

January - June 2025



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

out & about

Handforth and Altrincham



Day Trip



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Friendship



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Online



Garrick Theatre 'Beautiful The Carole King - Monday 23 June

Welcome to the new edition of your Out and About for the Handforth and Altrincham Branch of The Oddfellows.

As a local Branch of the national membership organisation the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them.

We have arranged an exciting calendar of events for 2025 so you can meet up with friends and to make some new ones.

Contact Details

District Secretary:
Sharon Hulse Cottle

Telephone: 01925 758117

Email:
sharon.hulsecottle@oddfellows.co.uk

Address:
8 Venables Way,
High Legh, Knutsford,
Cheshire WA16 6LY

Events are unfortunately sometimes subject to change, so it's really important to book in for events so Sharon can get in touch with you if there are any changes.

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**.

Regular Events

New - Knutsford Coffee Morning at Fryers Garden Centre

Third Tuesday of the month



11am



Cost of coffee and cake



Brand new monthly coffee morning starting in Knutsford. Come and make some new Knutsford friends at this fabulous local garden centre. Please book in advance. Fryers Garden Centre, Knutsford Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0SX. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

21 January

22 April

18 February

20 May

18 March

17 June

Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café

First Monday of the month



11am



Cost of coffee and cake



Join our monthly Altrincham coffee morning and catch up with your Oddfellow friends and make some new ones. Please book in advance. The Range, Unit 8, George Richards Way, Altrincham, Macclesfield WA14 5GR. Please check local parking. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

6 January

7 April

3 February

Tues 6 May

3 March

2 June

Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre

Second Tuesday of the month



11am



Cost of coffee and cake



Catch up with Macclesfield friends at our monthly coffee morning meeting up at the local family run garden centre. Please book in advance Fairways Garden Centre, Bullocks Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield SK11 0HE. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

14 January

15 April

11 February

13 May

11 March

10 June

Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre

Fourth Monday of the month



11am



Cost of coffee and cake



Join our big table of Wilmslow friends meeting up at our monthly coffee morning at this fab garden centre. Please book in advance. Wilmslow Garden Centre, Manchester Road, Wilmslow SK9 2JN. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

Fri 31 January

28 April

24 February

Tues 27 May

24 March

30 June

January 2025

THURS
09

Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Happy New Year



10.30am



Free



Say 'Happy New Year' to your Oddfellow friends around the country. Zoom Meeting ID: 771 7658 7130. Passcode: 3uviQh. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

SUN
19

Chinese New Year Extravaganza at The Altrincham Garrick



2.30pm



Tickets are £23.50



Sit back and be entertained on a January afternoon and celebrate the 'Year of the Snake' with a spectacular line-up of colourful and fun Chinese entertainment, including cheerful lions, playful pandas and the 18 metre dragon illuminating the stage and bringing everyone joy and blessings for the lunar New Year. Book by Wednesday 1 January. Garrick Theatre, Barrington Road, Altrincham WA14 1HZ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

SUN
26

Sunday Lunch at The Three Greyhounds Pub in Allostock



1pm



As per menu



Book in quickly for our popular Sunday lunches. For our first one this year we are visiting The Three Greyhounds Pub, a warm, relaxing and friendly pub serving freshly cooked and locally sourced food. We are looking forward to trying their Three Greyhounds 'favourite' Sunday lunch. Cost as per menu - payable on the day. Book by Wednesday 1 January. The Three Greyhounds Pub, Holmes Chapel Road, Allostock, Cheshire WA16 9JY. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

Booking and Cancellations:

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

January 2025

February

WED
29

Celebrate Chinese New Year at The Choy Hing Village in Grappenhall



1pm



As per menu



Wishing everyone 'Gong Hei Fat Choy' today for Chinese New Year – the year of the snake. Come along and celebrate



with a delicious three course Chinese meal and your Oddfellows friends. Cost as per menu – payable on the day. Book by Monday 27 January. Choy Hing Village, 97 Knutsford Road, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2NS. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

February

MON
03

Altrincham Coffee Morning and Easter Chick Knit, the Range's Café



11am



Coffee and cake



Join friends meeting up today at our monthly Altrincham coffee morning. We'll be joined again by the ladies from Altrincham's knitting group to start the 'Easter Chick Knit' for the Chick Appeal. Thousands of knitted Easter chicks are filled with a crème egg and sold to raise funds for Francis House Children's Hospice in Manchester. Please ask Sharon for the pattern if you are not able to come along. Do come if you knit or not – coffee and cake and friendly chat always on the go. Cost: Coffee and cake – payable on the day. Book by Friday 31 January. The Range, Unit 8, George Richards Way, Altrincham, Macclesfield WA14 5GR. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

FRI
07

Lunch at Woodside Golf Club in Cranage



1pm



As per menu



Join us for a light lunch with a lovely selection of jacket potatoes, panini's, flat breads,



sandwiches, scamp, pie and chips at this beautiful local golf course, recommended by our friend Joan. Cost as per menu – payable on the day. Please book in early with Sharon as we have to provide a pre-order beforehand by Monday 3 February. Woodside Golf Club, Knutsford Road, Cranage, Cheshire CW4 8HJ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



February

FRI
14

Online Zoom Valentine's Day Coffee Morning



Celebrate Valentine's Day with your Oddfellows friends from all around the country, with a lovely fun quiz. Zoom Meeting ID: 710 6761 5550. Passcode: 4BFEv3. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



THURS
20

Indoor Bowling and Lunch at Goostrey Methodist Church Hall



Back by popular demand. Come and join us for a buffet lunch and fun afternoon of 'informal' indoor bowling - all cosy and inside.



Cost: £5 per person for bowling and lunch. Book by Friday 14 February. Goostrey Methodist Church Hall, Main Road, Goostrey, Crewe CW4 8PA. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

THURS
27

Talk by Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis Charity



Our friend Hilda has very kindly drawn our attention to this very worthwhile charity and the amazing work they do to support people living with pulmonary fibrosis and to assist research into treatments and ultimately a cure. Did you know that pulmonary fibrosis affects 70,000 people in the UK? Come along, we'll be joined by Andy Bright from the charity to tell us more. Cake, tea and coffee will be provided and donations to the charity would be welcome. Book by Monday 24 February. Lostock Gralam Community Centre, 14 Stubbs Lane, Lostock Grahnam, Northwich CW9 7PU. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

March

TUES
04

Branch Meeting and Annual Summoned Meeting



11.30am



Free



Everyone is welcome to our March Branch meeting and presentation of the 2024 accounts at the Annual Summoned Meeting following at 12 noon. Refreshments provided. Book by Friday 28 February. Lostock Gralam Community Centre, 14 Stubbs Lane, Lostock Gralam, Northwich CW9 7PU. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

THURS
06

Online Zoom Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Catch up with your Oddfellow friends from all around the country. Zoom Meeting ID: 729 1382 5658. Passcode: 8CxbM4. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



FRI
14

Lunch at Aspire South Trafford College in Altrincham



12 noon



Two course £13, Three course £16

Back by popular demand. Join us for lunch prepared and served by the students at



South Trafford College - you'll be in for a real treat and wonderful experience. Book with Sharon early by Saturday 1 March. Aspire Restaurant at Trafford College, Manchester Road, Broadheath, Altrincham WA14 5PQ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

SUN
23

Sunday Lunch at The Dog in Over Peover



1pm



As per menu



Book quickly to join our Sunday lunch table, this month we are visiting The Dog in Peover for a delicious seasonal Sunday lunch with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Cost as per menu - payable on the day. Book early to secure your place by Saturday 1 March. The Dog, Wellbank Lane, Over Peover, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8UP. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

March

TUES
25

Garrick Theatre 'A Man of No Importance'



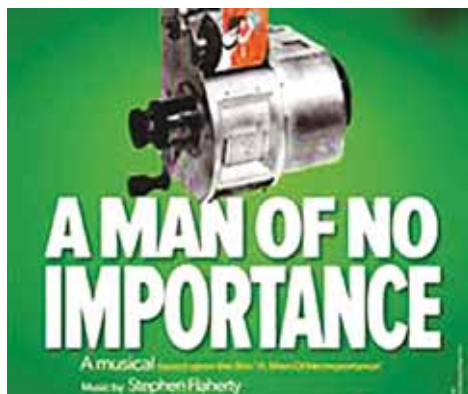
7.30pm



£16.50



A musical comedy about an am dram group facing opposition from the church set in Dublin in 1964. Book by Monday 10 February. Garrick Theatre, Barrington Road, Altrincham WA14 1HZ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



April

WED
02

Visit to local Garden Nursery E Smith & Son in Lymm



11am



Free



Thanks to our friend Anne, we have arranged a visit to local family nursery, E Smith and Son in Lymm and for her daughter Sarah to show us around the nursery and the stunning plants they have there. Started in 1959 when Edwin began growing bedding plants, after purchasing more land and building greenhouses, they are still growing their own plants 60 years on. Followed by a coffee or lunch in Lymm if people have the time to stay on afterwards. Book by Friday 28 March. E Smith & Son, The Nurseries, Booths Lane, Lymm Cheshire WA13 0PF. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



April

WED
09

Talk by Tony Ashton 'The Bomber and the Weathervane' at High Legh Village Hall

L 11am

£ £7.50



Thanks to our friend Joy for suggesting the wonderful author, Tony Ashton to come and talk to us about his book 'The Bomber and the Weathervane' a fascinating true story of how the discovery of an old beaten weathervane, fashioned in the shape of a WWII Lancaster bomber linked to a bomber that was shot down over Berlin in 1944, with all crew lost. The dedication of the weathervane as a formal war memorial by the International Bomber Command Centre, the discovery of the crash site in Germany and the unveiling of a plaque at the crash site.



Come and hear all about it. Cost: £7.50 per person including refreshments. Book by Friday 4 April. High Legh Village Hall, West Lane, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6LR. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

THURS
17

Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Happy Easter

L 10.30am

£ Free



Catch up with your online Oddfellows friendship for a fun Easter chat today. Zoom Meeting ID: 783 8315 5482. Passcode: 8fEdNx. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

TUES
29

Garrick Theatre 'Little Gem'

L 7.30pm

£ £14.50 a ticket



Love, sex, birth, death and salsa classes. Three generations of women. One extraordinary year. Book by Thursday 17 March. Garrick Theatre, Barrington Road, Altrincham WA14 1HZ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



See page 3 for our regular coffee events

May

THURS
08

Online Zoom Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Catch up with your online Oddfellow friends this month. Zoom Meeting ID: 711 1634 6569. Passcode: 5vcyqe. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



THURS
15

Coffee Morning at The Brew Station at Petty Pool - joined by Susi Osborne to talk about Northwich Lit Fest 2025



10.45am



Coffee and
cake



We are meeting up in Northwich this month at Petty Pool's coffee shop, run by learners from Petty Pool as work experience. Petty Pool is a Vocational College since 1999 for students with learning disabilities. Its aims are to provide 'an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to learn new skills, build confidence and provide tasty refreshments to people visiting the area.



 **Petty Pool**

We will be joined by Susi Osborne (author and Northwich Lit Fest founder), who is coming to chat to us over coffee about the exciting plans for this year's Northwich Lit Fest. Cost: Coffee and cake – payable on the day. Book by Wednesday 14 May. Petty Pool, Pool Lane, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2DR. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

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**  **OddfellowsUK**

May

WED
21

Branch Meeting



11am



Free



You are all welcome to come along to our May Branch meeting and find out about the workings of our Branch. Please let Sharon know if you are coming. The Jubilee Centre, The Firs, Bowdon, Altrincham WA14 2TQ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

Further events are being added, see:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

June

WED
04

Lunch at The Swettenham Arms



1pm



As per menu



Join us for a lovely lunch at The Swettenham Arms and see their amazing lavender fields as a stunning backdrop with its beautiful



perfume scenting the air. Cost as per menu - payable on the day. Book by Monday 26 May. The Swettenham Arms, Swettenham Lane, Swettenham Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2LF. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

SUN
25

Sunday Lunch at The Axe and Cleaver in Altrincham



1pm



As per menu



Book fast for this month's Sunday lunch, this month re-visiting the Axe and Cleaver to try their Sunday roasts, all served with sausage meat stuffing and gravy, roast potatoes, with lots of seasonal vegetables, as well as their county pub classics and puddings

for you to choose from. Cost as per menu - payable on the day. Book early to secure your place by Thursday 1 May. The Axe & Cleaver, School Lane, Dunham Massey, Altrincham WA14 4SE. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



June

TUES
17

Roses Talk and Lunch at Fryers Garden Centre



11am



As per menu,
Talk TBC



A special visit this month, as we will be joined by Kate, an experienced rose expert from Fryers to talk to us about Roses 'the basics and beyond' - looking at the different types of roses and explaining the difference between floribundas, hybrid teas as well as climbers, shrubs and patio roses.

We'll also learn about planting, pruning and aftercare of roses. There will be time for questions as well - followed by lunch in the restaurant if you want to stay on. Cost as per menu - payable on the day and cost for talk to be confirmed. Book by Monday 16 June. Fryers Garden Centre, Knutsford Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0SX. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

FRI
20

Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Celebrating the King's Birthday



10.30am



Free



Did you know that King Charles became the oldest monarch ever crowned in British history? Join us online for a friendly catch up and fun quiz to celebrate the King's birthday. Zoom Meeting ID: 741 2088 3587. Passcode: 8P3jT6. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.



MON
23

Ice cream at The Little Cowshed in Brereton



11am



Cost of
ice-cream



Join us for a fun ice-cream morning at this unique posh cow shed, filled daily with fresh milk from the Dale families dairy herd and try a seasonal milkshake, coffee or hot chocolate, an artisan ice-cream or a sweet treat from a selection of handmade cakes and cookies, sat outside with a stunning view of the pasture beyond. Cost: Ice-cream - payable on the day. Payment is contactless. Book by Friday 20 June. The Little Cow Shed, Wood View, Davenport Lane, Brereton Heath, Cheshire CW12 4SU. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

June

MON
23

Garrick Theatre 'Beautiful The Carole King Musical'



7.30pm



£20 a ticket



Telling the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, the chart-topping hits she wrote for the biggest acts in music with her husband, her relationship with fellow writers and best friends, to her own life-changing, trailblazing success with Tapestry – Beautiful: The Carole King Musical takes you back to where it all began. This is a show filled with songs you remember and a story you'll not forget. Book by Monday 12 May. Garrick Theatre, Barrington Road, Altrincham WA14 1HZ. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

WED
25

Visit to The Blackden Trust



2pm



£15
(Including refreshments)



We have arranged a visit to the amazing re-located tudor Old Medicine House and it's surrounding gardens. Re-built by local author Alan Garner and his wife Griselda. Come and find out about Alan Garner's intriguing link to The Oddfellows in this guided tour of the house, starting off with a short slide show of the construction and history of the house and then a look round the rooms, giving an insight into its history. One room has items displayed found on the surrounding land indicating human occupation for ten thousand years. The building which was originally at Wrinehill, southeast of Crewe was due for demolition back in 1970 despite it being a Grade II building dating from the early 16th century.

The building was rescued by Alan Garner who bought the house for £1. It was dismantled and rebuilt adjacent to the historic half timbered Toad Hall, where the Garner family has lived since 1957. The building has provided the location for the plot of Garner's 2021 Booker Prize nominated novel 'Treacle Walker'. Finishing off our visit with tea, coffee and cake. Cost: £15 (including refreshments). Book by Monday 16 June. The Old Medicine House, Holmes Chapel, Blackden Heath, Cheshire CW4 8BY. Contact Sharon on 01925 758117.

All in all, a great 2024!



Altrincham coffee morning



Altrincham coffee morning



Altrincham in Bloom walk



Coffee with the Oddfellows cuddly pigs



Ice cream at Bidlea Dairy



Medical detection dogs talk



Ann on BBC's Morning Live in September



Indoor bowling and lunch with the BBC



With BBC's Morning Live

All in all, a great 2024!



Lunch in Altrincham



Macclesfield coffee morning



Macclesfield coffee morning



Macclesfield coffee morning



Talk by the Knutsford Food Bank



Wilmslow coffee morning

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with Sharon to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

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

Nominate a fellow member for the Society's **Making a Difference Awards**

Do you know a special member who has gone above and beyond to help others, raise money for good causes or run your Branch?

We're encouraging members to put these special people forward for national recognition!

Speak to your Branch Secretary about how to nominate or find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**
Award

1MADAA60724

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 Sharon by phone on **01925 758117** or email sharon.hulsecottle@oddfellows.co.uk

 **the Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people
www.oddfellows.co.uk

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Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.

Bring friendship to your front room



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

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 21 January, 7pm - Eating Healthy on a Budget

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 831 3197 2367. Passcode: 068189.

Friday 7 February, 2pm - The North Shields Fishermen's Heritage Project or Never Retire

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Sharon Hulse Cottle
Secretary

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 Geysers 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

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 **Sharon** on **01925 758117** or email **sharon.hulsecottle@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**

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.

At a glance - See page 3 for our regular coffee events

January 2025

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| Mon 6 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Thurs 9 | Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Happy New Year | 10.30am |
| Tues 14 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Sun 19 | Chinese New Year Extravaganza at The Altrincham Garrick | 2.30pm |
| Tues 21 | Monthly Knutsford Coffee Morning at Fryers Garden Centre | 11am |
| Sun 26 | Sunday Lunch at The Three Greyhounds Pub in Allostock | 1pm |
| Mon 27 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |
| Wed 29 | Chinese New Year at The Choy Hing Village in Grappenhall | 1pm |

February

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Mon 3 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Fri 7 | Lunch at Woodside Golf Club in Cranage | 1pm |
| Tues 11 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Fri 14 | Online Zoom Valentine's Day Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Tues 18 | Monthly Knutsford Coffee Morning at Fryers Garden Centre | 11am |
| Thurs 20 | Indoor Bowling and Lunch at Goostrey Methodist Church Hall | 12.30pm |
| Mon 24 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |
| Thurs 27 | Talk by Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis Charity | 12 noon |

March

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| Mon 3 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Tues 4 | Branch Meeting and Annual Summoned Meeting | 11.30am |
| Thurs 6 | Online Zoom Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Tues 11 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Fri 14 | Lunch at Aspire South Trafford College in Altrincham | 12 noon |
| Tues 18 | Monthly Knutsford Coffee Morning at Fryers Garden Centre | 11am |
| Sun 23 | Sunday Lunch at The Dog in Over Peover | 1pm |
| Mon 24 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |
| Tues 25 | Garrick Theatre 'A Man of No Importance' | 7.30pm |

At a glance - See page 3 for our regular coffee events

April

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Wed 2 | Visit to local Garden Nursery E Smith & Son in Lymm | 11am |
| Mon 7 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Wed 9 | Talk 'The Bomber and the Weathervane' at High Legh Village Hall | 11am |
| Tues 15 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Thurs 17 | Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Happy Easter | 10.30am |
| Tues 22 | Monthly Knutsford Coffee Morning at Fryers Garden Centre | 11am |
| Mon 28 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |
| Tues 29 | Garrick Theatre 'Little Gem' | 7.30pm |

May

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Tues 6 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Thurs 8 | Online Zoom Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Tues 13 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Thurs 15 | Coffee Morning at The Brew Station at Petty Pool - joined by Susi Osborne to talk about Northwich Lit Fest 2025 | 10.45am |
| Wed 21 | Branch Meeting | 11am |
| Sun 25 | Sunday Lunch at The Axe and Cleaver in Altrincham | 1pm |
| Tues 27 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |

June

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| Mon 2 | Monthly Altrincham Coffee Morning at The Range's Café | 11am |
| Wed 4 | Lunch at The Swettenham Arms | 1pm |
| Tues 10 | Monthly Macclesfield Coffee Morning at Fairways Garden Centre | 11am |
| Tues 17 | Roses Talk and Lunch at Fryers Garden Centre | 11am |
| Fri 20 | Online Zoom Coffee Morning - Celebrating the King's Birthday | 10.30am |
| Mon 23 | Ice cream at The Little Cowshed in Brereton | 11am |
| Mon 23 | Garrick Theatre 'Beautiful The Carole King Musical' | 7.30pm |
| Wed 25 | Visit to The Blackden Trust | 2pm |
| Mon 30 | Monthly Wilmslow Coffee Morning at Wilmslow Garden Centre | 11am |

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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