



Brightwell-cum-Sotwell WI

**January 2026
Driving Miss Daisy**

B-c-S WI Meeting Tuesday 13th January

Ken Merry of the Institute of Advanced Motorists was our first speaker of the new year and we were very pleased that our meeting was so well attended by members as well as visitors who had come along to hear him explain how natural ageing can affect our driving skills.

He stressed the importance of having regular eyesight tests, seeking medical advice about any condition or new medication that we may be taking to make sure we're safe to drive.

Many modern cars are fitted with safety features and Ken encouraged us to make good use of these as well as perhaps going on a Mature Driver Review - as we all get into bad habits!



Ken explained the 2-second rule. This is a simple way to maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front, by using a fixed marker such as a road sign; you recite "only a fool breaks the 2-second rule" after the car passes the object, if you reach the same object before finishing the phrase you're too close and need to drop back.

We should also keep up to date with the Highway Code and any changes to driving regulations, Ken suggested that this was probably best read online as the latest version is always available.

The Highway Code

Our thanks to Rosemary and Sue who provided refreshments for the evening.

Also thanks to Cynthia and Annie who organised the evening's raffle.

Business news....

- Jan wished Eastlyn a happy birthday.
- A sign-up sheet was available for the Lizzy Rowe talk on the Artists of the Bloomsbury Group being hosted by Wittenham WI on Saturday 21st March. Ten have signed up for the talk. Please let Helen know as soon as possible if you want to go as places are limited. Outstanding payments of £5 to Helen (Mead Cottage, Mackney Lane 07790 025908) or by bank transfer (use your name and 'Art' as reference)
- Resolutions - a show of hands was taken, the results are listed below. The results will be forwarded to Oxfordshire Federation.
 1. Accessible public toilet facilities - 12
 2. Action on women's homelessness - 12
 3. Nearer to nature - 0
 4. Love your vulva - 1
 5. Every child needs a friend - 4
- Jan reminded members that our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th February when Chris Churchman, will be raising our awareness of the value of nature in offsetting climate change.

Swimmers breakfast...

We no longer hold a regular coffee morning, however the swimmers have a monthly breakfast at the Root One café (on the third Monday from 10am) all WI members and their friends are welcome to join them for coffee and a chat.

OFWI Inter WI Quiz....

OFWI are holding an inter WI Quiz night on Wednesday 8th April. There will be two locations Benson and Cassington with the quiz taking place simultaneously. Teams of four are welcome or you can apply individually and form a team on the night. Booking opens on 9th February. More details are available on the OFWI What's On page.

External links disclaimer

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President: Jan Stockdale
Secretary: Jane Hawker
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