

July - December 2026



the **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Cleveland and Durham Branch



The Oddfellows in Normandy – 80 years since the D-Day landing.



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Holiday



Quiz



Dining Out



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Dear Reader

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cleveland and Durham District Newsletter.

How time flies! It seems only a short while since we received our last edition of our much awaited Out and About



magazine. The cold winter months have now given way to the joys of spring and, hopefully, a warm and sunny summer.

Now that the colder weather is behind us, summer will bring more opportunities to get out and about and enjoy the benefits of friendship. Of course, we do not always need sunshine to enjoy ourselves. Simply meeting up and spending time in the company of others is often just the tonic we need.

Our members make a tremendous contribution to each edition of the

magazine, particularly those who attend our event and bi-monthly branch meetings and suggest forthcoming events for inclusion. Your ideas and support help make this magazine such a valuable source of information for everyone.

Everyone is warmly welcome to come along and join in our meetings and events. I would also like to extend a special welcome to all new members who have joined us since the publication of the last magazine. We look forward to getting to know you and hope you will enjoy all that the branch has to offer.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer filled with friendship, fun, and happy times.

Kind regards,
Margaret

Hello, I would like to introduce myself I'm Joanna Willetts, the new Prov CS of Cleveland and Durham District Branch. I have a background in member led organisations and education and look forward to helping you here!

As a mam of two and carer to my own mam I lead a busy life so the Oddfellows is an amazing fit for me, and I can't wait to get to know more of you.

I tend to work on Mondays and Fridays, but you can always email or text me if I don't answer the phone!

Mobile: 07354114938

Email: joanna.willetts@
oddfellows.co.uk

Address: 48 Ivy Avenue, Seaham, Co
Durham SR7 8NF.

Best Wishes
Joanna Willetts
Prov CS

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

District Secretary Cleveland and Durham

Joanna Willetts

48 Ivy Avenue,
Seaham,
Co Durham SR7 8NF.

Mobile: 07354 114938

Email:

joanna.willetts@oddfellows.co.uk

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Social Secretary/ District Chairperson (Provincial Grand Master)

Margaret Wells

3 Palace Row,
Hart Village,
Hartlepool TS27 3A

Mobile: 07864 730910

Luncheon Club Organisers

Dianne Clish

Telephone: 07768 073098



Food with Friends

The Raby Arms, Front Street, Hart TS27 3AJ

7 July

4 August

1 September

6 October

3 November

1 December

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon. You're welcome to join us for good food and great company. The Raby Arms, Front Street, Hart TS27 3AJ. Please contact Dianne to book if you wish to attend on 07768 073098 before the preceding Sunday.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

OEM/1024SMALL

Friendly Get Together

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

This new event has been very successful and will continue thanks to everyone who helped make it such a success. The event is open to all members and will be a members' choice event. You will have the opportunity to enjoy guest speakers, play bingo and take part in a variety of activities. Most importantly, it is a chance to enjoy each other's company in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Complimentary tea or coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

30 July - We have a guest speaker Frances Wilson who will be giving us a talk on The Story of Crimdon Dene.

27 August

24 September - We welcome the guest speaker Margaret Hedley - her topic is Hannah's Daughter.

29 October - Come and join the fun of a Halloween Beetle Drive.

26 November - Speaker Daniel Briggs returns to give us a presentation entitled 'Protect Yourself From Doorstep Crime'.

Weekly Event

**New Age Indoor Kurling
at Hart Village Hall**

 12.30pm  £4



Come and join the fun with a little effort and no skill required, but guaranteed to brighten your day. Includes tea or coffee and biscuits. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

Every Thursday



A bit about us...

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



KYNREN

AN EPIC TALE OF ENGLAND

Kynren Experience - An Epic Tale of England

Saturday 25 July, 4.30pm

Kynren Experience - 'An Epic Tale of England' is a spectacular outdoor night show that takes you on an unforgettable journey through 2,000 years of history, myth and legend. Kynren takes audiences on an emotional journey through the moments, myths and people that shaped England. We have secured VIP tickets including the coach. This is a very limited event. Pick-up at the Aldi Car Park, Dunston Road.

KYNREN

***Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 7SF***

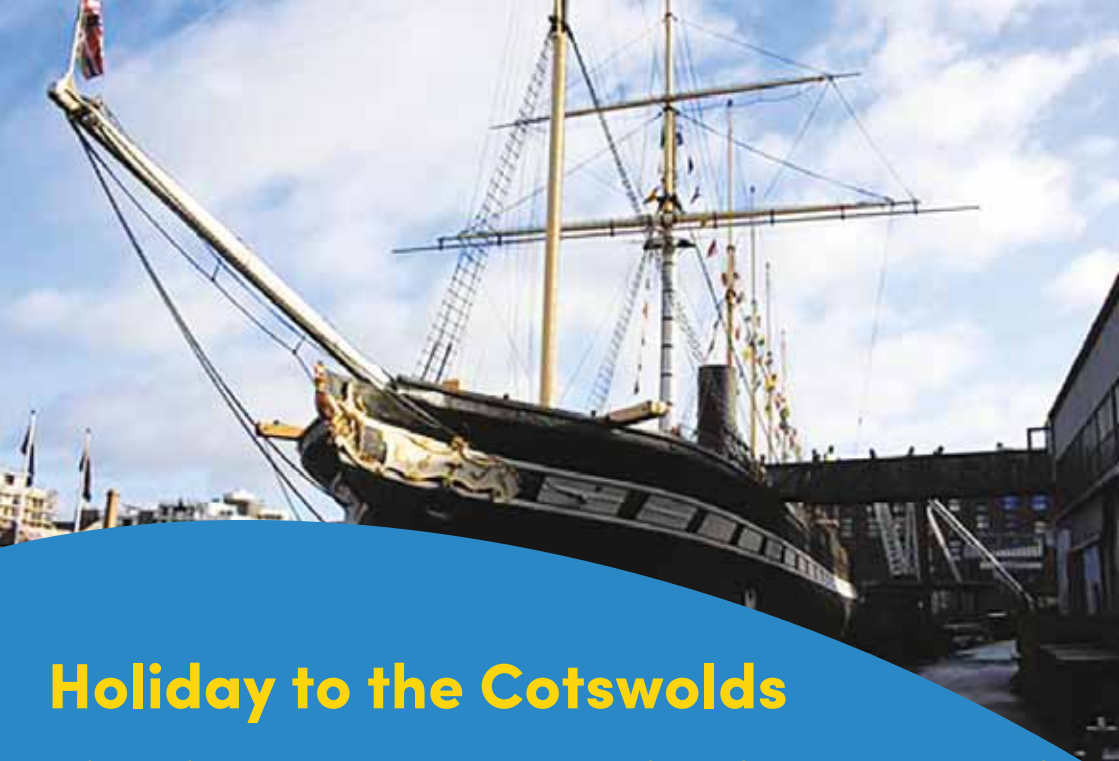
**Call Margaret for
more information on
07864 730910**

Cost: Members £83, Guests £85



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Holiday to the Cotswolds

**Thursday 20 to
Monday 24 August**

We will be visiting Brunel's SS Great Britain - Step aboard Bristol's legendary steamship, historic dockyard, world-class collection and museums, where Brunel's genius reshaped history and touched thousands of lives and a mini river cruise. This event is very popular and sold out last year.

Cost: £499 per person,
single supplement is £128
(limited availability).

*Blunsdon House Hotel,
The Ridge, Blunsdon,
Swindon, Wiltshire
SN26 7AS*

Call Margaret for more
information on
07864 730910



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September 2026

SAT
12

Visit to Ushaw College

L 10am

£ Members £22
Guests £25



Visit to Ushaw College, County Durham to enjoy the Flower Festival, The Specialist Plant and Garden Fayre. Entry to the Historic House and Chapel is £22 including the coach. Pick-up at the Historic Quay, Hartlepool. Early booking is essential. Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens, Woodland Road, Ushaw Moor DH7 7DW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



SAT
26

Charity Fashion Show

L 1.30pm

£ Members £3
Guests £5



An afternoon of 'Friends and Fashion', in aid of Prostate Cancer. Famous brands such as Crew, White Stuff and M&S at hugely discounted prices. Hartfield Retirement Village, Bishop Cuthbert, Hartlepool TS26 0US. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



MON
14

Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall

L 11am

£ Free



Only the committee meet at 11am. Followed by the Good Intent Social Branch at 1pm to discuss future social events. This is followed by the District Business Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

MON
09

Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall

L 11am

£ Free



Only the committee meet at 11am. Followed by the Good Intent Social Branch at 1pm to discuss future social events. This is followed by the District Business Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



Friendship Celebration Dinner

In aid of Prostate Cancer
Friday 18 September, 6pm

To support this worthwhile cause we invite all members and friends to join us for a three course dinner plus entertainment by the fabulous Mea Dean. Doors open at 6pm for photographs, raffle and catching up. Dinner will be served at 7pm. There are 60 places, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Cost: Members £30
Guests £35

*Hardwicke Hall
Manor Hotel,
Hesleden Road,
Blackhall Colliery,
Hartlepool TS27 4PA*

Call Margaret for more
information on
07864 730910



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A Viennese Strauss Christmas Gala

Friday 27 November, 6.30pm

Join The British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra who will delight you with all the favourites from Strauss, Lehar, Kalman and Romberg. Thunder and Lightning Polka, Fledermaus, Merry Widow, The Student Prince, The Desert Song, The Blue Danube, Polkas, Waltzes and music to lift the heart with lots of Christmas music to sing along to. Let's raise the roof and have a good old Christmas sing along to this wonderful music. We have secured our normal popular seats, but places will be limited as the show is for one evening only.

***Billingham Forum
Theatre, Queensway,
Billingham,
Stockton-on-Tees
TS23 2LJ.***

Cost: £30

**Call Margaret for more
information on
07864 730910**



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Oddfellows Brass Christmas Concert

**Saturday 28 November,
2pm**

Our very own Oddfellows Brass return to perform. We welcome them back to help us start the season's celebrations. We have enjoyed their visits for many years and this will be no exception. The money raised will go to this year's charity in aid of Prostate Cancer.

Cost: £10 including refreshments

*Holy Trinity Church,
The Paddock,
Seaton Carew
TS25 1TT*

**Call Margaret for more
information on
07864 730910**



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Scottish Highlands Pre-Christmas Break

Monday 14 December

The Duke of Gordon in Kingussie once again hosts this longstanding Oddfellows favourite pre-Christmas break. Five nights and four days which includes bed, breakfast and evening meal with large helpings of traditional Scottish hospitality. This is a very popular trip, so we recommend booking early.

Cost: £299 (single supplements will apply)

*Duke of Gordon Hotel,
Newtonmore Road,
Kingussie
PH21 1HE.*

**Call Margaret for more
information on
07864 730910**



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Memorable Visit to Perth Museum and House of Bruar



Our story began back in January when, quite by chance, we saw a television news item about what is believed to be the final letter written by Mary, Queen of Scots before her execution in 1587.

Condemned for treason, Mary wrote the letter in the early hours of 8 February, just hours before her execution at Fotheringhay Castle. Now on display at Perth Museum, it marks the longest period the letter has been on public view in more than a generation. On loan from the National Library of Scotland, it was scheduled to remain on display until 26 April 2026. The dates perfectly coincided with our Oddfellows trip to Scotland — an opportunity not to be missed.

On Friday 13 March, we awoke at our hotel, the Duke of Gordon, to a thin layer of overnight snow. With Steve at the wheel, we headed south towards Perth Museum. Finding it proved more challenging than expected — perhaps Friday the 13th had something to do with

it! Much admiration goes to those who showed great determination by detouring on foot from the Arts Museum, where we had mistakenly been directed, to the correct venue.

The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone or the Coronation Stone. This ancient symbol of Scottish monarchy is housed in a glass case and viewed in a small room seating around ten people. We watched a short, animated film showing the inauguration of a boy king seated upon the stone. Two large iron rings are set into it, allowing it to be lifted — or, as shown in the film, carried by strong men using poles.

The origins of the stone are shrouded in legend, though it is widely believed to have come from the rocky area around Scone Palace in Perthshire. Removed during the reign of King Edward, it remained at Westminster Abbey for 700 years and was used in the coronations of British monarchs, most recently King Charles III, who authorised its return to Perth.

The highlight of our visit was, of course, seeing Mary's final letter. We entered a cordoned area where display boards told the story of her life and tragic execution, evoking great sympathy for a woman who spent much of her life imprisoned by her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

The letter itself was displayed in a small, dimly lit room. Written neatly in French

and addressed to her brother-in-law, King Henri III of France, it was immediately captivating. In it, Mary asked him to settle her affairs, having been denied a priest and the papers needed to make her will. The letter reflects her strong Catholic faith and her concern for others, requesting that her servants be paid and that her son be cared for if he so wished. Written with only hours left to live, it was deeply moving. Roberta described feeling privileged to listen to the audio translations in both French and Scottish languages.

Leaving history behind, we arrived at the House of Bruar. Several headed straight for the Sale Shop with success. Alan and Bill admired the antique furniture but sadly without space on the coach to bring any home. As the shop closed, it was time to head back, bringing a full and memorable day to an end. We returned with laughter, shared stories, and warm companionship among our Oddfellows friends. Jenny and Richard, Humber Wolds.

G4 at Billingham Forum

On Tuesday 12 May, 27 Oddfellows met in the lounge bar of Billingham Forum Theatre. We were there to see G4, a vocal harmony quartet, in their current tour 'Phantoms of the Popera'. Little did we know what a wonderful night it was going to be. After finishing our pre-show drinks, we made our way to the auditorium to take our seats.

And so, it began! The show was based on musical theatre, and their repertoire covered every musical we know. The show featured songs from Phantom of the Opera, Les Misérables, the Greatest Showman, Miss Saigon, Lion King and many more.

One of the highlights, and there were many, was the amazing delivery of thirty of the group's favourite songs performed in one piece. It was absolutely incredible. In fact, the whole show was incredible finishing with a medley of Jersey Boys songs.

All good things must come to an end, and I believe everyone thoroughly enjoyed their visit to see G4. Many thanks to Margaret for organising the event and for providing the delicious chocolates for everyone.

Eileen Manners

New Members Welcomed

**Elizabeth
Kandiah
John**

**Christopher
Martin
Brenda**

**Linda
Sue**

Our Norman Invasion

At 4am departure from the Historic Quay was a stimulating experience. Two hours later we transferred to a bigger coach and collected our contingent of odd fellows from Goole and Hull. We met our new driver Mark taking over from Steve who was sadly unable to tour with us. Heavy traffic all the way to Dover meant we needed to take a later ferry however, the compensation was a marvellously smooth channel crossing to Calais. A long tiring day of travel ended after driving in lovely green countryside with a friendly welcome at the Grand Hotel L'Esperance in Lisieux. We were ushered straight into the dining room for an excellent three course dinner at 10.15pm.

On our first full day in Normandy, we bore down on Pegasus Bridge at Ranville seeing the original bridge and visiting the excellent museum full of the hardware of war including models of the Horsa gliders and plays of heroic actions required a peaceful interlude at the famous Café Gondree near the bridge. In the afternoon we returned to Lisieux to explore the massive, modern Basilica cathedral. This is a spiritually uplifting space of colour, light, and shade, providing a calm contrast to the fury of war. Further relaxation for many of our group came from the enjoyment of the local marvellous patisserie, wine and beer just around the corner from our hotel.

On our second day, Mark drove us to Sword Beach for our first period of quiet reflection. A missed turn at the British Normandy Memorial delayed our visit but provided us with the driving experience to remember a source for



many a chat in the pub. A sat-nav may not show the narrowness of roads and the tightness of turns in a mediaeval village. Thus, it was somehow inevitable that the only way to retreat from the village was to reverse down a seriously narrow road with a clearance of an inch or two from the walls and buildings on either side for several 100 yards. Somehow Mark, but not without an interesting exchange between an angry French woman a veritable Florrie believing she had to protect her house and the village from being damaged and Mark a very broad Scotsman. I'm sure neither of them understood a word the other shouted.

The visit to the British Normandy memorial allowed Margaret Wells for The Oddfellows and Alan Lakey and Mohamed El-Menabawey for Rotary to lay wreaths in memoriam. There was time for quiet reflection amid the impressive structure and the 1475 steel serviceman silhouette standing amongst wildflowers in a Meadow on the seaward side of the memorial, representing each serviceman under British command killed on D-Day. We progressed to Arromanches and the

remains of the Mulberry Harbour our last visit of a memorable day.

With the purpose of reducing our hours in the coach on the last day the itinerary changed to allow a visit to the town of Honfleur. What a beautifully preserved harbour and port. A place to wander, loiter and browse the shops, cafes and ancient buildings. The peaceful end of our day was met with the only serious rain we encountered.

After an early breakfast, we left our friendly hotel and its staff. The journey

home seemed swifter than our journey to Lisieux. A brief encounter with facial recognition cameras and fingerprint technology in Calais and we were soon crossing the channel, and so on to Goole and Hartlepool. As ever, thanks to Margaret, for her management, responsibility for her ageing flock and regular supply of refreshments on the coach. And thanks to Mark for a little bit of motoring adventure but mostly for getting us there and back safely.

Christopher Wood



Events in Pictures

Thank you for attending our events and making them such a success!



John and Irene visiting from Severn Trent.

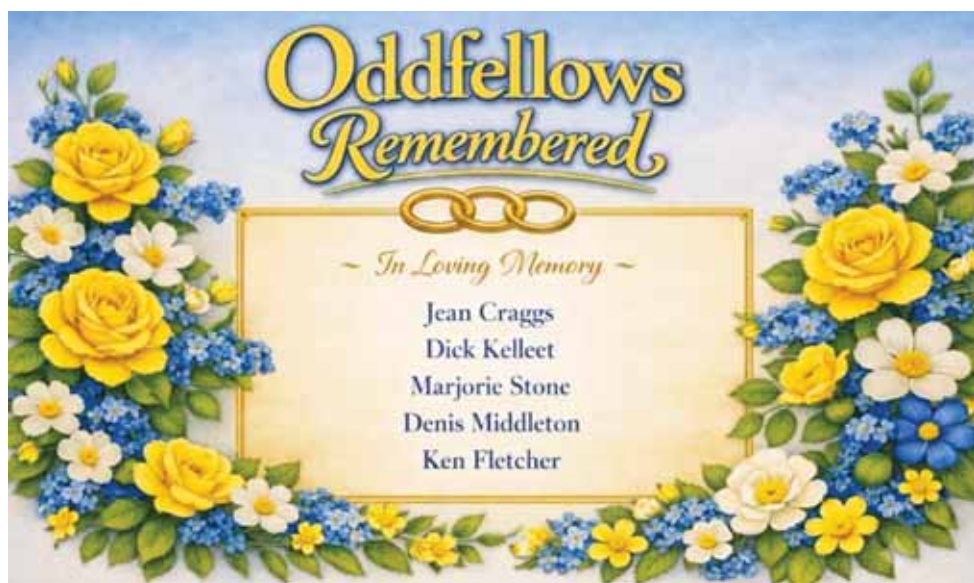


Burns Night addressing the haggis.



Ladies Day in support of Prostate Cancer at Hardwicke Manor





Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this summer!

Throughout June and July, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and Saga, and in upcoming print editions of People's Friend, Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, including previous years' winners, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits.

Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

***Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.**

Eagle-Eye Quiz

Why do have a go at winning £25 in Marks & Spencer vouchers* in our Eagle-Eye Quiz? All you need to do is find the answers to our eight questions below, which can be found throughout this newsletter. So, get reading and spotting!



Send your answers, along with the name, address, and contact number to diane.clish@oddfellows.co.uk by Saturday 29 August 2026. You can also enter by post: Margaret Wells, Clover Cottage, 3 Palace Row, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AY. The competition is open to Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows members only. Good Luck!

Questions

1. Which mythical creature is a bridge in Normandy named after?
2. Where is Kynren?
3. What month is Friendship Month?
4. What kind of ship is the SS Great Britain?
5. What is the name of the piper?
6. Which charity we are raising funds for?
7. Who visited us from Severn Trent Oddfellows?
8. Which beach did the Normandy trip visit?
9. What language was Mary Queen of Scot's final letter written in?
10. Where is Oddfellows Brass Christmas Concert taking place?

*Competition Terms and Conditions

- Entry to the competition is automatic on submission of the required information. We will not share your details with any third party. Only one entry per person. No cash alternative is available. The competition is managed and fulfilled by Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows Branch (the promoter), Clover cottage, 3 Palace Row, Hart, Hartlepool TS273AY.
- The competition will close on Saturday 29 August 23:59. The draw will take place shortly afterwards.
- The winner will be notified by email or phone within four weeks of the close of the competition. The promoter, on receipt of the SAE, will provide details of the winning entry.
- The promote has a right to publicly disclose the name of the winner. The decision of the promoter on any matter relating to these rules shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Meet your Cleveland and Durham

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.



Margaret Wells

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings and would like a visit for a cup of tea and a chat?

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!

All our Welfare Visitors 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 when they visit.

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Margaret Wells on **01429 599323**.

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/

Branch Meetings

The Committee of Management Meetings are held at 11am followed by the Good Intent Social Branch at 1pm to discuss future Social Events. This is followed by the District Business Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are invited to attend the Good Intent Branch and the District Business Meeting.

Monday 14 September

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW
Followed by Half Yearly Meeting at 2pm

Monday 9 November

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

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.

Join the conversation @ OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

[@OddfellowsClevelandDurham](#)



Do you have a story or great photograph to share?

Please send us your news stories! Or perhaps a picture with a caption! Email, post, hand in, or telephone. We'd love to hear anything heart-warming, humorous, or simply very interesting!

At a glance

July 2026

Thurs 2	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Tues 7	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 9	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Mon 13	Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall	11am
Thurs 16	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 23	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Sat 25	Kynren Experience - An Epic Tale of England	4.30pm
Thurs 30	Friendship Get Together	12.30pm

August

Tues 4	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 6	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 13	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 20	Holiday to the Cotswolds	TBC
Thurs 20	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 27	Friendship Get Together	12.30pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 3	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 10	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Sat 12	Visit to Ushaw College	10am
Mon 14	Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall	11am
Thurs 17	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Fri 18	Friendship Celebration Dinner in aid of Prostate Cancer	6pm
Thurs 24	Friendship Get Together	12.30pm
Sat 26	Charity Fashion Show	1.30pm

At a glance

October

Thurs 1	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Tues 6	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 8	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 15	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 22	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 29	Friendship Get Together	12.30pm

November

Tues 3	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 5	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Mon 9	Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall	11am
Thurs 12	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 19	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 26	Friendship Get Together	12.30pm
Fri 27	A Viennese Strauss Christmas Gala	6.30pm
Sat 28	Oddfellows Brass Christmas Concert	2pm

December

Tues 1	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 3	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Thurs 10	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
Mon 14	Scottish Highlands Pre-Christmas Break	TBC
Thurs 17	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm

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.