

# Oakham WI Newsletter

## October 2025

### Next Monthly Meeting - 28th October 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

This month we are to hear from Dr Brian Negus. He is registered blind but still takes photographs that have won him many fans on the photo-sharing website, Flickr. The 62-year-old retired academic from Loughborough is also chairman of Vista, a Leicestershire-based charity that provides services for blind and partially-sighted people. He talks about how photography has helped him see the world around him in a different way and also highlights some of his favourite shots.



#### From our President:

I can't believe I'm drafting my last piece for the Oakham WI newsletter as your President; the past couple of years have flown by!

You may remember that at the AGM in 2024, you elected 10 committee members, but over the course of the year a couple have stepped down for their own reasons – apparently it wasn't something I said!

I would like to express my thanks both to the original 10 and the remainder who have worked collaboratively during what turned out to be quite a difficult year. Personally, I value all your contributions and recognise that as committee members we can only give to the WI what we can in terms of time and effort, because we all have busy lives and other commitments.

This year, we have found seven members who would like to be elected to the Oakham WI committee and their details are attached with this newsletter. Now, we can look forward to the future with confidence that our WI will continue to flourish under the leadership of a new team and I can have a bit of a rest – I wish!!

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

## October 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](mailto: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

At the history group meeting this month (always held on the second Wednesday of the month), we heard from Liz He about Matilda I, the Countess of Boulogne (born 1105, died 1152), who at the age of two was betrothed to her cousin Stephen. He went on to become King Stephen I of England and Matilda his Queen Consort.

She was a feisty woman, who faithfully supported her mostly ineffectual husband in his struggle for the English throne against their mutual cousin Empress Matilda. She wielded considerable power and was loved by the people – especially those in the south-east of England, spending much of her time in London

Diane R told us the story of space exploration from the first human-made object to orbit Earth – the Soviet Union's, Sputnik I satellite, in 1957, through the first human spaceflight by Yuri Gagarin in 1961, to NASA's enormous and extremely costly Saturn V rocket and the Apollo program, culminating in Apollo XI – the first spaceflight to land humans on the moon and return them safely to earth.



Since then, there have been remarkable developments in space travel and who knows where it will lead as humans continue to attempt "to boldly go where no-one has gone before" (a quote from the great James T Kirk, Captain of the Starship Enterprise.)



# Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

## Recent Events

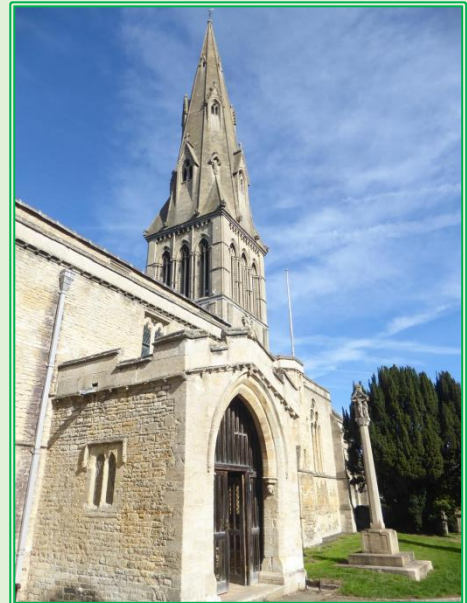
### September Ramble at Ketton

Well, this walk really did have it all, lovely weather, beautiful scenery and good company!! Seven members met on a beautiful sunny morning for our 3.7 mile ramble through the varying scenery around Ketton. We started walking across fields to reach the quarry, then entered the nature reserve,



meeting volunteers who were working to ensure that the reserve remains an ideal environment for leisurely strolls.

We then followed the river Chater which was framed by trees and wended its way until it reached a fish pond, a lovely place to stop and enjoy the scenery before walking along the ridge with views over the village. Our final stop was at the beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> century St Mary's church with its fine millennium tapestry before moving on to Rutland Water Garden Centre Cafe for a coffee and a chat. A lovely morning.





# Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

## Recent Events

### A Lovely October Amble

Ten members gathered for a leisurely three-mile amble along the Edith Weston stretch of Rutland Water and the village. The chilly morning air was filled with birdsong—one robin in particular seemed determined to out-sing our cheerful chatter. The route offered glimpses of Rutland Water's changing landscape and its noticeably low water levels, which reminded us of the hot summer that has now passed.

We paused to admire the graceful outline of Normanton Church, standing beautifully by the water's edge. An amble around the church gave us another reminder of how low the water level is.



From there, we continued on to St Mary's Church in Edith Weston, in the heart of the village. There was a sense of welcome as we ambled through the beautiful oak door. We saw plaques dating back to the early 1700s. We were impressed to see the stained glass window that beautifully depicts Jesus calming the storm with his disciples—set not on the Sea of Galilee, but on Rutland Water.



Our amble ended with a well-earned lunch at The Wheatsheaf, in Edith Weston, where nine of us enjoyed delicious food, warm service, and

most importantly - good company. Laughter, smiles and conversations flowed easily, and we all agreed it was a wonderful way to spend an October morning and early afternoon.

Jenny Se



# Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

## Recent Events

### Crafts with Jackie

At our first craft session of the autumn, on Monday 13th October, we made a bag charm using fabric feathers, waxed cotton cord and a selection of wooden and ceramic beads. We frayed the shapes cut from tartan fabric to make colourful and effective 'feathers'.

Everyone enjoyed making the charms and here are some of the results ...



Sharon, Margaret T and Diane B



Gill C and Jayne



Julie and Alison

### Members travels:



Where did Liz He travel to?  
A sunset over the East Coast?!!



Jill had lunch with Paddington in London whilst Jackie enjoyed her travels in Sicily.

Right: View from the ancient Greek Theatre at Taormina



Above: Catania Duomo (cathedral)





# Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

## Upcoming Events

### Crafting in November - Christmas Cards

19<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

Our next session will be held at the same venue – All Saints Church Hall – at 2.00pm on Wednesday 19 November. We will be making new Christmas cards – at least three – using last year's cards that you kindly donated earlier in the year.

Here is an example, to give you some idea of what we will be making. The cost will be £8 and if you would like to take part, please email [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) to sign up and pay the non-refundable £8 into the Oakham WI bank account with your name and 'Cards' as your reference.



### Crafting in December - Sea Glass

15 December at 10am

Want to try a craft that's a little bit different? Want to make something for Christmas that you can gift or treasure? Then why not come along to a sea glass creative workshop run by Karen from Shore Things. You will spend a couple of hours creating a wooden sign to hang and a couple of baubles for your tree. Price is £20 per person. No creative experience needed.

If you want to take part in this event to be held in the Church Hall please sign up by emailing [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) with Sea Glass in the header.

In order that we can confirm numbers with Karen and ensure that the event can go ahead, please respond by **8 November** at the latest.

As soon as we have minimum numbers we will contact you and ask you to make the non-refundable payment of £20 into our bank account.



## Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

### Upcoming Events

#### Pre Christmas Lunch at Stamford College Gallery Restaurant Friday 5 December 1pm



Following on from the successful visit to the Gallery Restaurant last year we are planning a return visit. Menus are attached to this email and pre-orders will be required by 10 November, although payment will only be made on the day for the meal and any drinks consumed.

Parking is available at the college or next door at the Leisure Centre.

In order that we can ensure that this event can go ahead and that we have sufficient places booked, please email [oakhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com) with Stamford in the heading to register your interest by 3 November, menu choices can then be made by 10 November.



Tuesday 4th November at  
10.30am

Join us for Social Sixes  
where groups of six members meet  
at a local venue for coffee or tea and a chat.

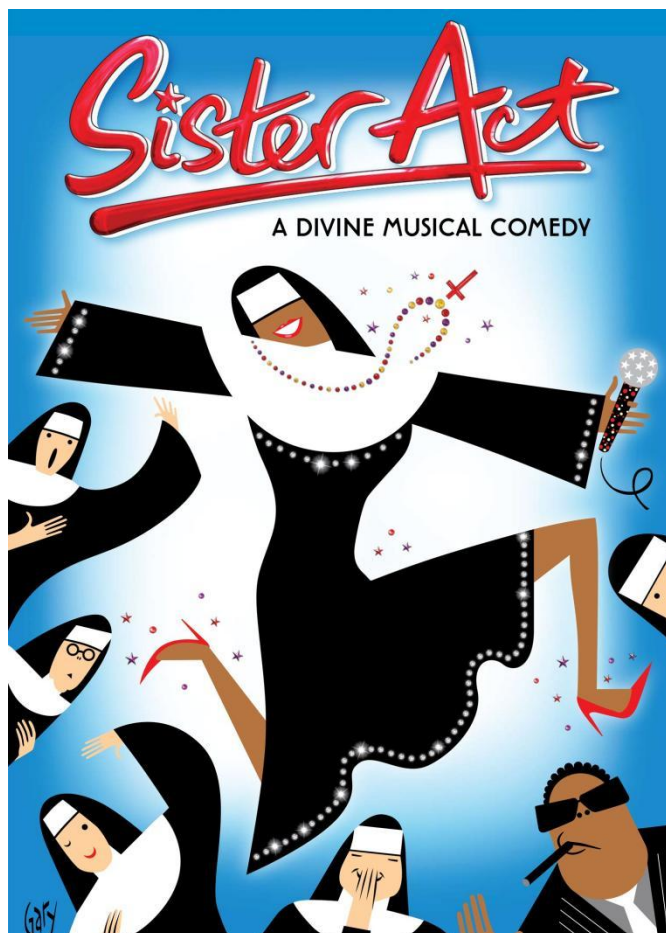
A great way to get to know new people.

Sign up at [oakhamwievts@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievts@gmail.com)

Please respond by **29 October** so groups can be formed and venues booked, stating whether you are able to drive to a local venue or would rather stay in Oakham town.

# Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

## Upcoming Events



### **Sister Act The Musical**

Presented by Rutland Musical Theatre

This production is filled with Powerful Gospel Music, outrageous dancing and a truly moving story.

Sister Act will leave you breathless! Coming to the Corby Cube in April 2026.

Oakham WI would like to organise a trip to this exciting production.

Possible Dates:

Wednesday 8th April 2026

Evening Performance 7:30pm

Or

Saturday 11th April 2026

Matinee performance 2:30 pm.

Ticket Prices: Stalls £25.

As we need to buy tickets which seem to be selling fast we need you to tell us if you would like to be included on this trip by **3 November**. This will enable us to book tickets where we sit together.

I'm sure we can organise Car Shares nearer to April so don't let not having transport deter you from joining us.

Please book your place by emailing [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) with Sister Act in the heading. Could you let us know your preference: Evening or Matinee Performance or whether you could do either. Once we have established the most popular time, we will decide which performance to attend and contact you to request a non-refundable payment in order that the tickets can be purchased.

Chris L

### **A message from the events team.**

The team is working hard to ensure that we put on events that are of interest to Oakham WI members. This involves us in research and planning and making provisional bookings of venues and demonstrators.

We would ask that if you are interested in attending an event you respond asap in order that we can confirm any provisional bookings. It also gives us time, if an event proves not to be popular, to cancel any provisional bookings without financial penalty.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Jill, Diane B, Chris L, Jenny Se, Sherida, Sylvie, June and Miriam.



## Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

### Dates for your diary

Bookings for events are only taken once the event is advertised in the main body of the newsletter; these dates are advance notice of our plans. You do not need to book attendance at the book group or history group.

\* Open for bookings

Date and time	Event
<b>Tuesday 4 November*</b> 10.30am	<b>Social Six</b>
<b>Thursday 13 November</b> Full day	<b>Visit to Coventry Guildhall and Cathedral</b>
<b>Wednesday 19 November*</b> 2pm	<b>Craft session - Christmas cards</b>
<b>Friday 21 November</b> 11am	<b>Book club</b>
<b>Monday 1 December</b> 10.15am	<b>December Ramble</b>
<b>Friday 5 December*</b> 1pm	<b>Pre- Christmas lunch at Stamford College</b>
<b>Monday 15 December*</b> am	<b>Craft session - Sea glass</b>
<b>Tuesday 30 December</b> 10.30am	<b>Egleton Amble</b>
<b>Tuesday 6 January</b>	<b>Post Christmas lunch at Rutland Water Golf Club</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 February</b> Full day	<b>Visit to the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester</b>
<b>Wednesday 4 February</b> pm	<b>Craft Session - Willow weaving</b>
<b>Monday 9 March</b> evening	<b>Fashion Show</b>

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>

## Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

### Community News

#### **HMP Stocken Prison Chaplain call out for support**

If you have any complete unwanted 2nd hand jigsaws at home that you would be prepared to donate to prisoners at HMP Stocken to support prisoners cell time activity. Please drop them at Church. We have found recently that Jigsaws are proving a popular past time in raising overall well-being leading to reduced boredom and frustration.

**Drop your unwanted Jigsaws at  
Oakham Baptist Church**

For more information please speak with Jenny Se



## Oakham WI Newsletter October 2025

### Community News

In association with **National Theatre Live** Wymondham Village Hall presents



## MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION

**Five-time Olivier Award winner Imelda Staunton joins forces with her real-life daughter Bessie Carter for the very first time, playing mother and daughter in Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic.**

Filmed live in the West End, this new production reunites Staunton with director Dominic Cooke exploring the clash between morality and independence, traditions and progress.

**NT Live - the best of British theatre filmed live and screened at our local community venue in the heart of our village.**

**Book your seats NOW at:**

**<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-village-hall/t-jzeaaxp>**

**TICKETS JUST £12 - NO BOOKING FEE PAYABLE**

**DOORS AND BAR OPEN 7.00pm**

**Visit our website: [www.wymondhamvillagehall.wixsite.com/my-site-8](http://www.wymondhamvillagehall.wixsite.com/my-site-8)**