

September 2024 to March 2025
Issue 20



O^{the}
ODDfeLLows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Everyone Welcome - Deeside District - Croeso i Bawb



The Lemon Tree Hotel, Wrexham.



Online



Theatre



Art/Crafts



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz

A message from Denise and Caroline

Welcome to the latest edition of our Out & About. We hope that you enjoy browsing through it and reading the articles and are able to engage in some of the activities we have planned.

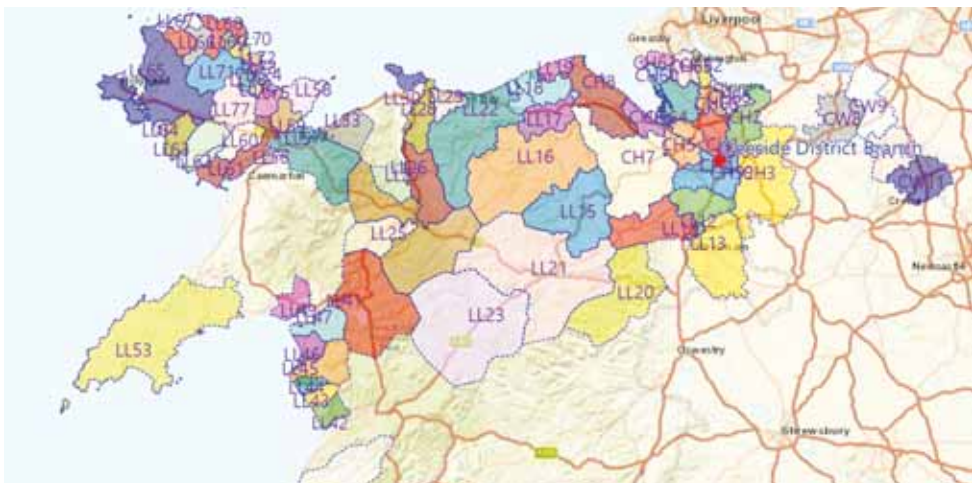
We would like to share with you some interesting information about the Deeside District Lodge or the more modern terminology Deeside District Branch.

Established in 1867 the Deeside area is a vast area covering approximately 5,500 square miles and stretches from Wirral along the North Wales coast incorporating Anglesey, parts of Wales as far as Barmouth, across to Wrexham, Chester and parts of Cheshire.

Many years ago there would have been a 'Lodge' in nearly every town or larger village forming the Deeside District.

Gradually many of these merged or ceased as numbers declined due to the introduction of the National Health Service and Welfare State, as we weren't needed as much by our members. Then in 2001 the Deeside District amalgamated to form the Deeside District Lodge (Deeside District Branch).

Today as a Society we have embraced the more modern needs of our current members and focus on the Social functions, Care and Welfare and a variety of benefits to name but a few. We currently have 3 main meeting areas, Saltney, Llandudno and a new venture in Wrexham, which is going well. We are run by a Committee of Management, which is made up of our members. The Committee consists of 3 Trustees, 4 Officers and up to 3 other elected members. If you would like to find out more about how we run or how to get involved please don't hesitate to contact us.



Contact Details

Office address:

Suite 3, Adlink House
86 The Highway, Hawarden
Flintshire CH5 3DJ

Telephone: 01244 675757

Mobile: 07960 720299

Visit our Facebook page
DeesideOddfellows

For more information about
membership and the wide range of
benefits please call 0800 028 1810.

Secretary: Denise Turner

Email:

denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Caroline Davey

Email:

caroline.davey@oddfellows.co.uk

Llandudno Social Organiser

Volunteer/Welfare Visitor:

Gordon Hinett

Email:

gordon.hinett@oddfellows.co.uk

Telephone: 01492 515530

Office Opening Hours

Monday and Tuesday 9am to 4pm, Wednesday – Closed

Thursday 9am to 4pm and Friday 9am to 2pm (Answer phone available)

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

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



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

Ref 1644

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

Regular Events

Llandudno Coffee Morning



11am



As per menu



Every Monday

Every Monday you are welcome to join us at Gwesty Links, Llandudno for a coffee and a chat. Both members and visitors are very welcome. We occasionally stay for lunch and enjoy some local trips out. Gwesty Links, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530.



Monday Night Chatterboxes



7.30pm



Free



**Online
Every Monday**

Members from across the Society meet to catch up and chat over a brew from the comfort of their own homes. Everyone is greeted with a friendly smile and a warm welcome. Why not come and join us? Head to Zoom and enter the Meeting ID: 844 1660 9433, you don't need a password. Contact Tracey on 07774 229010.



Branch Meetings

Come along to our Branch meeting where you will be updated with all the Branch and Society matters. You can also learn a little more about how the Society works and how you can get involved. Refreshments will be available and a chance to chat over a cuppa. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

Monday 9 September, 7pm

Thursday 9 January, 12.30pm

Thursday 17 October, 12.30pm

Saturday 22 February, 2pm

Thursday 28 November, 12.30pm

Thursday 13 March, 12.30pm

Regular Events

Wrexham Coffee and Chat



10.30am



As per menu



Join us at our new regular meet up in Wrexham and enjoy a cuppa and chat. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month (except New Years Day) Everyone is welcome. The Lemon Tree, 29 Rhosddu Road, Wrexham LL11 2LP. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

**First and Third
Wednesday**



Saltney Coffee Morning



10.30am



Members £1.50
Guests £2



Join us for coffee and biscuits along with plenty of lively chatting! We enjoy an occasional quiz and fun themed coffee mornings. We also hold raffles both free and paid for. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on either 01244 675757 or 07960 720299.

Every Thursday



Friendship Month - Coffee Mornings

In edition to the coffee mornings across the District

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



throughout the month, the following coffee mornings will be Friendship Month focused. All welcome.

Monday 2 September, 11am
Llandudno Coffee Morning

Thursday 5 September, 10.30am
Saltney Coffee Morning

Wednesday 18 September, 10.30am
Wrexham Coffee and Chat

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SUN
01

Sunday Lunch at
The Hotel Wrexham



1pm



As per
menu



We are starting our Friendship Month with a tasty Sunday lunch at the Hotel Wrexham. Set in the borderlands of North Wales, and less than a mile from the centre of Wrexham. A non-refundable deposit of £5 is required at time of booking and no later than Monday 26 August 2024. Why not come and join us? Sunday Carvery - £18 for two courses and £22 for three courses (prices correct at time of print). Hotel Wrexham, Wrexham Road, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9SW. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

THURS
05

Fish 'n' Chips Lunch



12.30pm



£3



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

Following our coffee morning we invite you to stay for a tasty Fish 'n' Chips lunch (other choices available) to kick off celebrating our annual Friendship Month. A warm welcome awaits, so why not come along, find out what we're all about, meet some friendly people and join us for lunch. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

Please note

Deposits and payments are all non-refundable. Once a deposit has been received Caroline, our Social Organiser, is more than happy for the remainder of the payment to be made in instalments if this helps. However, they must be made before the **full payment** deadline date. Receipts will be given for any money received.

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
20

Dine Out at Panda Mami, Chester



Join us for a 'help yourself' tasty lunch at Panda Mami, Chester, the critically acclaimed restaurant where you will find delicious international food to excite your senses. Take your taste buds on a tour of authentic flavours, aromas and textures...We will meet you at the restaurant! Book with Caroline by Thursday 5 September 2024. Panda Mami Restaurant, 25 Newgate Street, Chester CH1 1DE. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



MON
30

Lunch at the Gwesty Links, Llandudno



Why not join us in finishing our Friendship Month celebrations and stay after the coffee morning for a tasty lunch at The Gwesty Links, Llandudno. They serve pub classics, daily specials and a fantastic light lunch menu. All are welcome to come along. Gwesty Links, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530 or Caroline on 01244 675757.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

MON
23

Full Day Cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal



We shall be setting sail with Mersey Ferries for a day cruise (six to seven hours) on the captivating Manchester Ship Canal. On this cruise along the inland waterway and River Mersey you'll be surrounded by beautiful countryside, see historic buildings, industrial landscapes, experience locks and will learn more about the history of the canal and landmarks from their Blue Badge Guide's live commentary. Bring your own picnic or there is a cafe on board selling a range of snacks and sandwiches. Full payment (non-refundable) of £42 needed by Thursday 22 August 2024. Limited places available. Please be at the terminal at least 30 minutes before departure. The cruise leaves Seacombe, Wirral at 11am. Seacombe Terminal - Mersey Ferries, Victoria Place, Seacombe, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 6QY. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



October

THURS
10

Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College, Gobowen



12.45pm



As per
menu



We are joining together with the lovely members from the Oswestry District Branch for lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College. There you will enjoy good food and great company. You will also find a garden centre and gift shop to wander round to help your lunch go down! All are welcome to come along. Book by Thursday 3 October 2024. The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen SY11 3JA. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

THURS
24

Trading Standards Talk at the Coffee Morning



10.30am



Members £1.50,
Guests £2



Join us at our coffee morning and listen to an interesting and informative talk given by Claire Eriksson from the Trading Standards about 'Scams and Fraud' and how we can keep ourselves safe in this day and age. She will be more than happy to answer any of your questions or queries too. All are welcome to come along. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

November

SAT
23

A Fundraising Saturday Social with Afternoon Tea



2.30pm



Members £10,
Guests £13

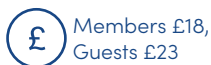


Come and have fun at our fundraising Saturday social where we will be raising funds for our Chairman Vals' chosen charity for the year 'Claire House Children's Hospice'. There will be a variety of games to join in with eg; beetle drive, a quiz or two and bingo, not forgetting a good old raffle. We will also serve a light afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome to come along, bring your friends, meet new friends and have a good time together! Full payment (non-refundable) is due by Thursday 7 November 2024. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



November

TUES 26 Bents Garden and Home Centre, Warrington



Come and join us for a day trip to the award winning Bents Garden and Home Centre in Glazebury, Warrington. It offers inspiring products, experiences and ideas for garden, home and food enthusiasts alike as well as a great Christmas section. Recognised as the UK's Best Destination Garden Centre a total of eight times including the prestigious accolade for 2023/2024. There are also plenty of areas to enjoy a delicious lunch. The coach will leave Morrison's car park, Saltney at 11am. A non-refundable deposit of £10 is required by Thursday 17 October 2024 with full payment required by Thursday 14 November 2024. Bents Garden and Home Centre, Warrington Road, Leigh End, Glazebury, Warrington WA3 5NT. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



December

MON 02 Festive Lunch at Gwesty Links, Llandudno



Let the festivities begin... Why not head down to Llandudno to join together with our members there for a festive lunch at the Gwesty Links, the home of their weekly coffee mornings. They offer an Inns Festive Cosy lunch as well as a range of home cooked classics and daily specials. A non-refundable deposit of £5 is required by Thursday 24 October 2024. It would be great you could join us. Gwesty Links Hotel, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530 or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Please note

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December

THURS
12

Christmas Lunch at Pen Y Bont Farm



1pm



Two courses
£26.99, Three
courses £29.99



Do come and join us for our annual Christmas lunch at Pen Y Bont Farm



in Mold to start off our Christmas celebrations. Two courses are £26.99 or three courses are £29.99. The menu for pre-ordering your meal will be available from mid October. A £5 non-refundable deposit is needed to secure your place by Thursday 26 September 2024 with full payment by Thursday 28 November 2024. Pen Y Bont Farm, Chester Road, Mold CH7 1UJ. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

February

SAT
08

A Saturday Afternoon Social with Light Tea



2.30pm



Members £5,
Guests £8



Join us for an afternoon of fun once again hosted by Meirion and Tracey. We will be serving a light tea along with a good old British brew. There will be a raffle and everyone is welcome, feel free to bring your friends too. Full payment (non-refundable) is due by Thursday 16 January 2025. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



January

THURS
02

Stroll Around the Countess of Chester Country Park and Lunch



10.45am



Walk is free, lunch
as per menu



Wrap up warm and join us for a stroll around the Countess of Chester Country Park where you can enjoy natural, peaceful surroundings as you wander around the park's pathways. We will then head to The Little Owl pub for some lunch and a well deserved drink or two! Meet us in the Little Owl car park. Book by Thursday 12 December 2024. Countess of Chester Country Park, Valley Drive, Chester CH2 1UL. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

February

SAT 22 Annual Meeting and Buffet



You are invited to our annual meeting. We present short reports on all Branch matters relating to the Branch with financial and social information. We conclude by installing our new District Chairman, which will demonstrate and give you a more formal insight to the historical side of the Society. Contributions towards the buffet will be gratefully received. We will also have a raffle. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

March

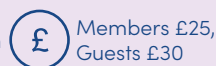
MON 03 Enjoy a Stroll Around Wepre Park, Deeside



Come and blow those cobwebs away and join us for a stroll around Wepre Park. It is a lovely country park nestled in the heart of Connah's Quay, Flintshire. Its features include a brook and waterfall and is home to Ewloe Castle. After our stroll we can enjoy some light refreshments in the café. We will meet you in the free car park there. Book by Thursday 27 February 2025. Wepre Park, Connah's Quay, Deeside CH5 4HL. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

March

SUN 23 District Sunday Lunch



Today we will be celebrating Paul Turners' appointment as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman). We will have a guest speaker and hold a raffle for the Chairman's chosen charity. The two course menu will be available for pre-ordering and accommodation is available if required. Please book and pay in full (non-refundable) by Thursday 20 February 2025. Holiday Inn A55 Vivaldi Suite, Westbound, A55, Chester, Mold CH7 6HB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Members in the Spotlight – Colin Thwaites

I was born in County Durham in May 1945 to a mining family. Mum, dad and my brother all moved to Surrey due to dad's health. I left school at 15 and started work with British Rail. I served my apprenticeship in the workshops repairing trains. I worked my way up to be a supervisor. I stayed with the railway for 34 years until they privatised the system. I took very early retirement and redundancy.



Throughout my life my hobby has been St John Ambulance. I have served in uniform for over 60 years retiring in 2023. During my time with St John Ambulance they asked me to join a team to set up an ambulance service at Farnborough Airfield. Then I was asked by Surrey Branch to start an ambulance service, which I did for 13 years. The work was quite demanding and involved taking 999 calls, transfers from hospitals and nursing homes as well as doing repatriation for injured people who were abroad. That meant collecting them from the airports or going to Europe if they were unable to fly.

I joined the Oddfellows in the 70s in South London District in the Pride of Clapham Lodge and was very active there. Unfortunately I started working nights so I could not get to the weekly meetings.

I transferred to Mid-Surrey District as it was closer to home. While I was on a Saga holiday I met my partner and in 2008 moved to Colwyn Bay in North Wales.

When I moved I lost touch with the Oddfellows. Since coming to North Wales I have continued my love for railways and I have become involved in the West Shore Miniature Railway in Llandudno.

I was delighted to discover that there was an Oddfellows group which met each week for coffee and occasional lunches and trips out in Llandudno. I am currently on the Deeside District Committee of Management and hold the Position of Noble Grand at the Lodge meetings. I am still interested in St John Ambulance too.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at: **f DeesideOddfellows**

Members in the Spotlight – Sue Davies

I found the Oddfellows from a tiny advert in a local newspaper, I rang the number and right away felt at ease. I signed up and have enjoyed being a member since 2017. I like to go to the weekly coffee mornings where I have made some good friendships, the dine out's are always a huge success and recently I had a good day out at The Iron Works in Oswestry.

I was lucky enough to take early retirement from ManWeb (Scottish Power) after working there for 18 years. I became the first female manager on the Wirral. Since then I have had part time jobs, 1 of which was being a guide on the Chester Tour Buses and another being a Room Guide at the National Trust Erddig House, Wrexham.



At present I am a committee member for 'Versus Arthritis' Chester Branch. I am looking forward to my next holiday in August to Somerset followed by Jersey in September.

Thursday's Treat

*The flavour of life begins with a cuppa
A nod or a smile makes you feel better
A biscuit or cake the choice is yours
Good company and a choice of
most interesting tours*

*So come and whet your appetite
Foodies can enjoy a delicious bite
At our meals out, tasty treats
Friendly company you will meet*

*If trivia quizzes are your style
We cater for that with a smile
So come along to Thursday's treat
10.30 is when we meet*

*Douglas Place is our venue
With like-minded people
Mingle with and have a chat
Thursday's treat is waiting for you.*

**By Ann Wakelam
April 2024**



Photos of past events...



Panda Mami - 9 February



Ploughman's lunch - 28 March



Easter bonnet parade - 28 March



Val and Vic - Annual D & D March



Dancing at the Annual D & D March



Deputy Grand Master Sheila Martland at Annual D & D March



Tacla Taid, Anglesey - 12 April



Tacla Taid, Anglesey - 12 April



Halen Mon, Anglesey - 12 April



Alphabetical Britain - 20 April



Loggerheads - 20 May



*Sue preparing for the higher climb
- Loggerheads - 20 May*



Stephens' ice cream - Portmeirion May



D-Day Talk - 6 June



The Iron Works, Oswestry - 18 June



The Iron Works, Oswestry - 18 June



The Iron Works, Oswestry - 18 June



Pen Y Bont Farm dine out - 27 June



Wrexham Coffee and Chat



Wrexham Coffee and Chat

Congratulations to...

Alastair and Laura

Congratulations to Alastair and Laura on their recent engagement. Alastair was enrolled as a junior member in 2005 by his Grandmother.



Alastair was lucky enough to be a recipient of an Oddfellows Educational Award. Alastair studied Law at Lancaster University, where he met Laura who was also studying Law. They graduated with excellent results and are now fully qualified Solicitors. They have set up home in a lovely little village near Chorley and plan to tie the knot in July 2025. We would like to wish them well in their future together.

Caroline and Ian

Caroline and Ian celebrated their 10th Wedding Anniversary on 9th May and Caroline also celebrated her 60th birthday on Thursday 16 May. They celebrated in style on the Greek Island of Rhodes for two weeks.



Baby Archie

Congratulations to Chelsea and Nathan on the birth of gorgeous Archie earlier this year. He is the great grandson of Gordon and Kath Hinett, our wonderful Llandudno volunteers, and our youngest member to date.



Annual Movable Conference – Llandudno 2024

The Annual Movable Conference (AMC) Is the main event in the Oddfellows calendar. It is so called because it takes place annually and moves to different locations around the country. This year Deeside Branch was fortunate enough to host the event in Llandudno.

The AMC lasts for a week, although the actual business element takes three days. On the Saturday evening the Grandmaster's Welcome Dance takes place. This year the event took the form of a Ceilidh. On the Sunday morning, there is a church service followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph – If you're visiting Llandudno, why not pop along to the Cenotaph, which is by the pier, and have a look. On the Sunday afternoon there is a brass band concert given by our very own Oddfellows Brass this event was attended by 420 members and non-members.

Monday through to Wednesday are the three days of conference business. On the Tuesday, the elections take place. Sister Barbara Needham was elected as Grandmaster of the Order, Brother John Mann as Deputy Grandmaster and Brother David Ogden was appointed Immediate Past Grandmaster – all three are serving a second term of office. Congratulations to Sister Denise Turner on her re-election to the Benevolence Committee as Vice Chairman and to Sister Tracey Edwards on being elected to the Benevolence

Committee on her first attempt. I was truly humbled to have been elected to serve as a Director – the first time Deeside Branch has had a member as a Director since the 1990s.

On the Wednesday, after the main business was completed, the installation took place of the officers and myself as the new Director.

The Conference was closed with Ritual and the singing of the National Anthems (UK and Welsh) and Auld Lang Syne.

On Wednesday evening, the Grand Master's Farewell Dance took place and was a great success. On Thursday morning, the Annual Bowls Tournament took place. Five members of Deeside took part. Andy Davies from Deeside and Gill Ray from Heart of England were the winners.

On Thursday evening, the Midland Group Conference Annual Reunion took place. This was an excellent night with music and table top quizzes.

On Friday, the annual coach trip visited Portmeirion, an Italianate village set in gardens and woodland near Penrhyndeudraeth on the banks of the River Dwyryd. This event was enjoyed by more than 40 members – a wonderful way to end a very hectic but enjoyable week.

**Director
Brother Meirion Edwards**



Cheque Presentation to Clwyd Special Riding Centre

Last year our District Chairman (Provincial Grand Master) Olwen Bellis chose Clwyd Special Riding Centre as her charity during her year in Office. Olwen has a long association with horses and has owned a few of her own over the years.

Clwyd Special Riding Centre (CSRS) opened in 1982 as an independent registered charity located in Llanfynydd, near Wrexham, North Wales. It is an approved Riding for the Disabled (RDA) and British Horse Society (BHS) Centre. The Centre provides state-of-the-art facilities that support Riding for the

Disabled and equine based activities, benefitting people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities and additional needs. CSRC is run by a small team of experienced staff, managed by a Board of Trustees, supported by a large pool of incredible volunteers and a loyal team of RDA approved horses and ponies.

Earlier this year we were delighted to visit the Centre on a cold rainy day to present a cheque for £725.00. The money was raised through raffles and selling homemade earrings and other items. We were given a lovely warm welcome and tour of the stables to meet a few of the staff and the wonderful horses.

Members meet in Llandudno for AMC

The late May Bank Holiday weekend in the beautiful North Wales coastal town of Llandudno was the setting for this year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

Hosted by Deeside Oddfellows, members from throughout the UK made the trip to reflect on the previous 12 months and discuss and vote on the course of the next, all presided over by the Grand Master (Chairman), Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham.



Business conducted, AMC Llandudno

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, with Oddfellows Brass putting on another wonderful performance.



Oddies on the coach to Portmeirion

Members also took part in a ceilidh at the welcome evening, graced the green at the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, took a day trip to Portmeirion and got all dressed up for the Farewell Dance.

Who should be our next major Fund recipient?

Our HA Andrews Memorial Fund provides major financial support over a two or three year period to a project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research in the UK.



The funding for Southampton University's Centre for Cancer Immunology, which was nominated by a member in Guernsey, is in its final year, so we're now open to suggestions on who to support from 2025.

If you've a suggestion of who we can support next, let us know. Go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the criteria, how to nominate and our deadlines.

Making a Difference Awards 2024

Five members have received national recognition for the brilliant and selfless work they put into making their Branch and the Society as wonderful as they can be.



Terry Rendle, Oswald Branch Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Terry's contributions to the running of Oswald Branch's social events.

He regularly comes up with ideas for events, plans and advertises them, organises and purchases supplies, arranges



catering, sells tickets, physically arranges chairs and tables in the room, taxis people to and from, hosts and clears up after. All this at the age of 84.

"Socialising is so important as you get older," Terry said. "It keeps your brain busy and your body busy which means you might last a bit longer."

He added: "I was flabbergasted. I had to read the letter three times before I realised what I was reading."

Pat and David Lang, Three Counties Branch Achieving Together

The married couple from Didcot, Oxfordshire, joined the Oddfellows over half-a-century



ago, and in that time have taken on many voluntary roles, including serving as Branch Chairman five times between them.

They are Welfare Visitors, regularly checking in on around 50 fellow members, and are well known for providing food for events and meetings. They are also responsible for an annual Christmas lunch event which, since 2009, has raised over £2,100 for the HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

David said: "It has never been about being rewarded. We love what we do, it's as simple as that.

Pat added: "I'm honoured. We have much to thank the Oddfellows for and have met so many lovely people."

Peter Coe, City of Norwich Branch

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

As a mutual society, the Oddfellows is run by and for our members and this award seeks to recognise those who have gone the extra mile to assist in the running of their Branch and the Society as a whole.

Peter has gone several extra miles, having held a number of voluntary roles, including Branch and



District Chairman, and is still a member of the social committee to this day, helping to organise many wonderful events.

Peter said: "The Oddfellows is full of very, very friendly people. We all get on. I've made some very good friends here over the years.

"It's my life. It's what I do. The best thing I did was join the Oddfellows."

Claire Needham, Vale of York District Giving Something Back

Lifelong member Claire has been recognised for the work she does to raise money and awareness for worthy causes.



She donated nearly £3,000 for Motor Neurone Disease Association and Martins House Children's Hospice having run the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon last year, and has helped raise more than £30,000 through her role as Chairman of her workplace's Charity Committee.

Claire has also held positions on the Oddfellows' Benevolence Committee and Investigations Committee, making a positive difference to the lives of her fellow members.

"I was completely surprised and I feel really honoured," Claire said. "It's a really nice feeling. It's nice that other people think it's making a difference and it's having an impact."

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Each of the winners are fully deserving of this recognition and I'm very proud of all of them. They typify what it is to be an Oddfellow and the Society and their respective branches are lucky to have them."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2025 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Financial worries revealed



Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, recently surveyed 2,000 people throughout the UK to uncover what's keeping them up at night when it comes to their finances. Here's what they discovered. Do any of these resonate with you?

Cost of living

The worry peaks for those aged 40-49, with 63% feeling the pinch, closely followed by those in their 50s and 60s (both at 62%).

Emergency planning

35% of those surveyed worry they don't have enough money set aside for emergencies like car repairs or medical treatments. Additionally, 28% fret about potential home repair costs.

Pension and retirement

Living on a tight pension is a reality for 22% of respondents, and 18% worry they aren't contributing enough to their pension pot. Many in their 60s regret not paying more into their pensions earlier.



Savings and financial planning

Only 39% of people have money in savings or investments, but this number jumps to 61% for those in their 70s. Yet, just a third have a financial life plan.

Stress and anxiety

Financial stress affects 58% of respondents. Those in their 60s and 70s are less worried compared to younger age groups, with only 35% and 27% respectively reporting anxiety.

Financial regrets

Over half (51%) have financial regrets, including not saving enough each month (46%) and spending on pointless things (43%). Interestingly, more than one in 10 (12%) wish they'd married someone with more money.

These findings show that, while financial worries are largely universal, planning and saving can make a significant difference, especially as we age. Whether you're setting up your first financial plan or adjusting your retirement strategy, it's never too late to take control of your financial future.

Go to www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

Oddfellows members have access to a dedicated Citizens Advice Line. Its advisers can help you to find a way forward with any money or debt problems but are unable to give financial advice. Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/citizens-advice to find out more.

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 Denise on **01244 675757** or email **denise.turner@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**

Events - at a glance

In addition to our regular events see page 4 and 5 for full details.

September 2024 - Friendship Month

Sun 1	Sunday Lunch at The Hotel Wrexham	1pm
Thurs 5	Fish 'n' Chips Lunch	12.30pm
Mon 9	Branch Meeting	7pm
Fri 20	Dine Out at Panda Mami, Chester	1pm
Mon 23	Full Day Cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal	11am
Mon 30	Lunch at the Gwesty Links, Llandudno	12.30pm

October

Thurs 10	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College, Gobowen	12.45pm
Thurs 17	Branch Meeting	12.30pm
Thurs 24	Trading Standards Talk at the Coffee Morning	10.30am

November

Thurs 14	Branch Meeting	12.30pm
Sat 23	A Fundraising Saturday Social with Afternoon Tea	2.30pm
Tues 26	Bents Garden and Home Centre, Warrington	11am

December

Mon 2	Festive Lunch at Gwesty Links, Llandudno	12.30pm
Thurs 12	Christmas Lunch at Pen Y Bont Farm	1pm

January 2025

Thurs 2	Stroll Around the Countess of Chester Country Park followed by Lunch at the Little Owl Pub	10.45am
Thurs 9	Branch Meeting	12.30pm

February

Sat 8	A Saturday Afternoon Social with Light Tea	2.30pm
Sat 22	Annual Meeting and Buffet	2pm

March

Mon 3	Enjoy a Stroll Around Wepre Park, Deeside	11am
Thurs 13	Branch Meeting	12.30pm
Sun 23	District Sunday Lunch	1pm