

January - June 2025



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

out & about

Severn and Trent



The gatehouse viewed from inside the courthouse of Stokesay Castle



Music



Games



Social



Art/Crafts



Day Trip



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Dining Out



Meetings



Quiz



A Day Trip to Seaside - Thursday 19 June, we hope you can join us!

Welcome to your combined Newsletter and Events Diary

This is your events diary and newsletter so if you have any ideas for items please send them in. Maybe you have a recipe, joke or celebration that you would like to share with other members? Why not write about a social event you've attended or send in photographs? All items will be gratefully received. We look forward to hearing from you.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the events diary in a handy place - by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact:

District Secretary:
George Brotherton

Address: 31 Avenue Road,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7EA

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07487 300449

Email:
george.brotherton@oddfellows.co.uk

Dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm your attendance.

More contact details can be found on page 18.

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. To find out more visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Regular Events

Coffee Morning

Fortnightly
on Thursday



10.30am



Pay your
own drinks



Come along and meet members of the Severn and Trent Branch for a chat. Everyone welcome. Mere Park Garden Centre, Stafford Road, Newport TF10 9BY. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693, Janet on 01952 814377 or Christine on 07776 357409.



9 January	20 February	3 April	15 May	26 June
23 January	6 March	17 April	29 May	
6 February	20 March	1 May	12 June	

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

OE/1024A6

January 2025

February

SAT
25

Skittles with Fish and Chips Supper



7.30pm



£10 per person



An evening of skittles with fish and chips to follow at the Newport Bowling Club. Limited to 50 people, start at 7.30pm to 10.30pm. Book by Monday 6 January. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford, Newport TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

SAT
25

Burns Night Evening



8pm



£15



An evening to celebrate Burns Night. Book by Monday 2 December 2024.

British Legion, Church Street, Hartington, Buxton SK17 0AW. Contact Jackie on 01298 687123.



SAT
15

Celebration of the Formation of the Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch



6pm



TBC



Celebration of the formation of the Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch at the Sycamore Inn. Book by Monday 6 January. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact Bill on 07713 743295.



SAT
15

Valentines Social Evening



8pm



Free



A Valentines social evening. Book by Saturday 25 January. British Legion, Church Street, Hartington, Buxton SK17 0AW. Contact Jackie on 01298 687123.



February

THURS
27

Trip to Stourbridge Glass Museum



10am



£12
Coach Free



Trip to Stourbridge Glass Museum. Complimentary coach. £18.25 per person. Coach leaves Newport bus station at 10am, returning approximately 3.30pm.

Payment by Saturday 1 February. Cheques payable to Severn and Trent District please.

Stourbridge Glass Museum, Stuart Works, High Street, Wordsley DY8 4FB. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

March

SUN
23

Sunday Lunch at Chapters Lilleshall National Sports Centre



12.30pm



Two courses £27, Three courses £30

Sunday lunch at this popular restaurant. Menus available in January, payment by Thursday 20 February. Cheques payable to Severn and Trent District please. Chapters Restaurant, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

March

SAT
29

Annual General Meeting



2pm



Free



Join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Severn and Trent District. Newport Parish Rooms. New Street. Newport TF10 7AX. Contact George on 01952 814377.

SUN
30

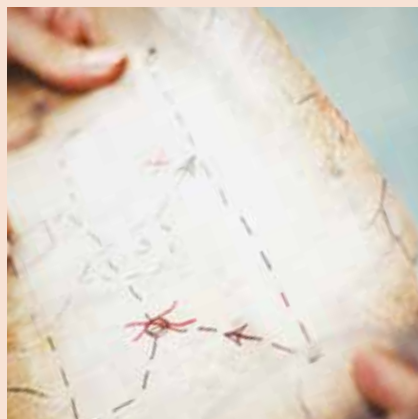
Car Treasure Hunt



2pm



£5 per car



Car treasure hunt followed by refreshments and social. £5 per car. Book by Saturday 15 March. British Legion, Church Street, Hartington, Buxton SK17 0AW. Contact or Jackie on 01298 687123.

April

SAT 05 Quiz Night with Wine and Cheese Supper

⌚ 8pm

£ £12 per person



Quiz at the Bowling Club in Newport with cheese, nibbles and wine. Limited to 50 people, teams of six. Bar not open on this occasion. Book by Monday 3 March. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford, Newport TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.



SAT 26 St George's Day Parade

⌚ 9.45am

£ TBC



St George's Day Parade
Join your fellow Oddfellows for the St George's Day parade. Starting at the Sycamore Inn with church service. Book by Monday 3 March. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact Bill on 07713 743295.



May

Afternoon of Nostalgia with Music of the 50s, 60s and 70s with a Devonshire Cream Tea

SAT 03

⌚ 2pm

£ £5 per person



Afternoon of nostalgia featuring old 78 records and music of the 50s 60s and 70s and a Devonshire Cream Tea. £5 per person. Payment by Monday 7 April. Cheques payable to Severn and Trent District please. Location to be confirmed. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

SAT 17 Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch Outing

⌚ 9am

£ TBC



Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch outing. Book by Monday 7 April. Location and times to be confirmed. Contact Bill on 07713 743295.

June

SAT
07

Annual Bowls Competition



1pm



Free



Annual bowling competition at the Bowling Club in Newport. Teams of four and spectators welcome. Names required by Tuesday 6 May. Limited to 40 people. Bar open with refreshments. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford, Newport TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

SAT
28

Oddfellows Parade Parwich - Wakes Week



9.45am



TBC



A 9.45am procession starts at Sycamore Inn, 11am for the church service. Cost to be confirmed for meal if booked and Free parade and church service. Book by Tuesday 6 May. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.

THURS
19

A Day Trip to Seaside



9am



Members £15, Guests £25



A day trip to seaside location. £15 per person for members and £25 per person for guests. Payment by Saturday 3 May. Cheques payable to Severn and Trent District please. Location to be confirmed. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

Fountain of Peace

A few ideas for the period July to December 2025.

July - Coach Trip to Rhs Bridgewater, Nr Manchester.

August - National Trust Visit to Hardwick Hall, Near Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

September - Friendship Month.

October - Sunday Lunch at Chapters.

November - District Dinner Dance.

November/December - Possibility of a Five Day Turkey and Tinsel Holiday.

Coach Trip to Birmingham German Christmas Market.

December - Christmas Party - already booked for 13 December at Newport Bowling Club.

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

Oddfellows Travel 2025

We have a great selection of escorted holidays for you to enjoy



South Devon Delights – Torquay **Mon 31 March – Fri 4 April (4 nights)**

With Alfa Travel and staying at The Metropole Hotel. Solo rooms from £295. Twin room based on 2 people sharing £295 per person. Half board. Coach pick up available from certain locations.

Oddfellows Summer Holiday **– Warner's Cricket St. Thomas (Somerset)** **Mon 7 – Fri 11 July (4 nights)**

Half board from £350 per person, based on 2 people sharing a double or twin room. A limited number of solo occupancy rooms are available at a reduced rate of £450.



Whales, Waterfalls and **Geyzers of Iceland** **Thurs 17 – Tues 29 July (12 nights)**

Departing from Dover on Fred. Olsen's Borealis. From £1,799 per person, based on 2 people sharing a cabin. Full board.

Scarborough **Weds 1 – Sun 5 October (4 nights)**

With Alfa Travel and staying at the Cumberland Hotel. Solo rooms from £325. Twin rooms based on 2 people sharing £325 per person. Half board. Coach pick up available from certain locations.



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For Oddfellows Travel questions and bookings, please contact
Emma Gorst **0161 214 4634** or email **travel@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Travel holidays are arranged through third party providers, please reference their terms and conditions before booking. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Past Outings

Black Country Living Museum - Thursday 25 July

Twenty-two members were transported by coach to the museum in Dudley. The site has been added to recently and there are ongoing works being carried out. The old fashioned fairground rides and coin machines brought back memories together with the shops, The Crown Tube Works Cate, Hobbs old fashioned fish and chip shop and The Workers Institute were very popular. The outing was very successful and because the site is so large and being added to all the time, we may decide to take another trip there in the future.



Halfpenny Green Wine Estate - Thursday 22 August

Twenty-five members enjoyed a guided tour of the vineyards, together with a talk on the making of wine with four different wines to taste. In the afternoon we enjoyed a wonderful Comish Cream Tea, with lashings of strawberry jam and clotted cream. Free time was available to peruse the craft shops on site before returning by coach to Newport.



Friendship Month - August/September

On Saturday the Saturday 14 September we held our annual Friendship Month afternoon tea party with entertainment. This year there were 55 attending which included a number of non members who have now gone on to join the Fountain of Peace Branch of Severn and Trent District. The entertainment was supplied by Chris Stratton, a guitarist, he played The Shadows music and told anecdotes about the group and Cliff Richard. Tea, coffee and lots of cakes were served before finishing at 4pm.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Annual Five Day Holiday - Monday 23 to Friday 27 September

After enjoying a Turkey and Tinsel holiday in November 2023 in Torquay it was decided by the members to take a five day coach trip to the Scottish



Borders staying at the Barony Castle Hotel in Peebles. We had three excursions, a full day free in Edinburgh, a visit to the Stirling Gin Distillery, where everyone had a taste of their gin and whisky, followed on the Thursday with a visit to the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix Park home of the Kelpies, the largest horse head statues in the World. 31 members travelled with us and all agreed it had been a very interesting and enjoyable week. We are planning to have a Turkey and Tinsel holiday again in 2025.

Oddfellows Brass Band - Saturday 5 October

We have been very lucky this year in securing the Oddfellows Brass Band who gave a total of 65 members and visitors a wonderful uplifting musical afternoon, including renditions of Amazing Grace, California Dreaming and finishing with their own production called 'Vintage Cheese'.



Welcome to our New Members

Audrey Lewis

Marjoire Belcher

Christina Norman-Bargery

Colin Colborn

Message from our Care and Welfare Officer

Hi Fellow Oddfellows

As winter starts to take a hold I would like to reinforce the message to you that I am only at the end of the phone if you need anything at all, just a chat if you are feeling a little down or lonely or any advice on where to go if you have a specific problem so

I can help find the right person to assist you with a problem in the home or any other problems or support you need. So do not hesitate to be in contact, remember it is a two way street, helping you helps me so hope to speak to you soon.

Janet

News From Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch

Parwich

As part of the Wakes Week the Annual Oddfellows Parade took place in June around the village led by Seaforth Highland Band with at least 86 members and guests joining in procession with the Oddfellows Banner flying high a fantastic advert for the lodge and the society.

During the procession a number of stops were made in the village for the traditional liquid refreshment before making their way to the parish church for the annual church service. Following the parade 84 members and guests sat down to a

splendid meal at the Parwich Community Centre. A brilliant day enjoyed by many of our members.

Family Fun Day

The lodge's family fun day took place in September with members gathering together for an afternoon of fun and games which included 6 horse races with the mums and dads being used as jockeys. During the afternoon family members enjoyed a BBQ another good turn out with 16 junior members and 74 adults of which 42 were members of the society.

Death of George Hill

It is with sadness that the District has been informed that George has recently passed away. George was a District Trustee for many years as well as being a Branch Secretary for the Hamilton Lodge in Bridgnorth.

George was the head gardener for the Burwarton Estate starting his employment on the estate at a very early age, being very knowledgeable and experienced in horticulture George at one time had a monthly article published in the Oddfellows Magazine 'Ask George' where members could call George seeking advice on any issues in the Gardening World. George was a



country lad born and bred and took part in many country events and also being a county judge at many agricultural shows up and down the country.

A brilliant Baltic experience

In late June, 17 Oddfellows from across the country met in Dover to board Fred. Olsen's Borealis and set sail to discover the delights of the Baltics.

Lots to see and do

During their 14 nights, the Oddies crew, made up of members from Ipswich, Norwich, Leeds, Worcester, Derby and Tunbridge Wells, visited seven different ports throughout the region, stopping off in Germany, Poland, Sweden, Estonia and Finland.

There was plenty on offer, with organised excursions and chances to explore independently at each stop-off.

On board there were interesting talks, crafts sessions and plenty of opportunities to simply find a quiet corner with a book.



Warnemünde, Germany

Ipswich Oddfellows member and host for the fortnight, Wendy Atkins, said:

“We experienced mostly fair weather but more importantly calm seas.

“In each of the ports we observed maritime traditions, stories of war-torn devastation, magnificent architecture and saw evidence of Russian aggression.”

On-board Oddfellowship

Wendy added: “Our group sat together for dinner where we were able to share the experiences of the day and to learn more about Oddfellowship. New friendships were made!

“The Oddfellows party had two organised get-togethers – a welcome hot chocolate and coffee meeting as we sailed and a drinks party when members were able to get to know one another.

“In the evenings there was varied entertainment in the main theatre but also music in the bars to suit all tastes. Of course, there was plenty to eat and drink too!”



Dressed for dinner

Travel in good company

With Oddfellows Travel group holidays, you can travel in confidence and great company. All our group holidays are hosted by an Oddfellows member and we only work with experienced travel partners that we trust.

For more information about Oddfellows Travel and to read the full review go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Our biggest celebration of friendship yet!

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, has expressed her thanks to everyone involved in making 2024's Friendship Month a huge success:

"Once again I am so proud of each and every person at our brilliant Branches for all the efforts they have put into making this year's Friendship Month so wonderful.

"It's hard to believe that this is the 15th time we've claimed September as our month-long celebration of all the benefits

of friendship, but it's safe to say it's been our biggest yet, with over 300 taster events throughout the country – that's a huge amount of work!

"Coffee mornings, walks, talks, music events, meals, games, quizzes, day trips – whatever it might be, you've pulled out all the stops to let the nation know that we're here and ready to offer support, fun and friendship to all."



A day trip to Provender House with Canterbury Oddfellows



Mersey Oddfellows took a walk in Birkenhead



Brighton and Sussex Oddfellows enjoying a coffee morning



Bury St Edmunds Oddfellows getting crafty



Cakes galore at Halifax Oddfellows



Friendship and laughter at Ipswich Oddfellows



Humber Wolds Oddfellows' Teatime get-together

Our survey said...

Earlier this year, we asked a random sample of members about their experience of being an Oddfellow. Thank you to the near 1,500 who took the time to respond to our survey. We really value your thoughts and opinions as they help us to ensure we can continue to improve on what we do.

In terms of overall membership satisfaction, with 10 being 'completely satisfied' and one 'not at all satisfied', the average member gave a score of 8.6, which is wonderful to know. This score is better than the average of other organisations that carry out a similar survey, and is something the Society is very proud of.

Using the same scale, members indicated they were most satisfied with the friendliness and supportiveness of their Branch (8.9), the way their Branch communicates with them (8.9), and that their membership represents value for money (9). Perhaps unsurprisingly, those who indicated they were most satisfied with the friendliness and supportiveness of their Branch, and the face-to-face events on offer, were the most likely to recommend the Oddfellows to someone else.

People also told us why they joined, revealing that the most popular reasons were because friends or family suggested it (55.1%), to attend social events (45.1%) and to make friends (43.6%).

Our monthly meetings are always friendly. We always enjoy some sort of activity and have an uplifting afternoon.

Would be quite nice to be reminded of exactly what benefits are now given/provided. I've been a member for so many years that I have lost track.

I love all the events. My life would be empty and lonely without Oddfellows.

We were also pleased to receive feedback on how we can improve. One thing a number of members suggested we could change is their ability to claim for payment plans against their Dental and Optical Care Benefit. We're pleased to say that this is now possible.

It was also suggested that awareness of support, offers and benefits is quite low, with some members not understanding what they are entitled to.

To learn more about your membership entitlements, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits. Terms and conditions apply.

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 George on **01952 814377** or email george.brotherton@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**

Branch Meetings

Social Branch meetings for the Fountain of Peace/Caradoc Branches
First Monday of the month (except May), 7.30pm, Free

Monthly Branch meeting for The Fountain of Peace and Caradoc Branches.
Newport Parish Rooms, New Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7AX. Contact George on 01952 814377.

6 January
3 February

3 March
7 April

12 May
2 June

7 July

Annual General Meeting Dates 2025

Saturday 5 April, Newport Cottage Care, Upper Bar, Newport TF10 7EH.

Branch Contact Details

Please remember we are here to help

Newport (Fountain of Peace)

George Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 811734

Church Stretton (Caradoc)

Gary Hughes

Telephone: 01694 723169

Parwich (Laurel & Crown)

Bill Whitfield

Telephone: 01335 390571

Hartington (Cavendish)

Jackie Wilton

Telephone: 01298 687123

Care & Welfare Officer:

Janet Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07974 809538

Social Events Organizers:

Glynis Tarr

Telephone: 01952 820693

Christine Williams

Mobile: 07776 357409

Social Media Officer:

Peter Moulard

Telephone: 07955415634

District Secretary:

George Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07487 300449

Email:

george.brotherton@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at  **severnandtrentoddfellows**

 **OddfellowsUK**

At a glance

January 2025

Mon 6	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 9	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Thurs 23	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 25	Skittles with Fish and Chips Supper	7.30pm
Sat 25	Burns Night Evening	8pm

February

Mon 3	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 15	Celebration of the Formation of the Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch	6pm
Sat 15	Valentines Social Evening	8pm
Thurs 20	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Thurs 27	Trip to Stourbridge Glass Museum	10am

March

Mon 3	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Thurs 20	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sun 23	Sunday Lunch at Chapters Lilleshall National Sports Centre	12.30pm
Sat 29	Annual General Meeting	2pm
Sun 30	Car Treasure Hunt	2pm

April

Thurs 3	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 5	Quiz Night with Wine and Cheese Supper	8pm
Mon 7	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 17	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 26	St George's Day Parade	9.45am

May

Thurs 1	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 3	Afternoon of Nostalgia with Music of the 50s, 60s and 70s with a Devonshire Cream Tea	2pm

At a glance

May

Mon 12	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 15	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 17	Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch Outing	9am
Thurs 29	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am

June

Mon 2	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Sat 7	Annual Bowls Competition	1pm
Thurs 12	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Thurs 19	A Day Trip to Seaside	9am
Thurs 26	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 28	Oddfellows Parade Parwich - Wakes Week	9.45am

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

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