

Plymouth Hoe



the ODDfELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

events & news

Plymouth and Truro District

September 2026 - February 2027

Polperro Harbour, Cornwall



We hope you can join us for our social events! See pages 3-8 for more info

Welcome to the latest edition of the Plymouth and Truro District Branch Events Diary. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place - by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

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 that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

District Secretary:
Peter English

Address:
The Oddfellows Hall,
49 Green Lane, Redruth,
Cornwall TR15 1LL

Telephone: 01209 200810

Email:
peter.english@oddfellows.co.uk

Dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm your attendance.

A bit about us...

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

September 2026 – Friendship Month

Tuesday 1 – Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. We vary them from month to month, but include old favourites like beetle drives, duck racing, card bingo, cards and quizzes.

Always accompanied with a cuppa and a biscuit. **Address:**

Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Tuesday 1 – Famous Cornish Women Talk by the Redruth Antiquarians at Oddfellows Hall, 2pm

An Friendship Month event for everyone, come and join us for a wonderful talk by Redruth Antiquarians, about famous Cornish women. Followed by light refreshments, a charity raffle and a chance to learn what Oddfellows is all about. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.



Wednesday 2 – Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat at Mollies Coffee Shop. Everyone welcome to join us and while away an hour between 10.30am and 11.30am.

Cost as per menu. **Address:** Mollies Coffee Shop, 41 Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AW. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.



Wednesday 2 – Famous Cornish Women Talk by the Redruth Antiquarians at Kea Community Centre, 2pm

An Friendship Month event for everyone, come and join us for a wonderful talk by Redruth Antiquarians, about famous Cornish women. Followed by light refreshments, a charity raffle and a chance to learn what Oddfellows is all about. **Address:** Kea Community Centre, Old Coach Road, Playing Place, Truro TR3 6ET. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Wednesday 2 – Truro Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games.

Everyone gets a say on what we do next, but the events can include animal boules, duck racing, card bingo, quizzes and group board games. Tea or coffee available and a charity raffle available. **Address:** Kea Community Centre, Old Coach Road, Playing Place, Truro TR3 6ET. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.



Friendship Month Photo Display

Thursday 3 September 2026, 11am

Address: St Budeaux Library – Meeting Room, Victoria Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1RQ

Come and join us at our new venue in St Budeaux Library meeting room for a beautiful photographic display, a cuppa and information on the Oddfellows. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.



September 2026 – Friendship Month

Thursday 3 – Plymouth Friendship Group, 1.30pm

This is a small group that needs your support to continue – join in with some fun games. Varied games including Countdown, Family Fortunes, beetle drive, cards and quizzes. Coffee or tea, everyone welcome. **Address:** The St Budeaux Community Centre, Wolseley Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1UD. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Half Yearly Meeting

Saturday 5 September 2026, 11.30am

Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL

The half yearly business meeting will be held at the Redruth Oddfellows Hall. It is a members only event and will be preceded by a light luncheon as usual. Booking with Peter is essential for lunch by Tuesday 25 August 2026. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

October

Thursday 1 – Plymouth Friendship Group, 11am

This is a small group that needs your support to continue – join in with some fun games. Varied games including Countdown, Family Fortunes, beetle drive, cards and quizzes. Coffee or tea, everyone welcome.

Address: St Budeaux Library – Meeting Room, Victoria Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1RQ. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.



October

Tuesday 6 – Falmouth Friendship Group, 2pm

Come along and join in with some fun games. We vary them from month to month, but include old favourites like beetle drives, duck racing, card bingo, cards and quizzes. Always accompanied with a cuppa and a biscuit. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

Wednesday 7 – Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

Come along and join us for a coffee and a chat at Mollies Coffee Shop. Everyone welcome to join us and while away an hour between 10.30am and 11.30am. Cost as per menu. **Address:** Mollies Coffee Shop, 41 Ridgeway, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 2AW. Contact Brenda on 07792 017791 or Peter on 01209 200810.



Wednesday 7 – Truro Friendship Group, 2pm

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November

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Wednesday 4 – Coffee and Chat, 10.30am

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November

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West Cornwall Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 2 December, 12.30pm

Penventon Hotel, West End, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1TE

We will be once heading to the Penventon Hotel for their wonderful Christmas lunch. This event is open to all, but must be pre-booked with Peter by Friday 20 November 2026 and a deposit paid. A menu will be circulated when available for pre-orders. Cost as per menu. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.



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January 2027

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February

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Yoga

Third Monday of the month, 10.30am

Join us for an hour of chair yoga led by our highly qualified instructor, Chrissie. With a wealth of experience teaching for the NHS and various community organisations, Chrissie is skilled at guiding participants of all



levels through gentle, chair-based exercises designed to improve flexibility, strength and overall relaxation.

Whether you are new to yoga or a seasoned practitioner, these sessions provide a welcoming environment for everyone. A Fantastic Benefit for Oddfellows Members: The best part? The sessions are completely free for Oddfellows members, making it an excellent benefit for those involved in the organisation.

Spaces are limited, so please contact Peter English to book a space

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages. Find us at [f OddfellowsUK](#)

traditional meetings

The Oddfellows have been around for over 200 years and have a rich history and tradition. The following meetings are aimed at preserving those traditions.



Held on the third Friday of the month at 7.30pm. This is a full Ceremonial Lodge, which keeps the traditions of the Society alive. The meeting is presided over by the Noble Grand (Chairman) and the Lodge officers. Traditional odes are sung and business may be conducted. Everyone is welcome to come along and either observe or join in with the proceedings. Refreshments follow the meeting and where time permits social activities could follow. Oddfellows Hall, 49 Green Lane, Redruth TR15 1LL. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

**18 September 2026
16 October 2026**

**20 November 2026
18 December 2026**

**15 January 2027
19 February 2027**

Business Meetings - First Thursday of the month, 10.30am

The business meetings keep the traditions of the Society alive, and we welcome anyone who would care to join us. The meetings although formal do allow friends to catch up. We tend to arrive about 10am for a chance to have a coffee before we start. The St Budeaux Community Centre, Wolseley Road, St Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 1UD. Contact Peter on 01209 200810.

**3 September 2026
1 October 2026**

**5 November 2026
3 December 2026**

**7 January 2027
4 February 2027**

Sunday Lunch Get Together

East Cornwall along with Pride of the West members from Plymouth still meet every six weeks for a Sunday Lunch get together. Katherine Hicks-Jane has been organising these events for well over 20 years now and it gives everyone a chance to have a social get together. The group move around the many local hostelrys in search of the best Sunday lunches, so ensuring a chance to try somewhere new, that you may not go alone. If you are interested in coming along, then please give Katherine a call, she will then let you know where and when the group will be next meeting.



For further information contact Katherine on 01752 296291

Southern Group Conference

This years Southern Group Conference was a nice easy trip for a change, being held in Torquay. Members were treated to some lively debates and the chance to catch up with old friends & make new ones, from Districts throughout the conference region. Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Mike Chappell picture along side Peter English in his role as Past President of the conference.



The Yoga Group

The members down West have been benefiting from monthly Yoga sessions kindly taken by Chrissy a local member, who is qualified in this wonderful art.



Oddfellows Stained Glass Window

The Oddfellows Stained Glass Window in Camborne Parish Church of Saint Martin of Tours and Saint Meriadoc of Stival.

This was paid for by the Loyal Basset Lodge of the Oddfellows Friendly Society and consecrated by the Reverend Canon Chappel in 1863.

It celebrates the marriage of the then Prince of Wales, Albert Edward, later King Edward VII to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, later Queen Alexandra which occurred on 10 March 1863 at Saint

George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The four-light window was paid for by the Lodge bearing the family's name at the then substantial cost of nine shillings and sixpence (47.5 decimal pence) per foot of glass, around £50 per foot in today's prices.



Cornwall Pétanque

Our own District secretary Pete English is pictured proudly wearing the kit sponsored by the District, with the Cornwall Pétanque singles trophy which he won for the first time in June.



Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM): District Deputy Chairman

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM): Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Sunday Lunches

Its great to see both Sunday lunch groups doing so well. The SE Cornwall/Plymouth group organised by Katherine were at Boringdon Golf Club & the West Cornwall Group organised by Jan Timms were at Wheal Dream Helston. The SE Cornwall group has been meeting for over 20 years & is happy to welcome new members along. The West Cornwall group only started this year, but with a record so far of 24 attending, has been a great success. If you would like to attend either, Katherine can be contacted on



01752 296291 and Jan by
janice2026odds@gmail.com.



Oddfellows Online Events

Discover the five Rs for a happier retirement with Dr Anna Machin

Tuesday 14 July, 7pm

Join author, broadcaster and world-renowned Anthropologist, Dr Anna Machin as she offers her expert advice on how to navigate the emotional and social aspect of retirement.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/AnnaMachin2

Murder Most Austen

Tuesday 28 July, 7pm

Whether you're a fan of Austen or just thrilled by a good detective story, join crime writer and scholar Dr Lucy Andrew for this engaging talk on how Austen's works have shaped the evolution of detective fiction.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/MurderMostAusten

Staying Safe from Financial Scams

Tuesday 18 August, 7pm

Financial scams are becoming more sophisticated, using new tactics to exploit trust. This talk with Unity Mutual explains how these scams work, highlights key warning signs, and provides practical strategies to help you protect yourself and your finances.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/FinancialScams1

Understanding Diabetes

Tuesday 15 September, 7pm

Join us for this informative talk covering what type 1 and type 2 Diabetes are, signs and symptoms, who's at risk of type 2 Diabetes, how to access support, and how to live well.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/OddfellowsDiabetesUK

More Ghostly Tales to be Told

Tuesday 27 October, 7pm

Get ready for Halloween with another fascinating evening of stories and poems by Dr Ann Featherstone, a retired university lecturer, teacher and writer who has appeared on numerous BBC programmes and documentaries.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/MoreGhostlyTales



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 Peter on **01209 200810** or email peter.english@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**

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](http://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.

At a glance

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Tues 1	Famous Cornish Women Talk by the Redruth Antiquarians at Oddfellows Hall	2pm
Wed 2	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 2	Famous Cornish Women Talk by the Redruth Antiquarians at Kea Community Centre	2pm
Wed 2	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Thurs 3	Pride of the West - Plymouth Business Meeting	10am
Thurs 3	Plymouth - Friendship Month Photo Display	11am
Thurs 3	Plymouth Friendship Group	1.30pm
Sat 5	Half Yearly Meeting	11.30am
Fri 18	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm

October

Thurs 1	Pride of the West - Plymouth Business Meeting	10am
Thurs 1	Plymouth Friendship Group	11am
Tues 6	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
Wed 7	Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 7	Truro Friendship Group	2pm
Fri 16	Cornubian Ritual Lodge - Redruth	7.30pm

Who can you invite
along to join in the
friendship and 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**

At a glance

November

Tues 3	Falmouth Friendship Group	2pm
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Thurs 5	Pride of the West – Plymouth Business Meeting	10am
Thurs 5	Plymouth Friendship Group	11am
Fri 20	Cornubian Ritual Lodge – Redruth	7.30pm

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Wed 2	West Cornwall Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
Thurs 3	Pride of the West – Plymouth Business Meeting	10am
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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