

July - September 2025
Summer Issue



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

out & about

Making friends across 5 Shires District



Riverside Bridge at Bedford



Travel



Social



Games



Dining Out



Music



Talks



Quizzes



Friendship



Walk



Meeting



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea

www.oddfellows.co.uk



5 Shires



Regular Coffee Mornings more details in the diary.

Welcome to the Spring edition of your Out and About

Hello again friends,

Welcome to our next newsletter which is full of how we have been enjoying fellowship with each other and a list of all the up coming events.

Now that the weather is improving (I hope!) I would like to invite you all to join in our many social activities.

You can attend any of the events advertised, just let the organiser know you will be arriving. You will be most welcome for a good chat and catch up.

Yours in friendship

Ann Boyle, Acting Prov CS

Who are the Oddfellows?

The 5 Shires District is a group of four Branches across Bedfordshire, Buckingham, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. Each Branch has a monthly business meeting and as many social events as they can fit in. Through friendship and social events we help our members to get more enjoyment out of life. With the help of the Unity office in Manchester we offer care and support in times of need. We welcome every one of all ages – our youngest being toddlers and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810 or contact the Branch Secretaries.

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Branch Contacts

5 Shires District

Acting District Secretary: Ann Boyle

Postal Address: 31 Burton Road, Finedon NN9 5HX

Telephone: 01933 681000 **Email:** ann.boyle@oddfellows.co.uk

Bedford Loyal Bedford Branch

Secretary: Sarah Wetherell

Postal Address: Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

Telephone: 01234 768914 **Email:** sarah.wetherell@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB at 7.45pm

Buckingham Loyal Grenville Branch

Secretary: Tracy Harrold

Postal Address: 50 Grenada Crescent, Newton Leys, Milton Keynes MK3 5GB

Telephone: 07818 078106 **Email:** tracy.harrold@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the first Monday of the month at The Lace Community Centre, Catchpin Street, Buckingham MK18 7RR.

Hitchin Loyal Albert Branch

Secretary: Emily Ellis

Postal Address: 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP

Telephone: 07970 793978 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Monday of the month at 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP at 7.30pm

Wellingborough Loyal Victoria Branch

Secretary: Emily Ellis

Postal Address: 3 The Bull Courtyard, Irthlingborough, Northants NN9 5UQ

Telephone: 07970 793978 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the second Monday of the month at Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon, Northants NN9 5LZ at 7.30pm

If you would like to attend any of the meetings or events at any Branch, or would like further information, please contact the Branch Secretary via phone, email or post at the contact details given above.

Note: Colour coding of branches is used – corresponds to articles later in the magazine: **Dark Blue** = District **Brown** = Bedford **Blue** = Grenville
Orange = Albert **Purple** = Victoria

Albert Branch Regular Coffee Morning

Poplars Garden Centre



10.30am



As per menu



Please meet in the café and join friends and members of Albert Branch for a coffee and chat at Poplars Garden Centre Café, followed by a walk around the garden centre if you wish. Poplars Garden Centre, Harlington Road, Toddington, Dunstable LU5 6HE. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.



3 July

5 August

11 September

Coffee Morning at Hitchin



10.30am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Branch rooms. Kettle will be on from 10.30am. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

30 July

27 August

24 September

July 2025

TUES
08

North Herts Museum Visit and Café



10.30am



As per menu



Please meet friends and members of Albert Branch at North Herts Museum café for a drink and catch up, before a walk around the museum to visit the current exhibition. North Hertfordshire Museum, Brand Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JE. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

THURS
17

Albert Branch Breakfast at Rump and Wade



10am



£8 coffee
and bap



Join friends and members for breakfast. Enjoy a breakfast bap and hot drink for £8. Please let Sam know if you'd like to join by Friday 11 July, so she can book a table. Rump and Wade, High Street, Stevenage SG1 3AZ. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

July 2025

MON
21

Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Loyal Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

WED
30

Albert Branch Coffee Morning with Speaker from Herts County Council



10.30am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Branch rooms. Kettle will be on from 10.30am. This month we have a speaker from Herts County Council to talk about Reablement Service and Home Care services, also known as Domiciliary Care, that Hertfordshire County Council provide. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

August

THURS
14

Albert Branch Coffee and Brunch at Rosso Lounge



10.30am



As per menu



Join friends and members for coffee and brunch (if you wish) at Rosso Lounge. No need to book, simply turn up. Rosso Lounge, 15 Market Square, Biggleswade SG18 8AS. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

August

MON
18

Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Loyal Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
02

Friendship Month Acrylic Painting Session



10.30am



£12



Bring out your artistic side and join us for some painting! The session is led by Sarah Peters, who will lead a step by step acrylic painting session. At the end you will get to take home your own canvas masterpiece! The cost is £12 including tea or coffee and biscuits. Please let Sam know by Tuesday 26 August if you would like to reserve a place. Cash or card can be taken on the day. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
11

Friendship Month Coffee Morning at Poplars Garden Centre



10.30am



As per
menu



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

Celebrate Friendship Month with friends and members of Albert Branch for a coffee and chat at Poplars Garden Centre Café, followed by a walk around the garden centre if you wish. Please meet in the café. Poplars Garden Centre, Harlington Road, Toddington, Dunstable LU5 6HE. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

MON
15

Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Loyal Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

TUES
16

Albert Branch Friendship Month Lunch at Sala Thong



12 noon



£15.50



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun

Celebrate Friendship Month with friends and members of Albert Branch for lunch. Enjoy a two course lunch with house wine, beer or soft drink for £15.50. All welcome, but please let Sam know you'd like to come by Thursday 11 September, so we can reserve a table. Sala Thong, 112 Old Town, Stevenage SG1 3DW. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

WED
24

Albert Branch Friendship Coffee Morning with Speaker from Guide Dogs



10.30am



Free



Celebrate Friendship Month with us! Come and join friends and members of Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Branch rooms, with speakers from the Guide Dogs and special guest Sage! Kettle will be on from 10.30am. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Sam on 07984 530287.

Bedford Branch

July 2025

August

WED 09 Bedford Branch Lunch Social



11.30am



As per
menu



Lunch social - come and join us at Roxton Garden Centre for lunch, a light bite or just a brew. Please let the office know if you are coming, so that we can save you a seat. Book by Monday 7 July. Roxton Garden Centre, Bedford Road, Roxton MK44 3DY. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.



WED 06 Bedford Branch Coffee Morning at Frosts Garden Centre



10.30am



As per
menu



Come and meet up for a brew, chat and laughter. Let the office know if you are coming so that we can save you a seat! Frosts Garden Centre, Sandy Road, Willington, Bedford MK43 9JB. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.

TUES 15 Bedford Branch Night



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for our regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JB. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.

TUES 19 Bedford Branch Night



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for our regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JB. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
10

Bedford Branch Coffee Morning at Roxton Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



Come and meet up for a brew, chat and laughter; perhaps stay for lunch. Let the office know if you are coming so that we can save you a seat. Book by Monday 8 September. Roxton Garden Centre, Bedford Road, Roxton MK44 3DY. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.

TUES
16

Bedford Branch Night



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for our regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JB. Contact Sarah on 01234 768914.

Say *yes* to friendship in September

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

All welcome

Make friends with the Oddfellows



www.friendshipmonth.com

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

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Grenville Branch

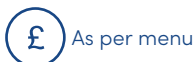
Regular Coffee Morning

July 2025

Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



Join us at this independent garden centre on the third Wednesday of the month for a coffee, tea, cake and a catch up – even stay for lunch afterwards if you fancy it! Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

16 July, 20 August, 17 September

Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Drop in Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Jigsaws not your thing? You are still very welcome to pop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

1 July, 5 August, 2 September



MON 07 Grenville Branch Meeting



12 noon



£2.50 Lunch Donation



Join members and friends of Loyal Grenville Branch for their monthly business meeting. Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre, Catchpin Street, Buckingham MK18 7RR. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

September

MON 01 Grenville Branch Meeting



12 noon



£2.50 Lunch Donation



Join members and friends of Loyal Grenville Branch for their monthly business meeting. Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre, Catchpin Street, Buckingham MK18 7RR. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

SAT 13 Grenville Branch Friendship Month BBQ



2pm



Free



Join members and friends at the Grenville Branch for a BBQ celebrating Friendship Month. Please bring a donation of food to be cooked/sides. There will be a raffle too. Book by Saturday 6 September. The Centre @ Verney, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Diane Jones on 07526 588755 for more information.

Victoria Branch

July 2025

FRI 04 Victoria Branch Social Dinner at The Ock n Dough



Join friends and members of the Victoria for dinner at the Ock N Dough. Please let the secretary know if you are coming by Friday 23 June. Ock N Dough, Farm Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 4UF. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

MON 14 Victoria Branch Meeting - Table Top Treasure Hunt



A short business meeting followed by refreshments and a table top treasure hunt. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

WED 23 Victoria Branch Coffee Morning at Garden Deli



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat with cake. The coffee shop serves coffee and array of snacks. Garden Deli, Nene Court, The Embankment, Wellingborough NN8 1LD. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

August

WED 06 Victoria Branch Social Lunch at The Oriental Paradise



Join friends and members of the Victoria Branch for lunch at The Oriental Paradise. Cost as per menu, roughly £30, a head. Please let the secretary know if you are coming by Friday 23 July. The Oriental Paradise, The Causeway, Billing, Northampton NN3 9EX. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.



MON 11 Victoria Branch Meeting - Followed by Fish and Chips Supper



A short business meeting followed by a fish and chips supper. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

August

TUES
12

Victoria Branch Social - Visiting the Veggie Patch



1pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Loyal Victoria Branch as we visit the allotments in Wollaston and see how the work the 'Veggie Patch' are doing. Wollaston Allotment Gardens, The Pyghtles, Wollaston NN29 7QD. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

September

FRI
05

Victoria Branch Social - Dinner at The Lilacs



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join friends and members of the Victoria for lunch at The Lilacs. Please let the secretary know if you are coming by Friday 23 August. The Lilacs, 39 Church Street, Isham, Kettering NN14 1HD. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

MON
08

Victoria Branch Meeting Guest Speaker from Glamis Hall



7.30pm



Free



A short business meeting followed by a guest speaker from Glamis Hall and refreshments. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
17

Victoria Branch Coffee Morning at Garden Deli



10.30am



Free



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat with cake. The coffee shop serves coffee and array of snacks. Garden Deli, Nene Court, The Embankment, Wellingborough NN8 1LD. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
19

Victoria Branch Social - Games Afternoon



2pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a games afternoon. Indoor carpet bowls and board games. Please feel free to bring along your favourite games. Please let the secretary know if you are coming along, so she can arrange enough cake! Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.



FRI
26

Victoria Branch Social Lunch at The Olde Victoria



12.30pm



As per menu



Join friends and members of the Victoria for lunch at The Olde Victoria. Please let the secretary know if you are coming by Friday 20 September. The Olde Victoria, Bakehouse Lane, Burton Latimer, Northants NN15 5NJ. Contact Emily on 07970 793978.



Interested in volunteering?

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

You can help us by:

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



To find out more, contact Emily by phone on 07970 793978 or email emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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 Emily on **07970 793978** or email **emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

EDCWA50223

District News

I am so sorry that the District news was not in the last newsletter. Here is what was missing and some up to date news too. Emily



35 members enjoyed the Panto at Milton Keynes on Sunday 29 December 2024. Chrissie sent in her pics of a fabulous afternoon.

**This year's Panto, (yes already!)
Sunday 28 December 2025 at 2pm
Milton Keynes Theatre. Please contact
Emily (emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk)
to book your tickets. Don't forget
Junior members go free.**

The outgoing Provincial Grand Master Emily Ellis was delighted to present The Dogs For Good charity with a cheque for £1,700 at the District Annual Meeting held on Saturday 1 February 2025 and passes along her thanks to all the members for their contributions.



Your new officers for the year are:
Brian Harper Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Jackie Proctor Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman) and Emily Ellis Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman).

Brian Harper's charity is the 'Unity Orphan Gift Fund' for 2025.

5 Shires District Branch

Thank you to everyone who responded to the letter sent in March about the proposed changes to the District format. We can now confirm that over 20% of our membership voted and 99% were in favour of the changes.

The DCoM have recommended that each Branch and the District transfer

into the Albert Branch which will become the 5 Shires District Branch from 1st January 2026. At each Branch Annual Summoned Meeting in April the resolution for these changes were accepted and will now be taken to the District Half Yearly meeting in July. This is quite a complicated process and we will keep you up to date as we progress.

Albert Branch News

Albert Branch have been busy trying out a number of local eateries with some old and new friends and visitors from Bedford Branch. Check out the list of events Sam has planned in the

local area. You can contact Sam on samantha.johnson@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07984 530287. If you have some suggestions for activities/events Sam would love to hear from you.



Bedford Branch News

Bedford Branch Committee of Management

The new Committee of Management were voted in at the Annual Summoned Meeting in April. The new Committee members are: Brother Adrian Taylor, Brother Alfred de Souza, Brother Tim Gurney and Sister Chris Pavey, Sister Sue Doulton Smith and Sister Sarah Wetherell. We currently have space on our Committee of Management- so if you are interested in any of the following areas then please get in contact: social

events, finances, communications and marketing, premises management, business development.

The Committee will meet on a quarterly basis and welcome any suggestions from Branch members regarding developing and improving the branch. Please do share your thoughts and ideas with Sarah, Branch Secretary in the first instance.

Branch Top Tips for Members

1. Set up your Oddfellows Account via the website www.oddfellows.co.uk

Once set up you will be able to see all the offers available within Oddfellows Extra, access details of the member offers organised by the Oddfellows Travel as well as download claim forms for your Dental and Optical benefit claims. You will also see the social activities organised locally.

2. Find us on Facebook!

We have a branch Facebook page and the District has a Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/BedfordandNorthamptonOddfellows/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Oddfellows5Shires/>

3. It's your Branch

We're run by members, for our members. This means there's a wealth of opportunity to get involved in shaping the development and direction of the branch, come along to the monthly Branch Night, attend local social events and if you can, volunteer your skills.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  5 Shires

Victoria Branch News

Victoria Branch have been busy seeing which local eatery has the largest desserts! We have been enjoying lunches and dinners over the last few months alongside our

regular coffee mornings and lodge evenings. Our Lodge evening in May was taken over by beetle mania – in the form of a beetle drive!



An update from David Woods



David and his wife attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace further to his award of the British Empire Medal in the King's New Years Honours list.

Since the COVID pandemic David H Woods a Victoria Branch member has been growing plants to raise donations to help the NHS, and he is still doing it today. As of 20 May 2025 the total donated was £37,848.88.

David's amazing plant stall, in the village of Woodford, is open every day of the year, including 20 May, when he and his wife Hilary Jane attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, hosted by the Prince and Princess of Wales on behalf of the King; plus other members of the Royal Family. David left his son Matthew, who lives nearby, in charge of the stall.

David couldn't believe how close to the Palace his reserved car parking space was and he said, 'it was fun driving there, we felt like VIP's and had a wonderful afternoon'.

An amazing story, considering David fights the pain of MS every day, following his diagnosis back in 2005. Having retired early, back in 2011, David now devotes almost all his time growing plants to help the NHS, which in return helps him keep active and gives him so much satisfaction helping others and encouraging others to love gardening.



If you love gardening and wish to support him please follow his facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158400812212160/> where David posts every day of the year before the stall opens giving photos of what is available, Tiktok videos and a running total of how much has been donated.

Donations, to help the NHS, via NHS Charities Together, can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/davidsgrowingplantsforthenhs>

David's plant stall and donations 'just keep growing' and as he says, 'enjoy your garden' and 'make gardening fun'.



Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



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

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

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

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

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

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

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

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

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

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



Making a Difference Awards 2025

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

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

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

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

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



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

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

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

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



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

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

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

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



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

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

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

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

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

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



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

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

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



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

Incredible total raised for good causes



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

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

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

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

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

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

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



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

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

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

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

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

At a glance

Orange♦ = Albert, Brown● = Bedford,
Blue■ = Grenville and Purple★ = Victoria

July 2025

■ Tues 1	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Drop in Coffee Morning	10am
♦ Thurs 3	Coffee Morning at Poplars Garden Centre	10.30am
★ Fri 4	Victoria Branch Social - Dinner at The Ock n Dough	6.30pm
■ Mon 7	Grenville Branch Meeting	12 noon
♦ Tues 8	North Herts Museum Visit and Café	10.30am
● Wed 9	Bedford Branch Lunch Social	11.30am
★ Mon 14	Victoria Branch Meeting - Table Top Treasure Hunt	7.30pm
● Tues 15	Bedford Branch Night	7.30pm
■ Wed 16	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	11am
♦ Thurs 17	Albert Branch Breakfast at Rump and Wade	10am
♦ Mon 21	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
★ Wed 23	Victoria Branch Coffee Morning at Garden Deli	10.30am
♦ Wed 30	Albert Branch Coffee Morning with Speaker from Herts County Council	10.30am

August

■ Tues 5	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Drop in Coffee Morning	10am
♦ Tues 5	Coffee Morning at Poplars Garden Centre	10.30am
● Wed 6	Bedford Branch Coffee Morning at Frosts Garden Centre	10.30am
★ Wed 6	Victoria Branch Social - Lunch at The Oriental Paradise	12 noon
★ Mon 11	Victoria Branch Meeting - Followed by Fish and Chips Supper	7.30pm
★ Tues 12	Victoria Branch Social - Visiting the Veggie Patch	1pm
♦ Thurs 14	Albert Branch Coffee and Brunch at Rosso Lounge	10.30am
♦ Mon 18	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
● Tues 19	Bedford Branch Night	7.30pm
■ Wed 20	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	11am
♦ Wed 27	Albert Branch Coffee Morning	10.30am

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September - Friendship Month

■ Mon 1	Grenville Branch Meeting	12 noon
■ Tues 2	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Drop in Coffee Morning	10am
♦ Tues 2	Friendship Month Acrylic Painting Session	10.30am
★ Fri 5	Victoria Branch Social - Dinner at The Lilacs	12.30pm
★ Mon 8	Victoria Branch Meeting - Guest Speaker from Glamis Hall	7.30pm
● Wed 10	Bedford Branch Coffee Morning at Roxton Garden Centre	11am
♦ Thurs 11	Friendship Month Coffee Morning at Poplars Garden Centre	10.30am
■ Sat 13	Grenville Branch Friendship Month BBQ	2pm
♦ Mon 15	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
♦ Tues 16	Albert Branch Friendship Month Lunch at Sala Thong	12 noon
● Tues 16	Bedford Branch Night	7.30pm
★ Wed 17	Victoria Branch Coffee Morning at Garden Deli	10.30am
■ Wed 17	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	11am
★ Fri 19	Victoria Branch Social - Games Afternoon	2pm
♦ Wed 24	Albert Branch Friendship Month Coffee Morning with Speaker from Guide Dogs	10.30am
★ Fri 26	Victoria Branch Social - Lunch at The Olde Victoria	12.30pm

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay



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

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The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
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