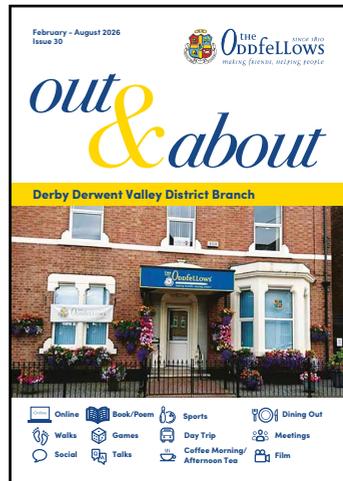


# Derby Derwent Valley Out and About and The Derby Link Magazine

Please scroll down to the first page for the Derby Out and About events diary and page 25 for The Derby Link Magazine

Please scroll to page 1 or click the link below  
[Derby Out and About](#)



Please scroll to page 25 or click the link below  
[The Derby Link Magazine](#)



## The Derby Link Magazine

Oddfellows Hall, 19 Charwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Telephone: 01332 346897

Oddfellows News from the Derby District    Visit our website [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

January 2026  
Issue 90

### Provincial Grand Master's Message



**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

I hope it is not too late to wish you a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year. This is my last Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) message as I pass the baton on the Paddy Cunningham at the end of March, and I wish her a successful time.

2025 was very busy with lots of events for members to take part in and enjoy and I hope they will find something to interest you in your own Extra Derby. A new challenge, if you are interested, is the chance to learn how to play the Ukulele. Now I have learned how to spell it, I am looking forward to giving it a try.

Last year we welcomed new members to the Committee of Management and I hope they are finding it interesting in 2026, we are focusing on recruiting new members to join us. If you have any family or friends who you think would benefit from our social activities, please bring them along. Remember also, it is not just social events, but there are many added benefits, such as Care and Welfare and an ODDfELLOWS dedicated telephone line. Ask one of the Secretaries for a membership form to keep in your handbag (ballets), or perhaps the gentlemen could keep one in their glove compartment.

I am very, very grateful for the support I have received for my chosen charity - The East Midlands Air Ambulance and I thought you would like to know that the raffle for the hamper raised £400 and congratulations to Margaret Clarville who was lucky enough to win it.



Finally, I have conducted a blanket again this year, so raffle for my charity and raffle tickets are enclosed. As previously, they are £1 a strip and put your name and telephone number on the reverse and return them to the Office (any cheques should be made payable to: The Derby Derwent Valley District Branch). Thank you again, you are all so generous.

With every good wish

**Margaret Henschiff**  
Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)



February - August 2026  
Issue 30



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

# out & about

## Derby Derwent Valley District Branch



- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|  Online |  Book/Poem |  Sports                           |  Dining Out |
|  Walks  |  Games     |  Day Trip                         |  Meetings   |
|  Social |  Talks     |  Coffee Morning/<br>Afternoon Tea |  Film       |



## *Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Luncheon - Sunday 22 February*

### **Welcome to your latest edition of the Out and About!**

#### **Happy New Year everyone.**

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and say how much I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming social events.

The Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Sunday 22 February, arriving at 12.30pm for a 1pm start, at The Folly, The Farmhouse, Mackworth, Derby. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for what promises to be a lovely occasion.

We are also delighted to introduce a new Ukulele class, starting on 6 February and running every Friday from 2.30pm to 4pm. This will be a fun afternoon where you can learn to play the ukulele or improve your existing skills. Complete beginners, those looking to build confidence, and anyone who would simply like to listen are all very welcome. Ukuleles are provided, and tea or coffee with biscuits is available for just £1.

Please note that the Chair Exercise class will be changing from February. It will move from the second and

fourth Thursday of the month to the first and third Monday, taking place on 2 and 16 February, and continuing each month thereafter.

Don't miss our Friday 19 June coach trip to the Good Food Show and BBC Gardeners' World Live at the NEC, Birmingham – a vibrant celebration of food, gardening, and creativity that promises inspiration at every turn.

Later in the summer, join us on Saturday 22 August for a delightful escape to Llandudno, one of Wales' most loved seaside destinations, perfect for a day of relaxation and coastal charm.

You're warmly invited to enjoy a delightful Open Garden and BBQ on Saturday 4 July in Alvaston, from 2pm. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of good food, beautiful surroundings, and great company – all in support of a wonderful cause. All proceeds will be donated to the Chairman's chosen charity. We look forward to welcoming you.

Also, I regret to inform you the Zoom Countdown and Quiz hosted by Colin Smith will come to an end from February due to low participation. We would like to thank Colin for his hard work and dedication in giving up his Saturday mornings twice a month.

# Weekly Events

The events below all take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

## Line Dancing

Every Monday

🕒 2pm - 3.30pm    💷 Members £3  
Guests £4

Step into the fun – everyone’s welcome! Get moving with a fantastic workout. Relax with a cup of tea or coffee and some biscuits – for just £1! Contact Laretta on 01332 345697.

## Short Mat Bowls

Every Tuesday

🕒 2pm - 4pm    💷 Members £1.50  
Guests £2.50

Join us for a relaxed and friendly session – perfect for beginners and seasoned players alike. Enjoy great company, a game or two, and complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits. All are welcome – come and give it a try! Contact Laretta on 01332 345697.



Lots of our events take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Really easy to find with parking at the rear off Melbourne Street.

# Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

**01332 345697**

Laretta Stokes

**Email:**

laretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk

Alice Smyth

**Email:**

alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk

**f** OddfellowsDerby

## Ukulele Class

Every Friday

🕒 2.30pm

💷 £1

Join us every Friday for a fun afternoon learning to play the ukulele or improving your existing skills. Whether you’re a complete beginner,



looking to build confidence, or simply coming along to listen, everyone is welcome. Ukuleles are provided and you can enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits for just £1. Contact Laretta on 01332 345697.

# Regular Events

## Knit and Natter

 6.30pm

 £1

Fortnightly  
Monday

Come and join us for a fun evening of any type of crafting whilst having a chat and refreshments. All abilities are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 07855 517144.

9 February	23 March	1 June	13 July	24 August
23 February	20 April	15 June	27 July	
9 March	18 May	29 June	10 August	

## Chair Exercise Class

 11am

 Members £3, Guests £5

Fortnightly  
Monday

Come and join us on first and third Monday of each month. Enjoy improving your strength, flexibility, balance and circulation, all while being safe and easy to perform at a Chair Exercise Class. £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Laretta on 01332 345697.

2 February	16 March	1 June	20 July
16 February	20 April	15 June	3 August
2 March	18 May	6 July	17 August

## Coffee Morning

 10.30am

 £1

Thursday  
and Saturday

Join us for a warm cuppa and a friendly chat! Enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits for just £1 in great company and treat yourself to our delicious hot cobs on sale (Saturday's only). Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Laretta on 01332 345697.

### Saturday (Hot cobs on sale)

14 February - Valentine's Day  
14 March - for the Orphan Gift Fund  
11 April  
9 May  
11 July  
8 August

### Thursday

26 February  
26 March  
23 April - St George's Day  
28 May  
25 June  
23 July  
27 August

# February 2026

## TUES 03 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by a Presentation

L 7.30pm    £ Free    

Join us for our monthly meeting, followed by a presentation on canary birds by one of our members. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.

## WED 04 Walking Group at Morley Hayes

L 10am    £ As per menu    

Meet at Cloves Wood lay-by on A608 opposite Morley Hayes golf club. Nearest postcode: DE7 6DG. Cloves Wood Lay-by, Main Road A608, Morley DE7 6DG. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



## TUES 10 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a Talk

L 2pm    £ Free    

Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon discussing and looking at old photographs of Long Eaton and Sawley. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

## TUES 10 Dining Out Experience at The Harvester

L 6.45pm    £ As per menu    

Join us for an evening of food and friendship. A simple, chain restaurant serving grilled meat, salads, pasta and seafood. Book by Tuesday 3 February. The Harvester, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8JE. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## SAT 14 Valentine's Day Coffee Morning

L 10.30am    £ £1    

Join us this Valentine's Day for a cosy cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat. To make the day extra special, we'd love for you to wear something red. £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits. Plus, don't miss out on our delicious hot cobs, available for sale. We can't wait to celebrate with you. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# February 2026

## WED 18 Walking Group at Alvaston Park

🕒 10am

💷 As per menu



Walk from Alvaston Park DE24 8QQ (car park by the BMX track) along the Derby Canal to Borrowash, returning along the river Derby. Five and half miles, flat, mostly paths, one flight of stairs. Pub lunch, venue to be decided. Alvaston Car Park, Meadow Lane, Alvaston DE24 8QQ. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## SUN 22 Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Luncheon

🕒 12.30pm



💷 Members £27, Guests £35

Join us for our annual luncheon celebrating the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Margaret Henchcliff. Everyone is welcome to attend. A raffle will be held and all money raised will go towards the East Midlands Air Ambulance, the charity chosen by the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman). For catering purposes, please book your place and let us know your menu choices as soon as possible. Book by Tuesday 10 February. The Folly, The Farmhouse, Ashbourne Road, Mackworth, Derby DE22 4LY. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## SAT 28 Chinese Buffet Night

🕒 7pm



💷 Members £10, Guests £12



Treat yourself to our Chinese Buffet Night and explore a generous spread of classic Chinese favourites. All are welcome. Book by Friday 20 February. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

# March

## TUES 03 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Kurling

🕒 7.30pm

💷 Free



Join us for our monthly meeting, then stick around for a fun evening of kurling! Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.

# March

## WED 04 Walking Group at Calke Abbey

L 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at Ticknall Village Hall (DE73 7JX) for Calke Abbey Walk. Five miles. Lunch to be decided. Ticknall Village Hall, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall DE73 7JX. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## TUES 10 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Rummikub

L 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of playing Rummikub. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

## TUES 10 Dining Out Experience at The Great Northern

L 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Set in a suburban area, this traditional pub with rooms set in an adjacent converted barn is an 11-minute walk from the bus stop to Derby City Centre (30 minutes journey time) and 5.3 miles from Kedleston Hall. Book by Tuesday 3 March. The Great Northern, Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9FB. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## THURS 12 Cheque Presentation Afternoon

L 2.30pm

£ Free



The Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Margaret Henchliff will be making a presentation to her chosen charity, the East Midlands Air Ambulance. A buffet will be provided. All are welcome. Book by Friday 6 March. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to let us know if you wish to attend for catering purposes.

## SAT 14 Coffee Morning for the Orphan Gift Fund

L 10.30am

£ £1



Join us for a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat. Hot cobs will be available for purchase and all donations will go towards the Orphan Gift Fund. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

# March

## **WED** **18** **Walking Group at Cotmanhay**

 10am

 As per menu



Bennerley Viaduct Walk. Meet on Bridge Street, Cotmanhay DE7 8RD (on street parking) for a four and half mile figure eight walk, crossing Bennerley Viaduct. Flat with a flight of steps. Bennerley Viaduct Walk, Bridge Street, Cotmanhay DE7 8RD. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## **SAT** **21** **Lodge of Past Grands and the Purple Degree Award**

 11am

 Free



All qualified members are welcome to attend the Lodge of Past Grands and Purple Degree Award. A buffet will follow the ceremony. Book by Friday 13 March. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the Derby office on 01332 345697 for catering purposes.

## **SAT** **21** **Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Meeting**

 2pm

 Free



Come along and find out how the District runs. All attending members may vote at the meeting. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## **SAT** **28** **The Price Is Right Evening**

 7pm

 Members £10  
Guests £12



Join us for a thrilling night of 'The Price Is Right'. Put your guessing skills to the test while enjoying a delicious two-course meal, with four menu options to choose from, including a vegetarian option. Book by Friday 20 March. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

# April

## **WED** **01** **Walking Group at Tutbury**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at the Dog and Partridge, Tutbury DE13 9LS for a five-mile walk. Mainly flat with some stiles. Eating at the Dog and Partridge afterwards. Dog & Partridge, High Street, Tutbury DE13 9LS. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

# April

## TUES 07 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by an Easter Theme Activity

 7.30pm  Free 

Join us for our monthly meeting, followed by an exciting Easter-themed activity. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.

## TUES 14 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz

 2pm  Free 

Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a quiz. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

## TUES 14 Dining Out Experience at The Golden Dragon

 6.45pm  As per menu 

Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Golden Dragon restaurant has long been



the pinnacle of Chinese dining in Shardlow and are proud to continue their traditions. Book by Tuesday 7 April. The Golden Dragon, London Road, Shardlow DE72 2HN. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## WED 15 Walking Group at Shipley Country Park

 10am  As per menu 

Meet at Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre DE75 7GX for a five mile walk around the park. Flatish terrain mainly on paths. Pay for parking. Shipley Country Park, Slack Lane, Heanor DE75 7GX. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## SAT 18 Kurling Afternoon

 2pm  Members £4  
Guests £6 



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of kurling. Enjoy some friendly competition and refuel with a delicious jacket potato, topped with a variety of tasty fillings. Don't miss out. Book by Friday 10 April. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

# April

## THURS 23 St George's Day Coffee Morning

🕒 10.30am

£ £1



Come celebrate St George's Day with us. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, delicious biscuits and great conversation with friends. Don't miss out on the fun. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.



## WED 29 Walking Group at Hartshorne

🕒 10am

£ As per menu



Meet in the car park at Manchester Lane, Hartshorne DE11 7ET for a six-mile walk. Lunch to be decided. Some hills and a few stiles. Manchester Lane Car Park, Manchester Lane, Hartshorne DE11 7ET. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



# May

## TUES 05 King George IV Branch District Officers' Visit

🕒 7.30pm

£ Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Book by Tuesday 21 April. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. For catering purposes, please contact the Derby Office on 01332 345697 if you would like to come along.

## THURS 07 Good Intent Branch Murder Mystery Afternoon

🕒 2pm

£ Free



There will be no Branch meeting on this date, as the Good Intent will be holding it's annual Murder Mystery event, starting at 2pm. Refreshments will be provided. This is a free event, but you will need to book your place by Thursday 30 April. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 07855 517144.

# May

FRI  
08

## pudding Club and Steal Bingo Night

L 7pm



£ Members £5, Guests £7



Come along to our ever so popular Pudding Club. As before, bring a pudding and don't pay. There will be a fun game of Steal Raffle. Book by Friday 1 May. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

TUES  
12

## Pares Branch Spring Lunch at Eaton Farm

L 12 noon

£ As per menu



Come and join us for our spring lunch. Eaton Farm, Wilsthorpe Road, Long



Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4AW. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

TUES  
12

## Dining Out Experience at Blue Jay

L 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Blue Jay pub - a great place to eat out in Derby. Serving a popular menu of real pub food and famous traditional carvery is available daily. Book by Tuesday 5 May. Blue Jay, Linville Close, Derby DE21 7HX. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



WED  
13

## Walking Group at Osmaston, Near Ashbourne

L 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at The Shoulder of Mutton, Osmaston DE6 1LW for a four and half mile circular walk to Shirley. Hills, some steep and stiles. The Shoulder of Mutton, Moor Lane, Osmaston DE6 1LW. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

WED  
27

## Walking Group at Spondon/Ockbrook

L 10am

£ As per menu



Five-mile walk in the Spondon/Ockbrook area. Meet at Dale Road car park (DE21 7DL) for a mainly flat walk, and some stiles. Dale Road Park, Car Park, Dale Road, Spondon DE21 7DL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

# June

**TUES**  
**02** **King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Lucky 7's**

 7.30pm  Free 

Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun evening of playing Lucky 7's. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.



**TUES**  
**09** **Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Play Your Cards Right**

 2pm  Free 

Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of Play Your Cards Right. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.



**TUES**  
**09** **Dining Out Experience at The Ragley Boat Stop**

 6.45pm  As per menu 

Join us for an evening of food and friendship. A warm welcome awaits you at The Ragley Boat Stop, a spacious pub with relaxing sofas, lots of eating areas, a magnificent garden sloping down to the Trent and Mersey Canal and a balcony, where you can relax and watch the world go by. Book by Tuesday 2 June. The Ragley Boat Stop, Deep Dale Lane, Off Sinfin Lane, Barrow-on-Trent, Derby DE73 7FY. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



**WED**  
**10** **Walking Group at Weston-on-Trent**

 10am  As per menu 

Walk from Weston-on-Trent Village Hall DE72 2BL. Easy walk mainly along the canal for five miles. Lunch to be decided. Weston-on-Trent Village Hall, 47 Main Street, Weston-on-Trent DE72 2BL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

# June

## SAT 13 Champagne Breakfast

🕒 10.30am    💷 Members £8  
Guests £10    🍴🍷🍴

Join us for a delightful Champagne Breakfast to celebrate the King's birthday! Enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast,



perfectly paired with champagne for a royal start to your day. Don't miss out on this sparkling celebration! Book by Friday 5 June. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## SAT 20 Pig Racing Afternoon

🕒 2.30pm    💷 Members £5  
Guests £7    🎲

Come join us for an exciting afternoon of pig racing! Enjoy the thrill of the race, while indulging in a tasty ploughman's lunch. Book by Friday 12 June. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



## FRI 19 Good Food Show and BBC Gardeners' World Live Bus Trip to NEC Birmingham

🕒 9.15am    💷 £35    🚌

Join us for an exciting day out at the Good Food Show. Hop on our bus trip to the NEC Birmingham for a fantastic experience. Plus, every ticket includes free entry to BBC Gardeners' World Live, giving you two great shows for the price of one. We'll be meeting at the bus stop on Lara Croft Way, Derby at 9.15am and heading to Birmingham for a day of food-filled fun. We'll return from Birmingham at 4.15pm. Don't miss out on this delicious day. Book by Thursday 30 April. NEC, Pendigo Way, Marston Green, Birmingham B40 1NT. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# June

## WED 24 Walking Group at Breaston

🕒 10am

💷 As per menu



Breaston Coffin Walk. Meet at the Bulls Head pub car park, Breaston DE72 3EA for a five-mile walk. Undulating countryside with stiles and a railway bridge. Eating at the Bulls Head afterwards. Bull's Head, Wilsthorpe Road, Breaston DE72 3EA. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



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# July

## SAT 04 Open Garden

🕒 2pm

💷 Members £7  
Guests £10



You are warmly invited to an Open Garden and BBQ on Saturday 4 July in Alvaston, starting at 2pm. All proceeds will be donated to the Chairman's chosen charity. Location in Alvaston, Derby DE24. To help with catering arrangements and to receive the full address, please contact the Derby Office on 01332 345697 by Friday 26 June.

# July

## THURS 02 Good Intent Branch District Officers' Visit

🕒 2.30pm

💷 Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Book by Friday 26 June. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. For catering purposes, please contact the Margaret on 07855 517144 if you would like to come along.

## TUES 07 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Short Mat Bowls

🕒 7.30pm

💷 Free



Join us for our monthly meeting, followed by a fun evening of short mat bowls! Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.

# July

## WED 08 Walking Group at Little Eaton

🕒 10am    💷 As per menu    👣

Meet at the New Inn, Little Eaton for a walk in the Little Eaton area. Eating at the New Inn afterwards. The New Inn, Duffield Road, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5DR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## TUES 14 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Uno and Card Games

🕒 2pm    💷 Free    👤

Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of playing Uno and card games. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

## TUES 14 Dining Out Experience at The Hen and Chickens

🕒 6.45pm    💷 As per menu    🍴

Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Hen and Chickens menu blends tradition with innovation to create exceptional sizzling platters and authentic Punjabi-style curries, all expertly crafted by their chefs. Book by Tuesday 7 July. The Hen and Chickens, 2 Queensferry Gardens, Shelton Lock, Derby DE24 9JA. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



## SAT 18 Games Afternoon with Strawberry Tea

🕒 2pm    💷 Members £6, Guests £8    🎲

Join us for a fun afternoon of games. Strawberries and cream, sandwiches and cakes will be provided. Spaces are limited, so please be quick to book by Friday 10 July. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# July

## WED 22 Walking Group at West Hallam

🕒 10am

💷 As per menu



The Cat and Fiddle Trail No. 14 for 6.6 miles walk. Meet at The Dales car park, The Village, West Hallam DE7 6GR. A pleasant undulating walk. Lunch to be decided. The Dales Car Park, The Village, West Hallam DE7 6GR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## SAT 25 Blankety Blank Evening

🕒 7pm

💷 Members £10  
Guests £12



Join us for a fun-filled game of Blankety Blank, followed by a delicious meal of your choice of beef or vegetable lasagne and a tasty pudding to top it off. Spaces are limited, so please be quick to book by Friday 17 July. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# August

## SAT 01 Afternoon Tea

🕒 2pm

💷 Members £6  
Guests £8



Come join us for a lovely afternoon tea - everyone is invited! Enjoy great company and indulge in tasty sandwiches and cakes. Book by Friday 24 July. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## TUES 04 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by a Majority Rules Game

🕒 7.30pm

💷 Free



Come out for our monthly meeting, then stick around for an exciting game of Majority Rules. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.

# August

## WED 05 Walking Group at Kirk Langley

🕒 10am

💷 As per menu



Meet by Kirk Langley Church DE6 4NG (On road parking) for a four and half mile walk. Kirk Langley Church, Church Lane, Kirk Langley, Ashbourne DE6 4NG. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



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## MON 10 Good Samaritan Branch District Officers' Visit

🕒 10.30am

💷 Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Followed by a raffle. Book by Monday 3 August. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Gordon on 01332 728694.

## TUES 11 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Sticky 13's.

🕒 2pm

💷 Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of playing Sticky 13's. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

## SUN 09 Teddy Bears Picnic

🕒 12 noon

💷 Free



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at the Oddfellows Hall and be sure to bring along your favourite cuddly toy. This special event is open to all juniors aged under 10. A picnic lunch will be provided for everyone to enjoy. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. To help us with catering, please reserve your child's place by contacting the Derby Office on 01332 345697 by Friday 31 July.



# August

TUES  
11

## Dining Out Experience at The Harrington Arms



6.45pm



As per  
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Traditional freshly prepared dishes ranging from home-made pies, fish and chips to specials including Tomahawk steaks and monkfish roasted on the bone. Mixing classic pub food with a gastro twist. Book by Tuesday 4 August. The Harrington Arms, 4 Grove Close, Thulston, Derby DE72 3EY. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



WED  
19

## Walking Group at Allestree



10am



As per menu



Meet at the car park off Woodlands Road for 5.5 mile walk. Hilly in a couple of places, otherwise easy terrain. Lunch to be decided. Woodlands Road Car Park, Woodlands Road, Allestree DE22 2HH. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



SAT  
22

## Bus Trip to Llandudno



8.30am



Members £16, Guests £20, Juniors £8



Come along on a charming coach trip to the scenic seaside town of Llandudno. Relax on golden beaches, take a leisurely stroll along the seafront and enjoy some shopping, all while breathing in the fresh sea air and sunshine.

The coach will depart from Oddfellows Hall at 8.30am and leave Llandudno at 4pm for a perfect day by the coast. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Spaces are limited, so be sure to book your spot by calling the Derby Office at 01332 345697 before Monday 17 July. Don't miss out.



# Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions. These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

## 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 3 February, 7pm – 'Being Cheerful' with Nancy Radford**

Register in advance for this meeting at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/)  
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:  
<https://tinyurl.com/BeingCheerfulOddfellows>

### **Tuesday 24 February, 7pm – 'Hedgehogs – In Need Of Your Help' and 'Getting Connected' with Stephen Powles**

Register in advance for this meeting at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/)  
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/HedgehogsOddfellows>

### **Tuesday 17 March, 7pm – 'An Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)'**

Register in advance for this meeting at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/)  
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/BSLOddfellows>

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](mailto: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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events) or ask me to send you a list by email.

**Lauretta Stokes**

# Branch Contact and Business Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and member support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings, if you'd like to know more or come along to one, please contact the Branch Secretary. See below for further meeting details.

## Derby Derwent Valley District Branch

Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697  
Meet quarterly on Wednesday  
at 7pm at Oddfellows Hall, 32  
Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**Wednesday 11 March**  
**Wednesday 10 June**

**Saturday 21 March, 2pm -  
Annual Summoned Meeting**

## Loyal King George IV

Contact Maureen Burgoyne on  
01332 739538  
Meetings are held the first  
Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at  
Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May**  
**- District Officers' Visit, 2 June,**  
**7 July and 4 August**

## Loyal Good Samaritan

Contact Gordon Lunn on  
01332 728694  
Meetings are held the second  
Monday of the month at 10.30am at  
Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**9 February, 9 March, 13 April,**  
**11 May, 8 June, 13 July and 10 August**  
**- District Officers' Visit**

## Good Intent

Contact Margaret Henchcliff on  
07855 517144  
Meetings are held the first  
Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at  
Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May**  
**at 2pm - Murder Mystery Afternoon,**  
**4 June, 2 July - District Officers' Visit**  
**and 6 August**

## Loyal Pares

Contact Barbara Smith on  
01159 465105  
Meetings are held the second  
Tuesday of the month at 2pm at  
Coach and Horses Pub, Victoria  
Road, Draycott, Derby DE72 3PS.

**10 February, 10 March, 14 April,**  
**12 May at 12 noon - Spring Lunch at**  
**Eaton Farm, 9 June 14 July and**  
**11 August**

## Loyal Stanhope

Contact Lauretta Stokes on  
01332 345697  
Meetings are held the first Saturday  
of the month at 6.30pm at Hunters  
Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn,  
Derby DE56 0LU.

**7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May,**  
**6 June, 4 July and 1 August**

# At a glance

## February 2026

<b>Mon 2</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Tues 3</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by a Presentation	7.30pm
<b>Wed 4</b>	Walking Group at Morley Hayes	10am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 7</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 9</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Mon 9</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a Talk	2pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Harvester	6.45pm
<b>Sat 14</b>	Valentine's Day Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 16</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Walking Group at Alvaston Park	10am
<b>Sun 22</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Luncheon	12.30pm
<b>Mon 23</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sat 28</b>	Chinese Buffet Night	7pm

## March

<b>Mon 2</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Tues 3</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Kurling	7.30pm
<b>Wed 4</b>	Walking Group at Calke Abbey	10am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 7</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 9</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Mon 9</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Rummikub	2pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Great Northern	6.45pm
<b>Wed 11</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch Meeting	7pm
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Cheque Presentation Afternoon	2.30pm
<b>Sat 14</b>	Coffee Morning for the Orphan Gift Fund	10.30am
<b>Mon 16</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Walking Group at Cotmanhay	10am

# At a glance

## March

<b>Sat 21</b>	Lodge of Past Grands and the Purple Degree Award	11am
<b>Sat 21</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Meeting	2pm
<b>Mon 23</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sat 28</b>	The Price Is Right Evening	7pm

## April

<b>Wed 1</b>	Walking Group at Tutbury	10am
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 4</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by an Easter Theme Activity	7.30pm
<b>Sat 11</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Tues 14</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz	2pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Golden Dragon	6.45pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Walking Group at Shipley Country Park	10am
<b>Sat 18</b>	Kurling Afternoon	2pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Mon 20</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	St George's Day Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Wed 29</b>	Walking Group at Hartshorne	10am

## May

<b>Sat 2</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Tues 5</b>	King George IV Branch District Officers' Visit	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Good Intent Branch Murder Mystery Afternoon	2pm
<b>Fri 8</b>	Pudding Club and Steal Bingo Night	7pm
<b>Sat 9</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Tues 12</b>	Pares Branch Spring Lunch at Eaton Farm	12 noon
<b>Tues 12</b>	Dining Out Experience at Blue Jay	6.45pm
<b>Wed 13</b>	Walking Group at Osmaston, Near Ashbourne	10am

# At a glance

## May

<b>Mon 18</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Mon 18</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Wed 27</b>	Walking Group at Spondon/Ockbrook	10am
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am

## June

<b>Mon 1</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Mon 1</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Tues 2</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Lucky 7's	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 6</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Tues 9</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Play Your Cards Right	2pm
<b>Tues 9</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Ragley Boat Stop	6.45pm
<b>Wed 10</b>	Walking Group at Weston-on-Trent	10am
<b>Wed 10</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch Meeting	7pm
<b>Sat 13</b>	Champagne Breakfast	10.30am
<b>Mon 15</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Mon 15</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Fri 19</b>	Good Food Show and BBC Gardeners' World Live Bus Trip to NEC Birmingham	9.15am
<b>Sat 20</b>	Pig Racing Afternoon	2.30pm
<b>Wed 24</b>	Walking Group at Breaston	10am
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 29</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm

## July

<b>Thurs 2</b>	Good Intent Branch District Officers' Visit	2.30pm
<b>Sat 4</b>	Open Garden	2pm
<b>Sat 4</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 6</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Tues 7</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Short Mat Bowls	7.30pm

# At a glance

## July

<b>Wed 8</b>	Walking Group at Little Eaton	10am
<b>Sat 11</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Uno and Card Games	2pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Hen and Chickens	6.45pm
<b>Sat 18</b>	Games Afternoon with Strawberry Tea	2pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Wed 22</b>	Walking Group at West Hallam	10am
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sat 25</b>	Blankety Blank Evening	7pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm

## August

<b>Sat 1</b>	Afternoon Tea	2pm
<b>Sat 1</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 3</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Tues 4</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by a Majority Rules Game	7.30pm
<b>Wed 5</b>	Walking Group at Kirk Langley	10am
<b>Thurs 6</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 8</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sun 9</b>	Teddy Bears Picnic	12 noon
<b>Mon 10</b>	Good Samaritan Branch District Officers' Visit	10.30am
<b>Mon 10</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Tues 11</b>	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Sticky 13's.	2pm
<b>Tues 11</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Harrington Arms	6.45pm
<b>Mon 17</b>	Chair Exercise Class	11am
<b>Wed 19</b>	Walking Group at Allestree	10am
<b>Sat 22</b>	Bus Trip to Llandudno	8.30am
<b>Mon 24</b>	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
<b>Thurs 27</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am

## Provincial Grand Master's Message



### Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope it is not too late to wish you a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year. This is my last Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) message as I pass the baton on the Polly Cunningham at the end of March, and I wish her a successful time.

2025 was very busy with lots of events for members to take part in and enjoy and I hope you will find something to interest you in your new Events Diary. A new challenge, if you are interested, is the chance to learn how to play the Ukulele. Now I have learned how to spell it, I am looking forward to giving it a try.

Last year we welcomed new members to the Committee of Management and I hope they are finding it interesting in 2026, we are focusing on recruiting new members to join us. If you have any family or friends who you think would benefit from our social activities, please bring them along. Remember also, it is not just social events, but there are many added benefits, such as Care and Welfare and an Oddfellows dedicated telephone line. Ask one of the Secretaries for a membership form to keep in your handbag (ladies), or perhaps the gentlemen could keep one in their glove compartment.

I am very, very grateful for the support I have received for my chosen charity - The East Midlands Air Ambulance and I thought you would like to know that the raffle for the hamper raised £430 and congratulations to Margaret Glanville who was lucky enough to win it.



Finally, I have crocheted a blanket again this year, to raffle for my charity and raffle tickets are enclosed. As previously, they are £1 a strip and put your name and telephone number on the reverse and return them to the Office (any cheques should be made payable to: The Derby Derwent Valley District Branch). Thank you again, you are all so generous.

With every good wish

**Margaret Henchliff**  
**Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)**





## Church Service

Our annual service of rededication took place on Sunday 7 September at Boulton St Mary's Church, Alvaston. The church has a new vicar, Reverend Phillippa Taylor and along with our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), a lovely service was arranged, with the theme of Loyalty and Service. Readings were from Galatians and Matthew. Hymns were 'Jerusalem', 'I Vow to Thee, My Country', 'Take My Life, and Let It Be', and 'Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve you'.

As in previous years, Burton on Trent District loaned us their Silver Regalia and we also had visitors from the North Wales and Chester (formerly Deeside District), Worcester, 5 Shires (formally Beds and Bucks District), Coventry Godiva and Heart of England Districts.

Everyone enjoyed refreshment of a buffet and tea and coffee in the church hall after the service. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make a lovely afternoon.

## Kurling Afternoon

Twenty-two members attended the Kurling event in October and what great fun it was. The first game was very close, with only two points separating the blue team from the red. After refreshments of tea and cake,

two more games were played and this time the blue team ran away with it and won by quite a big margin, but never mind, it's the taking part that counts! Perhaps the red team ate too much cake.

## Traditional Terms

**Grand Master (GM):** Chairman

**Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM):** District Chairman

**Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):** District Deputy Chairman

**Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):** District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

**Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM):** Past District Chairman

**Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):** Immediate Past District Chairman

**Lodge:** Branch

**Brother and Sister:** Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family.

## Coffee Morning and Talk

On Friday 14 November, Jerry Hague from the East Midlands Asbestos Support Team came along to give us a talk.

EMAST support anyone who is suffering from asbestos related illnesses and their families. Hospital nurses point patients in EMAST's direction and they can help them access a lump sum in compensation and give advice about benefits.

In 1999, asbestos was banned, but it is still out there as it was used extensively after the war. Many houses and public buildings, including libraries and schools, etc... contain asbestos. When it deteriorates, it becomes dangerous. There are around 5,000 deaths a year; it is the biggest cause of work-related deaths.

EMAST have a support group for bereaved families, where friendships are made and they support each other. It can be 20-40 years before the person starts to suffer from illness, due to fibre in their lungs. If asbestos is not removed from buildings, victims will still be suffering in 100 years.

EMAST has been trying to work with Parliament regarding this. Realistically, it will be 60 years before it is all cleared and removed. Unfortunately, this Government and previous ones have not committed to do this.

It was a very interesting and sobering talk.

The Committee of Management donated £100 to the cause.

# Congratulations to Margaret Henchliff – Recipient of the Unity Meritorious Service Jewel



**We are delighted to extend congratulations to Margaret, who has been awarded the Unity Meritorious Service Jewel at the 2025 Annual Movable Conference (AMC) in Scarborough. This is a highly prestigious honour, awarded only to members who have demonstrated an exceptional standard of merit. At present, it is held by only eight members of the Society – now including Margaret.**

Over her 32 years of membership, Margaret has held numerous roles across various levels of the Society. She has served as Social Branch Secretary since 2007 and previously as Financial Lodge Secretary from 1996 to 2009 in both Branches. She has also held the position of Elective Secretary. Margaret has made significant contributions to the Financial Lodge Committee of Management, having served as Noble Grand, Vice Grand, Immediate Past Noble Grand and Trustee, while also taking on the important role of Welfare Officer.

At District and District Branch level, she has held several key positions, including Trustee and Minute Secretary. Margaret has distinguished herself as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman) and Immediate Past Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman) on three occasions and is currently progressing through the chairs for a fourth term.

Her editorial contributions have also been invaluable, she has been the Editor of the Derby Link Magazine since 2002 and served as Editor of the Junior Link Magazine for six years from 2014 to 2020.

Margaret has also been a dedicated contributor to the Midland Group Conference, serving as Secretary from 2009 to 2018, President in 2016 and as a Book Examiner since 2018.

She took the CAMU (Certificate of Accounting to Manchester Unity) in 2004 and served for many years on the Supervisory Committee of the Credit Union, using her extensive knowledge to promote the benefits of being an Oddfellow and encouraging membership of the Credit Union.

In addition, Margaret served on the Benevolence Committee for six years, and has represented the Society at many significant events, including her time supporting her husband, Past Grand Master (Past Chairman) William (Bill) Henchliff, as his consort – notably during the 175th Anniversary of the New Zealand Order.

Margaret is already the proud holder of both a Lodge Meritorious Service Jewel and a District Meritorious Service Jewel. The award of the Unity Meritorious Service Jewel is a fitting and well-deserved recognition of her extraordinary service and commitment. Margaret was officially presented with her Jewel on Sunday 19 October by the Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman of the Order), Debbie Jex.

**Submitted by Sister P Cunningham  
Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman)**





## Iceland Cruise Holiday

**On Thursday 17 July we set sail from Dover on an Oddfellows Cruise to Iceland on a Fred Olsen 'Borealis' Cruise ship. My friend, Elaine and I shared a Cabin with a balcony for 12 nights.**

We were at sea for a few days before our first docking at Torshavn, Faroe Islands on Sunday 20. We had booked a tour of the 'Island of Vagar'. It was a dull, misty day, but we were lucky we had to travel through a large tunnel with bright sunshine on the other side.

It was lovely to see local traditions, hotels and homes have green sod grass roofs to insulate and reduce the noise from hail stones hitting the metal roofs. There was a beautiful red and white church with a statue nearby of a giant lady bathing, while a man on horseback is trying to ride away with her dress! The views were spectacular. We went to a local house to enjoy tea, coffee and cake.

On Tuesday 22, we docked at Reykjavik and had a trip to the Perlan Museum and on Wednesday 23, we went to Grundarfjorour, Iceland.

On Thursday 24, we docked at Isafjordur and went on a whale-watching trip with a conservation team, with breathtaking views for three hours. We travelled around the snow mountain coast and were very fortunate to see many whales quite close up, with flocks of puffins flying just above the water as well as many other seabirds. It was a fantastic day to remember, one we won't forget. We were informed that whales are sadly still hunted in the Faroe Islands.

Friday 25 was our last day for shore trips. We docked at Akureyri and went to the stunning Gooafoss Waterfalls. The view and sounds were out of this world. Then we went to Myvatn Nature Baths. With soothing geothermal

waters rich in minerals and silicates, known for their healing properties, it felt stimulating and invigorating.

We then had three days at sea, arriving on the fourth day back at Dover.

There was so much to do on board, including talks, dance and exercise classes, quizzes, cinema and theatre shows every evening. There was something for everyone! Food was excellent and we enjoyed the trip of a lifetime.

### Ruth Jackson and Elaine Robinson



# East Midlands Air Ambulance



**On Thursday 25 September, John Bown, a Community Volunteer with the Air Ambulance, came along to give us a presentation about the charity. The Derby, Leicester and Rutland service works closely with the Warwickshire Air Ambulance and they share the administration at Blue Skies House, Rutland. They work tirelessly on a daily basis, providing rapid response and emergency medical care. The helicopters can fly at up to 185 miles an hour and their average response time is 30 minutes. John said we had probably heard of the Golden Hour. After an accident, this is when it is most beneficial to enhance the chance of recovery.**

They fly out of Nottingham Heliport and the Warwickshire Ambulance is based at Coventry. The helicopter, a Weston 109, carries three people: a pilot, a doctor and a paramedic. They don't buy the helicopters, but lease them from Sloane Helicopters, who are major sponsors. The helicopters come with the pilots, who are all very experienced. Some of the pilots come from the military and they land as close as they can. The rotor blades are 13m and they need twice that to land. The paramedics have two years' experience with the NHS and the selection process is very rigorous. The doctors are Consultants or Registrars and are not employed, but co-opted for a period of time.

They also have a night-time Critical Care Car, because they do not fly at night. This is because Civil Aviation requires two pilots to fly at night and there isn't room. The car has everything the helicopter has, but no pilot. The drivers are trained by the Police to drive with blue lights.

The intensive care bags they carry, which weigh 70lbs, contain breathing apparatus, injury support vacuum packs, defibrillators, pain killers and gauze and swabs. The tail space contains a scoop stretcher, and they also carry plasma. NHS Call Centre decide when an ambulance may be needed.

To determine the whereabouts of an accident, they use WW1 Technology (no Google or Electricity), but with

a map, compass bearing and grid reference. On the way, they make sure there is a hospital able to take the patient. Despite The Royal Derby having a helipad, it doesn't have a trauma unit, but Nottingham does, but doesn't have a helipad!

At an accident, the helicopter could arrive and there could also be police, fire service and ambulance, but they all work together for the good of the patient.

Once they have handed over the patient, they return to base and the pilot prepares the helicopter for the next call. The doctor and paramedic return to base and fill in the paperwork.

## The calls are made up of:

- 39% road traffic collisions
- 9% falls
- 5% industrial
- 25% medical
- 5% sports
- 17% other

The charity relies on fundraising, events, recycling, shops and wills and legacies.

Unbelievably, it costs £2,300 each time the helicopter goes out and £5,500 if the children's helicopter is used, so they are very grateful to have been chosen as our charity this year.



# 100 Not Out

About 70 years ago, I asked my grandfather what his badge was, which he proudly displayed on his lapel. He told me that it was for donating blood to help save people's lives. So, on Sunday 16 April 1978, I decided to give blood and my 100th donation was at the Nottingham Donor Centre on Thursday 2 October 2025. Due to illness, I had to postpone some appointments, but in good health, I would have reached that target several years earlier.

I saw that Long Eaton Library was being used as a blood donation centre and decided that it was time for me to follow in my grandfather's footsteps. I went on a wet Sunday morning and was surprised to see the dedicated donors queuing in the rain, but no one seemed to mind. My first donation took about one hour as your blood group had to be ascertained and registration was required, but subsequent appointments were usually quicker and mostly were under an hour from arrival to departure. That was my first experience of being a blood donor and I should point out that I have an aversion to needles, well, not to needles per se, but to them perforating my skin, so I didn't look and have never looked.

Since my first donation in 1978, the process has changed considerably, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the checking of your name and date of birth at every stage. The process has become more efficient as equipment has been modernised and as computing technology is now available. I am now notified by text where my blood has been used.

I have donated in many other community-based donor centres, including schools, hotels, church halls, village halls, Pride Park football ground and the Derby Arena (velodrome) along with the Nottingham Blood Donor Centre.

During my time as a donor, I participated in an interval study. This involved 50,000 blood donors, aiming to find the optimum interval for which it is safe for different donors to give blood. This was over a two-year period, where I gave blood more frequently and gave regular reports on how it affected me. The intervals were 8, 10, and 12 weeks. My interval was every 10 weeks, but I now donate blood every 12 weeks.

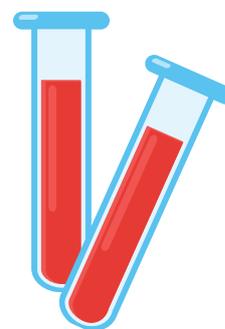
## Just A Few Interesting Facts Blood Types

O positive: 36%. A positive: 28%. B positive: 8%. AB positive: 2%. O negative: 14%. A negative: 8%. B negative: 3%. AB negative: 1%.

1. O negative is known as the universal blood type and is safe for everyone to receive.
2. O positive is compatible to any red blood cells that are positive (A+, B+, O+, AB+). Over 80% of the population has a positive blood type and can receive O positive blood.
3. Only 2% of the UK population give blood.
4. Only 5% of all donors were from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, despite representing around 14% of the population.
5. 58% of the UK population have never given blood.
6. Blood has a shelf life of up to 35 days, platelets for up to seven days, and fresh frozen plasma can be kept for up to three years.
7. Human blood contains traces of gold. The human body contains less than 0.2 mg gold and most of it can be found in the blood.
8. The body makes two million red blood cells a second.
9. Two thirds of all the blood currently collected is used to treat patients who rely on blood transfusions, including cancer and life-long blood conditions.
10. James Christopher Harrison OAM (27-12-1936 – 17-2-2025) was an Australian blood donor known as the "Man with the Golden Arm" for his prolific history of donations, 1,173 times between the ages 18 to 81. Harrison is credited with saving the lives of 2.4 million babies over the course of more than half a century.

NHS Blood Donation are always pleased to welcome new and lapsed donors.

**Submitted by  
David Smith**



## 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. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call **0800 028 1810**.

# William Millitt



**William (Bill) Millitt passed away on Friday 28 November after being ill for some time. He was a member of the Loyal Good Samaritan Branch and held all the Officer positions in the Branch. He was Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) in 1975 and 1985, Secretary of the Derby District of the Lodge of Past Grand and became the Provincial Corresponding Secretary in 1998 until his retirement in 2006. He was also a Trustee of the District for many years. He served as President of the Midland Group Conference, served on the Unity Benevolence Committee and was a Meritorious Service Jewel holder.**

When the world is all at odds  
And the mind is all at sea,  
Then cease the useless tedium  
And have a cup of tea.

There is magic in its fragrance.  
There is solace in its taste;  
And the laden moments vanish  
Somehow into space.

And the world becomes a lovely thing!  
There's beauty as you'll see  
All because you briefly stopped  
To brew a cup of tea.

**William Gladstone**

## Beetle Drive

Only 14 members attended this event, but what a noisy and fun afternoon it was. 12 games were played, with a break for tea and cakes half way through. Everyone mucked in with the washing up and we were soon off for the second half. Dave Billings came out top with the highest score and Sue Hazel won the boobie prize. Everyone hoped this event would happen again in the future.



# Christmas Round Up

## Christmas Bazaar

The hall was full for this event, with lots of stalls for members. There was 'Guess the Sweets in the Jar' and cakes, marmalade and chutney from the Good Samaritan Branch, a Bottle Tombola from the Good Intent Branch, Christmas items from the Knit and Natter group, wreaths and table centres and 'Guess the Buttons in the Jar' from the King George IV Branch, 'Guess the Weight of the Hamper' from

the Stanhope Branch and a game for a wonderful Chocolate Hamper from the Pares Branch.

Polly and Christine provided lovely welcome refreshments of bacon cobs and the draw was made for the lovely Advent Calendar that Polly had painted and decorated. Penny Folds was delighted to win this. All in all it was a lovely morning and over £460 was raised for the charity. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success.



## King George IV Branch and Good Intent Branch

At the King George IV Branch, party members enjoyed a lovely evening with refreshments of a hot buffet. Members could enjoy a fun race game with much hilarity. A raffle raised £60 for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity and everyone received a gift too.

entertainment was provided by Clive and Leslie. In the first half, popular Christmas songs and the second half, after a lovely afternoon tea of sandwiches, mince pies, cakes and trifle, there was music for dancing. There was also a Christmas quiz, won by Lynn Grant, and a raffle which raised £86 for the charity, but the main event was a visit from Santa, who gave everyone a present.

Around 45 members enjoyed the Good Intent Branch Christmas party. As usual over the years, wonderful





## Junior Christmas Party

This is the noisiest event of our year, (although the Beetle Drive isn't far behind) when our young juniors come along to the Christmas party. This year, 15 joined in the fun, with three craft tables, face painting and games. They also sat down (briefly) to eat their party bag snacks, before the main event, when

Santa made an appearance. We are very grateful that he found time to come along, especially as he had a late night the night previously! After they had received their presents and opened them, they made their way home. Many thanks to Alice Smyth for organising the party.



## Pickford House Museum



On a wet and dismal day in December, six members visited the lovely Georgian House in Friargate, built by the architect, Joseph Pickford for himself and his family, in 1770.

We seemed to spend the most time in the kitchen and washing room areas discussing what the strange things would be used for. My favourite room was the very elegant dining room with its wonderful furniture and porcelain on display.

If you are a Dracula fan, there is a Bram Stoker exhibition, which will be there until May 2026, somewhat macabre.

Also on the top floor is a display of many toy theatres, some dating back over a hundred years. The gardens also looked very nice, but we just viewed them from inside!

## Christmas Coffee Morning

We were entertained at this event by AUP Ukulele players, where members happily sang along and also enjoyed Christmas themed cobs (supplied by Polly) and mince pies. The players will be coming along in the new year to teach any who are interested in learning to play. Check the Events Diary. The last event of the year was the Christmas lunch on Thursday 18 December, when 42 members enjoyed a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with branch sauce and mince pies.



## Friendship: the constant that carries us forward - a message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

**Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.**

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help

us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship.

Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

**Yours in friendship,**

**Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows**

## A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate)



## 2026: Time to make a financial plan

**The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.**

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

### Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

### Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.



a proud part of the Oddfellows

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of Guaranteed Investment Bonds and Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

### Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

**Find out more**

Visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk) or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

## Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: **Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).**

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

**Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:**

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

### Melanie Healey Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge.



The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".

### Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025,



where modules cover topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

### Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

### More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards).

# Congratulations

Congratulations to **Margaret Glanville** who won the Christmas Hamper. A complete list of winners is available in the Office.

## Thanks

**Dear Oddfellows,**

I am writing to thank you for the more than generous educational award I have received.

I am currently in my third year studying geography, at the University of Glasgow. This award has helped fund my geographical field trip to Mallorca, to help develop both my physical and human geography studies, as well as supporting my progress into my final fourth year. It has also helped pay towards reading resources, which will be of increasing importance over the next two years. This award has been extremely helpful and appreciated during my time at University, and I would once again like to thank Oddfellows for their support and thoughtfulness throughout it all.

Thank you  
**Pippa Mo**

Also **Megan Smith** said how grateful she is to receive the grant again for the second year.

**Hope Smith** said: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the Committee of Management for reviewing the application and agreeing to grant an award for myself".

**Lewis McDowall** also thanks us for our generous gift.

**If you have anything you would like to submit for our next magazine, please forward the article to the Office for the attention of the Editor to:**  
[lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk)

# Obituaries

**Brenda Hanks**

Good Samaritan Branch

**Christine Lister**

King George IV Branch

**William Millitt**

Good Samaritan Branch



I try and cope the best I can  
but I'm missing you so much  
If I could only see you  
and once more feel your touch.  
Yes, you've just walked on ahead of me  
Don't worry I'll be fine  
But now and then I swear I feel  
your hand slip into mine.

**By Joyce Grenfell**

## Remember

As long as you are breathing  
it's never too late to start  
over, never too late to be  
happy, and never too late to set  
a new goal or dream a new dream

## 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 Lauretta Stokes on **01332 345697** or email [lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:lauretta.stokes@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](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadviceManchester.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:care@oddfellows.co.uk)

\*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.