November 2026 – April 2027

THE ODDFELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Cambridge District



Hinchingbrooke House, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Dining Out
Games
Trips
Talks
Music/Concerts
Social
Quiz
Meetings
Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

A very warm welcome to the latest Cambridge District newsletter, which covers Christmas and early Spring.

You will find a variety of events for you to attend during that time and of course if the weather is appalling during the colder months, you can always join us online. Please do note where the events will be held and the cost, as this may change depending on the event-and don't forget to book your place with either Linda or Hannah as soon as possible.

You suggested and we listened

Following feedback regarding the coffee mornings, Royston Coffee morning will be returning to Bury Lane Farm Shop from January, instead of its current venue.

All other coffee mornings remain at the same time and place. They provide a lovely opportunity to catch up with other Oddfellows but in your local area. If you haven't tried it yet, why not make it your New Year's resolution to give it a go? We'd love to meet you!

Friendship Month Celebrations

A big Oddfellows thank you to everyone who joined us at any of our Friendship Month events in September. It was wonderful to see so many people, some new faces as well as some familiar ones, but all enjoying the activities together.

Cambridge Feedback suggested that the Death in Disguise event in Cambridge was superb. It was interesting, entertaining and every member of the Jury gave their verdict!

Huntingdon Another event that the audience thoroughly enjoyed. A step back to the 1960s with Paul Lillie who gave us the history of, and songs from the Beatles and all whilst painting a beautiful picture of the Fab Four! And the perfect ending to both events was the free Fish & Chips -hot and perfectly cooked in a van just outside the door! We think you would agree that the Fish & Chips went down very well!

With all our events, word of mouth makes all the difference, so thank you to anyone who recommended us and please continue to spread the word and encourage more new people to come along and feel the fun!

Once again Christmas is peeking round the corner and we have two beautiful Christmas events for you to enjoy. Have a look at the information in this booklet for more details. Don't delay, book your place today!

Finally, all of us at Cambridge District Lodge would like to be the first to wish every one of you a very joyful Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2027.

Linda & Hannah



Your Branch Needs You!



Have your say!

Oddfellows brings people together to build friendships and create lasting connections, but to enable that, we need to have a strong committee to help shape the future.

Join our Committee of Management

The Committee meets once a month to discuss ideas, explore opportunities and help the branch run smoothly and successfully. Meetings are held in the afternoon, last around two hours and always finish with refreshments.

Make your voice count

Share your views and ideas, influence future priorities and work with fellow members to help the branch thrive. By working together, we can achieve so much more than we could alone!

Contact Details



Secretary:
Linda Miller

Telephone:
01223 351197

Email:
linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk



Social Organiser:
Hannah Bath

Telephone:
07599 848221

Email:
hannah.bath@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
131 Newmarket Road,
Cambridge CB5 8HA.

f CambridgeOddfellows

If you have been an Oddfellows member for at least two years and are ready to take a more active role, we would love to hear from you!

Whatever your age or background, your experience and perspective can make a real difference.

Interested?

Contact **Linda** on **01223 351197** or email **Linda.Miller@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Get involved and help us make a difference.

Regular Events

Brampton Coffee Club

10.30am | £ Free

Second Monday of the month

Don't be bored and lonely! Make a change and join us for coffee and cake in a welcoming atmosphere to chat to new people and make new friends. Notcutts Garden Centre, Buckden Road, Brampton, Huntingdon PE28 4NF. Contact Hannah on 07599 848221.

9 November 2026
14 December 2026
11 January 2027
8 February 2027
8 March 2027
12 April 2027

Royston Coffee Club

10.30am | £ Free

Fourth Monday of the month

Do something different today and join us for coffee and cake in a welcoming atmosphere to chat to new people and make new friends. You won't be sorry you did! Bury Lane Farm Shop, Off the A10, Meldreth, Royston SG8 6GT. Contact Hannah on 07599 848221.

25 January 2027
22 February 2027
22 March 2027
26 April 2027

Ely Coffee Club

10.30am | £ Cost of refreshments

First Wednesday of the month

Join us for relaxed refreshments in this central venue with a welcoming atmosphere to have a chat and make new friends. The Yard, 35A Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PG. Contact Hannah on 07599 848221.

4 November 2026
2 December 2026
6 January 2027
3 February 2027
3 March 2027
7 April 2027

St Neots Coffee Club

10.30am | £ Free

First Thursday of the month

Want to make a new friend or two? It's easy! Meet us for coffee and gossip at The Ferro Lounge, 21-23 Market Square, St Neots PE19 2AR. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

5 November 2026
3 December 2026
7 January 2027
4 February 2027
4 March 2027
1 April 2027

November 2026



THURS 12 Neil Hanson - Ghost Writer

2pm | £ Members £2 Guests £5 | Q&A

Neil Hanson is a successful author, with 70 published books to his name. As well as his own, much-acclaimed work, he's also a ghost writer. His clients include showbiz legends, a famous cricketer, a most famous actor and the notable bravery of a soldier as well as other remarkable people and extraordinary deeds. Refreshments provided. Book by Monday 9 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

MON 23 Royston Coffee Club at The Manor House



10.30am | £ Free

Do something different today and join us for coffee and cake in a welcoming atmosphere to chat to new people and make new friends. You won't be sorry you did! The Manor House - Wetherspoons, 14 Melbourn Street, Royston SG8 7BZ. Contact Hannah on 07599 848221.

THURS 26 Huntingdon Christmas Party!



12 noon | £ Members £15, Guests £20

To kick off our Christmas celebrations, we have our Huntingdon Christmas party! The Christmas dinner boxes are back! Plus we'll be entertained by the local infant school choir, singing their favourite Christmas songs, then the star of our show, the fabulous Lestyn Edwards. After that extravaganza, we'll be getting creative with the lovely Julie, who will help us make festive table-top wreaths to take home. Booking your ticket is essential, so make sure you reserve your place by Tuesday 17 November 2026. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

December

THURS 10

Cambridge Christmas Party!

12 noon

£ Members £25
Guests £30



Our Cambridge Festive celebration will begin with a welcome drink, before being seated for your hot two-course Christmas meal, with wine or a soft drink. You will be entertained this year by the local children's school choir and the lovely Ann-Marie, a local live singer, making it the perfect opportunity to relax, enjoy good company and get into the Christmas spirit. This is a ticketed event and booking is essential by Wednesday 25 November 2026. Cambridge Victoria Homes, 38 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3DX. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.



January 2027

THURS 14

Jason Middleton - Gemstone Expert

2pm

£ Members £2
Guests £5

Q A



Ever wondered what your jewellery is really worth, how to care for it, or what those little marks and details mean? Join us for an informative and entertaining talk exploring the fascinating world of personal jewellery. With plenty of audience participation, you'll pick up tips, discover more about your treasured pieces and perhaps see your jewellery in a whole new light! Book by Monday 11 January 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

January 2027

THURS 28

From Crime to Cinema

2pm | £ Members £2 Guests £5 | Q&A



What's it really like to appear on the big screen? Join Robert Brewer as he shares his fascinating journey from the police to life as a TV and film extra in retirement. With seven years of experience, Robert will take us behind the scenes, share stories from some of the productions he's worked on and explain how you could get involved too. You never know, you might just spot Robert in your favourite programme! Refreshments provided. Book by Monday 25 January 2027. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

February

THURS 11

Early Valentine's Meal

12.30pm | £ Free



It's our Nearly Valentine's Day celebration! Kick start 2027 with us at the Robin Hood Pub! We guarantee a huge warm welcome, a delicious meal and great company will be waiting for you and your friends. What are you waiting for? Booking is essential to secure your spot by Thursday 4 February 2027. Robin Hood Pub, 1 Fulbourn Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 9LJ. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

THURS 25

Late Valentine's Lunch

12.30pm | £ Free

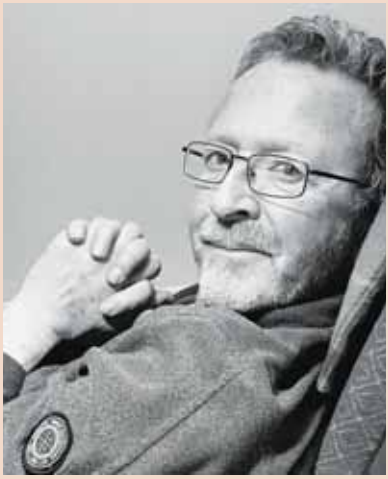
If you forgot it was Valentine's Day but still fancy a treat, now's your chance! Bring all your friends to our Late Valentine's Day celebration at The Hartford Mill. An Oddfellows warm welcome is guaranteed as well as the best carvery around - you won't regret it! Booking is essential to secure your place by Thursday 18 February 2027. The Hartford Mill, Hartford Marina, Huntingdon Road, Banks End, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 2AA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

March

THURS 11

Alan Sugar, the Mafia, the CIA and Me

2pm | £ Members £2 Guests £5 | Q&A



After his previous talk was cancelled due to the hot weather, we're delighted to welcome Keith Warburton back to hear his fascinating and entertaining talk. After Alan Sugar fired him, Keith became an expert witness, worked for the Mafia (probably) and the CIA (retired), before finding himself involved in the biggest mystery he has ever experienced. Now a writer, Keith's first collection of stories - 'Leaving Traces', has been described by reviewers as engaging, hilarious and thought-provoking. We didn't want to miss out on hearing Keith, so we've rebooked him and we hope you can join us! Please note venue address! Book by Monday 8 March 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

THURS 25

Medical Detection Dogs

2pm | £ Members £2 Guests £5 | Q&A



Join us for a fascinating talk about the incredible work of Medical Detection Dogs and how specially trained dogs can use their remarkable sense of smell to help detect medical conditions. And if a dog is available on the day, we may even be lucky enough to have a very well-behaved four-legged guest joining us! Refreshments available. Fun Easter charity raffle! Book by Monday 22 March 2027. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

April

THURS 08

From Race Horses to Rhinos

2pm

£ Members £2
Guests £5

Q A



Doctor Nicky Holdstock is an experienced veterinary specialist who has worked with a wide range of animals, from horses to endangered species. Nicky will share some fascinating insights from her career in veterinary medicine, research and beyond. Book by Monday 5 April 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

THURS 22

Huntingdon, Hinchingbrooke and the Civil Wars

2pm

£ Members £2
Guests £5

Q A



For this event we have local historian Stuart Orme from the Cromwell Museum joining us for a fascinating talk exploring Huntingdon, Hinchingbrooke and their connections to the English Civil War. Discover more about the people, places and events that shaped the local area during this period. Refreshments provided. Book by Thursday 15 April 2027. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197 or Hannah on 07599 848221.

Bookings and Cancellations

TICKET

We kindly encourage early booking for all events to avoid disappointment. Please note that, where charges apply, full payment must be made in advance. A place at an event will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

Photos of past events...



Catching up with friends



Fish and Chips with friends



Lucky Raffle Winners!



Talking through evidence at our 'Jury Service' event

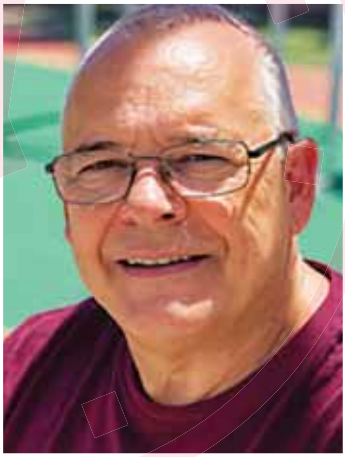


We have a good laugh!



Who knew we could all paint!

60 seconds with... Leon Cracknell



1. **What is your favourite thing about being part of the Oddfellows?**
   You get to meet people with different personalities and from so many backgrounds, and you get to know people you would not have bumped into otherwise.

2. **How many years have you been with The Oddfellows?**
   Coming up to two years, and now proud to be a committee member.

3. **Have you ever visited any other Oddfellows Branches, if so where?**
   Not yet, but hope to in the future. Perhaps we should start having social events with our closest Branches.

4. **What would your advice be to new members?**
   Get stuck in, don't hold back, as there is so much our groups can do together.

5. **What was the best Oddfellows event you ever attended?**
   Death in disguise. We were given the details of a double murder case from 1870 by a retired police detective, then split into juries to talk about what verdict we would have come to back then. Good fun and very interesting.

6. **What is your favourite meal...? Starter, main & pudding!**
   Summer - Prawn Cocktail, Spaghetti Bolognese, Chocolate Sundae.
   Winter - Cream of tomato soup, Shepherd's pie with Yorkshire pudding, Bread and butter pudding.

7. **If you could learn to do something new, what would it be?**
   Now I have retired I would like to learn a language, well at least more than just for holidays.

8. **What book would you recommend others to read?**
   Well, I do not read novels, I have always read specifications, books with information such as travel books for holidays and so on. I have just finished a book called Fifty Sheds of Grey by C T Grey. Very amusing.

9. **If you could invite any 4 people to a dinner party, who would it be?**
   Nigella Lawson – to do the cooking, Jilly Goolden – for the wine and Hinge & Bracket for entertainment.

10. **What was your first job?**
    Builder's Merchant, great first step for getting into mechanical building services.

11. **What is your favourite film?**
    Two I can't separate: Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid and Hellfighters.

12. **Which country have you most enjoyed visiting?**
    Malta, they drive on the left, Malta has a lot of history, the food is delicious, plus, my late mother-in-law was Maltese, so we have family to visit.

13. **What make and model was your first car?**
    Ford Cortina MK 2, I wish I still had this car. Great fun.

14. **Have you ever met anyone famous? If so, who?**
    Apart from three royals, no one worth talking about.

Outdoor Events

All outdoor events are subject to weather conditions. It is essential that you book in advance for all events and provide up-to-date contact details, enabling us to notify you promptly of any changes or cancellations.

Branch Meeting



This will be the District Branch meeting where we discuss all the matters of running the Branch. All members are welcome to attend. Starts at 2pm on a Wednesday at Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

2026

Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 18 November, Wednesday 16 December

2027

Wednesday 20 January, Wednesday 17 February, Wednesday 17 March, Wednesday 21 April

Crime Fiction Word Search

R	G	L	E	E	D	I	C	I	M	O	H	N	R	G	G	N	G	P	W	U
F	B	P	C	D	E	T	E	C	T	I	V	E	O	C	H	U	T	R	G	A
A	E	M	J	E	V	I	T	O	M	T	B	X	D	I	I	I	N	Q	R	T
M	V	L	L	R	C	D	C	R	E	T	N	S	Q	L	R	S	A	R	N	U
W	X	J	O	W	D	D	C	T	B	B	F	E	T	Y	U	L	E	Y	M	R
O	Y	B	F	N	R	A	N	S	O	M	U	M	C	S	E	S	Q	I	G	I
Z	Q	G	N	L	Y	J	D	C	E	C	L	D	P	O	T	W	G	K	D	I
E	T	Z	R	C	H	J	E	I	J	D	R	E	X	K	N	D	X	N	F	F
S	E	H	L	P	J	V	N	S	O	Y	C	E	J	G	R	N	Y	V	I	Y
X	Y	U	T	F	M	I	P	N	K	T	P	Z	L	X	K	V	I	L	N	L
P	E	C	Y	H	S	X	P	E	L	P	G	Y	D	L	Y	M	D	N	T	I
D	X	W	O	S	Z	O	S	R	T	L	B	H	C	M	I	A	B	W	R	A
V	J	U	A	N	F	S	N	O	J	O	V	B	R	U	H	R	Y	M	I	M
A	U	S	Q	O	S	H	Q	F	W	U	L	A	I	R	V	E	H	B	G	K
Y	S	S	K	D	L	P	T	N	Z	I	S	P	M	D	Z	Q	Y	T	U	C
A	A	L	I	B	I	W	I	U	D	C	T	T	E	E	S	V	H	X	E	A
W	B	B	K	G	B	J	M	R	E	I	X	N	I	R	W	J	L	Z	T	L
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	I	S	A	L	U	Y	E	C	P	W	Y	H	Y	B
Y	R	E	C	N	E	D	I	V	E	C	S	D	N	S	E	M	T	R	E	S
U	D	G	O	W	W	I	U	F	B	J	Y	T	T	D	S	N	B	Q	W	Q
R	E	D	H	E	R	R	I	N	G	M	Q	F	W	D	B	I	E	B	H	E

You are the detective. You have to find and circle the words in the grid, in all directions. Answers on page 18

ALIBI
ARREST
ASSASSIN
BLACKMAIL
CLUE
CONSPIRACY
CRIME
DETECTIVE
EVIDENCE
FELONY
FORENSICS
GUILT
HOMICIDE
INNOCENT
INTRIGUE
JUSTICE
MOTIVE
MURDER
MYSTERY
NOIR
PLOT
RANSOM
REDHERRING
SLEUTH
SUSPECT
THRILLER
WITNESS

Wacky Words

Answers on page 18.

Get it Get it Get it Get it	Jack	Somewhere 	ЯООD
1.	2.	3.	4.
READ	**Blood** Water	Beeeeee	C A N C E L L E D
5.	6.	7.	8.
once 	Egg Egg **HAM**	*Try* Stand 2	T o w n
9.	10.	11.	12.
NI bump GHT	Aid ← Aid Aid	Mill1on	 3.14
13.	14.	15.	16.
ice^3	R G O N C  I K	Think 	GROUND feet feet feet feet feet feet
17.	18.	19.	20.
1 KNOWS	**Big Big** ignore ignore	ꓭAKED	KNEE light light
21.	22.	23.	24.

Meet your Cambridge Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support

We would like to introduce you to our friendly Welfare Visitor team who are here to help you.



Robert Monk
Welfare Visitor



Rosemary Monk
Welfare Visitor



Peter Jackson
Welfare Visitor

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone?

Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Linda on **01223 351197** or email **linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk.**

National Oddfellows Helplines



As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.

Care and Welfare Helpline*

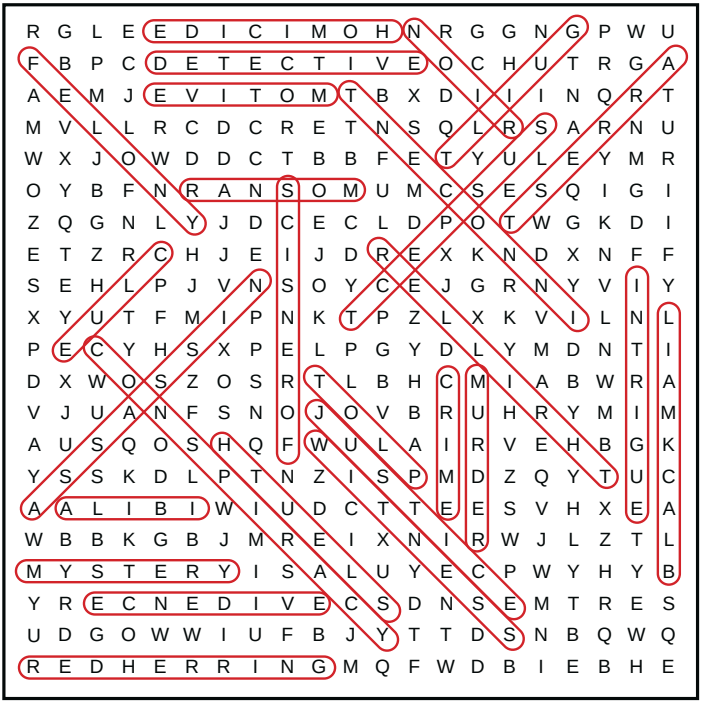
Call 0800 0149 822
(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)
Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm
Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our **'Looking After You'** Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at **www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/**

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice.
Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs

Crime Fiction Word Search solution on page 14



Answers to the Wacky Words on page 15

1. Forget it
2. Jack in the box
3. Somewhere over the rainbow
4. Back door
5. Read between the lines
6. Blood is thicker than water
7. Bee line
8. Cancelled cheque
9. Once upon a time
10. Green eggs and ham
11. Try to understand
12. Downtown
13. Bump in the night
14. First Aid
15. One in a million
16. Apple pie
17. Ice cube
18. Rocking around the Christmas tree
19. Think outside the box
20. Six feet underground
21. Won by a nose
22. Too big to ignore
23. Half baked
24. Neon lights

Meet Grand Master Debbie Jex



For Debbie Jex, the Oddfellows has been part of her life for more than 50 years. Recently elected as Grand Master, she remains characteristically modest about the honour.

"I know it's a huge honour and I am immensely proud," she says. "But half the time I'm just the District Secretary at Reading Oddfellows until somebody reminds me I'm the Grand Master."

Debbie first joined the Society as a child when her parents became members. However, it was in 1993, when she became Lodge Secretary, that her deeper involvement began.

"That's when I got pulled in," she jokes.

Over the years, the Society has provided much more than a role. It has become a source of friendship, connection and lasting memories.

"It's not just a job now, it's a way of life. It's a huge part of my social life, a huge part of my friendship group."

Looking back, Debbie believes the relationships she has built through the Oddfellows have enriched her life.

"I've attended some lovely events and made friends with lots of lovely people all over the country. So it's definitely enriched my life."

As Grand Master, Debbie sees her role as representing and championing members.

"I'm there to champion our members and make sure we're doing the best we can for them."

She is also excited about meeting members across the country and helping more people discover the support and friendship the Society offers.

"I'd like more members to know what a wonderful caring and benevolent Society this is."

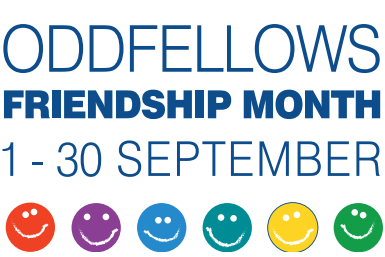
After decades of service, Debbie's message remains simple:

"The Oddfellows is there for you if you need it."

Read the full interview on the Oddfellows' website at: www.oddfellows.co.uk/news

Friendship Month 2026: celebrating connection, community and companionship

Another Friendship Month has come to a close, with Oddfellows branches across the UK welcoming members, friends and guests to a wide range of free and low-cost taster events designed to bring people together and celebrate the value of friendship.



From coffee mornings and social lunches to walks, talks and special gatherings, September provided countless opportunities for people to reconnect with existing friends, make new connections and enjoy good company.

Keep friendships warm

This year's campaign focused on the importance of staying in touch as we move into the colder months, when opportunities to get together can sometimes reduce and feelings of isolation can become more common.

The campaign struck a chord with people across the country. Branches reported strong attendance at events and were especially pleased to welcome newcomers discovering the Oddfellows for the first time.

"A huge thank you"

Pam Casey, Secretary of the Order, said: "A huge thank you goes to every branch, volunteer, organiser, member and guest who helped make Friendship Month 2026 such a success.



Concord Oddfellows celebrated Friendship Month in style at their popular coffee morning in Aldershot.

"Your enthusiasm and willingness to reach out to others demonstrated the positive difference that friendship can make in our communities."

Steph Hopes, Branch Secretary for Concord Oddfellows, said: "We welcomed several people who had never attended an Oddfellows event before. By the end of the morning, everyone was chatting as though they'd known each other for years. It was a fantastic atmosphere."



Handforth and Altrincham Oddfellows met up for a round of adventure golf.

Sharon Hulse-Cottle, Branch Secretary of Handforth and Altrincham Oddfellows, said: "Our members did a brilliant job of helping newcomers feel at ease. By the end of the event, there was a real buzz in the air. It was lovely to see new faces becoming part of the group."

Expert support

Friendship Month also helped raise awareness of the wider benefits of friendship. During the campaign, expert anthropologist Dr Anna Machin supported the initiative by sharing insights into the importance of maintaining meaningful relationships and making time for regular face-to-face contact.

While Friendship Month may be over, the opportunities certainly aren't. With a busy programme of events planned throughout autumn, winter and beyond, there are still plenty of ways to meet new people, try something different and strengthen existing connections.

You can always find details of upcoming local and online events at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events



Birmingham Oddfellows shared positive messages of friendship at its events.

Important update to some membership benefits

As part of our regular review of the services and support we provide, three discretionary, non-contractual membership benefits were withdrawn on 16 September 2026.

The benefits affected are **Legal Aid Scheme, Accidental Death Benefit** and **Emergency Financial Aid**.

The change applies to new Standard, Extra Benefits and Young Oddfellows members joining from 16 September 2026, and to existing Standard, Extra Benefits and Young Oddfellows members when they renew their membership.

Existing members will continue to have access to these benefits until their renewal date.

Any claims, applications or cases already received and in progress will continue to be considered and fulfilled in accordance with the relevant benefit terms and conditions.*

As with all member benefits, the Society regularly reviews its offering to ensure it remains relevant, appropriate and sustainable. While these three discretionary benefits have been withdrawn, no other membership benefits have been affected.

The Society remains committed to providing members with valuable support, friendship and opportunities to connect with others.

Members who have questions about how this change affects them or their membership can contact the Membership team on **0800 028 1810** for further information, or email **membership@oddfellows.co.uk**

Apprenticeship Educational Awards

If you're starting an apprenticeship, the Oddfellows' Apprenticeship Educational Awards could help with some of the costs along the way. Each year, up to three eligible members can apply to receive a non-repayable bursary of £250 per year for the duration of their apprenticeship.*

The award can be used towards expenses such as textbooks, equipment, rent, bills and other practical costs.

To apply, members must have at least five years of continuous Oddfellows membership (which can include Young Oddfellows membership) and be starting their first apprenticeship. This is a discretionary benefit and applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

To find out more or request an application form, contact your Branch Secretary as soon as possible. Applications must be submitted by 31 December each year.

*Terms and conditions apply to all Oddfellows benefits, which are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Financial benefits are awarded at the Society's discretion, not guaranteed, and claim applications may be declined. For full details, call 0800 028 1810 or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs



Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. 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 teas/coffees
- 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

Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, like a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Linda Miller by phone on 01223 351197 or email Linda.Miller@oddfellows.co.uk

Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".
Cynthia, volunteer

the Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

At a glance

November 2026

Wed 4	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 5	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Mon 9	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 12	Neil Hanson - Ghost Writer	2pm
Wed 18	Branch Meeting	2pm
Mon 23	Royston Coffee Club at The Manor House	10.30am
Thurs 26	Huntingdon Christmas Party!	12 noon

December

Wed 2	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 3	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 10	Cambridge Christmas Party!	12 noon
Mon 14	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 16	Branch Meeting	2pm

January 2027

Wed 6	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 7	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Mon 11	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 14	Jason Middleton - Gemstone Expert	2pm
Wed 20	Branch Meeting	2pm
Mon 25	Royston Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 28	From Crime to Cinema	2pm

February

Wed 3	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 4	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Mon 8	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 11	Early Valentine's Meal	12.30pm
Wed 17	Branch Meeting	2pm
Mon 22	Royston Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 25	Late Valentine's Lunch	12.30pm

March

Wed 3	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 4	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Mon 8	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 11	Alan Sugar, the Mafia, the CIA and Me	2pm
Wed 17	Branch Meeting	2pm
Mon 22	Royston Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 25	Medical Detection Dogs	2pm

April

Thurs 1	St Neots Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 7	Ely Coffee Club	10.30am
Thurs 8	From Race Horses to Rhinos	2pm
Mon 12	Brampton Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 21	Branch Meeting	2pm
Thurs 22	Huntingdon, Hinchingbrooke and the Civil Wars	2pm
Mon 26	Royston Coffee Club	10.30am

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