

October 2025 – March 2026



the
ODDfELLOWS
making friends, helping people

out & about

Mersey Branch



In July we went to Buxton and what a fun trip that was!



Social



Talks



Quizzes



Dining Out



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Meetings



Travel



Games



Walks



Coffee Morning
/Afternoon Tea



Please book



*Christmas Lunch at The Liner
Hotel – Sunday 14 December 2025*

Hi Everyone,

**Welcome to the latest edition of the
Out and About Diary and Newsletter.**

Well what a busy few months we've had! Check out the photo gallery to see what we've been up to. We've also got a busy autumn/winter schedule for you too.

As we are so busy, it was decided that we needed a second Social Organiser to cover The Wirral. Our newest member of the team is Joanne Kirkham! Joanne joined us on 4 August and I'm sure you will all give her a warm Oddfellows welcome.

Don't forget about all the benefits of being a Member. Standard and Extra Benefit Members are able to access all the discounts and offers available through Oddfellows Extra for free. However, if you are a Life or Associate

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Member you can also access these, but at a cost of £10 per year. Check out the website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/offers/oddfellows-extra to see the latest deals and offers.



Margaret Hughes, Branch Secretary

A message from your Social Organisers

Hello everyone, well I hope you've really enjoyed some of our trips and events over the past six months – I know I have! As always, we have been really busy. It's been lovely

meeting so many new Members (and the old ones too!). Our new Waterloo group is growing nicely and our Book Club has gone from strength to strength, not forgetting that we have had some great walks courtesy of our very own walk leader Kath.

I hope you'll find something for everyone in this diary – remember the ideas all come from you, our amazing Members. I'm excited to welcome Jo as our new Social Organiser for The Wirral and really looking forward to working closely with her to create as many exciting events and activities as possible. Hope to see you soon!

Angela Murray



Hi everyone, I am thrilled to join the team at Oddfellows Mersey Branch and really looking forward to getting to know you all. Here's to fun times and new friendships!

Joanne



**Angela Jones
Care and Welfare
Officer**



Angela is also our current Chair, or Provincial Grand Master.

Angela has been a member for over 50 years (I'm not going to give her age away!) and is a very valued member of the Committee. In November 2022, Angela became a Trustee along with the existing Trustees, Andrew Hulme and Stephen Code. She has contributed such a lot to the Oddfellows over the years and is currently our Care and Welfare Officer. If you receive a birthday card from us, it has come from Angela and if you have given us your phone number, she will give you a quick ring around your birthday too. If we haven't got your number, please do let us know so we can add you to the list.

Booking and Cancellation

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until your deposit has been received. Please note that if we have had to purchase a ticket for you in advance and you cannot make it we will not be able to refund you.

Regular Get Togethers

Join us at any one (or all!) of our regular 'Get Togethers' for a cuppa and catch up plus lots more in a warm and welcoming environment. Each month there will be a different theme and fun and games are guaranteed!

Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend along. Worried about going along for the first time? Just give one of us a call and we will know to look out for you, remember you are only a stranger the first time you walk through the door.

Childwall



10.30am



Members Free
Guests £3 (first visit free)



**Fourth Monday
of the month**

Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY. Bus Routes 79, 79a.

27 October 2025

26 January 2026

23 March 2026

24 November 2025

23 February 2026

Upton



1pm



Members Free
Guests £3 (first visit free)



**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Victory Hall, 61 Salacre Lane, Upton, Wirral CH49 0TN. Bus Routes 418, 437.

15 October 2025

17 December 2025

18 February 2026

19 November 2025

21 January 2026

18 March 2026

Wallasey



10.30am



Members Free
Guests £3 (first visit free)



**First Friday of
the month**

Heart of Egremont, Guildford Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 0BP.

Bus Routes 411, 413 to King Street.

3 October 2025

5 December 2025

6 March 2026

7 November 2025

6 February 2026

Waterloo

New Day & Time



10.30am



Members Free
Guests £3 (first visit free)



**Second Monday
of the month**

Waterloo Community Centre, 26 Great Georges Road, Liverpool L22 1RD.

13 October 2025

8 December 2025

9 February 2026

10 November 2025

12 January 2026

9 March 2026

Regular Event

**First Tuesday
of the month**

Book Club



11am



Members Free
Guests £2



Love reading? Like chatting? Come and join us at our monthly book club. This is an excellent opportunity to maybe spread your wings to look at authors you may not have thought about before. We can sometimes get stuck in a rut with the same authors so come and find out what others are recommending. Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Ground Floor Games Room, Liverpool L3 8EW.

7 October 2025
4 November 2025

2 December 2025
6 January 2026

3 February 2026
3 March 2026

Kath's Walkie Talkies



12 noon



Members Free
Guests £2



Join Kath on a walk around the area and get some fresh air. Feel fitter and come back smiling! Each month will feature a different starting point, so keep in touch to find where to meet and when. Various locations, to be confirmed.

22 October 2025

13 November 2025

January to March dates to be confirmed dependent on weather

Please contact Angela on 07912 605677, Joanne on 07777 382351, Margaret Hughes on 0151 639 2777 or email mersey@oddfellows.co.uk

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events

OEW/1024SMALL

October 2025

FRI
17

National Waterways Museum & Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village



TBC



Members £25, Guests £30



Come and savour the peacefulness of being by the canal, absorb the history emanating from the Grade II listed buildings and learn about the lives and work of the canal people as you enjoy a guided tour around the site. The museum occupies part of a 200 year old historic dock, originally designed by Thomas Telford. It was a major transshipment point for



cargoes travelling between the port of Liverpool and the inland waterways network. This is one of the largest and most complete dock complexes in the UK and is well placed to tell the story of the growth of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. Cost includes entry, tea and coffee on arrival and a guided tour. We will then transfer to Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village for a couple of hours shopping. Pick-ups will be at Upton Victory Hall, City Centre and Walton. Meeting time will be confirmed nearer the date Book by Friday 3 October 2025. National Waterways Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

SAT
25

New Member Welcome and Half Yearly Meeting



1pm



Members Free, Guests £3 but first visit free



We are holding an official 'Welcome Meeting' for new members, where you can learn more about the history and traditions of the Oddfellows and take part in the ceremony, if you so wish, when you will be presented with your Oddfellows link badge. This will be followed by our formal half yearly meeting, where we update everyone on what the committee has been doing and is your chance to have your say. A buffet will be available from 1pm with the meeting starting at approximately 1.30pm. Don't forget to let us know if you are coming, so we can cater accordingly. Book by Friday 10 October 2025. Waterloo Community Centre, 26 Great Georges Road, Liverpool L22 1RD. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

November

FRI
14

Bury Market and Bents Garden Centre



9.30am



Members £18
Guests £23



Black pudding and baubles – what more could you want? Back by popular demand a pre-Christmas trip to the world famous Bury Market, but this year with an added festive extra, as we will be calling into Bents Garden Centre on our way back. Their Christmas displays are something to behold, so we will all be truly inspired for the festive season! Pick-up points will be Upton Victory Hall, City Centre and Walton, with meeting times to be confirmed nearer the date. Book by Friday 31 October 2025. Bury Market, Murray Road, Bury BL9 0BJ. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

December

THURS
04

Lytham Hall at Christmas and Blackpool Illuminations



TBC



Members £48.50
Guests £55



Another of our favourite venues, Lytham Hall, is truly magical at Christmas and well worth another visit. Our trip includes entrance into the hall, self-guided tour through the beautifully decorated rooms and an afternoon tea. Whilst you're out that way, Blackpool Illuminations are a must! After departing the hall we will head into Blackpool itself and drive north to south (to avoid the queues hopefully), through the amazing lights before heading home. Don't forget that you can pay for all your trips in instalments, provided the full amount is paid prior to departure. Pick-ups will be at Upton Victory Hall, City Centre and Walton, with meeting times to be confirmed nearer the date. Book by Friday 21 November 2025. Lytham Hall, Ballam Road, Lytham FY8 4JX. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

December

SUN
14

Christmas Lunch at The Liner Hotel



12 noon



Members £25
Guests £30



As voted for by members, another firm favourite from 2025! The Liner Hotel will be hosting us for a sumptuous three course Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. As always there will be fun and games and plenty of 'Festive Fun', fundraising for our charity of the year - Zoe's Place. Book by Friday 28 November 2025. The Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool L3 5QB. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

January 2026

SAT
17

The Scouse Christmas Carol



12.45pm



£21



Ha! Bumbug! It's that time again when the Royal Court searches 'Christmas Shows' on Google and picks one to scousify! This year they are improving on the great Charles Dickens with stupid jokes and live music. Jacob Marley is dead and nobody knows who bumped him off. Mary Marley, his



Missus, is going to track down the killer and she's got Scrooge in her sights, but how can she make him cough to the crime? We have only a limited number of tickets available in the circle, so it's a **member only**, first come (and paid) first served! Please note that this show is for grown ups only! Book by Friday 9 January 2026. Royal Court Theatre, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool L1 1HL. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

February



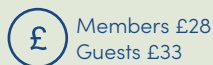
TUES 10 & TUES 17 **Liverpool Central Library Guided Tour**



A chance to get to know one of our iconic city buildings, we'll enjoy a guided heritage tour of the Liverpool Central Library. This tour will not only cover the history of the service and its buildings, but also promote the current service provisions and allow us to view a selection of items from their special collections. There's a lovely café too, so we can enjoy a cuppa as well! As spaces are limited we have booked two tours – one on Tuesday 10 and one on Tuesday 17 February, **but will be for members only**. Book by Friday 30 January 2026. Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

March

FRI 20 **Trentham Gardens and Shopping Village**



This is another 'Two for the price of one' trip! The famous gardens of the Trentham Estate have matured into some of the finest in Britain, described by James Alexander Sinclair in The Telegraph as 'The garden makeover of the decade'. For those that choose to, there is an option on site to take advantage of the shuttle tram (charged separately on the day). We will then enjoy a relaxed shopping experience at Trentham Shopping Village, set among beautiful timber lodges. We can browse a mix of popular high street brands and unique independent stores offering gifts, homeware, fashion and more. There are also plenty of cafés and restaurants on offer too, so you won't go hungry! Cost includes entry to gardens and the coach.

Pick-up points will be Upton Victory Hall, City Centre and Walton, meeting times for each point will be confirmed nearer the time. Book by Friday 6 March 2026. Trentham Gardens, Stone Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8JG. Contact Joanne on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

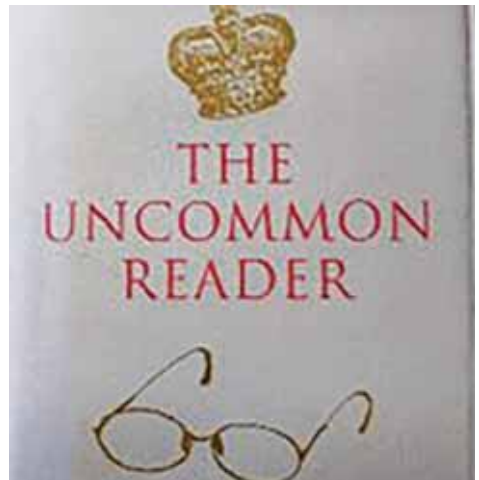


*Book Club Queue
Credit Angela Murray*

Book Club – By Angela Murray

Thanks to the suggestion of two of our lovely members – Jan Moore and Val Redmond, April saw the launch of our very own 'Oddies Book Club' - it's held on the first Tuesday of the Month in the amazing Liverpool Central Library in William Brown Street. What's so lovely is that we have members from all of our groups on both sides of the water coming together. We all take turns in selecting our book of the month and we've enjoyed a wide variety of authors and genres (no body mention The Birdcage!) – (oh dear, I wonder what went wrong there – Ed!).

If you love reading just come along - everyone has an opinion and we have a great laugh too! We meet on the first



One of the chosen titles.

Tuesday of the month at 11am – we look forward to you joining us!



Ready for an in-depth discussion on the latest book. Credit Angela Murray.

Creative Corner

Earlier this year Liverpool City Centre put on a light display showing the Aurora Borealis. The first picture below was captured by Gordon Charters.



City Lights.

The following paintings have all be submitted by Keith Wike, our resident artist.



Fountains Abbey.



Abstract People.



Whispers of Twilight.



Hockney.



Lean into Beauty.

Refer a Friend Trophy or Should I Say Trophies!

As you may be aware, each year we run a Refer a Friend Competition, with the winner receiving the District Trophy and a Love to Shop Voucher. The winner for 2024 was Pat Travers and here she is being presented with the trophy by Angela Murray and being crowned with balloons by Barbara and Val.



Barbara King, Val Redmond with Angela Murray presenting the trophy to Pat Travers.

This award was presented at our Annual Summoned Meeting back in March, but unfortunately Pat was unable to be with us. However, Angela had the pleasure of presenting her with the trophy.



Margaret Hughes receiving the Refer a Friend Trophy from the Grand Master Barbara Needham.

Not only did Pat win the District trophy, but Mersey District won the trophy from across the nation too! Here is a picture of Margaret Hughes accepting it on behalf of the District at last year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

These wins are down to you, our lovely Members, who appreciate what we offer and then bring your friends along as well. So congratulations to you all!

Also at that meeting, we had the greatest pleasure in awarding Andrew Hulme with a District Meritorious Service Jewel.



The District Officers for the coming year were also elected, as follows: From left to right, Andrew Hulme, Deputy Chairman; Angela Jones Chairman; Margaret Hughes, Branch Secretary and Bob Rowlands Immediate Past Chairman. Credit MTG Photos.

Andrew has been an Odd Fellow all of his life. He was born on a Lodge night so was signed up as a junior member of the Princess Alexandra Lodge that night! Andrew joined the Committee of Management in 1993 and became Provincial Grand Master (Chair) first time in 1995 aged 25 - at that time the second youngest to hold the post in the Branch's history.

He has served as Provincial Grand Master three times and is currently our Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Andrew has been on the Committee of Management now for over 30 years and a Trustee for around 20 years.

(Just to be clear, I don't get elected to serve on the Committee it is part of my job – Marg)



Andrew with his Meritorious Service Jewel – well-earned Sir! Credit MTG Photos.

Kath's Walkie Talkies – By Kath Cooper

I moved to Liverpool over four years ago from my home town of Bolton after I lost my husband and to be closer to my family. A Lancashire lass born and bred, I've never been backward in coming forward and made sure I got out and about exploring the area and making new friends. I joined Oddfellows over a year ago and as soon as Angela (Murray) heard I ran a walking group she asked if I'd lead one for our members.

We enjoy a gentle stroll, lots of chat and I love the fact that as an 'adopted Scouser' I've shown our group parts of the local area they've never seen before and we always end up in the pub – what's not to like!



*Enjoying a break in the sunshine
Credit Angela Murray.*



Stretch it out girls!



*Ahh, bliss! A well-earned drink and bite to eat.
Photos courtesy of Angela Murray.*

Our Adventures!

Back in April we had a really lovely lunch in aid of the retiring Chair, Bob Rowlands. This was held at The Liner hotel in the City Centre, with 65 people in attendance. Food and service was lovely, although the PA system let us down for the poor entertainer.

Sam Heller was supposed to sing for us, but despite us checking with the hotel that the PA system would work, Sam could either sing or hear the backing tracks – not both! He did his best and sang without the mic, going from table to table.



Dancing to New York, New York – it certainly felt like we'd danced all the way there!



Our lovely Sam who did his best to win against the PA system!



Retiring Chair Bob Rowlands presenting the cheque to Hayley Winstanley from The Alzheimer's Society.

Boat trip along the River Dee

In June we joined up with the North Wales and Chester Branch for a lovely boat trip along the River Dee. What a glorious afternoon that was.



Mersey Members waiting to Board the Lady Diana.



Enjoying the view as the boat turns to go back to the dock.

In July we went to Buxton and what a fun trip that was!



Credit Angela Murray. Lovely Ladies all dressed up and ready for their debuts.



Credit Angela Murray. Mo Lynn as a Sabre Toothed Tiger – there is definitely a story here!



Credit Angela Murray. Taking home some Buxton water in the special souvenir bottle.



With the fantastic tour guide – rain has never stopped our intrepid members from getting the most out of our trips.

Bowls

Also in July was the annual Lancashire and District Group Conference Bowls Tournament. This is held at Garswood every year and this year we actually had one entrant! Congratulations to Kathy Howarth-Wilde for having a go, even though she got knocked out in the first round. Better luck next time Kathy!



Community Interest Company (CIC)

Meet Liz Addley, one of our lovely members who has set up her own Community Interest Company (CIC). Inspired by one of her own foster children, Learning to Cook with Liz is all about helping young people and care leavers to eat well, cook confidently, and shop smart on a budget. Simple skills for a healthier, more sustainable future. Liz produces simple step-by-step video tutorials, helping gain confidence in the kitchen. Learn more at cookingwithliz.co.uk



At the Official opening of Cooking with Liz. Pictured are Liz Addley, The Lord Mayor of Liverpool Barbara Murray and her friend and fellow Oddfellow, Jan Moore (co-Director).

Science & Nature Quiz – multi choice

(Courtesy of Ken's Quiz Site)

Answers on page 27

1. A fossil the size of a gorilla was recently found in New Zealand, what creature was it discovered to be?
(A) Dog, (B) Kangaroo, (C) Penguin or (D) Spider
2. Which of the following scientists discovered radioactivity?
(A) Marie Curie, (B) Rontgen, (C) Faraday or (D) Becquerel
3. Which acid was known as 'Oil of Vitriol'?
(A) Nitric, (B) Sulphuric, (C) Hydrochloric or (D) Citric
4. Which of the following is the name of a British butterfly?
(A) Gamekeeper, (B) Gatekeeper, (C) Doorkeeper or (D) Peacekeeper
5. Which country's lunar lander reached the dark side of the moon in 2023?
(A) China, (B) Russia, (C) India or (D) USA
6. In the natural world, what is a serval?
(A) Snake, (B) Wild Cat, (C) Bird or (D) Fish
7. Which of the following is NOT a chemical symbol for a member of the Halogens (Group 7)?
(A) Br, (B) Ts, (C) As or (D) Cl
8. Which of the planets in our solar system has the highest surface temperature?
(A) Venus, (B) Mercury, (C) Mars or (D) Uranus
9. Which precious stone represents 9 on the Moh's scale of mineral hardness?
(A) Topaz, (B) Sapphire, (C) Ruby and (D) Diamond
10. The element Selenium derives its name from what heavenly body?
(A) The Sun, (B) Saturn, (C) The Moon or (D) Venus



Bring friendship to your front room

We understand that life can get busy – a diary clash, travel costs, or simply the need for a quiet day at home can all make attending events in person a challenge.

But no matter the reason, we believe everyone should be able to enjoy the warmth of friendship and community. That's why Branches across the country host around fifty free online events every month. From inspiring talks and creative arts and crafts sessions to fun games, gentle exercise, and calming meditation – there's something for everyone.

These online gatherings are a wonderful way to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new friends from all over the UK – all from the comfort of your own home. Who knows? You might even discover a new passion along the way!

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 16 September, 7pm Alzheimer's and Brain Health

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/

Or use this link to register directly:

<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsBrainHealth>

Tuesday 28 October, 7pm 'Ghostly Tales to be Told' with Dr. Ann Featherstone

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/

Or use this link to register directly:

<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsGhostlyTales>

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Margaret Hughes



Christmas Wordsearch

(See page 27 for answers)



Advent
Angels
Brussels Sprouts
Carols
Children
Christmas Pudding
Christmas Tree

Crackers
December
Donkey
Egg Nog
Elves
Family
Father Christmas

Gingerbread
Goodwill
Holly
Mistletoe
Pantomime
Presents
Reindeer

Ribbon
Snowman
Three Wise Men
Tree
Turkey

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile



To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the **Refer a Friend** form available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at www.oddfellows.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, see contact details on page 2.



www.oddfellows.co.uk

VA160423/v1

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

We have a wonderful Care and Welfare Department who can help you out with convalescence or help at home after a stay in hospital, but if you are feeling lonely, don't forget that we have a local Care and Welfare Visitor, Angela, who is more than happy to phone you and have a chat. Just let Angela Jones know your phone number by contacting her on **0151 425 2552** and she will sort it out for you.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, whose PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

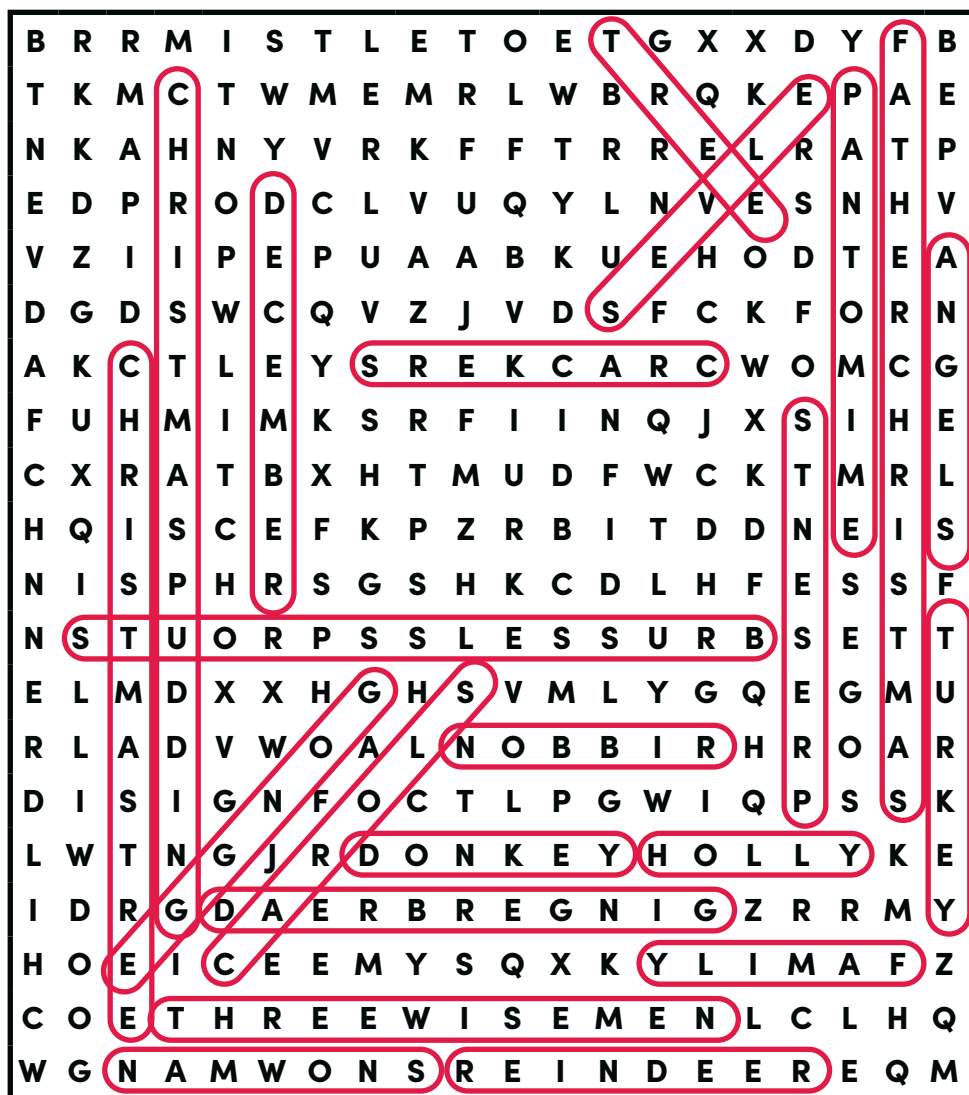
The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

Answers to Wordsearch (on page 20)



Answers to Quiz questions on page 18

1.(c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (a) 10. (c)

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

At a glance

October 2025

Fri 3	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
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Tues 7	Book Club	11am
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Mon 13	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Wed 15	Upton Get Together	1pm
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Fri 17	National Waterways Museum and Cheshire Oaks Outlet Village	TBC
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Wed 22	Kath's Walkie Talkies	12 noon
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Sat 25	New Member Welcome and Half Yearly Meeting	1pm
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Mon 27	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
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November

Tues 4	Book Club	11am
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Fri 7	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
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Mon 10	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Thurs 13	Kath's Walkie Talkies	12 noon
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Fri 14	Bury Market and Bents Garden Centre	9.30am
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Wed 19	Upton Get Together	1pm
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Mon 24	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
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December

Tues 2	Book Club	11am
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Thurs 4	Lytham Hall at Christmas and Blackpool Illuminations	TBC
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Fri 5	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
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December

Mon 8	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Sun 14	Christmas Lunch at The Liner Hotel	12 noon
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Wed 17	Upton Get Together	1pm
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January 2026

Tues 6	Book Club	11am
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Mon 12	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Sat 17	The Scouse Christmas Carol	12.45pm
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Wed 21	Upton Get Together	1pm
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Mon 26	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
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February

Tues 3	Book Club	11am
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Fri 6	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
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Mon 9	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Tues 10	Liverpool Central Library Guided Tour	11am
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Tues 17	Liverpool Central Library Guided Tour	11am
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Wed 18	Upton Get Together	1pm
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Mon 23	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
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March

Tues 3	Book Club	11am
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Fri 6	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
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Mon 9	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
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Wed 18	Upton Get Together	1pm
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Fri 20	Trentham Gardens and Shopping Village	9.30am
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Mon 23	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
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