

# Oakham WI Newsletter

## January 2026

### Next Monthly Meeting- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Caroline Bendix : **BOUND TO LEARN – A BRIEF HISTORY OF BOOKBINDING**

Caroline Bendix is one of the top library conservators in the country with 40 years' experience and an accredited Art Society Lecturer.

Bookbinding may seem a dry subject but for lovers of books this lecture opens up a new and delightful aspect of the book in their hands. Unsung craftsmen have created bindings from the mundane to the exceptional, and without bindings, very few older books would have survived. Sometimes the binding or its components are more valuable than the text, which seems weird but makes sense when delved into more deeply.

*“Caroline’s lecture on a history of Western book-binding had her non-expert audience spellbound. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject, her easy-to-listen-to style and the glorious illustrations meant that everyone connected with bookbinding in a way we didn’t think was possible.”*

*“Many thanks for your talk last Friday. You had our ladies absolutely fascinated – they were quiet for a change!” (Quorn WI).*

### From our President:

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all but particularly those of you who were not able to join us for the post-Christmas Lunch at RWGC. As the evenings become lighter our events committee are working hard in planning a host of activities for you to choose from and have already started planning the summer outing (which this year will be in May). Jackie is currently finalising our speaker programme for 2026/27 which will be issued in April, and we hope you will all find something that appeals to you. As you know, we try to offer something for everyone and plenty of opportunity to socialise, learn and explore.

We look forward to seeing you at our next members meeting on 27th January.

Gill

### 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.

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Thank you to Angie for once again unpicking and re-stitching our tablecloth to show that we have now been a WI for 108 years! Every year Angie patiently unpicks the previous year and then re-embroiders the date, showing the number of years that Oakham WI has been in existence.



The tablecloth was presented to us by Janet Buchanan, wife of the Headmaster of Oakham School and has been used at every one of our meetings since, although it was rested during the COVID years, when we could only meet via Zoom.

Thank you Angie for your excellent work in keeping our history alive.

### Teas.

Please could you check the tea rota. If you cannot attend on the date that you are down for teas let Sherida know via [oakhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com) as soon as possible and if you can, arrange to swap with another member.

When on teas you are expected to liaise with the others on the rota for that night regarding cakes and biscuits.

On the evening you do not have to pay your £1 door fee.

You are expected to help with preparing and serving the refreshments but are not expected to do more than you feel capable of doing.

We provide tea and coffee but if you prefer fruit teas or decaffeinated tea, you are welcome to bring your own teabag for us to add hot water to.

**In February, the members on the tea rota are Jane G, Sylvie, Sheree and Linda P.**

**In March, the members on the tea rota are Jenny G, Sally, Susan M and Glenys**



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### Our December Social meeting:

Our December meeting was hosted by the committee who provided nibbles and quizzes for all to enjoy. It was a lovely social occasion with a chance for members to chat and enjoy each other's company.



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### 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 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 [oakhamwispeakers@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwispeakers@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. Party political comments should not be made as the WI is a non-party political organisation. Please use for social interaction only and do not advise of event cancellations etc on this forum but email [oakhamwievants@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievants@gmail.com) or [oakhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com).

### History group

Our first history group meeting of 2026 took place at the usual venue (the café at the King Centre, Barleythorpe) on Wednesday, 11 January.

Anne Sk outlined the various types of history and asked a question of us – Do we really learn from our mistakes or does history repeat itself again and again? She will continue to expand her talk at a future meeting.

Diane R told us many interesting facts about Rutland and the history of its villages and reservoir, that we did not already know.



We would be delighted to welcome new members to the group which meets regularly on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm.

### Resolution Shortlist 2025-26 – Make your selection

At the NFWI Resolution Shortlist Selection meeting on 2 October 2025, members shortlisted five resolutions which will now be taken forward for further debate and selection by members.

Details of the proposed resolutions are below and there is more information in the November/December issue of WI Life.

**You will be asked to vote for the resolution you want to support at our January meeting.**

**1. Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health, and social inclusion**

This resolution is a call for accessible, clean, free public toilets which are fundamental to inclusion and wellbeing, especially for women, older people, disabled individuals, parents and carers. It invites WI branches to take meaningful action—through advocacy, partnership, and community engagement—to support local authorities and civil society in reversing the closure trend and ensuring dignity for all.

**2. Action on women's homelessness**

The NFWI echoes the calls of homelessness charities and urges all levels of government to take action to reduce women's homelessness, reduce the number of women at risk of homelessness, and improve the quality of temporary accommodation. We call on WI members to support homelessness organisations in their communities and campaign to ensure that all women have a place they can safely call home.

**3. Every child needs a friend**

We call on all WI members, the care system, and government to raise awareness of the independent visitor system for children in care in order to increase the number of volunteer Independent Visitors and the children in the care system who are befriended by them. We want every child in care to be offered the opportunity to have an adult figure in their life who chooses to spend a few hours a month with them.

**4. Nearer to Nature**

There is a growing body of evidence that getting closer to nature is of great benefit to physical and mental health as well as to the environment. This is called 'green health'. We call on WI members to work locally to improve access to local green spaces and support others to access it too. We call on health promotion services to increase public awareness of the use and benefits of 'green health', and health and care commissioners to support 'green social prescribing' in every GP practice.

**5. Love Your Vulva – Self checking is your best defence against vulval cancer**

Self-checking your vulva is important in ensuring the earlier detection of vulval cancer and to enhance survival chances. We call upon WI members to work together to raise awareness of the importance of self-checking and seeking medical advice as early as possible, and, to help highlight this rare cancer to GPs to promote prompt referrals to medical specialists when needed.

**Next steps**

Every member now has the opportunity to cast their individual selection on the resolution they support the most by voting at our January meeting. The committee will then submit the results of our vote to Federation by 6 February 2026

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## Recent Events

### Egleton Amble

What a lovely time we all had. Nine ladies met on Tuesday 30th December for our Post- Christmas Amble from Oakham to Egleton, and it truly was a treat. The weather couldn't have been better—bright, calm, and just the right temperature for a winter walk.

Our route was just under four miles, with snowdrops already poking their heads through the earth, a cheerful reminder that spring is on its way. Egleton church looked especially festive as we passed. One member left us at Stamford Road, but another happily joined us later for coffee in town. After discovering one coffee shop closed and another full, we made our way to The Wheatsheaf, where we enjoyed well- earned refreshments and plenty of conversation.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the walk, the company, and the chance to share a gentle morning together. If you've not joined us for an Amble or Ramble before, do keep an eye on the next newsletter for details of our upcoming outings. We'd love to welcome you along - come and see for yourself what a lovely time we have.



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## Recent Events



### Post-Christmas lunch

40 members were greeted by Gill, our president, for our lunch at Rutland Water Golf Club. Gill asked us to remember those members who could not attend and we then enjoyed our lunch and each other's company. Thank you to Gill, Christina and Chris for a lovely event.



# Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Fashion Show - Monday 9 March

#### Support Our WI

We're looking for our next Naomi Campbell, or given our demographics 'Twiggy'. If you fancy doing a twirl around the catwalk look no further than our Fashion Show 2026 on Monday 9th March at Oakham Baptist Church. This is our main fund raising event of this year and we are looking for your help. Whether its on the door taking tickets, serving refreshments or a bit of modelling then there is a job for you. Let us know if you are able to volunteer in any capacity by replying to the [oakhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com) account and we will get back to you.

For those of you who came along to our last SOS fashion show you will know its a fun night out and a chance to bag a bargain for your summer wardrobe.

Starting at our next members meeting on Tuesday 27th January there will be flyers, posters and tickets available. Our target is to sell 110 tickets and enjoy ourselves among friends. Tickets have been held at the same price of £5 which includes a glass of wine. There will be a grand raffle. Funds raised will go towards speaker expenses and subsidising other events such as workshops and outings.



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## Upcoming Events

When organising events we want to make sure that all members can attend and also reduce our impact on the environment by arranging car shares where possible.

We expect members to talk to each other and sort lifts out between themselves where possible, but if there is an event you want to attend and cannot organise a lift, please speak to a member of the committee.

It is expected that members will make a contribution of £1 for a lift to a local event or £2 if outside Oakham. This amount ensures that the driver is not making a profit and thus invalidating their car insurance.

We suggest a contribution rather than buying a coffee for the driver as often there is more than one passenger and it gets complicated!

### February Jamble - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 10.15am

What is a jamble?! A jamble is an obsolete way of describing a bit of a mismatch of two different things, in this case a mix of Jenny's amble and Jill's ramble. The walk around the Hambleton peninsula does not quite meet the definition of an amble but is shorter than a ramble.

In either case, why not join us for a gentle 3.5 mile jamble along the shores of Rutland Water returning to Hambleton village along the central road? The views should be lovely and the company will certainly be entertaining. Why not join us and improve both your mental and physical health whilst having fun?

After our walk we will stop for an optional coffee and a chat, venue to be advised nearer the time.

If you wish to join us for this event please email [oakhamwievnts@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievnts@gmail.com) with "Jamble" in the heading.

Attribution: *Tor-Gordon*



# Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Discover a Real Roman Experience: Jewry Wall, Leicester's Exciting New Visitor Attraction - Tuesday 10 February

Leicester's rich Roman heritage is about to come alive like never before as Jewry Wall reopens its doors! Following an extensive refurbishment, the museum will unveil an immersive, state-of-the-art exhibition that takes visitors on a journey through Roman Leicester, offering a unique blend of history, objects, storytelling, and interactive experiences.

Jewry Wall is part of a 2nd Century Bath House and is one of Britain's largest surviving pieces of Roman masonry, standing as a testament to the grandeur of the ancient town of Ratae Corieltauvorum (the Roman name for Leicester).

Now the 60's museum building adjacent to this remarkable site has been transformed into an exciting new attraction that brings history to life in an engaging and accessible way for visitors of all ages. The re imagined Jewry Wall is a groundbreaking experience, placing storytelling at its heart, transporting visitors back almost 2,000 years through a mix of:

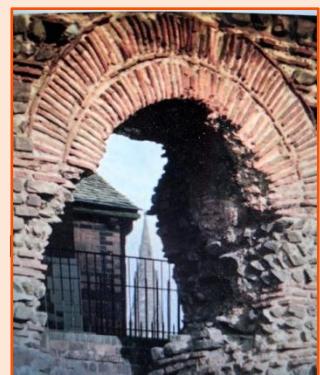
- Real Romans – Discover stories of the people of Roman Leicester, brought to life through cutting-edge visual story-telling.
- Everyday objects of life from two millennia ago.
- Multimedia immersive displays - Will transport you into the past with atmospheric projections and digital reconstructions of Ratae (Roman Leicester).

We are to travel by train from Oakham, departing on the 9.21 train to Leicester. We will then walk to the museum and enjoy coffee before, depending on numbers, either having a guided tour or self guiding around the museum.

At 1pm we will break for lunch in their new cafe which has fabulous views over the Roman bathhouse and has a variety of lunch options.

We will return to Oakham on the 15.12 train, but you may of course choose to stay in Leicester to do a bit of shopping before making your own way back to Oakham on a later train.

**This event will be going ahead as 14 members have signed up but if we have a minimum of 15, we may be able to arrange a private tour and will be able to reserve restaurant places.** The cost for entry is £11.50 for concessions or £12.50 standard entry.



If you wish to join us for this event please email [oakhamwievnts@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievnts@gmail.com) with Leicester in the heading.

# Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Sea Glass session

As those of you who were attending the session know, the sea glass workshop had to be cancelled as Karen our instructor went down with flu and as well as feeling awful, did not want to pass it on to us.

Now she is feeling a bit better, we will look at rescheduling and will offer those who had signed up either a place on the new date or a refund. We will also open the session up to those who might not have been able to make the original date.

The previous session had a Christmas theme which is no longer appropriate so instead, Karen is to lead us in a sea glass floral framed art workshop. It's quite a unique workshop and every participant will create something beautiful and original to gift or keep for themselves. You will learn about sea glass, what it is, where to find it and what creative things you can do with it. You will take home a gorgeous hand made piece of framed art made from sea glass, pottery and drift wood. Using beautiful pieces of sea glass which has been hand collected from around the UK and sometimes Europe, the workshop will allow you to choose your own pieces, and design your own art work all under the guidance of Karen. You do not need to be creative, draw, or even paint, but you will surprise yourself at what you create. Examples of work created are below



The events team will be in touch further as soon as a new date has been scheduled

# **Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026**

## **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 the history group which meets on the second Wednesday of each month.**

**\* Open for bookings**

<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Wednesday 4 February*</b> pm	<b>Craft Session - Willow weaving</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 February*</b> Full day	<b>Visit to the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February*</b> 10.15am	<b>February "Jamble"</b>
<b>Monday 9 March</b> evening	<b>Fashion Show</b>
<b>Saturday 28 March</b>	<b>Annual Council meeting at Leicester Grammer School</b>
<b>Monday 30 March</b> 10.15am	<b>March Ramble</b>
<b>Wednesday 8 April</b> evening	<b>Sister Act at Corby Cube - tickets booked</b>
<b>Monday 27 April</b> 10.30am	<b>Bluebell Amble</b>
<b>Thursday 11 June</b> 2pm	<b>Open garden visit to Nevill Holt</b>
<b>Wednesday 17 June</b> 2pm	<b>Osprey Amble</b>

**Please note that the Christmas social meeting will be a week earlier on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December (not the fourth Tuesday which would have been the 24<sup>th</sup>)**

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

**<https://wioakham.wixsite.com/mysite>**

# Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026

## Community News

### THANK YOU from Pastor Alexis Prison Chaplain

I would like to thank everyone who donated jigsaws to offenders serving time in our nearby prison. There has been a wonderful response to receiving these jigsaws. There has been a huge increase in take up to complete them reducing stress and giving new purpose to in-cell time. The lads across the prison have been excited to see the range and quality of jigsaws that they can now take out on loan to complete.

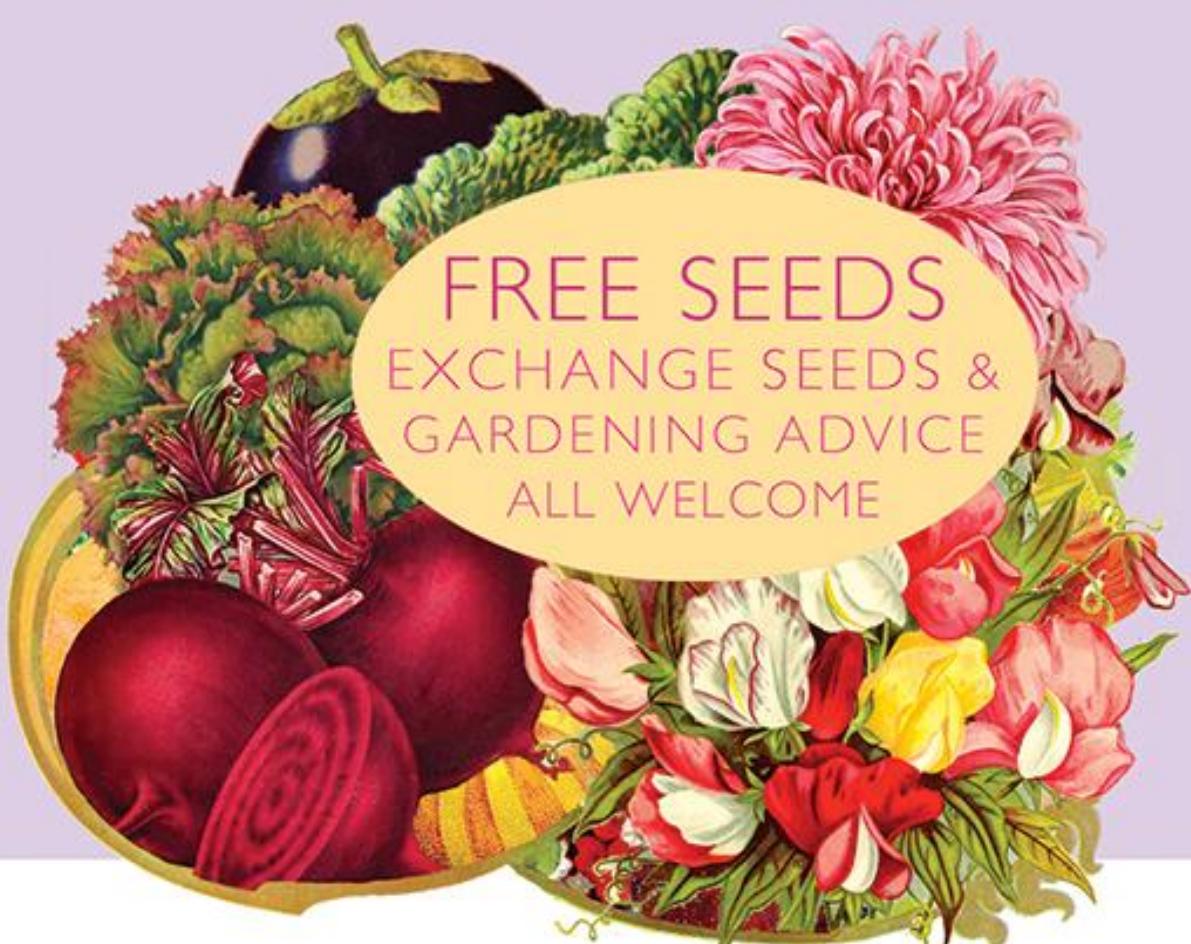
The activity itself has given hours of pleasure, talking points with each other and given the lads a level of piece, achievement and joy. Chaplaincy in Stocken are so grateful for every piece of every jigsaw puzzle donated. Circulation is across the length and breadth of the jail and amidst wide age ranges.

Do keep us in mind for the future should you find other jigsaws looking for a new home. God Bless you for your generosity. And again thank you.

Drop your unwanted Jigsaws at  
Oakham Baptist Church

**Oakham WI Newsletter January 2026**  
**Community News**

7TH ANNUAL  
**SEEDSWAP**  
OAKHAM CASTLE  
**7 FEB 2026**



FREE SEEDS  
EXCHANGE SEEDS &  
GARDENING ADVICE  
ALL WELCOME

**SATURDAY 7 FEB 2026 11AM - 1PM**



**Rutland  
County Council**



**Oakham  
Castle**

