, Carol, Sue, Frances, Christine, Sharon, Miriam, Diane, Helen, Jill, Pam.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Recent Events

More pictures from our visit to the Stained Glass Museum at Ely



Right: The dawning of the last day. Made in 1871 for a school in Shropshire





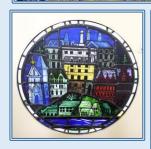
Left: A 1977 piece by an American artist. The work is based on a 19th century work by Ingres entitled Saint Adelaide. The young black man is in the place of Saint Adelaide.

Below: Inner Space(1979) and a modern piece showing the evils of consumerism.









Right: George III painted on very thin glass and originally hung in Windsor Castle.







Above: The Damson Tree. A trial piece made in 2018 for the cloister at Canterbury Cathedral.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Upcoming Events

Ketton Ramble - 3.8 miles - Monday 29 September 10.15am

Our September ramble has it all! A quarry, a nature reserve, the river Chater, a packhorse bridge and a church restored by George Gilbert Scott of St Pancras station fame, as well as many grade 2 listed houses and of course views of the cement works!

Please register your interest by emailing oakhamwievents@gmail.com with Ramble in the subject bar to add your name to the list, stating whether you want to walk or just join us for refreshments. Car shares will be organised once we know participants.



Canal Path Amble: Scholfield Road to Ashwell Road and Back

Date: Thursday, 18th September

Meeting Time: 10:30 am - top of Scholfield Road. Do not park canal side of the Bypass as

multiple cars have been keyed recently

Come along for a gentle two and a half mile stroll along the scenic Oakham Canal path on Thursday, September 18th. We'll set off from Scholfield Road (bypass end) at 10:30 am, heading towards Ashwell Road before looping back at a relaxed pace.

This peaceful route offers lovely views and a chance to enjoy fresh air, good company, and a bit of light exercise—perfect, whether you're there for the nature, the natter, or just a change of scenery.

After the walk, we'll drive to Barnsdale Garden Centre in Exton for tea/coffee and cake in their tearoom and a well-earned break. I know some of you—Phil included—are planning to walk to the starting point, but I wouldn't expect anyone to walk all the way to Barnsdale afterwards.

If you'd like to join us just for the canal walk or canal walk and refreshments or just refreshments, please email - oakhamwievents@gmail.com with "Canal Walk" in the subject line. In the body of your email, let us know one of the following:

- Walk only or Walk and refreshments or Refreshments only Plus
- Any dietary or allergy needs just to make sure the tearoom has cake for everyone

Kindly reply by **Wednesday**, **September 10th** so we can plan accordingly. Final details will be emailed to you a few days before the event.

If the weather isn't ideal for walking, we'll still meet for tea, coffee and cake. If that's the case, you will receive an email by 9am on the day to confirm.

We're looking forward to sharing a lovely morning with you and would love to have you with us.

Jenny Se

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Upcoming Events

Edith Weston Amble: A Lakeside and Village Stroll

Date: Wednesday 15th October

Meeting Time: 10:30 am at The Wheatsheaf pub, Edith Weston. We have permission to use their

car park

Join us for a gentle and scenic amble around the southern edge of Rutland Water, starting and ending at The Wheatsheaf for lunch and a chance to unwind together. This will be a relaxed amble, with stunning lakeside views - where the walk is gentle, and chatting is all part of the activity. If time allows, we'll pop into St Mary's Church for a quick look around—it's full of history and well worth a visit.

If the weather isn't ideal for walking, we'll still meet for lunch and you will receive an email by 9am on the day to confirm.

Route Details:

• **Distance**: Approximately 3 to 3.5 miles round trip

• Terrain: Mostly flat, well-maintained paths

• **Pace**: Leisurely, with time to enjoy the views

Lunch: 12:00

Want to join us?

Please email <u>oakhamwievents@gmail.com</u> with "Edith Weston Amble" in the subject line. In the body of your email, let us know one of the following:

- Walk only
- Lunch only see note about lunch below
- Walk and lunch see note about lunch below

Plus, if applicable: lift – We've been enjoying this walk together for years, and members usually sort their own travel arrangements. But if you would appreciate a lift, just mention it in your email - we'll do our best to match you up with someone.

Kindly reply by Monday 6th October so we can plan accordingly. Final details will be emailed to you a few days before the event, with an email on the day **IF** the weather looks uncertain.

Note About Lunch

We're not taking deposits for lunch, but if you've let us know you'd like to have lunch, we kindly ask that you do not change your mind. The pub is bringing in extra staff to accommodate our group, and we'd love to honour their goodwill by keeping to the numbers they are expecting. Thank you for your understanding - and for helping us maintain a positive relationship with our hosts. Jenny Se

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Upcoming Events

Organised by Leisure Committee

Warwick Castle and Light Trail



As darkness falls, journey through the castle grounds and immerse yourself in the surroundings filled with twinkling trees, dazzling light displays and illuminated projections that light up the sky. Price includes entry to the castle and light trail.

Wednesday 26th November 2025 £55 Open to friends and family

Pick up at Oakham Bus Station at 12pm Pick up at Federation House at 12.30pm Pick up at Three Pots, Burbage at 1pm

Return from Warwick Castle at 7pm

If you would like to book for this event, please contact your WI secretary or email wihouse@lrfwi.org with a booking form and pay by BACS by 15th October 2025.

Please state clearly if you have any accessibility requirements.

Many events are often oversubscribed, book early to avoid disappointment.

The WI is what YOU make of it.

This event may be photographed, we will presume permission unless we are otherwise informed



Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Dates for your diary

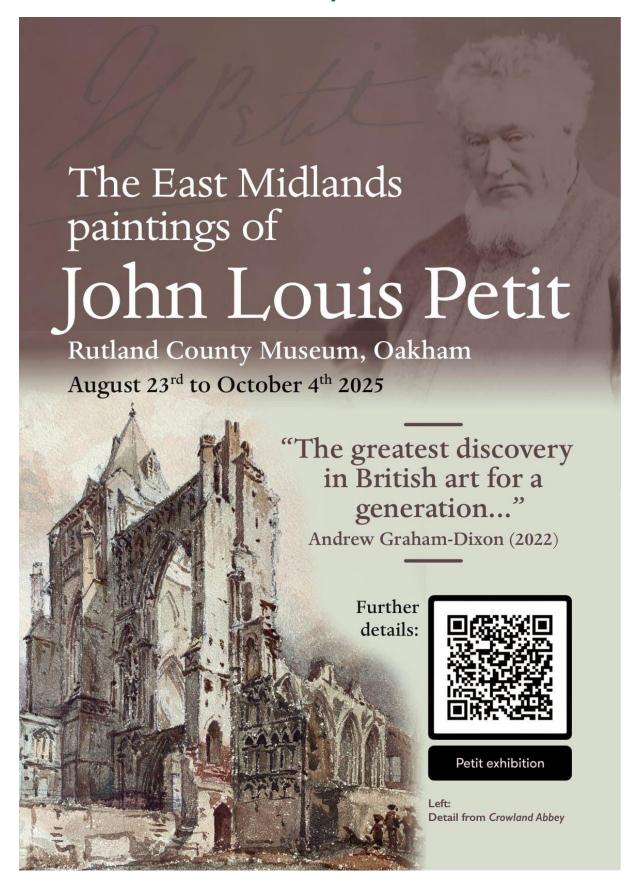
Date and time	Event
Friday 29 August	Book Club
11am	
Tuesday 9 September	Petanque
12 noon	
Wednesday 10 Setember	History Group
2.15pm	
Thursday 18 September	Canal walk and coffee
10.30am	
Monday 29 September	September Ramble: Ketton
10.15am	
Monday 13 October	Craft session
am	
Wednesday 15 October	Edith Weston walk and lunch
10.30am	
Wednesday 19 November	Craft session
pm	
Monday 15 December	Craft session
am	

Remember you can also look at our website for details of future meetings and events and also photographs from previous events:

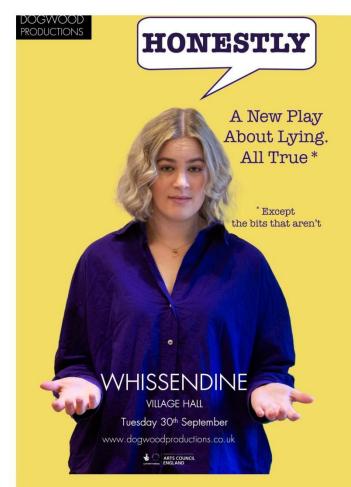
https://wioakham.wixsite.com/mysite

Have you seen an event advertised that you think would be of interest to members? Let a member of the committee know and maybe we can advertise to get a group together to go.

Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Community News



Oakham WI Newsletter August 2025 Community News



HONESTLY

WHEN ONE LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH, JUST CHOOSE ANOTHER.

From an award-winning company comes a new drama, dark, humorous and timely.

Chloe is undoubtedly in trouble. She's already been found guilty. And next? That depends on the psychologist's report.

Emma is undoubtedly in trouble. She has to write the report. It has to be accurate. So, ask a compulsive liar if she's telling the truth.

And she is. A compulsive liar. A condition or a con, villain or victim, deserving of care or incarceration? Chloe has never been content with one life: if you're not happy with this one, why not make up a new one? And she does.

So, who is in the room with Emma today? Faced with a cloud of lies where does she find truth and where is the honesty in her own life? What price truth, reality even, in a post-truth era? If it works for a president, why not for me? Honestly?

Dogwood's productions have been seen at the Lyric, Hammersmith, the RSC, theatres from Cornwall to Northumberland, arts centres and community venues.

WHISSENDINE

VILLAGE HALL
Main St., Whissendine LE15 7ET

Tuesday 30th September 7.30pm

Tickets £15 (£8 Under18)
Tickets From: Mace Store, 35, Main St., Whissendine LE15 7ES
Online at www.dogwoodproductions.co.uk/boxoffice



Enquiries: admin@dogwoodproductions.co.uk

0772 0882 530

