

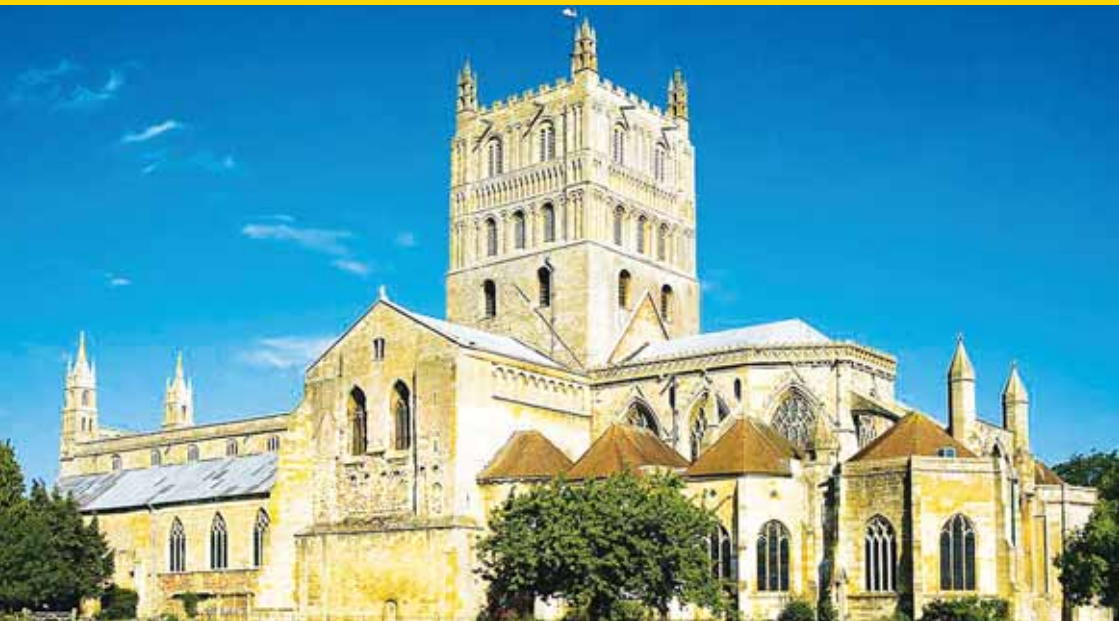
October 2025 - January 2026



the **ODDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

North Gloucestershire



Tewkesbury Abbey photo By Saffron Blaze



Online



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Quiz

Welcome to the new Autumn / Winter Newsletter and events diary for North Gloucestershire District in 2025/2026.

It is early but want to wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Hopefully all our members are safe and well and so are all their family and friends throughout the country and further afield.

Please remember, that if you, as a member do have any crisis, health issues or problems that the Oddfellows can help with, do not hesitate to contact us. This could be either through our welfare contacts or, if legal advice is required and you don't know where you stand on a dispute, then there is a separate Oddfellows' Citizens Advice line, which can advise you of any help you may be able to access and what we can assist you with.

As we head into the winter months, we would like to remind you all that there will be some lovely social events, giving members the opportunity to meet up with old friends and new. There may be some changes to some of our regular inhouse events in this diary, so please be aware and also remember and take note of the book by date attached to some of our out and about events.



Annual Christmas Meal at the Beckford Inn – Sunday 7 December 2025, we hope you can join us!

We put this in to ensure we have plenty of time to book events and save disappointment. Unfortunately, if you try to book after the date advertised, we cannot always guarantee a space for you.

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Stuart Walker

Address: 10 The Gresleys,
Ross-on-Wye,
Herefordshire HR9 5JN

Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 6

Email:
stuart.walker@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Event Organiser:
Dani Brown
danielle.brown@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Event Organiser:
Louise Quemby

Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 1

Email:
louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk

Welfare Visitor: Garth Morgan

Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 3

Over the past year we have had several new members joined our district as well as regularly attending our social events and would like to take this opportunity to express a warm welcome to all.

Up and Coming

This winter we are looking forward to so many events. These include our regular Zoom meetings, crafty events, cinema visits, coffee mornings, walks, adult only

pantomime, book clubs, seasonal events and meals out throughout the district. We are very excited for our members to receive a wide variety of both inhouse and out and about events as well as online events that can be attended and enjoyed from the comfort of your own home. Please remember, if there is anywhere you think would make a beautiful location or a fun or informative event for a day out or evening, please just let Louise, Alex or Dani know!

Mobility Equipment

Thanks to Alex, our District Development Officer, North Gloucestershire District Branch can now loan a mobility scooter to its members for FREE!

It has fresh batteries and has had a full service so is ready to go.

We can provide access to a Quingo Classic Mobility Scooter for up to 6 months, all we require is that you provide insurance on the unit while it's on loan to you, proof of insurance will be required.



We also have a wheelchair which can be loaned out also, free of charge.

A waiver must be signed before either item is loaned.

Full information and how to loan these can be obtained by calling **01989 601314** or by emailing **alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk**

Cheques and payments to the Branch directly

If you need to make a payment to the Oddfellows at North Gloucestershire please can we ask for cheques to be made out to North Gloucestershire District Lodge and forwarded to our Branch Secretary Stuart Walker, however if you prefer to pay electronically by debit/credit please contact Alex Walker on either **01989 601314** or via **alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk** for a link to be sent.

Regular Events

Free Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky

Monday Bi-Weekly



6 October
20 October
3 November

15 December
12 January 2026
26 January

Why not join us and Nicky from Yeleni Therapy and Support for a free 'Relaxation and Meditation' session. Help yourself to unwind and de-stress from the comfort of your own home using mindful breathing techniques and visualisation to achieve a feeling of peace and relaxation in mind, body and spirit. To access the event please go to www.Zoom.us and click on 'Join a Meeting' in the top right, enter the following Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233, then click 'Join' to enter. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Alex on 01452 905010. We look forward to seeing you.

Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike

Monday Bi-Weekly



13 October
27 October
10 November

17 November
24 November
8 December

5 January 2026
19 January

Join Mike from Yoga Skies to practise seated chair yoga. Even if you have limited mobility, this yoga will suit as there will be no getting up and down off the floor! Help yourself to unwind and de-stress from the comfort of your own home using easy talked through yoga. Achieve a state of relaxation and wellbeing brought about by posture and stretching. To access the event please go to www.Zoom.us and click on 'Join a Meeting' in the top right, enter the following Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233, then click 'Join' to enter. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Alex on 01452 905010. We look forward to seeing you.

Regular Events

Purple Pub Club

Third Wednesday of the month



15 October and 19 November

Join us at Toby Carvery in Over, Gloucester. Whether you fancy a light bite, a drink or a full blown meal, then feel free to join us for a chat. With dishes from just £4 (if you don't want anything too heavy) to a full roast from just £10.99, it's amazing value! You can even get unlimited refills on soft drinks. Also, an all round great place to meet. We will be there from 7pm, sitting to eat for around 7.15pm (booking dependant). Please give us at least three days notice, so we can get a table booked for us all. We look forward to welcoming you. The Toby Carvery, Over Farm Market, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DE. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

Shhh! Secret Cinema

Third Monday of the month



**13 October 10 November,
8 December, 12 January 2026**

It's back! Our popular Secret Cinema event returns. If you fancy catching one of the latest blockbusters whilst it's on the big screen then join us on our monthly visit to Cineworld.

Each month we will see what is on and in advance choose a movie for us all to enjoy, along with popcorn if you fancy too! Cineworld Gloucester, Quays Outlet Centre, Merchants Road, Gloucester GL1 5SH. To book on please contact Alex on 01452 905010 at least two days before the event to let him know you're coming and he can tell you what time to meet as the times are set by Cineworld for the start of different movies. We look forward to welcoming you.

Regular Events

Oddfellow Owls Book Club

First Tuesday of the month



10.30am



Free



7 October
4 November

9 December
6 January 2026

Held on the first Tuesday of the month. Join us for the Oddfellow Owls Book Club, a regular gathering held on the first Tuesday of the month (Except December - which is held on Tuesday 9) at the Chipping Norton Library! Each month we dive into a different book. For October, our selected read is *The Appeal*, written by Janice Hallett. We'll discuss this book in our October meeting and then in November, we'll move on to our next title. As the holiday season approaches, we'll have a special festive book to enjoy in December and discuss it in January. It's a wonderful way to connect with fellow book lovers and share your thoughts in a cosy setting! Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend! Chipping Norton Library, Goddards Lane, Oxfordshire OX7 5NP. For more information, contact Dani on 01452 905010.

Social Coffee and Light Lunch Meet

Second Tuesday of the
month (except December)



10.30am



Free



11 November

2 December

13 January 2026

Join us for coffee, cake and good company! Relax, chat and enjoy a sweet treat or light lunch with friends. It's a great opportunity to have a chat with members and non-members that may join us. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

*December's meeting will be festive themed. This event is a fantastic chance to connect with others and build new friendships. There is free parking onsite. Whispering Willows Bistro, Willow Gardens, Russell Way, Chipping Norton OX7 5FX. For more information contact Dani on 01452 905010.

October 2025

SAT
04

**A talk on how to swap
your home for a holiday**



12 noon



Free



We all love the Christmas Movie The Holiday starring Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz where



on a whim they swap their homes for a holiday. Today we will be having a talk by a member who has done just that, and on more than one occasion! Meeting at Parton Road Community centre Cafe at 12 noon, for hot or cold drink on us Then moving through to our meeting room where we will have the lovely Carol, giving a talk on how she has holidayed by swapping her home and all her worldly belongings with a like minded person from somewhere else in the world. So why not come alone or bring a friend for an afternoon with friends, and hear all about Carol's adventures. Parton Road Community Centre - the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

SAT
18

Littledean Jail



1.30pm



£10



Join us if you dare to visit 'Arguably the County's most talked about visitor attraction', Littledean Jail. With a wide array of history inside from the Secret Societies to the Nazi, crime through the ages to witchcraft, they have it all. It's not for the fainthearted. Come along and get stuck in with us as we venture into Littledean Jail (don't mention about who killed the bear!). Please note the venue only accepts cash and is not suitable for children. We look forward to seeing you, please book with Alex to attend. Littledean Jail, Littledean, Near Cinderford GL14 3NL. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

October

SUN
19

A Sunday Roast at The Clavell and Hind



12 noon



As per menu



Meeting at the main entrance at 12 noon at the Clavell and Hind, the new brewery and tap room on the outskirts of Cheltenham, this is a lovely location to meet and eat and enjoy a drink with friends. Enjoying a Sunday roast with friends is what Sundays are made for! So why not come along and enjoy some nice food in lovely surroundings with good company. Members are asked to pay for their own meals and drinks. This is a bookable event due to availability by Sunday 5 October 2025. Clavell and Hind, Unit 2, Elmstone Business Park, Elmstone House, Cheltenham GL51 9SY. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

MON
20

Odd Walks - Walk and Talk



11am



Free



Join us for a walk around Beechenhurst, in the fabulous Forest of Dean - weather depending we will be meeting at the café at Beechenhurst (Alex will be in an Oddfellows coat or gilet), which has plenty spaces with parking from £3.50 and no entry fee.

We will be getting some casual steps in (no running here!) as we take in the beautiful surroundings and getting out in nature, it's also a great opportunity to have a chat with members and non-members who may join us. Before the walk, which will be up to about one hour, we will grab a drink at the café. It is recommended that you bring a bottle of water should you need a drink on the way around. For more information or to take part, contact Alex at least three days before so he knows you are attending. Beechenhurst - Forestry England, Speech House Road, Coleford GL16 7EJ. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.



Photo by Lemoncurd

October

FRI
24

Batsford Arboretum



11.15am



Members £9.50,
Guests £12



Join us for an enchanting trip to Batsford Arboretum on the 24 October! We've arranged a minibus, if needed, for a small additional cost, with convenient pick-up and drop-off points in Chipping Norton and Moreton-in-Marsh, or you can meet us there! As we arrive, you'll get to enjoy a lovely walk around the arboretum, which will be especially beautiful with the autumn leaves hopefully.

We'll also have time for a spot of lunch at the on-site café (cost as per menu) and a bit of shopping or browsing at the garden centre. Please note that this is a bookable event only, so make sure to secure your spot in advance. Don't forget a water bottle and suitable walking footwear. Batsford Arboretum, Batsford, Moreton-In-Marsh GL56 9AT. For more information, or for pick-up/drop-off information and/or to book, contact Dani on 01452 905010 or email danielle.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 17 October 2025.

November

SAT
08

Christmas Card Making



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5




Please note the change to this event date being the second Saturday of the month. We will be meeting in the café at Parton Road Community Centre at 12 noon for refreshment followed by a lovely couple of hours with friends making our own Christmas and festive cards. All materials will be provided, so why not come along and get crafty and in the festive spirit. Parton Road Community Centre – the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



November

SAT 22 Candle Making Workshop

 2.30pm

 Members £15,
Guests £20




Get creative with us at our candle making workshop and enjoy some nibbles and refreshments (or a little glass of wine!) while you craft! Our workshop will be hosted by Dani from 'She Makes Scents'. Join us for a relaxing and fun evening where you learn how to make your own beautiful candles. Perfect for gifts or to brighten up your own home! Spaces are limited, so be sure to book your spot soon.

Please note that this is a bookable event only and we expect places to go for this event quickly, so make sure to secure your spot in advance. There is free parking onsite and bus routes available which stop outside the venue location. This event is not suitable for persons under 16 years old. Glyme Hall, Burford Road, Chipping Norton OX7 5DZ. For more information and/or to book, contact Dani on 01452 905010 or email danielle.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Saturday 8 November 2025.

SAT 29 Good Food Show Birmingham NEC

 9am

 Members £37,
Guests £45



Join us at the Fabulous Good Food Show at Birmingham NEC where there is something for everyone at the Foodie Winter Wonderland. Chefs at the show will include James Martin, Michel Roux and Nadiya Hussain cooking live, plus the option for tasting and to join (paid separately workshops optional).

There will also be book sign and a range of other activities too! Also why not get Christmas shopping with a wide range of artisan producers and big brands selling unique ingredients, festive treats, kitchen gadgets and much much more. Be sure to book in advance, contact Alex for more details, please register interest as soon as possible to prevent disappointment. Book by Friday 14 November 2025. Birmingham NEC, Pendigo Way, Marston Green, Birmingham B40 1NT. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

December

SUN
07

Annual Christmas Meal at the Beckford Inn



12.30pm



Members £20, Guests £40



Meeting at the beautiful Beckford Inn at 12.30pm onwards for sit down at 1pm. This stunning, seasonal and accessible location will be host to our annual festive get together and meal. With a beautiful private dining room, we will enjoy a two or three course meal depending on your wishes. This will be lovingly prepared by the experienced chef and their team.



This sit down meal will consist of lovely choices from the menu including seasonal favourites. Cost for members will be £15.25 for two courses and £20 for three courses with a dessert cheese board alternative supplement cost of £4. Cost for guests will be £30.50 for two courses, £40 for three courses and £4 cheese board dessert alternative dessert supplement. Water will be provided on tables, but all drinks will need to be ordered and paid for at the bar by members. The Beckford Inn has a wide variety of soft and alcoholic beverages to suit all tastes. Full menu will be available at the beginning of October and we ask that all bookings are made and paid for in full by Wednesday 5 November 2025.

Payment is requested to be made in full and in advance, this can be made by BACS or cheque and will be non-refundable. Please contact Alex to make payments and contact either Louise or Alex from October for the menu which can be emailed directly to you on request. We are hoping for this to be a very popular event and will be first come first serve, and as there is a limit on space, so please do not hesitate to book your space. We will have the usual charitable prize draws at this event too for all in attendance. The Beckford Inn, Cheltenham Road, Beckford, Tewkesbury GL20 7AN. Contact Louise or Alex on 01452 905010.

December

TUES
09

Christmas Choir Concert with Bellissima from the Border Belles Ladies Choir



7pm



Members £5 in advance, £7.50 on the door. Guests £7.50 in advance, £10 on the door



Come and join us for a wonderful evening of song with Bellissima from the Border Belles Ladies Choir as they perform a range of songs including some Christmas carols to get you in the spirit! This event will be a charity fundraising event for Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, all profits will go to them, with a minimum of £200 going to the charity.

Refreshments will be available to purchase. If you book in advance you can save! Contact Alex and he will be happy to sort out your ticket – you can pay on the day, but the cost will be higher so get in quick. Space is limited so don't delay. Free parking onsite, cash and card accepted. Highnam Community Centre, Newent Road, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DG. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

WED
10

Save a Life! Free Defibrillator and CPR Awareness Training



10am



Free



We will be hosting a free awareness training on how to use a defibrillator and give CPR. As you may know more and more PADs (Publicly Accessible Defibrillators) are being put into communities which is amazing (we have added some too!).



But you may not be confident on how to use one and although they are very straightforward, in the heat of the moment it can be daunting, so why not join us to get a chance to use one (not on a real subject of course!). This free event will be run by a long serving paramedic, Craig, who will guide you through it all and Alex will be there to support, so if you would like to come along please contact Alex to book. Free refreshments will be provided. We look forward to welcoming you. Book by Friday 5 December 2025. Parton Road Community Centre – the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

December

SAT
13 **Oddfellows Festive**
Craft and Gift Market

 2.30pm

 Free



Join us for a joyful afternoon at the festive craft fair! Discover unique handmade gifts and crafts from our talented Oddfellow members and local small businesses, including delicious baked goods, beautifully crafted candles and home-made home decor. Perfect opportunity to find one-of-a-kind gifts and supporting local artisans. Everyone welcome! Bring a friend. Glyme Hall, Burford Road, Chipping Norton OX7 5DZ. Contact Dani on 01452 905010.



January 2026

SAT
03 **New Year Quiz**

 12 noon

 Free



Welcome new members and old to our New Year quiz. Meeting in the café at Parton Road Community Centre for light refreshment, then testing our general knowledge on different subjects in a multiple round quiz. Why not come along and dust off the winter blues and have relaxed afternoon with friends, and see if we can get any questions right. There is no pressure and we would just love your company, and there will be small prizes for any winners. Parton Road Community Centre - the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



FRI
19 **Adults Only Pantomime - Jack and the**
Beanstalk at the Roses Theatre

 6.30pm

 Members £25, Guests £30



This event is very popular and is booked up in advance, so please get booking if you would like to attend. With a twist on the traditional type of panto, this adult only alternative is just that! With language and themes that are not suitable for children, this is an over 18s event only. Be prepared to laugh and be shocked! Tickets are £30 to guests and £25 to members. Meeting at the front door at 6.30pm for start at 7pm. Book by Saturday 25 October 2025. Roses Theatre, Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5NX. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

January 2026

THURS
22

Meet the Social Organiser - Cirencester



12 noon



As per
menu



Join us at the Truro Lounge in Cirencester for a relaxed afternoon getting to know your social organiser! This is a great chance to chat about upcoming events, share your ideas and connect with fellow members in the area. We look forward to seeing you there! Free hot beverage or soft drink for attendee. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend! There are ample car parks located within walking distance. Toro Lounge, 34 Cricklade Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1JH. Contact Dani on 01452 905010.



SAT
31

Totally Blondie at the Roses Theatre



7pm



Members £23.25
Guests £31



Meeting at 7pm for 7.30pm start at the entrance to the Roses Theatre Tewkesbury, expect a blistering performance from one of the highest regarded professional tribute bands working in the UK. Fronted by a stunning Debbie Harry lookalike, Totally Blondie celebrate Blondie's rich history from the first album to the last songs. Booking is essential as this event will be popular, so please book early. Book by Monday 1 December 2025. Tewkesbury Roses Theatre, Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5NX. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit Friendly Society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through social events, as well as supporting our members through a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Events from Friendship Month and other events

We have had such a lovely summer with some wonderful and well attended events throughout the district. We had a wonderful Friendship month too and got an opportunity to meet with a lot of lovely people throughout the District. We had members attend a variety of both inhouse, out and about events as well as our weekly online Zoom events.

Members enjoyed meal, educational events such as fire extinguisher training, tote bag printing, Jelly printing. Here are some pictures of some of our past events.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Members attending and learning fire safety skills.



Members attending jelly printing.



Members gaining valuable knowledge about fire extinguishers.



Members putting their knowledge into practice.

A day out to Oakham Treasures

Exploring Nostalgia, Laughter, and the Wonders of an Unusual Museum
In the heart of the West Country, just on the outskirts of Bristol lies a hidden gem that promised to take us back in time: Oakham Treasures. Upon arrival thought it looked rather small from the outside, how wrong we were.

We spent several hours taking in all the wonderful items stored in this the UK's largest privately owned museum and what a fabulous time we had, enjoyed by 12 members (including one from as far away as Reading!). We will be running this trip again in the future so keep an eye out, it's not one to miss.



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, contact Louise on 01452 905010 option: 1
louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk

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the Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
MAKING FRIENDS, HELPING PEOPLE

www.oddfellows.co.uk

IT'S TIME FOR A

PHOTO COMPETITION



Fancy a chance to enter our competition to win £25 (Adult entry) or £25 (Child entry) in Amazon vouchers? All you have to do is take a picture of wildlife or somewhere in Gloucestershire e.g. a landscape of Gloucester Cathedral and submit the image to us by emailing alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk who will send you details on how to submit the image.



Get snapping, have some fun and be creative!

The winner will be announced in the Spring Events Diary and contacted in January 2026.

Terms and conditions apply

- To be eligible, photos must be sent in by Saturday 15 November 2025.
- Members can submit one photo, don't forget to give them a caption and include your name.
- Digital entries must be sent via email to alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk anytime before the closing date by midnight on Saturday 15 November 2025. One photo per email is preferred.
- Entries will be uploaded onto www.facebook.com/ngloucestershire
- The prizes will be £25 (Adult entry) or £25 (Child entry) Amazon vouchers. No alternative prize available. The winner/decision will be at the annual Christmas meal on Sunday 7 December and name published in the next events diary.
- We welcome entries from members nationwide.
- The competition is managed and fulfilled by the North Gloucestershire Oddfellows (the Promoter) And will be judged by three judges from the committee.
- The Promoter reserves the right to publish any photos entered into the competition. The decision of the Promoter on any matter relating to these rules shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The Ts and Cs for the voucher can be found at: www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GNG9PXYZUMQT72QK

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



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

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Garth on **01989 565664** or email our Secretary Stuart on **stuart.walker@oddfellows.co.uk**.

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.”

At a glance

October 2025

Sat 4	A Talk on how to swap your home for a holiday	12 noon
Mon 6	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 7	Oddfellow Owls Book Club	10.30am
Mon 13	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 13	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Wed 15	Purple Pub Club	7pm
Sat 18	Littledean Jail	1.30pm
Sun 19	A Sunday Roast at The Clavell and Hind	12 noon
Mon 20	Odd Walks - Walk and Talk	11am
Mon 20	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Fri 24	Batsford Arboretum	11.15am
Mon 27	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm

November

Mon 3	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 4	Oddfellow Owls Book Club	11am
Sat 8	Christmas Card Making	12 noon
Mon 10	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 10	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 11	Social Coffee and Light Lunch Meet	11.30am
Mon 17	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Wed 19	Purple Pub Club	7pm
Sat 22	Candle Making Workshop	2.30pm
Mon 24	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Sat 29	Good Food Show Birmingham NEC	9am

December

Mon 1	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 2	Social Coffee and Light Lunch Meet	11.30am
Sun 7	Annual Christmas Meal at the Beckford Inn	12.30pm
Mon 8	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm

At a glance

December

Mon 8	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 9	Oddfellow Owls Book Club	11am
Tues 9	Christmas Choir Concert with Bellissima from the Border Belles Ladies Choir	7pm
Wed 10	Save a Life! Free Defibrillator and CPR Awareness Training	10am
Sat 13	Oddfellows Festive Craft and Gift Market	2.30pm
Mon 15	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Fri 19	Adults Only Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk at the Roses Theatre	6.30pm

January 2026

Sat 3	New Year Quiz	12 noon
Mon 5	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 6	Oddfellow Owls Book Club	11am
Mon 12	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 12	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 13	Social Coffee and Light Lunch Meet	11.30am
Mon 19	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Thurs 22	Meet the Social Organiser - Cirencester	12 noon
Mon 26	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Sat 31	Totally Blondie at the Roses Theatre	7pm

Meetings

Committee of Management meetings are held every month. Why not come along and meet new friends, whilst finding out about your own Branch and how it runs! If you are interested in getting more involved, please give us a call to find out how.

Payment for events

You can always pay for forthcoming events at the meeting the month before the event itself, if you are not going to be able to attend the preceding event. Please contact Louise on **01452 905010** to discuss payment methods.