

# Oakham WI Newsletter

## November 2025

### Next Monthly Meeting - 25th November 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

This month we are to welcome back Eve Marshall who introduced us to felting last year when we made robins. This year we are continuing the festive theme and are to have a go at making needle felted Santas.

It promises to be a fun social evening and some of us might even end up with something that looks like a Santa!



**Reminder: Our December social meeting hosted by your committee will be on WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> December**

#### From our President:

I have always wanted to be a W I member and moving to Rutland during lockdown in 2020 gave me the opportunity. Jill very swiftly recruited me onto the 'speaker programme' along with Christina and I then stepped into the role of VP six months ago. It's now a privilege to be elected president of Oakham WI following in some very impressive footsteps!

I am looking forward to working with our new committee (seven in total) who all bring their own personal skills to the job, at the same time having a wealth of experience to call on from many of our members. Thank you Jackie for steering Oakham WI in a positive and inspiring direction, you are a tough act to follow.

With the help of our events team, we hope to bring our current, and hopefully new members, a varied programme of interesting topics and activities with something for everyone. Feedback from our members is valued, so we look forward to hearing what you have to say.

Gill C

#### 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

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### Your 2025-2026 Committee and helpers:

#### The Committee:

	Gill C is our President.		Christina is Vice-President and covers for Gill when needed.		Linda is our treasurer and membership secretary.
	Lin is our secretary and liaises with Federation.		Jayne is our welfare officer.		Jill is responsible for publicity and heads up the events team.
	Jane helps at meetings and covers for other committee members.				

#### Additional Helpers:

Speaker Secretary and Door:	- Jackie
Tea Organiser:	- Sherida
Raffle:	- Chris L
Ambles:	- Jenny Se
Rambles:	- Jill
Events Team:	-Jill, Diane, Chris L, Jenny Se, Sylvie, Sherida and Miriam.
Visitor Meet and Greet Team:	-This is being reformed from January with Pam, Jayne, Jill plus two or three new recruits.

#### Teas.

Please could you check the tea rota and 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.

The committee are providing refreshments for the December meeting.

**In January, the members on the tea rota are Carol B, Carol E, Liz Hu and Rowena.**

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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 - 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.

### Social Sixes - 4 November



Three groups met at venues around Oakham to catch up and put the world to rights! Discussion ranged from local health care to holidays and recent WI events. Members had the opportunity to talk to others that they might not talk to at meetings and spend an enjoyable morning. The next social six will be in the new year and we hope many of you will attend, it is a lovely way to socialise.



# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Recent Events

### Coventry Cathedral

Eighteen members of Oakham WI travelled by coach to Coventry. Our first stop was St Mary's Guildhall, one of the finest surviving medieval guildhalls in the country; whilst it was damaged in the Blitz which destroyed the nearby cathedral, its kitchen has been in continuous use since 1340.

Mistress Mary gave us a tour, explaining the history and showing us the tapestry which was made for the Guildhall in 1505-15 and has hung in place ever since. After the fascinating tour we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the undercroft, a lovely venue.



Above: Lunch in the Undercroft. Right above: The Great Hall. Right: Mistress Mary telling us about the history of the Guildhall.



After lunch we had some free time to look around the historic cathedral quarter before meeting at the cathedral for our afternoon tour. We started in the old cathedral, the medieval St Michael's which was destroyed during a concentrated German air raid on 14th November 1940 and were told that the King visited the day after the bombing and was moved to tears by the destruction he saw. The ruins were intentionally preserved as a symbol of peace and reconciliation, and the new cathedral was built alongside them.

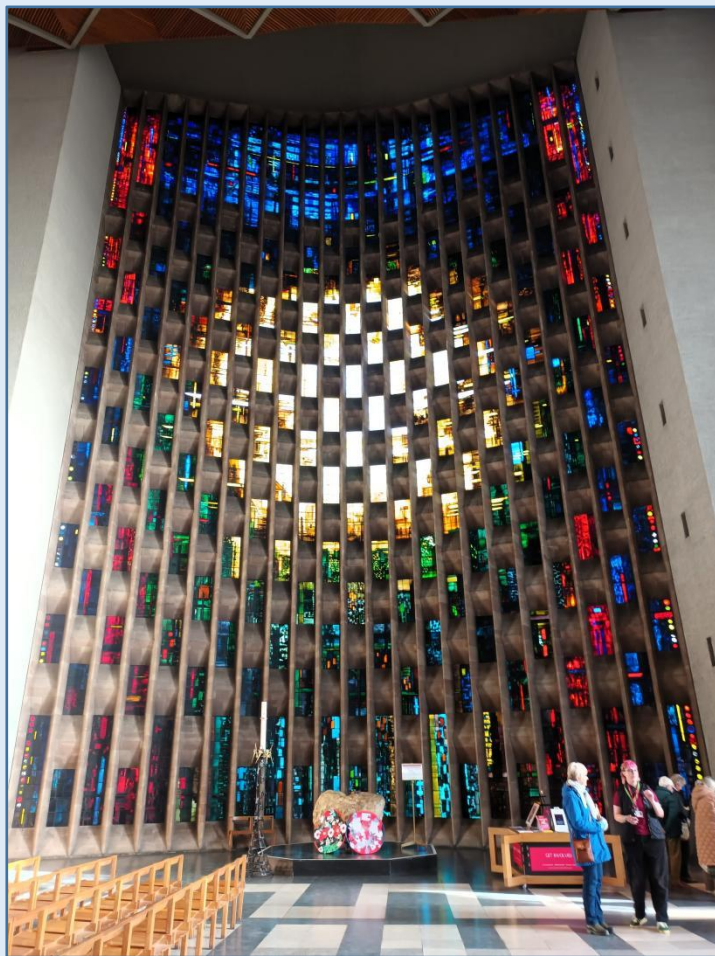




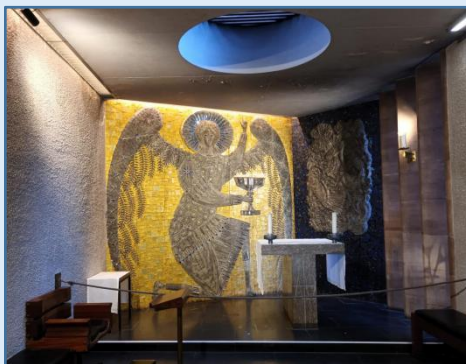
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## Recent Events

We then moved into the stunning new cathedral built in 1962, designed by Sir Basil Spence. The interior is notable for its huge tapestry of Christ, designed by Graham Sutherland, and the Baptistry window designed by John Piper (made by Patrick Reyntiens), of abstract design that occupies the full height of the bowed baptistry, which comprises 195 panes, ranging from white to deep colours.



Throughout the cathedral there were many wonderful works of art, many donated from abroad, including a Canadian maple leaf, a sculpture showing the city of Coventry donated by Minnesota and an art work donated by art students from Dresden. The font made from a boulder from near Bethlehem, has a basin on top in the form of a scallop shell on the top. Ralph Beyer, a German-born sculptor, designed and carved the shell. Beyer's family left Germany in 1932, but his mother, who was Jewish, returned to Germany during World War II, was incarcerated at Auschwitz and died there in 1945.



We all enjoyed an interesting and thought-provoking day.



# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Recent Events

### Crafts with Jackie - Making Christmas Cards

On Wednesday 19 November, eight members joined Jackie to put last year's Christmas cards - which some of you had donated - to good use.

We had an enjoyable couple of hours of creative mindfulness and had quite a few laughs too. Everyone agreed that the cards we made, in two different designs, were very effective - each with a different colour scheme and individual finishing touches.

The pictures here 'tell the story'.



On Sunday 9th November, Gill C represented Oakham W I at the Remembrance Service held at All Saints Church in Oakham.

The service was preceded by the local services marching through the town. There were several W I members present in church, Jayne W, Jenny Sm and Sally L. Following a moving service wreaths were laid at the cenotaph by all the services and local community groups in memory of the fallen'



# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Upcoming Events

We will be holding our post Christmas lunch at the ever popular Rutland Water Golf Club on Tuesday 6 January 2026 and are taking bookings now. If you would like to come, please email us at [oakhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwi@gmail.com), with RWG lunch in the heading giving your menu choices (see below).

Please also make payment into the WI bank account with your name and RWG Lunch in the reference.

We have again subsidised the cost of lunch and will be providing the staff tip.

A festive menu graphic featuring various Christmas decorations. At the top, there are several hanging ornaments: a heart, a star, a round bauble with a snowflake pattern, a round bauble with a swirl pattern, a large star, a round bauble with a diamond pattern, and a pine cone. There are also snowflake cutouts and a large bell at the bottom right. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts.

*Festive Menu*

Two Courses £25.00  
Three Courses £30.00

*To Start*

Roasted Celeriac and Apple Soup (v) (gf)  
Smoked Salmon and Crayfish Terrine (gf)  
Pulled Ham Hock Croquettes, Served with a Stilton Sauce topped with Crispy Shallots  
Roasted Beetroot Terrine, Whipped Goats Cheese, Candied Walnut Crumb (v)(gf)

*To Follow*

Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets, Roast Potatoes  
Braised Belly Pork, Root Vegetable Rosti, Apple Puree  
Pan Fried Sea Bream, Creamed Leeks and Celeriac  
Roast Squash, Sweet Potato and Wild Mushroom and Chestnut Duxelle Wellington, Mushroom and Brandy Sauce (v)

*To Finish*

Christmas Pudding, Brandy Custard  
Lemon and Raspberry Panna Cotta  
Chocolate Orange and Hazelnut Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding  
Selection of Cheese and Biscuits

**If you have any special dietary requirements please inform a member of staff  
A 10% discretionary service charge will be added to your final bill**



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## Upcoming Events

### 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.

### December Ramble - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.15

In view of the recent wet weather our December ramble will be on quiet roads rather than across muddy fields. We are to repeat the walk from Illston on the Hill to Gaulby and Kings Norton.



The walk is 3.70 miles with some gradual inclines, and passes two stunning churches and has views across the Leicestershire countryside. After our walk you may choose to join us at Buttercups Cafe for a warming cup of coffee and a slice of their delicious cake.

If you would like to join us, please email [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) with ramble in the heading.

Fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us and we have a dry day.



## Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

### Upcoming Events

#### Post-Christmas Amble – A Breath of Fresh Air

After the mince pies, puddings and generous second helpings, it's time to stretch your legs and make a little room -for laughter, fresh air, and a gentle post-Christmas amble.

Wrap up warm, lace up your walking shoes or boots, and join your WI friends for a circular stroll to Egleton, followed by well-earned refreshments at Terry's Café back in town.

Meeting Point: Oakham Museum

Date: Tuesday 30th December

Time: 10:30am

To take part, please email [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) with 'EGLETON' in the subject line.

#### Crafting in February - Willow Weaving - Animal Taster session

**Wednesday 4 February at 2.30pm**

Martin, from Rutland Willows, maker of the Spitfire on the bypass, is to lead an introductory session on willow weaving. He will give us a brief introduction to the life of the willow and then help us to make a fish and a dragonfly.

In order that he can provide us with appropriate help and guidance this event is limited to 15 members, with a minimum of twelve needed for the event to go ahead.

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 Willow in the header.

In order that we can confirm numbers with Martin and ensure that the event can go ahead, please respond by **10 December** at the latest.

As soon as we have minimum numbers we will contact you and ask you to make the non-refundable payment of £25 into our bank account.

# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## 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 Corieltavorum (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).

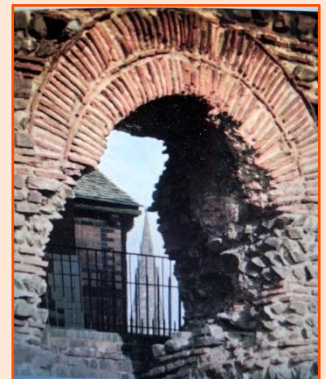
We are to travel by train from Oakham, departing on the 9.21 train to Leicester. We will then walk to the museum and enjoy coffee before, depending on numbers, either having a guided tour or self guiding around the museum.

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.

There are no minimum numbers for this event to go ahead 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 [oakhamwievents@gmail.com](mailto:oakhamwievents@gmail.com) with Leicester in the heading.



**FOR THIS EVENT THERE WILL ALSO BE A SIGN UP AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING WITH DIANE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.**



## Oakham WI Newsletter November 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>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>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>Monday 9 March</b> evening	<b>Fashion Show</b>
<b>Saturday 28 March</b>	<b>Annual Council meeting at Leicester Grammar School</b>
<b>Monday 30 March</b> 10.15am	<b>March Ramble</b>

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 November 2025

## Federation News

### Annual Council Meeting

£18pp  
£9 Steward

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

10.30am - 3.30pm

Leicester Grammar School, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9FL

Doors open at 9.30am to shop at the stalls, view competitions and Committee displays. Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks are available for sale and you may wish to bring your own reusable cup. Parking is limited, so please car share, use public transport or be dropped off.

**Our speakers for the Annual Council Meeting 2026 are:**

**Adam Henson, Leicestershire Lord  
Lieutenant & HeartWize**



One of the UK's best-known farmers and a presenter on BBC1's Countryfile. He regularly reports from his own farm on topical, practical challenges he faces and is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's On Your Farm and Farming Today.

We will have tickets available following WI allocations. If you wish to order tickets for this event, please contact your WI Secretary who can make a booking. This is an Opening Meeting, so please feel free to purchase tickets for a friend or family member to bring along – all welcome!

Please state clearly if you have any accessibility requirements.

Speakers subject to change at short notice.

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

**Many events are often oversubscribed, book  
early to avoid disappointment!**

## The WI is everything YOU want it to be.



[www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk](http://www.leicestershire-and-rutland.thewi.org.uk)

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

WI House, 135 Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5LQ

Telephone: 0116 266 1342 Email: [wihouse@lrfwi.org](mailto:wihouse@lrfwi.org)

Registered Charity Number 1016766

This is a fundraising event.





# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Federation News



### PHYSICAL FIRST AID FOR ADULTS (4.5 HOURS)

WI Campaign 'Bystanders Can be Lifesavers'

#### Why sign up?



**Free to attend**  
**Travel expenses covered (up to £10)**



- ☒ Learn life-saving skills such as CPR, treating choking, and managing bleeding or burns.
- ☒ Gain confidence to act in real emergencies — whether at home, in the community, or while travelling.
- ☒ Hands-on, practical training guided by friendly, experienced instructors.

#### Takeaway:

Take home a free First Aid workbook to refresh your knowledge and record your learning.

**MARKET HARBOROUGH - UPPINGHAM –  
EAST GOSCOTE - ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH -  
HINCKLEY - OAKHAM**

Bookings opening soon - contact WI House

**DENMAN TRUST GRANT**

If interested in this free course and you want to know the dates the course is to run in Oakham, when they are available, please let a member of the committee know.

# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Community News



CAN YOU HELP? Many of you may know that the first publicly accessible part of Oakham Canal starts on Springfield Estate at Griffiths Close/Oakfield with the footpath running north towards the bypass at Burley Park Way. This footpath was constructed in 1997 - but it is not currently an official public right of way as it sits on land still owned by the original housing developer. We are hoping to get the footpath converted into a public right of way in order to get it maintained – you might have noticed parts of the edge of this footpath are slipping down the canal bank.

To do this, we need to apply to Rutland County Council to make a change to the official map of public footpaths, a process called an application to make a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO).

This is where you can help. We need around 20 people who have walked this particular footpath on a regular basis for at least the last 10 years and who are happy to complete something called a User Evidence form, which is mostly tick boxes. The form also requires you to give your contact details. We then collect all of the User Evidence forms and submit them along with the DMMO application to Rutland County Council.

We are running a workshop in Oakham on Sunday 23 November 2025 to explain in more detail what is involved. If you think you can help by completing a User Evidence form please let us know below, or email [info@oakhamcanal.org](mailto:info@oakhamcanal.org) and include "DMMO" in the title of your email.

Thank you!

### **FROM the Federation newsletter:**

We are happy to be supporting Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire, together with Healthwatch Rutland, they have launched a new survey to hear directly from women and girls across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) about their health and care experiences.

The **"Every Woman's Health Matters"** survey is part of a wider engagement programme to ensure women's voices are listened to and used to shape future health and care services locally.

We would be grateful if you wish to take part in the survey : [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WomansHealthMatters](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WomansHealthMatters), so that as many women and girls as possible can have their say.



Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025  
Community News



# *The Rutland NSPCC Carol Concert*

*With light-hearted readings by national and local celebrities*

*Austin Healey*  
*(International Rugby player)*

*Lars Tharp*  
*(BBC Antiques Road Show)*

*Anne Davies*  
*(BBC East Midlands Today)*

*Caroline Aston David Farrer, KC Tim Hart*

*Carols and Christmas music led by*

*The Rowell Camerata and  
The Ratby Co-operative Brass Band*

*Monday 1st December 2025 at 7.30pm*

*All Saints' Parish Church, Oakham*

*Tickets £20 Available from:*

*James Sellicks, 6-8 Market Place, Oakham Tel: 01572 724437*


*The Falcon Hotel, 7 High St. East, Uppingham LE15 9PY Tel: 01572 823535*



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# Oakham WI Newsletter November 2025

## Community News




Rutland Choral Society  
*Presents*

# *A Concert for Christmas*

Musical Director - Jamie Conway  
Accompanist - Ivan Linford

**Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm**  
**All Saints' Church, Oakham**  
Doors open at 6.45pm

Tickets £15 (including refreshments) available from  
[www.wegotickets.com/rutlandchoralsociety](http://www.wegotickets.com/rutlandchoralsociety).  
Tickets are also available from members and on the door.  
Children under 16 are free.



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