

October 2025 - April 2026
Issue 20



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

out & *about*

St Helens & Warrington District



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz

Taylor Park photographed by Zoe Ellis



Brighten up your autumn and winter with our coffee mornings, activities and days out! And, at the end of the year, join us as we celebrate Christmas at our fabulous lunchtime party on Thursday 11 December 2025. We'd love to see you! See page 9 for more details.

Welcome to the latest edition of our Events Diary and Newsletter for the St Helens and Warrington Branch

It is a handy guide for you to keep so you know what is happening in our area and have some events to look forward to over the autumn/winter period.

As usual our winter event diary isn't as full as our summer one due to the weather and dark nights. However, please do check your

emails (contact Nicola if you don't already receive) and Facebook for any extra events that may be announced at short notice. For example lunch meet ups, crafting events or maybe theatre trips. You never know what impromptu ideas Nicola might be sharing!

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events, even if you are not a member. We want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events. Why not share us to friends on Facebook or invite them to come along with you, let's share our fun!

Branch Contacts

Please note the new changes to Branch Secretary and Social Organiser, see pages 15 to 17 for more information.

Branch Secretary: Gillian Bowen
Address: Please contact Gillian direct for postal details
Telephone: 07482 130531
Email:
gillian.bowen@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Nicola Daffern
Telephone: 07456 915655
Email:
nicola.daffern@oddfellows.co.uk

Care and Welfare/ Safeguarding Adults Officers

Margaret Harrison Ingham
Carol Rigby
Please contact Gillian or Nicola to request contact information.

Branch meetings are held on various Tuesdays throughout the year at the URC (United Reformed Church), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. For further details or if you would like to attend any of the meetings please contact Gillian or Nicola.

Branch Contact Hours

Please remember that Gillian and Nicola both work part time and flexi hours. Gillian is best reached between 9am and 1pm on Tuesday-Thursday. Nicola between 9am and 4pm Monday - Thursday. If you cannot reach them, please do leave a message/send an email and they will respond as soon as possible.

Keeping informed

Are you receiving our regular Monday members' email? If not, please contact Nicola to request. Why not also follow us on Facebook too to see news and the fun we have:

 facebook.com/oddfellows.sthandw

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Regular Events

Catch Up in Warrington

🕒 10.30am 💷 As per menu

Join us in Warrington for our monthly catch up from 10.30am. This event location is moveable. Please see Facebook for where this month's meet up location will be or contact Nicola for more details. Wherever we choose we know there will be a good selection of refreshments and a warm welcome offered. Cost will be as per menu. Warrington, venue to be confirmed, Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington WA1 1QB. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

Second Monday



13 October 2025
10 November 2025

12 January 2026
9 February 2026

9 March 2026
13 April 2026

Tuesday Drop In

🕒 1.30pm 💷 Members £2.50, Guests £3

Join us at the United Reformed Church (URC) for our Tuesday Social. Due to popularity, we are now in the larger Lower Hall. This is a great chance to come along and make new friends, have a chat, bring your chosen craft or pass time to work on, join in with some games or pick up/drop off

any membership documents. Cost includes refreshments. There is a small onsite car park, but please remember to sign in with your car registration number at reception. URC (Lower Hall), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

Various Tuesday



14 October 2025
21 October 2025
4 November 2025
11 November 2025
18 November 2025
2 December 2025

6 January 2026
13 January 2026
20 January 2026
3 February 2026
10 February 2026
17 February 2026

3 March 2026
10 March 2026
17 March 2026
7 April 2026
14 April 2026
21 April 2026

Regular Events

Warrington Coffee Morning

⌚ 10.30am £ As per menu

Rhode Island Coffee, situated just outside the Golden Square Shopping Centre, is the venue for our monthly coffee morning in Warrington. Everyone is welcome to come and join us upstairs in the Latte Lounge for a chat and catch up. Rhode Island Coffee, 23-25 Market Place, Golden Square, Warrington WA1 1QB. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



Last Tuesday of the month

28 October 2025
25 November 2025

27 January 2026
24 February 2026

31 March 2026
28 April 2026

St Helens Coffee Morning

⌚ 10.30am £ As per menu

Join us in St Helens for our monthly catch up from 10.30am. This event location is moveable. Please see Facebook for where this month's meet up location will be or contact Nicola for more details. Wherever we choose, we know there will be a good selection of refreshments and a warm welcome offered. Cost will be as per menu. St Helens Town Centre, Venue to be confirmed, St Helens WA10. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



Various Thursday

23 October 2025
13 November 2025
4 December 2025

8 January 2026
5 February 2026
26 March 2026

30 April 2026

October 2025

TUES
07

Charity Afternoon for The Hope Centre, St Helens



1.30pm



£5



Everyone is encouraged to come along for a fundraising afternoon for our Chairman's charity of the year, 'The Hope Centre, St Helens'. Enjoy singing from The Hope Singers and Vernon Fuller with tea or coffee, cake and a raffle too! Tickets available from September for £5 and include a slice of cake and unlimited tea or coffee. URC (Lower Hall), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



WED
08

Royal Court Afternoon Variety Performance



12.30pm



£4



Come and join us as for an afternoon visit to the Royal Court's Variety Lunch Club (ticket price does not include food or refreshments), which features the best in local entertainment, with a variety of comedians, actors, singers and entertainers.

Proceedings are compèred by one of Liverpool's brightest comedy stars, Sam Avery. We are to meet in Liverpool (transport is not arranged) around 12.30pm. Doors open at 1pm and show is a prompt 1.30pm start. Tickets are very limited.

Please note, seats are booked on balcony level, lift available and about six steps to reach our seats. Tickets are to be paid in full at time of booking to secure your place. Book by Tuesday 16 September 2025. Royal Court Theatre, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool L1 1HL. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



October 2025

WED
29

Bury Market



9am



Members £18, Guests £21, Children £9



Bury Market is a very large traditional market in a modern setting. It's a unique shopping experience and a great day out for everyone. Bury's World Famous Market is open for bargains galore. Quite simply, it is the biggest and best market in the North West!



The market has over 200 unique stalls, brimming with bargains. It is located next to the Mill Gate Shopping Centre, which has an abundance of independent and national chains. For those not wanting to shop, the town centre is home to Bury Art Museum, The Fusilier Museum and the East Lancs Railway, which are all a few minutes walk away.

A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place. Final balance is due by Tuesday 21 October 2025. Bury Market BL9 0BJ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

November

TUES
04

Branch Meeting followed by Tuesday Drop In



1.30pm



Donations



Come along and be updated with all the latest information regarding the Oddfellows at both local and national level. This is also your chance to see how the Branch is run and share your views. Remember, we are run by our members for our members. Following the meeting, refreshments and the normal Tuesday social will go ahead for those wishing to stay. Members only for the meeting. Non-members are welcome to attend following at approximately 2pm. Donations towards refreshments. URC (Upstairs Gallery Room), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

November

THURS
06

Lowry Theatre - A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong



9am



Members £34, Guests £38



Start the Christmas season off with a trip to the Lowry Theatre, watching 'A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong!' Pick-ups in both Warrington and St Helens. We set off to Media City with free time in the morning when we arrive. Will you choose shopping, brunch in Lowry Outlet, or maybe visit

the National War Museum (no need to book and it's free entry)? We meet back at The Lowry at 12.15pm for an optional 360 immersive experience of stepping into the sights and sounds of LS Lowry's iconic 'Going To The Match', followed by a self-guided tour of Lowry artwork, before meeting the rest of the group at 1.30pm to go to the show.



A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong: Prior to its eight week West End run, this Christmas catastrophe hits the Lowry. As the Cornley crew hilariously battle miscommunication, delays to their set, actors missing in action and a growing feud over who will play the lead, it's sure to be a disastrous take on the much-loved classic Christmas story of Ebenezer Scrooge. Will Cornley finally change their ways, or will their misfortunes wreak havoc with hysterical consequences? Enjoy a festive slice of pure escapism at the worst production in Christmas past, present and yet to come!

Tickets are extremely limited in number and a £15 non-refundable deposit must be paid at time of booking to cover ticket costs. Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Last date for booking is Tuesday 2 September 2025 and the final balance is due by Tuesday 21 October 2025. Please note, due to the time of year, the return drop off will be in the dark. Please consider your onward travel home. Access - not recommended for anyone with mobility difficulties, due to approximately 15 steps to reach seats. Cheapest seats have been selected at the back of the theatre to keep cost down. Lowry Theatre, The Quays, Salford M50 3AZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

December

TUES
09

Christmas Halifax Bingo

1.30pm

Members £2.50
Guests £3



Our Christmas Halifax bingo (steal a prize) is back by popular demand! For those who haven't played before, it is a very easy and fun game to play. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of £2. This can be anything at all: something fun, oddly shaped, or Christmas themed (stuck for ideas, speak to Nicola). We will have our usual refreshments with a few Christmas treats. URC (Lower Hall), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

THURS
11

Christmas Lunch Party

12.30pm

£ TBC



We once again return to the Unison Club for Rick's Christmas carvery. You will be served a choice of starters and desserts, with the main course being the carvery, finishing off with tea or coffee and mince pies. As usual, we will be holding our annual Christmas raffle, with all proceeds going to this year's charity 'The Hope Centre'. Fun, games and dancing will follow in the function room for those not wanting to rush home. A £5 deposit is required to secure your place and final balance is due by Tuesday 2 December 2025. The Unison Club, Bishop Road, St Helens, WA10 6SX, Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

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 oddfellows.co.uk/events

OEW/1024SMALL

January 2026

THURS
29

Ten-Pin Bowling at Superbowl, St Helens



10.30am



£7.99 TBC



Back by popular demand, we return to St Helens Superbowl for a fun session of ten-pin bowling. This has always proved to be a great morning. If you have never been before we have the bumpers up to keep us in a straight line. For those who may struggle to bowl, there are frames available to



help roll the ball down to the pins. If you don't want to bowl, you are welcome to come along and watch, grab a coffee and have a chat and a giggle.

Price to be confirmed, but we do usually have the 'Nifty Fifty' deal, which gives us two games of bowling, toast or bacon bap and a tea or coffee for £7.99. We cannot guarantee this deal will be on in January, so please check closer to the time. SuperBowl St Helens, Linkway West, St Helens WA10 1QA. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

February

TUES
03

Branch Meeting followed by Tuesday Drop In



1.30pm



Donations



Come along and be updated with all the latest information regarding the Oddfellows at both local and national level. This is also your chance to see how the Branch is run and share your views. Remember, we are run by our members, for our members. Following the meeting, refreshments and the normal Tuesday social will go ahead, for those wishing to stay. Members only for the meeting. Non-members are welcome to attend following at approximately 2pm. Donations towards refreshments. URC (Upstairs Gallery Room), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

February

THURS
26

Spring Floral Arranging Workshop



1pm



Members £23, Guests £26



Get in the mood for Spring! Two hour workshop hosted by Zsa Zsa Flowers, who will guide you through making your own small, fresh, hand-tied floral arrangement to be displayed in a glass vase for you to take home. All items provided in the cost. Places are limited on this workshop and must be booked by Sunday 30 November 2025. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place. Balance is due by Tuesday 3 February 2026. URC, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



March

THURS
19

Ten-Pin Bowling and Crazy Golf at Discobowl, Warrington



10.30am



TBC



We love a session of ten-pin bowling, so let's go to Warrington again and if you fancy, a session of Crazy Golf too! If you have never played before we have the bumpers up to keep us in a straight line. For those who may struggle to bowl, there are frames available to help roll the ball down

to the pins. Cost to be confirmed, but at the time of going to press one game of bowling is £3 if booked before 11am, one round of crazy golf £6. If you don't want to play, you are more than welcome to come along and watch others attempt to get a strike or a hole in one. Come along, grab a coffee and have a chat and a giggle. Discobowl Warrington, Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington WA1 1QE. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.



March

TUES
24

Annual General Meeting



1.30pm



Free



Join us for our Annual General Meeting to keep up-to-date on all Branch matters. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. URC (Lower Hall), Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

April

THURS
16

Chester Boat Trip



9am



Members £30
Guests £34



Enjoy some free time in Chester Centre and then an afternoon two hour scenic cruise in this lovely day trip. Pick-up in Warrington is at 9am and St Helens at 9.20am. We set off for Chester and arrive for free time in the wonderful city centre. Why not browse the shops or maybe have brunch? The choice is yours! At 1pm, we meet at the quayside for boarding for a prompt sail at 1.30pm down the River Dee.

On our two-hour scenic river cruise, we will be treated to a jam and cream scone with tea or coffee. Plus, we will be joined by Paul Ray, a versatile keyboard vocalist, who will provide on board entertainment, playing songs from 60s, 70s and 80s. Paul welcomes requests, so get your thinking caps on! The coach will drop us in the centre of Chester, but please note, there is an incline to walk down to reach the quayside and a few steps to the landing stage. The coach will meet us at the boat to avoid the return upwards incline.

There are also a few steps on board if sitting downstairs near the bar. Although the boat is undercover, please wear suitable clothing/shoes. Please note places are limited on this trip. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place. Final balance by Tuesday 7 April 2026 please. Chester Boat, The Groves, Souter's Lane, Chester CH1 1SZ. Contact Gillian on 07482 130531 or Nicola on 07456 915655.

Booking on Events

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation of an event due to lack of support.

Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until your deposit has been received. Deposits are non refundable. When a booking is made for events that require a deposit or a purchase of ticket, payment of this must be made within 7 days of booking. Refunds will only be made where the event is cancelled. No refunds will be given in any other circumstances, unless the place can be filled by another member.

Polite note about day trips. Where possible, could we please leave the first few rows on the coach free for those who have mobility issues, or who suffer from travel sickness. Sitting in the same seats on the return journey will save confusion, especially as some people do leave items on the coach.

To keep our trips as affordable as possible and convenient for all members, we book one pick-up / drop off in both Warrington (pull in at Central Station, Winwick Street) and St Helens (URC).

To ensure we stick to our agreed booking (and insurance), we cannot have extra drop offs. Please note that parking at URC on day trips is not available.

On return to St Helens, please let those who need to catch a bus home get off the coach first, as waiting in town for an hour to catch their next bus would put a dampener on anyone's lovely day!

Thank you as always for your co-operation.

Payment Options

There are various ways to make payment:

- **Sum Up and cash** – both options available at events via Nicola.
- **Cheque** – please make payable to St Helens and Warrington District Lodge. Write your name (if different to the name on the cheque) and event on the back of the cheque. Hand to Nicola at events or post direct to Gillian (please call/email/text to advise it has been posted).
- **Bank transfer** – please ensure that you advise Gillian by call/ email/text of the event you are making payment for. For bank details please call Gillian.

Are your contact details up to date? If not please get in touch



Charity Work

We had a fantastic result for last year's Chairman's charity, Willowbrook Hospice. An outstanding amount of £2,650 was raised from fund raising activities which included the charity afternoon held in October. Julie commented "I'm delighted with the total we've managed to raise and was proud to hand the cheque over to Willowbrook Hospice on behalf of St Helens and Warrington Branch. I was hoping to raise £1,000 and we've smashed that!"

A sincere thank you from all of us at the Oddfellows to everyone who donated raffle prizes and bought raffle tickets to support our charity of the year. You have all helped to make a real difference in the lives of people who really need it. The branch has also sent £100 donations to St Rocco's Hospice, Warrington, St Helens Salvation Army and the Oddfellows Charities The Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

This year's charity is The Hope Centre St Helens. We hope everyone continues to support this worthy cause. We are holding a musical charity afternoon in aid of Hope House – Help For The Homeless on Tuesday 13 October. Any raffle prizes would be gratefully received if you would like to donate. Tickets are now on sale, please see Nicola, cost £5 and includes a slice of cake and unlimited tea or coffee, 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the Lower Hall at URC.

Our on-going knitting projects for Warrington Hospital are still being well received and appreciated. We knit hats, prem baby goods, Hals hand puppets, blankets and squares. We would be delighted to receive any oddments of left over wool. If anyone wishes to donate for our volunteers to use in these projects, or if you would like to help, please do speak to Nicola.



Social Organiser and Branch Secretary Changes

Our lovely Julie left her Social Organiser role at the end of May, which she held for over 10 years, she is now embracing her well-earned retirement (no rest we're sure as Mark and her children/grandchildren will all have plans for her!). But we don't say goodbye, as Julie remains an active member of the Oddfellows and we'd love to see her at meet ups and trips enjoying herself stress free. We all wish Julie a long and happy retirement filled with many holidays, fun and excitement (as we all know her adventures can be!).

Pam has also left her role of Branch Secretary and Care and Welfare Officer at the end of August. Huge congratulations go to Pam, who has secured a promotion and is moving to Unity Office as Secretary of the Order, which is one of the four highest officer positions within the Oddfellows. We wish Pam every success as she embarks on the new exciting challenges that lie ahead of her.

Please see the messages Julie and Pam would like to send to you all on the following pages.

In place of Julie, we welcomed Nicola as Social Organiser, who started with us in April working alongside Julie and learning from the best! Nicola has joined us from a schools administration background and wanted to move away from an office and into something much more rewarding and fun. Having met our members she is sure

she is in the right place! Nicola is looking to increase our events further in both St Helens and Warrington – watch out for emails and updates on Facebook! If you don't currently receive regular Monday emails and would like to, please let Nicola know.

Alongside Nicola, we also welcome Gillian who joined us in June as our new Branch Secretary. Gillian has a wealth of experience from working within the educational sector and also the charity field. She has already been warmly welcomed by members and is looking forward to working alongside Nicola. Please say hello when you see her - she loves a chat.

All dental/optical claims should be sent to Gillian. She is more than happy to process your claim(s) via email or post. Alternatively, they can be given to Nicola at any social event, who will ensure Gillian receives them.



Nicola Daffern



Gillian Bowen

Farewell, but not goodbye! From Pam Casey

As you read this message please bear in mind that I'm writing it on the last day of June (and one of the hottest days this year!) As many of you are aware I'm leaving my role as Branch Secretary at the end of August, to start a new role within the Oddfellows!

For those of you that are not aware, I had a meeting in February this year with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Secretary of the Order (SOO), Jane Nelson, where I was informed that the individual who had commenced training in late 2024 to take over as SOO, had decided she was no longer able to continue with the role. As a result, and due to me being so close at interview, the role was offered to me. After due consideration I accepted the offer and am very honoured to do so. I will commence my employment in September 2025, and will shadow Jane until her retirement at the end of the Annual Movable Conference (AMC) 2026, where I will then take over as SOO.



Pam's last Oddie's outing was to the races and, despite every effort in trying... came away with no money, but she's winning in life!

I have truly loved every minute at the St Helens and Warrington Branch, and even though I have only known you for a couple of years, I have made some fabulous memories, had many laughs and most importantly, made a lot of friends! I will try, where time allows, to pop in on a Tuesday afternoon to say "Hi", but not sure how often, as my new role is full-time. Farewell.

Welcome to our New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members who have joined us since the last diary.

Gillian Bowen
Sue Caller
Nicola Daffern
Thao Dang
Linda Griffiths
Sandra Johnson
Fiona Edwards
Andrea McCourt

Maureen O'Donoghue
Keith Prescott
Eric Riley
Sue Riley

Along with Sheila Longmire who has recently rejoined us and we're delighted to welcome back.

We hope you are all enjoying being Oddfellows!

Thank You for the Memories – Julie Webster



Julie's last day, gifts presented by Margaret on behalf of all at Oddfellows.

I would just like to say a huge thank you again for all of your kind thoughts, cards and gifts. It is heartening that my efforts to provide both regular gatherings and coach trips during the last ten years have been appreciated by our members. To see many friendships made or strengthened over the years has been so rewarding.

There were many cards and gifts, each thoughtful and appreciated and I can't go into them all here, but I will say that the US Dollars have been put to good use, as many of you know I have been fortunate enough to visit the US and Walt Disney World many times and that I am returning shortly with my grandchildren. One thing that I have never experienced there is 'The Keys to the Kingdom' a behind the scenes (and underground) tour of the Magic Kingdom, so I have indulged myself and booked a tour for our next visit. I am sure it will be fascinating and very enjoyable and look forward to telling you all about it when I get to see you all in the future.

I thought it might be fun to remind people of a few things that happened during our coach trips over the years,

without naming names of course, so in no particular order:

- Getting lost in the hotel lift!
- The afternoon in York when members wandered around the Shambles whilst myself and a certain someone attended A&E, following a little fall (and no, Wetherspoons had not been involved at that point).
- Getting lost at Piece Hall.
- Hiding a 53 seater Coach at Crich Museum (let's not mention the 'Toilet' episode on the same trip!)
- Getting lost in the hotel.
- One of our quieter members shimmying on down with the entertainer in Weston and earning the name 'Sex on Legs'
- Getting lost at Crich Museum.
- Breaking the picnic bench at Leighton Hall.
- Having to take a detour in Llangollen because some didn't manage to get out of the local drinking establishment on time.
- A little spillage of gin on the way from Wells.

Of course, I couldn't finish without a mention of 'The back of the bus choir' when the dulcet tones entertained our trips, from Dancing Queen to Delilah. And who would have thought our rendition of Sweet Caroline would become so popular that it ended up being taken off us and used as the song for our national football team!

Once again, thank you to everyone and please be gentle with Nicola who I am sure you will all make lots of happy memories with.

Photos of past events



LADGC bowling.



Working on own pass time over a brew and a chat at Tuesday's URC social drop in.



Rose Farm Shop.



Haydock Horse Racing.

Lytham Hall



Trentham Hall and Gardens





Crazy golf in Warrington.



Cotebrook horses.



Ice-cream treats in the sunshine.

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 Gillian on **07482 130531** or email **gillian.bowen@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

At a glance

October 2025

Tues 7	Charity Afternoon for The Hope Centre, St Helens	1.30pm
Wed 8	Royal Court Afternoon Variety Performance	12.30pm
Mon 13	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 14	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 21	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 23	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 28	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 29	Bury Market	9am

November

Tues 4	Branch Meeting followed by Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 6	Lowry Theatre - A Christmas Carol Goes Wrong	9am
Mon 10	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 11	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 13	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 18	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 25	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am

December

Tues 2	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 4	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 9	Christmas Halifax Bingo	1.30pm
Thurs 11	Christmas Lunch Party	12.30pm

January 2025

Tues 6	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 8	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 12	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 13	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 20	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 27	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 29	Ten-Pin Bowling at Superbowl, St Helens	10.30am

At a glance

February

Tues 3	Branch Meeting followed by Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 5	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 9	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 10	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 17	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 24	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 26	Spring Floral Arranging Workshop	1pm

March

Tues 3	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Mon 9	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 10	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 17	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 19	Ten-Pin Bowling and Crazy Golf at Discobowl, Warrington	10.30am
Tues 24	Annual General Meeting	1.30pm
Thurs 26	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 31	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am

April

Tues 7	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Mon 13	Catch Up in Warrington	10.30am
Tues 14	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 16	Chester Boat Trip	9am
Tues 21	Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Tues 28	Warrington Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 30	St Helens Coffee Morning	10.30am

Join the conversation@OddfellowsUK

Find us at **f oddfellows.sthandw**

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