

Knot Garden, the Elizabethan Gardens, Plymouth



the ODDfELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

events & news

Plymouth and Truro District

September 2025 - February 2026

Bossiney Haven, near Tintagel, Cornwall



We hope you can join us for our social events! See pages 3-8 for more info

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth and Truro District Branch Events Diary. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

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.

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

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

District Secretary:
Peter English

Address:
The Oddfellows Hall,
49 Green Lane, Redruth,
Cornwall TR15 1LL

Telephone: 01209 200810

Email:
peter.english@oddfellows.co.uk

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

A bit about us...

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

September 2025 – Friendship Month

Tuesday 2 – Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. We vary them from month to month, but include old favourites like beetle drives, duck racing, card bingo, cards and quizzes. Always accompanied with a cuppa and a biscuit. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Friendship Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 3 September 2025, 10.30am

Mollies Coffee Shop, 41 Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AW

Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat at Mollies Coffee Shop. Everyone welcome to join us and while away an hour between 10.30am to 11.30am. Cost as per menu. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.



Wednesday 3 – Truro Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. Everyone gets a say on what we do next, but the events can include: Animal boules, duck racing, card bingo, quizzes and group board games. Tea or coffee available with a charity raffle. **Address:** Kea Community Centre, Old Coach Road, Playing Place, Truro TR3 6ET. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Thursday 4 – Plymouth Friendship Group, 1.30pm

This is a small group that needs your support to continue – join in with some fun games. Varied games including Countdown, Family Fortunes, beetle drive, cards and quizzes. Coffee or tea, everyone welcome. **Address:** The St Budeaux Community Centre, Wolseley Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1UD. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Half Yearly District Meeting

Saturday 6 September 2025, 12 noon

Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL

The Half Yearly District Meeting – a full business meeting with selection of District Officers for 2026. Reports from the Annual Movable Conference (AMC) and Southern Group Conference will be presented by Deputies. All members welcome to attend, but as lunch is supplied, confirmation of intention to attend is required by Tuesday 26 August 2025. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Devonport Naval Heritage Centre Tour

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 10.30am

Vivid Approach - off Granby Bay,
Devonport, Plymouth PL1 4RW



Join us for an exciting tour of the Naval Heritage Centre - no charge, but a donation appreciated. Book by Wednesday 3 September 2025. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791.

October

Wednesday 1 - Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat at Mollies Coffee Shop. Everyone welcome to join us and while away an hour between 10.30am to 11.30am. Cost as per menu. **Address:** Mollies Coffee Shop, 41 Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AW. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.

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Tuesday 7 - Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. We vary them from month to month, but include old favourites like beetle drives, duck racing, card bingo, cards and quizzes. Always accompanied with a cuppa and a biscuit. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Plymouth Gin Tour

Monday 13 October 2025, 2.30pm

Plymouth Gin Distillery Tour, Black Friars Distillery, 60 Southside Street, The Barbican Plymouth PL1 2LQ

Join us for a tour of the oldest working distillery in England, to see the famous Plymouth gin being produced and maybe even try a sample or two. Book by Wednesday 3 September 2025. **Cost:** £15. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791.



November

Tuesday 4 - Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. We vary them from month to month, but include old favourites like beetle drives, duck racing, card bingo, cards and quizzes. Always accompanied with a cuppa and a biscuit. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Wednesday 5 - Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

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Thursday 6 - Plymouth Friendship Group, 1.30pm

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Chairman's Luncheon

Saturday 15 November 2025, 12 noon

Penventon Hotel, West End, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1TE

We will be holding a celebration lunch for the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) at the Penventon Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend, but it is strictly by booking only to the Provincial Corresponding Secretary by Monday 3 November 2025. Menu choices will be circulated. Cost as per menu. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.



Wednesday 26 - Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market, 12 noon

Join us for a walk around this wonderful Christmas market. Set in the grounds of Exeter Cathedral. Own or public transport needed to get to the event. Book by Wednesday 5 November 2025. **Address:** Exeter Christmas Market, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter EX1 1HS. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791.



December

Wednesday 3 - Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat at Mollies Coffee Shop. Everyone welcome to join us and while away an hour between 10.30am to 11.30am. Cost as per menu. **Address:** Mollies Coffee Shop, 41 Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AW. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.

Cornwall Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 3 December 2025, 12 noon

Penventon Hotel, West End, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1TE

A Christmas lunch will be held at the Penventon Hotel in Redruth. Everyone is welcome, however a deposit of £10 must be made by Monday 24 November 2025 to guarantee your booking. Along with menu choices. Cost as per menu. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.



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January 2026

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Thursday 8 - Plymouth Friendship Group, 1.30pm

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Beryl Cook Exhibition

Thursday 29 January 2026, 11am

The Box, Tavistock Place, Plymouth PL4 8AX

The Box are putting on a display of this wonderful amusing artists work and its free to go along and view, so please join us on this adventure Book by Thursday 22 January 2026. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791.



February

Tuesday 3 - Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

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Chinese Lunch

Monday 16 February 2026, 12 noon

Wet Wok, 75 Hoe Road,
Plymouth PL1 3DE

Fancy a wonderful Chinese meal, then join us at the Wet Wok for great food and a great social get together. Book by Wednesday 4 February 2026. Cost as per menu. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791.



traditional meetings

The Oddfellows have been around for over 200 years and have a rich history and tradition. The following meetings are aimed at preserving those traditions.



Held on the third Friday of the month at 7.30pm. This is a full Ceremonial Lodge, which keeps the traditions of the Society alive. The meeting is presided over by the Noble Grand (Chairman) and the Lodge officers. Traditional odes are sung and business may be conducted. Everyone is welcome to come along and either observe or join in with the proceedings. Refreshments follow the meeting and where time permits social activities could follow. Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

**17 October 2025
21 November 2025**

**19 December 2025
16 January 2026**

20 February 2026

Business Meetings - First Thursday of the month, 10.30am

The business meetings keep the traditions of the Society alive, but welcome anyone who would care to join us. The meetings although formal do allow friends to catch up. We tend to arrive about 10am for a chance to have a coffee before we start. The St Budeaux Community Centre, Wolseley Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1UD. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

**4 September 2025
2 October 2025**

**6 November 2025
4 December 2025**

**8 January 2026
5 February 2026**

Sunday Lunch Get Together

East Cornwall along with Pride of the West members from Plymouth still meet every six weeks for a Sunday Lunch get together. Katherine Hicks-Jane has been organising these events for well over 20 years now and it gives everyone a chance to have a social get together. The group move around the many local hostelrys in search of the best Sunday lunches so ensuring a chance to try somewhere new that you may not go alone. If you are interested in coming along then please give Katherine a call, she will then let you know where and when the group will be next meeting.



For further information contact Katherine on 01752 296291

'Anchors Aweigh!' Plymouth Oddfellows Support Disabled Sailing Charity

The Plymouth Oddfellows are proud to lend their support to a remarkable local charity, the Plymouth and Devon Schools Sailing Association (PDSSA) which opens up the joy of sailing to people with disabilities.

The Association operates two specially adapted Drascombe Longboats, each designed to give those with a wide range of disabilities the chance to experience sailing around the beautiful Plymouth Sound.

While the Oddfellows contribute nationally to major causes like the RNLI and cancer research, they also champion smaller local charities. The inspiring work of the PDSSA recently came to their attention, prompting a meaningful donation.

Thanks to this support, the PDSSA received a new anchor, a length of heavy-duty rope and a rope bag, all presented to Mike Duffield MBE, President of the Association and Richard Curtis, skipper of one of the boats.

Mike shared that over the summer season the Association enables around 45 people with disabilities to get out on the water. "We welcome participants with a range of challenges from hearing and sight impairments to amputations and stroke recovery and help them discover the freedom of sailing," he said.

Richard also highlighted the crucial role of their third vessel, a RIB rescue boat, and praised the dedication of their 20 volunteers, all highly qualified to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.





Coffee, Cake, Crowds and Community Magic!

The recent Open House at Redruth's Oddfellows Hall on Green Lane has been hailed as the best one yet, as members of the Friendly Society and guests crowding in for a morning of refreshments, laughter and good company.

A hardworking team of Oddfellows volunteers kept the tea and coffee flowing, while a tempting array of home-baked treats stole the show. From the ever-popular Cornish hevva cake to charming Easter chick cupcakes, rich fruit cake, chocolate biscuits, and fresh fruit, there was something for every sweet tooth and all free of charge!

Guests also tested their knowledge with a fun tabletop quiz, with winners diving into a lucky dip of carefully wrapped prizes - adding extra excitement to an



already joyful morning. There was even an international twist, as friends visiting from the Netherlands joined in, adding to the event's warm and welcoming vibe.

Oddfellows Discover 'Rubbish Ruth'

Members of the Oddfellows Friendship Group were recently treated to an engaging talk by fellow member and local councillor Ruth Major, better known in the media as 'Rubbish Ruth'.

Ruth Major, who now lives in Cornwall, began her litter-picking campaign in 2017. After increasing public interest, she named

the initiative 'Beautify Britain'. Determined to make a difference, Ruth picks up at least one piece of litter each day, using her free bus pass to travel across the country promoting cleaner communities. She actively shares her efforts on social media platforms like Threads and Facebook, inspiring many others to take up the cause and join in keeping Britain beautiful.



New Venue for Truro Friendship Group

The Truro Friendship Group meets at a new venue with effect the first Wednesday in September – commencing at 2pm Wednesday 3 September 2025.

The modern facilities at the Kea Community Centre, Old Coach Road, Playing Place, Truro TR3 6ET and the ground floor Stockley Room has direct access to a well equipped kitchen with a microwave, fridge and dishwasher, plus ample crockery and cutlery.



There is also easy access to the toilet facilities which includes a disabled toilet. There is plenty of parking and the centre is served by local buses. Why not come along and enjoy the fun and bring a friend as well?

Plymouth Oddfellows Gather at Edgcumbe Court

On a bright and sunny day, members of the Oddfellows Friendly Society in Plymouth came together at Edgcumbe Court for a regular meeting of the Pride of the West with Saint Andrew's Oddfellows Lodge. After coffee, the meeting commenced under the leadership of Brenda Lowe, the Noble

Grand (Chairperson) who expressed her gratitude to the Immediate Past Noble Grand, Michael O'Leary, for his arrangements that allowed the meeting to take place at this alternate location on this occasion rather than the usual venue at Saint Budeaux Hall.

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

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

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

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

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 Peter on **01209 200810** or email peter.english@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**

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 Harmer 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

September 2025 - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Wed 3	Friendship Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 3	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 4	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 4	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Sat 6	Half Yearly District Meeting	12 noon
Wed 17	Devonport Naval Heritage Centre Tour	10.30am


October

Wed 1	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 1	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 2	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 2	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Tues 7	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Mon 13	Plymouth Gin Tour	2.30pm
Fri 17	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm

November

Tues 4	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Wed 5	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 5	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 6	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 6	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Sat 15	Chairman's Luncheon	12 noon
Fri 21	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm
Wed 26	Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market	12 noon

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  OddfellowsUK

At a glance

December

Wed 3	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 3	Cornwall Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Thurs 4	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 4	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Fri 19	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm

January 2026

Tues 6	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Wed 7	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 7	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 8	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 8	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Fri 16	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm
Thurs 29	Beryl Cook Exhibition	11am

February

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Wed 4	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 5	Plymouth Business Meeting	10.30am
Thurs 5	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Mon 16	Chinese Lunch	12 noon
Fri 20	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy. Give one a try.

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

Front cover: Bossiney Haven, Cornwall by Derek Voller and Knot Garden, Plymouth by Christine Johnstone. Both images are licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

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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