

April – September 2025
Issue 21



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

out & *about*

North Wales & Chester Branch



Anglesey, photo by Lisa Copner



Online



Theatre



Art/Crafts



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz

A Message from Our Branch Chairman

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of our Out & About. My name is Paul Turner and I have been appointed as the Branch Chairman for the coming year. This is a position that I held back in 2008. I was delighted to be asked to take another turn, although it would be nice to have some 'new blood' coming through to the Committee of Management. The Committee is made up of at least 10 members and helps oversee the running of our Branch. They meet approximately 5 – 6 times a year. We have an Annual Meeting, similar to an AGM, and a half yearly Meeting each year. If you are interested in finding out more about what it involves please contact Denise, the Branch Secretary.

At the Annual Meeting held in February the Committee of Management put forward a proposal to change the name of our Branch - you may have already spotted this on the front cover. The reason behind this is that historically, Deeside District was one of many Districts that covered North East Wales, the Wirral Peninsula, Chester and parts of Cheshire. At its inception, it would have closely mirrored the Deeside postal area.

Over time, many of the neighbouring Districts merged and eventually became part of the existing Deeside District. By the 1980s, Deeside District covered all the aforementioned areas. Moving on into the 1990s and beyond, falling membership numbers across the society meant that further mergers were inevitable. Consequently, in the early 1990s, Gwynedd



Paul Turner - Branch Chairman

District (which covered North West Wales including Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula) merged with Deeside District covering an unwieldy geographical area of approximately 5,500 square miles, and yet, the name Deeside has always remained.

Moving forward to recent times, mainly for operational reasons, parts of the Wirral have now transferred to Mersey Branch.

The Branch currently holds meetings / social events in three separate locations; Saltney (a suburb of Chester), Wrexham and Craig y Don (outskirts of Llandudno). Also, plans are underway to hold meetings / social events on Anglesey. Interestingly, none of our events are held within the geographical / postal Deeside area. Our membership is increasing in the Wrexham and Llandudno areas, those members find it hard to identify with the name Deeside,

consequently, it was agreed by the members present at the annual meeting to change our name to one that better reflects our identity and geographical area. Our new name is North Wales & Chester Branch. The other recent major change has been the relocation of our Office. The reason behind this that our current lease was due for renewal and with a combination of a few issues we have had, the Committee felt that we could make some significant savings by moving to a more modern, slightly smaller space. The contact details for the new office are above.

Here's a little bit more about myself: My main career has been in the horticultural industry. I have worked at the Wirral Council nursery, a municipal golf course and in the Parks and Gardens Department. When I left the Council I worked with autistic adults teaching them gardening skills and then I was manager at their own garden centre. Following that I briefly worked for a care company and a commercial garden centre.

My hobbies include gardening, supporting my family within the various different aspects motorsport, which include grass tracking, circuit racing, sprint trials and general track days.

I have been a member of the Oddfellows since 1986, I enjoy attending dinner dances, lunches and other events at our Branch and Branches around the country. I have been a scrutineer at the Annual Conference for several years and support my wife Denise (our Branch Secretary) with all that she is involved in through the Society. My son and daughter in-law and their dog Max emigrated to Australia last September so we are looking forward to our visits there in the future.

I hope that you enjoy browsing through this booklet, reading the articles and I hope that you can join us for one of our events. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes Paul.

Contact Details

New Office address:

214 Prospect House
Factory Road
Sandycroft
Flintshire
CH5 2QJ

Telephone: 01244 675757

Mobile: 07960 720299

Office hours:

Monday and Tuesday 9am to 4pm,
Wednesday - Closed
Thursday 1pm to 4pm and Friday
9am to 2pm

(Answer phone available)

Facebook:

NorthWalesChesterOddfellows

Secretary: Denise Turner

Email:

denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Caroline Davey

Email:

caroline.davey@oddfellows.co.uk

Llandudno Social Organiser

Volunteer/Welfare Visitor:

Gordon Hinett

Email:

gordon.hinett@oddfellows.co.uk

Telephone: 01492 515530

Regular Events

Llandudno Coffee Morning



11am



As per menu



Every Monday

Every Monday you are welcome to join us at Gwesty Links, Llandudno for a coffee and a chat. Both members and visitors are very welcome. We occasionally stay for lunch and enjoy some local trips out. Gwesty Links, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530.



Monday Night Chatterboxes



7pm



Free



**Online
Every Monday**

Members from across the Society meet to catch up and chat over a brew from the comfort of their own homes. Everyone is greeted with a friendly smile and a warm welcome. Why not come and join us? Head to Zoom and enter the Meeting ID: 844 1660 9433, you don't need a password. Contact Tracey on 07774 229010.



Branch Meetings, various Thursdays, 12.45pm Free

Come along to our Branch meeting where you will be updated with all the Branch and Society matters. You can also learn a little more about how the Society works and how you can get involved. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

24 April, 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 14 August and 11 September

Regular Events

Anglesey Coffee and Chat

New
Event

Third Tuesday
of the month

 10.30am  As per menu 

Join us at our new meet up in Gaerwen, Anglesey. Enjoy a coffee and a chat plus a wander around the garden centre if you fancy it after. Holland Arms Garden Centre, Gaerwen, Anglesey, North Wales LL60 6LA. Contact Nancy on 07788 871041.



Wrexham Coffee and Chat

First and Third
Wednesday

 10.30am  As per menu 

Join us for a coffee and chat in Wrexham. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome. The Lemon Tree, 29 Rhosddu Road, Wrexham LL11 2LP. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Saltney Coffee Morning

Every Thursday

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Join us for coffee and biscuits along with plenty of lively chatting! We enjoy an occasional quiz and fun themed coffee mornings. We also hold raffles both free and paid for. Douglas Place Community Centre, Woodall Avenue, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on either 01244 675757 or 07960 720299.



April

THURS
10

Ten Years at Belsen - A Talk by Elizabeth



10.30am



Members £2,
Guests £3



Join us at our coffee morning for a talk from Elizabeth, one of our members, about 'Ten Years at Belsen'. The 15 April 2025 commemorates the 80th anniversary of the liberation of



Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by British Troops of the 11th Armoured Division under the command of Lt Col R Taylor with Brig. Glyn Hughes, Royal Army Medical Corps. However, its history started in 1934 when Hitler became Fuhrer and began preparations to regain territory lost during World War 1. Married to a British soldier, Elizabeth lived under the shadow of Belsen from 1970 to 1980. Douglas Place Community Centre, Douglas Place, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

THURS
17

An Easter Eggstravaganza Coffee Morning!



10.30am



Members £2,
Guests £3



Join us for a morning of fun at our eggciting coffee morning! We will hold our annual 'Easter Bonnet/Easter Cap' parade and there will be a prize for the best one or two... There will be a few silly, but fun games and an Easter raffle. If you don't wish to join in the parade or the games come along anyway and just enjoy the morning, you are always welcome. Douglas Place Community Centre, Douglas Place, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Please note

Deposits and payments are all non-refundable. Once a deposit has been received Caroline, our Social Organiser, is more than happy for the remainder of the payment to be made in instalments if this helps. However, they must be made before the **full payment** deadline date. Receipts will be given for any money received.

May

FRI **02** **Dine Out at** **Pandamami, Chester**



1pm



Why not join us for a 'help yourself' tasty lunch at Pandamami, Chester. It is a



critically acclaimed restaurant where you will find delicious international food to excite your senses. Take your taste buds on a tour of authentic flavours, aromas and textures...

We will meet you at the restaurant! Book by Thursday 24 April. Panda Mami Restaurant, 25 Newgate Street, Chester CH1 1DE. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

June

THURS **12** **Lunch at The Orangery,** **Derwen College,** **Gobowen**



12.45pm



Once again we are joining together with the lovely members



from the Oswestry Branch for lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College. There you will enjoy good food and great company. Food will need to be pre-ordered. You will also find a walled garden centre and gift shop to wander around after dining. All are welcome to come along. Book by Thursday 5 June. The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen SY11 3JA. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

FRI **09** **A Gentle Stroll across** **the Chirk Aqueduct**



11am



Come and join us on a spring day's stroll across the Chirk Aqueduct, where you can have one foot in Wales and one foot in England. The aqueduct carries the canal across the Ceirog River valley and runs parallel to the Chirk Viaduct. This is altogether an impressive sight. After our stroll we can enjoy refreshments at Caffi Wylfa. This walk is being organised by Wrexham member Sue. We will all meet in the car park of the café at 11am. Book by Thursday 1 May. Caffi Wylfa, Castle Road, Chirk, Wrexham LL14 5BS. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



June

FRI
20

Chester Boat Trip



12 noon



Members £18.50
Guests £22



We are joining with our friends from the Mersey Branch to take a two hour scenic river cruise along the River Dee. Our cruise will include a buffet lunch of sandwiches/wraps and tray bake cakes. Delicious! We will meet you at the landing stage, Chester Boat, Souters Lane, The Groves. Non-refundable payment in full no later than Thursday 15 May. Chester Boat, Souter's Lane, The Groves, Chester CH1 1SZ. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



July

WED
09

A Gentle Stroll around Grosvenor Park, Chester



11am



As per menu



Come along and enjoy a gentle stroll around Grosvenor Park, Chester. It is a Grade II registered Green Flag Award winning public park. It is located just outside the City of Chester's historic walls overlooking the River Dee. Once we have strolled enough we can enjoy some light refreshments in the café Fika+. We will meet you at The Activity Zone (and new public toilets) just off Union Street at 11am. Book by Thursday 26 June. Grosvenor Park, Grosvenor Park Road, Chester CH1 1QQ. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

Manchester Ship Canal Take 2! - Tuesday 1 July

We are re visiting the Manchester Ship Canal. Last year we went on this in September and before we got half way the boat sadly broke down. We spent the best part of an hour moored up by the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum whilst they tried to fix it so we could carry on. Unfortunately they could only do a temporary fix and so the crew made the decision to return to Seacombe. We were all given the opportunity to re book for this year or have a refund so we decided to rebook. The places are full but we are all looking forward to completing the journey this time around.

August

FRI
08

A Circular Walk at the Llay side of Alyn Waters Country Park

🕒 11.30am

£1 to park and cost as per menu



We would love you to join us on a summer time amble through the grassland



and woodland of Alyn Waters Country Park. This is an easy route, with the opportunity to shorten the walk for anyone who wishes to do so. The whole walk is approximately 60–75 minutes. After our walk we can take a five minute drive to the Hollybush pub/restaurant for lunch and a refreshing, cooling drink. We will meet in the Alyn Waters Country Park car park at 11.15am. There is a £1 fee for parking. This walk is organised by Wrexham member Sue. Book by Thursday 31 July. Alyn Waters Country Park, Llay New Road, Llay, Wrexham LL12 0PW. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

THURS
14

Half Yearly Branch Meeting

🕒 12.45pm

£ Free



Come along to our Half Yearly Branch Meeting, where we will report on all the Branch and Society matters financial and social. You can also learn a little more about how the Society works and how you can get involved. Douglas Place Community Centre, Douglas Place, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

SUN
17

Dine Out at the Sunday Buffet at Koconut Grove

🕒 1pm

£13.95 per head (as of 31 March)



Come along and join us at Koconut Grove, a place where you can enjoy authentic south Indian food in Chester, buffet style. With their knowledgeable and friendly staff they will make your food experience a memorable one. They offer a large range of mouth watering meals, cooked with natural herbs and spices to tantalise your taste buds! They offer different levels of spicing for almost all of the items on the menu. All are welcome... £13.95 per head (as of Monday 31 March). Book by Thursday 7 August. Koconut Grove, Ethos Court, City Road, Chester CH1 3AT. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
10

A Day Trip to Ruthin Gaol followed by Lunch and a look around Ruthin Craft Centre



10.30am



Members £24,
Guests £30



Come and join us on a day trip to Ruthin. We will be visiting the Gaol and be given a guided tour around the only purpose-built Pentonville style prison open to the public as a heritage attraction.



See how prisoners lived their daily lives, what they ate, how they worked and the punishments they suffered! After that we will head to the Ruthin craft centre for lunch (this will need pre-ordering from the cafe menu) and a potter around doing a bit of retail therapy or just window shopping... The coach will pick us up in the morning from Morrison's car park, Saltney at 10.30am. Non-refundable deposit of £15 payable by Thursday 31 July. Full payment due by Thursday 21 August. Ruthin Gaol, 46 Clwyd Street, Ruthin LL15 1HP. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Friendship Month - Coffee Mornings

Throughout September we will be celebrating Friendship Month

at our coffee mornings. As with all our coffee mornings, all are welcome and if you know someone who would benefit from friendship please do bring them along to any of our events.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Monday 1 September, 11am
Llandudno coffee morning

Wednesday 3 September, 10.30am
Wrexham coffee and chat

Thursday 4 September, 10.30am
Saltney coffee morning

Tuesday 16 September, 10.30am
Anglesey coffee morning

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
18

A Tasty Ploughman's Lunch



12.45pm



Members £2.50,
Guests £6



MON
29

Lunch at Gwesty Links, Llandudno



12.30pm



As per
menu



Following on from our weekly coffee morning at Douglas Place why not stay or just come along and join us for a tasty ploughman's lunch. Ham/cheese or both, you choose! Full payment due by Thursday 4 September - non-refundable. Douglas Place Community Centre, Douglas Place, Saltney CH4 8PB. Contact Denise or Caroline on 01244 675757.



Why not join us in finishing our Friendship Month celebrations and stay after the coffee morning for a tasty lunch at Gwesty Links, Llandudno.

They serve pub classics, daily specials and a fantastic light lunch menu. All are welcome to come along. Gwesty Links, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530.

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



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

Members in the Spotlight - Sue Holland

I'm a Lancashire lass at heart although I've lived in the Wrexham area for 35 years. My childhood was spent on our family farm on the Lancashire moors where my love of animals and the countryside began. In the late 1970's my husband and I began our ventures into business with the start up of two printing and packaging businesses which we later sold in 1989. Following this we moved to North Wales and later bought a Londis Store which we ran for 8 years. My final employments were as a Foster Carer for 15 years and later as a newspaper distributor - I prided myself as being the fastest, and probably the only, 60 plus papergirl in North Wales.



I was a passionate horse owner and rider into my mid 60's and took part in Endurance Riding over distances of 10-20 miles on various terrains. In the 1990's I and three other riders started up the Wrexham Bridleways Group. I was also one of the founder members of the Wrexham Cat's Protection League around that same time. We started it in a friend's back garden with 3 cat pens and it's since grown to be a large professional organisation - from little acorns....

Nowadays I enjoy reading and writing; I'm writing a journal based on my everyday activities, adding photographs for extra interest and to enhance my memories. I enjoy researching the history of places and people of interest that I encounter on any one day and encompassing that into my journal.

Also, as a U3a member I enjoy the walking groups, a book chat group and the Local History Group.

I joined the Oddfellows as soon as the Wrexham Group was formed in April '24. I so enjoy my membership, I've made good friends and, as a group, we've organised coffee meet ups and a successful walk, in addition to the official two coffee mornings a month and we're now planning days out and further walks. I had been searching for something to fill the rather large hole left by my retirement and, giving up the time consuming hobby of horse ownership.

Oddfellows has filled that gap, and more!

Congratulations to...

Anita and Ray Lyons

on their Golden Wedding
Anniversary on 14 December 2024



Cherry and Alan Evans

On their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary on Thursday 27 March



Cheque Presentation

by Val Jones to Claire House
Children's Hospice, Wirral



On Thursday 13 March, we were delighted to present a cheque for £24,500.00 to Claire House Children's Charity. We have done little fund raising events over the year to include Bring and Buy sales, a social fund raising afternoon, the sale of Val's fabrics and some generous donations. We were also lucky enough to have our initial amount of £1,000 matched by friends of Vals, our past Chairman.

Members in the Spotlight - David Boreham

March 14th 2022, the very worst day of my life. It was the day my wife, Pat, died, suddenly and unexpectedly. We had been married for almost sixty-three years, we first met in 1953, and were teenage sweethearts, so for almost seventy years we had shared our lives together. For several weeks, I was lost, did not know what to do, in fact, did very little, until one day I pulled myself together.



I faced the reality that things were never going to be the same and that I should build a new life for myself. I am blessed with a lovely family and fortunate to have them living close to me, they were such a help and support. I also have many good friends, most former colleagues for my working days, I am also a member of the Brymbo Male Voice Choir. I have a strong faith too and have been a member of the Catholic Church all my life, so I also had friends there. Others too who I knew rallied round to help me. However, none of them were what you might call close friends or buddies none of them could ever replace my darling Pat.

I decided that I should fill my days with activities, leave myself no time to sit around and mope. There was a holiday booked, Pat and I were to have a one-week holiday on a narrow boat on the Llangollen canal, this was to be her birthday treat and should have been cancelled. Instead, I managed to persuade some friends to join me, we had a great time, this set me thinking about future holidays. My first

big venture was to India, this three-week tour gave me the ambition to do more travelling. So far, I have completed six trips and have four more booked and have met some lovely people on my journeys.

Shortly before Pat died, we had moved home, downsizing from a large country house to a much smaller bungalow. We had just seven weeks together there but during that time we had discussed and decided to buy a Jaguar sports car.



So, I did, and have had lots of interesting outings, car shows and club events and this has brought me a whole new group of friends. Bitten by the bug, I have since bought three more classic cars, which have given me a great deal of pleasure even more opportunities to meet people. There are other activities too that take up my time but no space to mention here, they all have contributed to my aim of keeping busy, leaving little time to dwell and mope about my loss. I do still speak to Pat every day and miss her so much.

This brings me at last to the point of this article, Oddfellows. I have developed a need to be with people over the last three years, but have one affliction, I am very deaf, and I find conversation difficult when I am in a group situation. It is so much easier to switch off and retire into my own little world, so I have to push myself.

I saw a note on the “Nextdoor” website at the end of last summer that mentioned a new group that was being formed in Wrexham, so I went along to The Lemon Tree, where I met some lovely and interesting people. Not only that, but they were also kind enough to put up with my deafness and went out of their way to help me keep up with the conversation. Since then, we have met up on several occasions and I try to get along to The Lemon Tree on the first and third Wednesday of each month and will continue to do so. “Oddfellows”! Certainly not, they are all lovely people. Anyone who finds themselves in a situation even remotely similar to my own would do well to seek out their nearest Oddfellows group and give it a try.

David

Oddfellows Coffee Morning

*Roll up, roll up it's half past ten
And don't forget to
bring your pen.*



*It's Oddfellows coffee
morning again
So there'll be a quiz to tax
our brain.*

*There's laughter, banter
and fun for all
So why not come and
meet us all.*



*A friendlier bunch you
will not find
Making friends for life
comes to mind.*

*A small entrance fee is
all we ask
To cover rent of hall,
refreshments
and all small tasks.*



*Enjoy yourself, relax
and unwind
Forget your problems
and leave
them behind.*



*So come on in one and all
Let 'Oddies' on a Thursday be
your goal.*

**Written by WAI Pennicard
30.06.24**

Photos of past events...



*Hotel Wrexham Sunday Lunch
1 September 2024.*



Pandamami - 20 September 2024.



Pandamami - 20 September 2024.



*The Iron Works - Oswestry
18 September 2024.*



*Friendship Month Coffee morning -
Saltney (Pass the Parcel).*



*Manchester Ship Canal
23 September 2024.*



*Manchester Ship Canal
23 September 2024.*



*Manchester Ship Canal
23 September 2024.*



*Manchester Ship Canal
23 September 2024.*



*Trading Standards talk
24 October 2024.*



Bents garden centre 26 November 2024.



Bents garden centre 26 November 2024.



Bents garden centre 26 November 2024.



*Fundraising Afternoon Social -
23 November 2024.*



*Fundraising Afternoon Social -
23 November 2024.*



*Fundraising Afternoon Social -
23 November 2024.*



*Llandudno Christmas celebrations
2 December 2024.*



*Llandudno Christmas celebrations
2 December 2024.*

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub

To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit

www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

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 Denise on **01244 675757** or email **denise.turner@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**

Logic Image Pattern Puzzle

Find the logic in the figure given and find out the missing one.
 Answer on the back page.

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 telephone befriender.



To find out more, contact denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk or caroline.davey@oddfellows.co.uk



THE ODD FELLOWS
 SINCE 1810
 making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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Events - at a glance

In addition to our regular events see page 4 and 5 for full details.

April 2025

Thurs 10	Ten Years at Belsen - A Talk by Elizabeth	10.30am
Thurs 17	An Easter Eggstravaganza Coffee Morning!	10.30am
Thurs 24	Branch Meeting	12.45pm

May

Fri 2	Dine Out at Pandamami, Chester	1pm
Fri 9	A Gentle Stroll across the Chirk Aqueduct	11am
Thurs 15	Branch Meeting	12.45pm

June

Thurs 12	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College, Gobowen	12.45pm
Thurs 19	Branch Meeting	12.45pm
Fri 20	Chester Boat Trip	12 noon

July

Wed 9	A Gentle Stroll around Grosvenor Park, Chester	11am
Thurs 17	Branch Meeting	12.45pm

August

Fri 8	A Circular Walk at the Llay side of Alyn Waters Country Park	11.30am
Thurs 14	Half Yearly Branch Meeting	12.45pm
Sun 17	Dine Out at the Sunday Buffet at Koconut Grove, Chester	1pm

September - Friendship Month

Wed 10	A Day Trip to Ruthin Gaol followed by Lunch and a look around Ruthin Craft Centre	10.30am
Thurs 11	Branch Meeting	12.45pm
Thurs 18	A Tasty Ploughman's Lunch	12.45pm
Mon 29	Lunch at Gwesty Links, Llandudno	12.30pm

Logic Image pattern Puzzle on page 23

Every single symbol is associated with each another's position
If you look closely, you will find out that the upside-down club
symbol is always used on the left of a right-side-up heart.

