# Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025

#### Next Monthly Meeting - 23rd September 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

This month we are to hear from Jayne, of JAK'sArt, a passionate artist who specialises in hand-carved sculptures and hand-painted tableware. She is all about turning waste into something beautiful and giving it a new lease of life.

Her chosen medium for sculpture is aerated concrete (waste), which allows her to bring unique and intricate designs to life. She creates stunning pieces while also promoting sustainability and reducing waste.



#### From our President:

Already we are half-way through September, and an occasional nip in the air marks the end of a glorious summer.

We are just a month away from our AGM on 28 October and I am pleased to be able to let you know, that despite our situation a few months ago, we now have members who are willing to join the committee and fulfil the officers' roles.

Shortly, you will be sent details and photographs of our members who are standing for election, so you can fit faces to names, when you are asked to vote for your new committee in a few weeks' time.

We should have seven committee members, with other members lined up to take on non-committee roles. Our new President will be sending out details and pictures of the whole team, when she has finalised 'who does what' in her post-AGM meeting.

Just to clarify, Gill Clifton is the only member of the committee who is willing to take on the role of President of our WI.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our members' meeting next Tuesday.

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 September 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 <a href="mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com">oakhamwi@gmail.com</a>, 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 - An Elizabethan poet and a much-loved children's author

At the history group meeting on Wednesday 10 September, we heard all about a highly acclaimed poet, who is said to be the greatest writer of sonnets, after Shakespeare. His name was Philip Sidney and he was born in 1554.

Diane R told us how he crossed paths with many well-known characters of the era and experienced many disappointments with failed marriage contracts. However, he was knighted and was lauded as a 'noble, brave and gallant soldier', dying in battle in Arnhem in the Netherlands in 1587 at the age of 31.

Alison related the life story of Beatrix Potter, born in London in 1866. Not only was she an author and artist - illustrating her books with delightful drawings of animals - she was a natural scientist and conservationist.

In her early life, she lived in South Kensington but holidayed in both Scotland and the Lake District. Many of her stories were initially written in letters to her friend Noel Moore, the sickly child of her former governess.

She self-published her first book in 1903 – The Tale of Peter Rabbit – the profit from which allowed her to buy Hill Top Farm in the Lake District (now owned by the National Trust). Her books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide.

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 He, who leads the group.

## Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025 Recent Events

#### **Canal Amble - 18 September**

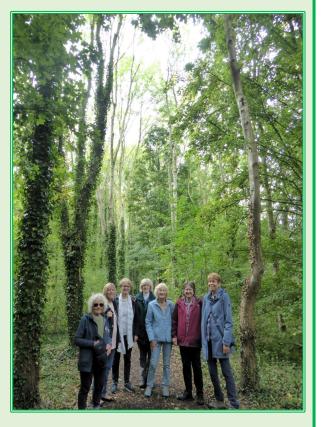
Nine members gathered for our now annual Canal Amble, and what a delightful day it turned out to be. Over the past five years, we've seen remarkable improvements to the footpaths along the canal—thanks to the dedicated monthly working groups who help maintain access and enhance the area for everyone. Their efforts are clearly paying off.

As we strolled, we met a friendly volunteer monitoring and counting the trees along the bank. It was a reminder of the care that goes into preserving the beauty around









But the real highlight was being together. After a night of rain, the sun shone brightly, and we saw lots of tall reeds, a bevy of swans and low water levels. There was plenty of cheerful chatter and laughter echoing along the towpath. After our walk, we drove to Barnsdale Gardens for well-earned refreshments, where the good humour continued over tea and cake.

We all agreed—we felt brighter and thoroughly uplifted. It wasn't just a walk; it was the fresh air and the joy of shared moments.

Our next amble is on October 15th @10:30, Edith Weston - Details of this next Amble can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jenny Se

## Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025 Recent Events

#### Petanque at the Wheatsheaf in Oakham

We were certainly lucky with the weather when 22 members met at the Wheatsheaf for lunch followed by Petanque. We enjoyed lunch and a chat inside the pub before moving out to the garden to start our games.





There were eight teams playing, with some members being more adept than others!

Special mentions go to Frances and Chris L for their skill and to Angie for her WI T shirt.

Each team played two games with team B comprising of Chris L, Frances and Gill P and team C comprising of Gillian, Jackie and Jayne jointly coming out on top.













#### **Events Survey**

Thank you to all of you who completed the recent events survey which will help us to plan our events for the next committee year, which runs from October 2025 to September 2026.



There were some interesting ideas and clear support for the suggestions put forward by the events team. We are however conscious of not overwhelming you with events and so some of the ideas will be held over to next year.

In any month we are looking at offering the book club, the history group and an amble or ramble plus a maximum of two other events. In the winter months one of the additional events will probably be indoors such as a craft session or similar. We are trying to offer varied events that will appeal to different members and those events that the survey showed to be most popular.

The choices of venue for the summer outing were equally popular so after the next events team meeting we will be sending out a very short survey to narrow down the options.

The first event we are organising is the visit to Coventry Guildhall and Cathedral by coach. This was shown by the survey to be popular and I hope that subject to the date working for you, you will support this visit, details are in this newsletter.

At any time, if you have any ideas for future events or comments about the programme being offered, please speak to a member of the events team. We might not have room to include all your suggestions in our upcoming programme but can use your ideas to inform our future planning.

Remember, your WI is what you make it.

The Events Team: Jill, Diane B, Chris L, Sherida, June, Jenny Se and Miriam.

#### 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.



#### **Crafting in October**

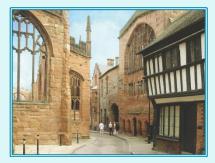
You will be able to make a beaded bag charm, like the one in the picture, at our craft session on Monday 13 October.

During the session, which will run from 10.00am to 12.00pm, Jackie will help you make two 'feathers' using a fraying technique on tartan fabric, available in a choice of colours. You will then combine the 'feathers' with beads and a clasp to form a very pretty bag charm. You will be required to take along a pair of scissors and a small to medium-sized needle, because you will be doing some basic sewing.

The cost to participants is just £8, which covers materials and instructions, hall hire and refreshments. If you would like to join in, please sign up via <a href="mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com">oakhamwi@gmail.com</a> with **Crafts** in the subject line

#### Visit to St Mary's Guildhall and Coventry Cathedral - Thursday 13th November

Following the results of the recent survey we are to offer a visit to Coventry. We are to travel by small coach to Coventry, leaving Oakham at 9.30am On arrival we are to visit St Mary's Guildhall, one of the finest surviving medieval guildhalls in the country. We will be given a costumed guided tour lasting just over an hour before having lunch in their restaurant located in the undercroft.



St Mary's recently underwent a significant restoration, in which the accessibility of the building was improved with the introduction of lifts, levelled floors and raised platforms, however it is an old building and there are still areas that do not have full step free access. These rooms are part of a 360 degree photo tour available on the tablets available at reception during our visit. There are several steps down into the under-croft café, as well as a small lift, should you need step free access.



After lunch we will walk the short distance from the guildhall to Coventry Cathedral which was built following the destruction of the old cathedral during the Blitz.

The ruins can still be seen standing next to the new cathedral with the new cathedral being built in the spirit of reconciliation and peace. Within the cathedral are many powerful artworks.

We will be shown around the cathedral by one of their experienced guides who will lead us through the history of the Ruins, the Blitz, and the building of the New Cathedral.

There is level access to the New Cathedral via the doors in the West Screen, and all parts of the Cathedral at Nave level are accessible with the exception of the Chapel of Unity and the Chapel of Christ the Servant.

After our tour we will have a short time to wander in the cathedral on our own before boarding the coach for the return trip to Oakham, arriving back at around 5pm.

The cost for this full day visit including transport and the tours is £35. Lunch is at your own cost.

Interested? Sign up by **5 October** by emailing <u>oakhamwievents@gmail.com</u> with **Coventry** in the header.

#### **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

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="wihouse@lrfwi.org">wihouse@lrfwi.org</a> 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 September 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
Monday 29 September*	September Ramble: Ketton
Wednesday 8 October 2.15pm	History Group
Friday 10 October	Book Group
Monday 13 October*  10 am	Craft session - bag charm
Wednesday 15 October* 10.30am	Edith Weston walk and lunch
Thursday 13 November* Full day	Visit to Coventry Guildhall and Cathedral
Wednesday 19 November pm	Craft session - Christmas cards
Monday 1 December 10.15am	December Ramble
Monday 15 December am	Craft session - Sea glass
Tuesday 30 December 10.30am	Egleton Amble
Tuesday 6 January	Post Christmas lunch at Rutland Water Golf Club
Wednesday 4 February	Craft Session - Willow weaving
Monday 9 March evening	Fashion Show

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 September 2025 **Federation Quiz Answers**

## The Spices of Life

Find the names of 50 well-known herbs and spices
(nb. Editor's decision final: wrong spellings &/or miscounted no. of letters will be marked as income.

£1.00 ENTRY, £25.00 PRIZE! In event of a tie, there'll be a draw (all proceeds to Leics/Rutland Fed of Women's Institutes)
orrect)
LEMON BALM
ALLSPICE
CHERVIL
CHILLI
MINT
CARAWAY SEEDS

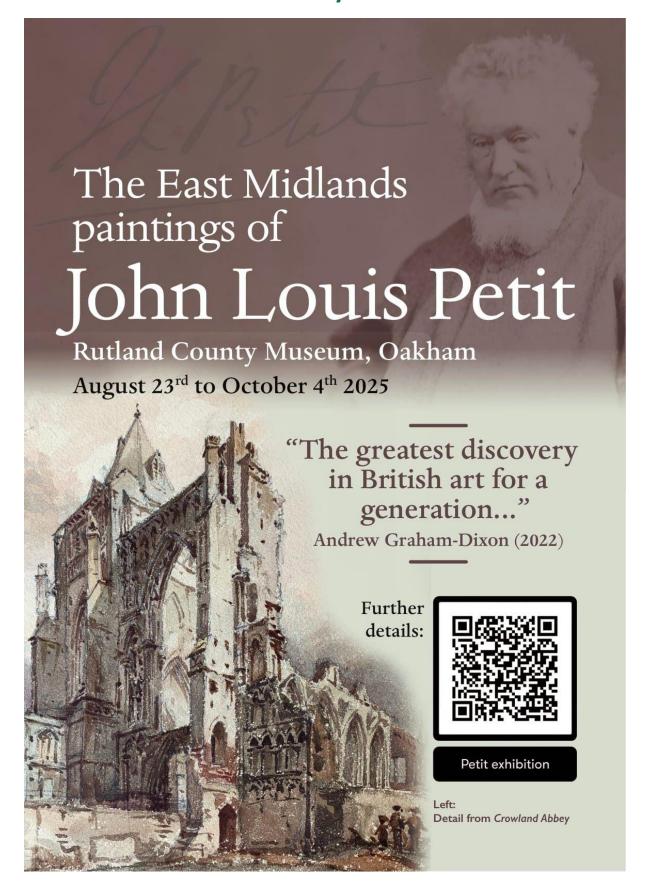
1.	Citrus soother (5,4)	LEMON BALM
2.	Every seasoning (8)	ALLSPICE
3.	Poacher vilified in the estate? (7)	CHERVIL
4.	Brrrr! (6)	CHILLI
5.	First class condition (4)	MINT
6.	ACE AWARDS? YES! (Anag. 7,5)	CARAWAY SEEDS
7.	Often called at Fawlty Towers (5)	BASIL
8.	Rhymes with oat breakfast cereal (6)	BORAGE
9.	Chasms or schisms (6)	CLOVES
10.	Headless unraveled mix-up (8)	LAVENDER
11.	True crime is mixed and drops a point (8)	TURMERIC
12.	Old father? (5)	ТНУМЕ
13.	SPEEDY POPS (Anag. 5,5)	POPPY SEEDS
14.	Redhead (6)	GINGER
15.	Two girls combined (8)	ROSEMARY
16.	Sounds like an order to enter from up north (5)	CUMIN
17.	Lion friend of Dill the dog (7)	PARSLEY
18.	Not sweet in the USA (6)	SAVORY
19.	French street (3)	RUE
20.	A GLOVE (Anag. 6)	LOVAGE
21.	Initially, mix and chop everything (4)	MACE
22.	Flushed with nominal rent (4,10)	PINK PEPPERCORN
23.	Ford transit getting sicker (7)	VANILLA
24.	'Twas a bit hot inside (6)	WASABI
25.	West Country river plus Himalayan river - without us (8)	TAMARIND
26.	Walden (7)	SAFFRON
27.	A handful of seasonings (4,5)	FIVE SPICE
28.	Head witch (6)	NUTMEG
	20 T 20 T	

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## Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025

29. Es	sential aromatic for gin (7,7)	JUNIPER BERRIES
30. Ma	akes a sleepy brew (9)	CHAMOMILE
31. Sh	iny brown horse gallops off (3,6)	BAY LEAVES
32. Do	n't include loose leaves for starters (4)	DILL
33. M	ASTER DUDES (Anag. 7,4)	MUSTARD SEED
34. Up	set artisans have a point (4,5)	STAR ANISE
35. Eq	uine's salad vegetable maybe? (11)	HORSERADISH
36. Th	e professor relaxed in his study (6)	SORREL
37. Ne	eville, Hamilton or Barker <i>(6)</i>	CICELY
38. Pa	e yellow lawn? (5,5)	LEMON GRASS
39. Sp	rinkle perfectly (10)	PEPPERMINT
40. Sh	ortened baby hen meets a saintless tale(7)	CHICORY
41. Ve	ry sharp weapon seems brand new (9)	SPEARMINT
42. NO	CAR RIDE (Anag. 9)	CORIANDER
43. Le	ss temperature here (8)	FEVERFEW
44. Sh	orten girl's name ahead of noon (8)	MARJORAM
45. Ar	e they in that special gnocchi vessel? (6)	CHIVES
46. So	unds rather like a wicked person (8)	CINNAMON
47. Yo	u Athenian, in Norfolk Broads? (9)	FENUGREEK
48. Di	sordered organ rat (8)	TARRAGON
49. Ho	ve you sprinkled salt over potatoes initially? (6)	HYSSOP
	ry wise <i>(4)</i>	SAGE

# Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025 Community News



# Oakham WI Newsletter September 2025 Community News



# The Autumn of My Years



by Uppingham actor and writer Henry Dawe

## Saturday 4th October

## 2.30pm All Saints' Church, Oakham

Guests can listen to this radio play, first broadcast on Harborough FM in 2023 and now linked to the Campaign to End Loneliness.

#### Doors open AT 2PM | FREE ENTRY | Refreshments Available

Post-play discussion

Donations gratefully received to Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland

As part of Voluntary Action Oakham School's Service Weekend which promotes inter-generational connection between school pupils and local older people

