

OUL Cabout

Heart of England









Day Trip/ Travel



Sports



Friendship







?) Quizzes A Talks Coffee Morning







District Church Service Sunday 13 July

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary for Heart of England District Oddfellows.

As a local District of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. This issue features details of all our upcoming events.

Contact Details

District Secretary: Yvette Glover **Email:**

yvette.glover@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Sue Newton Email:

sue.newton@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP

Telephone: 01926 424112

District Office Opening HoursWednesday 10am – 2pm
Friday 10am – 2pm

Other times can be arranged by calling the office.

The building and office are closed on Bank Holidays and between Christmas and New Year.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

A bit about us

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

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Regular Events

Leamington Coffee Morning







Second Monday of the month

Come and join us at our monthly coffee morning at a café in Leamington Spa. We meet on the second Monday of the month at Coffee Break Café in the Royal Priors shopping centre. You can sit and chat with friends and then have a drink or something to eat. Coffee Break Café, Upper Mall, Royal Priors Shopping Centre, Warwick Street, Learnington Spa CV32 4XT. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

12 May 9 June

14 July 11 August

8 September

Kenilworth Coffee Morning



10.30am (£) Cost of refreshments



Last Monday of the month

Come and join us for a coffee morning in Kenilworth at the Fossato Lounge. This is very central near the clock tower. Come and meet up with friends and members. Bring along a friend who isn't a member, all welcome. No meetings in May or August due to Bank Holidays. The Fossato Lounge, 1 Abbey End, Kenilworth CV8 1QH, Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

30 June

28 July

29 September

Stratford Upon Avon **Coffee Morning**



10.30am £ Cost of refreshments



Last Tuesday of the month

Come and join us for a coffee morning in Stratford on the last Tuesday of each month. This is ideal to keep in touch with other members if it is too far or difficult for you to get to Leamington Spa. We meet in Prospero Lounge on Bridge Street as this is close to bus stops if you don't drive. All welcome. Prospero Lounge, 24 Bridge Street, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 6AD. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.

27 May **24 June** **29 July** 26 August 30 September

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Regular Event

Coffee Morning Monthly Bingo





 (\mathbf{f}) £3 per game



On the first Wednesday of the month, come along to our regular coffee morning and join us for prize bingo. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.

7 May 4 June 2 July

3 September

First Wednesday of the month



Warwick Coffee Morning



10.30am (£) Cost of refreshments



Third Thursday of the month

Join us for a monthly coffee and chat at Costa Coffee in Warwick town centre, in the corner of the town square. If you live in Warwick, but can't get to Leamington then join us once a month to catch up with friends. Costa Coffee, 40 Market Street, Warwick CV34 4SH. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.

15 May

17 July

18 September

19 June

21 August

Coffee Morning Monthly Quiz





-) 12 noon (\mathfrak{L}) £1 per person entry



Come along to our Friday coffee morning and join in our monthly prize quiz. Exercise those little grey cells! Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.

30 May 27 June 25 July

29 August 26 September

Last Friday of the month



May 2025



Café Crawl - Guys Cliffe & Leamington







13

Craft and Chat





Come along with your sewing,

knitting, crochet or whatever craft

Hall, 22 New Street, Learnington

Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Yvette on

you like and enjoy a natter with other

members while you do it. Oddfellows



Meet at Oddfellows Hall in Leamington Spa for a walk, talk and café stops around Leamington. You are welcome to purchase from the café menus as we stop at three local cafés. Come wrapped up as the English spring can be challenging! Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Laura on 07787 844284.



01926 424112.

Craft and Chat







Come along with your sewing, knitting, crochet or whatever craft you like and enjoy a natter with other members while you do it. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.



THURS 08

Trip to Trentham Gardens Leigh & Knightley



) 9am





This is a coach trip to Trentham
Gardens, near Stoke-on-Trent. The
coach will pick-up at Packington
Place. Times and prices are yet to be
confirmed. But please ask Sue Newton
in the District Office for details.



Book by Friday 18 April. Packington Place Car Park, 25 Packington Place, Leamington Spa CV31 1EP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

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Picnic Evening Leigh & Knightley & Okens



£)Free





Come and join us for our picnic evening. Bring along your own picnic and alcohol if you want. Tea or coffee will be available. There will be a raffle. Bring along a friend who isn't a member. All welcome. Book by Friday 6 June. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.



Joint Lodge **Ceremonial Meeting**



7.30pm

This is a joint Lodge Ceremonial meeting with District Officers visit. All welcome. Come along and see some of our ritual. Don't worry you can just observe, that's fine. Everyone welcome. There will be refreshments and a raffle afterwards. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leaminaton Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Laura on 07787 844284 or Sue on 01926 424112.

Warwickshire Search and Rescue Talk -**Earl of Warwick**







Come and join us at the hall for a talk by Warwickshire Search and Rescue. There will be refreshments and a raffle after the talk. Oddfellows Hall. 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

July



Guys Cliffe & Leamington Walk







Meet at Oddfellows Hall. This will be an accessible walk, so mobility scooters are no problem. There will be a café stop for those that would like it. Come dressed ready for unpredictable weather, just in case! All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Laura on 07787 844284.



July



Zoe's Place Talk - Leigh & Knightley & Okens



7.30pm





This evening we have a talk by Judy Warner from the baby and children's hospice Zoe's Place. We will hopefully also have some members from Coventry Godiya District ioining us. There will be refreshments and a raffle after the talk. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

District Church Service







Come and join us for our annual church service at Cubbington Church, All welcome. There will



be tea after the service back at the hall. If you want to attend the tea after the service then please inform the District Office for catering purposes. Book by Friday 4 July. St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Cubbington, Leamington Spa CV32 7|T. Contact Yvette or Sue on 01926 424112.

Games Afternoon -**Earl of Warwick**



2pm





Come along for a games afternoon at the hall. There will be refreshments and a raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

Tea Dance Guys Cliffe & Leamington









Come along for an afternoon of sequence and ballroom dancing with cream tea! All welcome. Dust off those dancing shoes! Ticket price to be paid in advance either to Laura Greenway or into the District Office. Book by Monday 14 July. Whitnash Methodist Hall, Murcott Road East, Whitnash, Leamington Spa CV31 2]]. Contact Laura on 07787 844284.

August



Theatre Outing Leigh & Knightley





£55 for theatre ticket and coach





This is an outing to see Mary Poppins the musical at the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre. Only two places left! Coach will pick-up at Packington Place and we should be back in Leaminaton Spa around 6.30pm. Book by Wednesday 30 April. Packington Place Car Park, 25 Packington Place, Leamington Spa CV31 1EP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.



Games Afternoon -**Guys Cliffe & Leamington**



2pm





Come and join in for an afternoon of board games, 2pm at the hall. There will be refreshments and a raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall. 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Laura on 07787 844284.



Meal Out -**Earl of Warwick**







Come and join us for a meal out at the Heathcote Pub. Enjoy good food with friends. Meet at the pub at midday for 12.30pm booking. All welcome. Book by Friday 8 August. The Heathcote Pub, Tachbrook Road, Leamington Spa CV31 3DG. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.





Ten Pin Bowling -Okens





£8 per person



Come and join us for a game of ten pin bowling. It's great fun! Doesn't matter if you've never



done it or you're really good, everyone welcome. Meet at the bowling alley. Book by Friday 15 August. Ten Pin Bowling, Tachbrook Park Drive. Leamington Spa CV34 6RH. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

September















Music Afternoon - Guys Cliffe & Leamington







A local amateur folk group will be performing for you. Be prepared to join in and sing along with some well known songs.



Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street. Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Laura on 07787 844284.

Half Yearly Meeting







Come and find out how your District is run. The Society is run by members for members. This is a good meeting to attend as it is a half day meeting, so a gentle introduction to inform you how things are run. Refreshments are provided. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV311HP. Contact Yvette on 01926 424112.

Friendship Harvest Supper Leigh & Knightley & Okens & Earl of Warwick





7.30pm $\left(\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{f} \end{array}\right)$ Members £9, Guests £11



Come and join us for our annual harvest supper at the hall. The raffle as usual will be fruit and vegetables. Supper is supplied, so please book early as this is very popular and also to make us aware of any special dietary requirements. Tea or coffee provided. All welcome. Book by Friday 12 September. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Sue on 01926 424112.

Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun.

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER





To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

Forthcoming Event - October



Grand Draw Event







Come and join us for our Grand Draw event. We will have craft stalls, tombola, bottle stall, home-made produce, cakes



and games. Light refreshments will be available, again with home-made cakes and scones to purchase. The proceeds will go to the Provincial Grand Master's (District Chairman) charity appeal. It's a fun couple of hours for a very worthy cause. Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP. Contact Yvette or Sue on 01926 424112.

Branch Contacts

Earl of Warwick Branch

Meet on the third Friday of the month in the afternoon at the Oddfellows Hall. **Social Secretary:** Yvette Glover/Sue Newton **Telephone:** 01926 424112

Address: Please contact the District Office.

Guys Cliffe & Leamington Branch

Meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the afternoon at Oddfellows Hall.

Social Secretary: Laura Greenway Telephone: 07787 844284.

Address: 159 Glendower Avenue, Coventry CV5 8BD.

Leigh & Knightley Branch

Meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the evening at the Oddfellows Hall.

Social Secretary: Sue Newton Telephone: 01926 429312

Address: 37 Landor Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa CV31 2JY.

Okens Branch

Meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the evening at Oddfellows Hall, 22 New Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1HP.

Social Secretary: Sue Newton Telephone: 01926 429312

Address: 37 Landor Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa CV31 2JY.

Edmondscote Provincial Lodge of Past Grands

This Lodge is now closed.



Looking for a venue?

- Parties Meetings
- Exhibitions Activity Groups

Oddfellows Hall

Our venue and function room can accommodate all kinds of occasions

Kitchen facilities, disabled facilities, and central location





Details for charges and hiring please contact Yvette or Sue on 01926 424112 or email us at yvette.glover@oddfellows.co.uk



Photos of Events



A regular group of Heart of England who go ten pin bowling.



Members on a trip to a snowdrop walk.



Members happily waiting for their Christmas meal.

Our new coffee morning at Stratford Upon Avon.



Martin Greenway our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) with his presentation cheque for his charities this year.

Obituaries

Penny Doyle - Past Provincial Grand Master (Past Chairman)

Josephine Godfrey

Norman Hancox

Dawn Harris

Richard J Newton

Ethel Prior

Mary Reading - Mary was featured in our last diary as she celebrated her 100th Birthday last year.

May they all rest in peace.



Join the conversation @ OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay upto-date! If you're on Facebook, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at

f HeartOfEnglandOddfellows



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 Yvette on **01926 424112** or email **yvette.glover@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 EDCWA50223

Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: "It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must."

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. "It was amazing," said Wendy. "The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre."

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

"The sea defences were testament to the city's position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean," Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: "Lisbon wasn't quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo."

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member's birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel's 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Society News Issue 29

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley,Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will

allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Society News Issue 29

Edward Smith,

Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

"I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies," he said. "I would encourage all eligible



students to have a go at applying for this award."

Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

Torsten Ellis,Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extracurricular activities.

He added: "It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

"My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I'll get a rich understanding of both and I'm looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Society News Issue 29

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family
friendly financial products* visit
www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows
For more information call 0161 214 4628.
*Terms and conditions apply

At a glance

May 2025

may 20	J25	
Tues 6	Café Crawl - Guys Cliffe & Leamington	11am
Wed 7	Coffee Morning - Bingo	1pm
Thurs 8	Trip to Trentham Gardens - Leigh & Knightley	9am
Mon 12	Leamington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 13	Craft and Chat	2pm
Thurs 15	Warwick Coffee Morning - Costa Coffee	10.30am
Tues 27	Stratford Upon Avon Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 27	Craft and Chat	2pm
Fri 30	Coffee Morning - Quiz	12 noon
June		
Wed 4	Coffee Morning - Bingo	1pm
Mon 9	Leamington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 11	Picnic Evening - Leigh & Knightley & Okens	7.30pm
Wed 18	Joint Lodge Ceremonial Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 19	Warwick Coffee Morning - Costa Coffee	10.30am
Fri 20	Warwickshire Search and Rescue Talk - Earl of Warwick	2pm
Tues 24	Stratford Upon Avon Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 27	Coffee Morning - Quiz	12 noon
Mon 30	Kenilworth Coffee Morning - Fossato Lounge	10.30am
July		
Wed 2	Coffee Morning - Bingo	1pm
Tues 8	Guys Cliffe & Leamington Walk	2pm
Wed 9	Zoe's Place Talk - Leigh & Knightley & Okens	7.30pm
Sun 13	District Church Service	3pm
Mon 14	Leamington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	Warwick Coffee Morning - Costa Coffee	10.30am
Fri 18	Games Afternoon - Earl of Warwick	2pm
Sat 19	Tea Dance - Guys Cliffe & Leamington	2pm
Fri 25	Coffee Morning - Quiz	12 noon
Mon 28	Kenilworth Coffee Morning - Fossato Lounge	10.30am
Tues 29	Stratford Upon Avon Coffee Morning	10.30am

At a glance

August

Wed 6	Theatre Outing – Leigh & Knightley	11am
Mon 11	Leamington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 12	Games Afternoon - Guys Cliffe & Leamington -	2pm
Thurs 14	Meal Out - Earl of Warwick	12 noon
Tues 19	Ten Pin Bowling - Okens	1.45pm
Thurs 21	Warwick Coffee Morning - Costa Coffee	10.30am
Tues 26	Stratford Upon Avon Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 29	Coffee Morning - Quiz	12 noon

September - Friendship Month

Wed 3	Coffee Morning - Bingo	1pm
Mon 8	Leamington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 9	Music Afternoon – Guys Cliffe & Leamington	2pm
Sat 13	Half Yearly Meeting	10am
Tues 16	Friendship Harvest Supper – Leigh & Knightley & Okens & Earl of Warwick	7.30pm
Thurs 18	Warwick Coffee Morning - Costa Coffee	10.30am
Fri 26	Coffee Morning - Quiz	12 noon
Mon 29	Kenilworth Coffee Morning - Fossato Lounge	10.30am
Tues 30	Stratford Upon Avon Coffee Morning	10.30am

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 www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

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