

events & news

Norwich District

April - September 2025





City of Norwich Branch 3rd Annual Lunch - Sunday 14 September

We welcome all our members to the spring edition of your events Diary and Newsletter for the Norwich District Oddfellows.

We hope you find something of interest and look forward to meeting you at one or more of our events.

A lesson learnt from the pandemic. If you arrange to attend any event, make sure we have a contact number for you 'just in case'.

Everyone is welcome at most Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend events that take your fancy – we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Social Co-ordinators Details

Mary Carr	01603 485192
Peter Coe	01603 401430
David Hale	01603 714389
Dorothy Hale	01603 714389
Janet Larter	01692 407852
David Winter	01603 411636
Maggi Winter	01603 411636
Anne Ferris-Jones	01603 504783

(Please contact the co-ordinator responsible for each event printed with the function details. Branch venues, meetings and contacts can be found on page 17 and 18).

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Coffee Morning (Trafalgar Branch)

Fourth Wednesday of the month at 11am

Come along and join us on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Christopher's Café and Bakery for a good chat and good coffee. Please note the new venue. First coffee free for members and visitors. Address: Christopher's Bakery, 4 Church Street, North Walsham NR28 9DA. Contact Janet on 01692 407113.

Wednesday 21 May, Wednesday 16 July and Tuesday 16 September

Ten Pin Bowling (Trafalgar Branch) Third Thursday of the month at 6pm



Join members of the Trafalgar Branch and show your skill in ten pin bowling at JR's in North Walsham at 6pm for two games. It's great fun and keeps you fit. Cost: 20% discount for members of the Trafalgar Branch. Address: JR's, Tungate, North Walsham NR28 OJQ. Please contact Janet on 01692 407113 a week in advance if you plan to be attending.

17 April, 19 June and 21 August

If you arrange to attend any event, make sure we have a contact number for you 'just in case'.

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.

Event Prices

Due to circumstances quite beyond our control, at the time of going to press not all prices are available for a number of events. Please ring the named contacts for further information and to book if you are interested.

regular events

Knit 'n' Natter (Trafalgar Branch)

Every Tuesday at 11am (Except Christmas holidays)

Join us to Knit 'n' Natter every Tuesday, just bring your own wool and needles, or not as the case may be. You will be very welcome amongst friends old and new. **Address:** 28 Debenne Road,



North Walsham NR28 OLZ. All we ask is that you call Janet on 01692 407113, Wednesday in advance to confirm attendance.

Play Crib or other Card Games on a Friday (Trafalgar Branch) Every Friday at 11am (Except Christmas holidays)



Join us to play crib or other card games every Friday, you will be very welcome amongst friends old and new. Address: 28 Debenne Road, North Walsham NR28 OLZ. All we ask is that you call Janet on 01692 407113, Wednesday in advance to confirm 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.

diary

April 2025

Friday 11 - Quiz and Chips, 7.30pm

The ever popular quiz and chips evening will once again be held at Oddfellows Hall at 7.30pm sharp. Make or join a table of four. A chance to win a prize in a free raffle. Please feel free to bring your own favourite tipple. **Cost:** £8 for members and £10 for guests to



include fish and chips, tea or coffee. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich NR6 5AB. To book a seat or table please contact David on 01603 411636 or Peter on 01603 401430 before Friday 28 March. Oh and don't forget your thinking caps.

Lunch at the New Forge Restaurant Wednesday 7 May, 12 noon for 12.30pm

New Forge Restaurant, Norwich Road, Aylsham NR11 6UD

Join us at 12 noon for 12.30pm for lunch in good company at the New Forge Restaurant. Choose from their selection of both English and Thai foods from their menu. Cost per menu when it becomes available, as at the time of going to press prices and menu are unavailable. However, members of the City of Norwich Branch



will receive a £5 subsidy payable at the end of the year. Please contact Maggi on 01603 411636 or Mary on 01603 485192 for further details and book by Wednesday 16 April.

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Monday 2 - Norwich Branch Royal Osteoporosis Society Quarterly Meeting, 2pm

If you suffer from Osteoporosis or just want to find out more about the condition, why not come along to Norwich Support Group quarterly meeting. The group will be holding a quarterly meeting at which there will be, as usual, a guest speaker with presentation, followed by tea and biscuits, all welcome. **Cost:** Entrance fee £3. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich NR6 5AB. For full details contact Maggi on 01603 411636.

Strawberries and Cream

Tuesday 3 June, 2pm

Oddfellows Hall, 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon,

Norwich NR6 5AB

Immediately following the City of Norwich business meeting, which will start promptly at 2pm, we will be having our popular annual strawberries and cream meeting for members only. Come along and join us, you will find that there is usually a bottle or two of wine to share. For catering purposes please contact Maggi on

01603 411636 or Mary on 01603 485192 before Tuesday 20 May.



June

Wednesday 11 - Lunch at the Recruiting Sergeant, 12 noon

Sign up for lunch with friends old and new. Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm at the Recruiting Sergeant. Their menu is something else, not to be forgotten. Cost as per menu, however, members of the City of Norwich Branch will receive a £5 subsidy payable at the end of the year. **Address:** The Recruiting Sergeant, Norwich



Road, Horstead, Norwich NR12 7EE. Please contact Anne on 01603 504783 or Mary on 01603 485192 for further details and to make your booking by Wednesday 21 May.

July

Wednesday 16 – Lunch at the Fur and Feathers Inn (Woodforde's Brewery), 12 noon

For a very enjoyable meal and perhaps a little of your favourite tipple, you can't do better than having lunch at the Fur and Feathers Inn. As most of us know, the Inn is supported and supplied by Woodforde's Brewery. Join friends old and new at 12 noon for 12.30pm for a lunch to remember. Cost as per menu. Members of the City of Norwich Branch will receive a £5 subsidy payable at the year end. **Address:** Fur and Feathers Inn, Woodforde's Brewery Tap, Slade Lane, Woodbastwick, Norwich NR13 6HQ. Please contact David or Dorothy on 01603 714389 by Wednesday 25 June for more information and to make your booking.

Whales, Waterfalls and Geysers of Iceland

Thursday 17 July, 9am

Organised by Wendy Atkins of the Ipswich District, members are embarking on a *Fred.Olsen Cruise to see the whales, waterfalls and geysers of Iceland. Cost as per Fred.Olsen Cruise Line. If you are interested, please contact Maggi on 01603 411636 in the first instance for details and the start of your memorable experience of a lifetime.



*This holiday is operated by Fred.Olsen. Please understand their terms and conditions before booking at www.fredolsencruises.com/legal/terms-and-conditions. The Oddfellows cannot be held responsible for any bookings made with Fred.Olsen.

August

Wednesday 13 - Lunch at the Old Feathers, 12 noon

Join members of the Branch and friends old and new for lunch at 12 noon for 12.30pm at the Old Feathers. Well known for the quality of their food and their excellent service, you will not leave disappointed after a meal at the Old Feathers, so come and try their new menu which is being introduced in February/March this



year. Cost as per menu. Members of the City of Norwich Branch will receive a £5 subsidy payable at the year end. **Address:** Old Feathers, Loddon Road, Framlingham Pigot, Norwich NR14 7QB. Pre-booking and payment is required, so please contact Anne on 01603 504783 or Mary on 01603 485192 before Wednesday 23 July for further details.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at **f** OddfellowsUK

September - Friendship Month

Monday 1 – Norwich Branch Royal Osteoporosis Society Quarterly Meeting, 2pm

If you suffer from Osteoporosis or just want to find out more about the condition, why not come along to Norwich Support Group quarterly meeting. The group will be holding a quarterly meeting at which there will be, as usual, a guest speaker with presentation,



followed by tea and biscuits, all welcome. **Cost:** Entrance fee £3. **Address:** Oddfellows Hall, 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich NR6 5AB. For full details contact Maggi on 01603 411636.

City of Norwich Branch 3rd Annual Lunch

Sunday 14 September, 12.30pm for 1pm

The Old Rectory Hotel, North Walsham Road, Crostwick, Norwich NR12 7BG

Following last year successful annual lunch at the Old Rectory, we are returning once more at 12.30pm for 1pm, to this welcoming and comfortable venue, to enjoy their wonderful food and hospitality for our annual gathering.

As it is a particular Friendship Month event, we will be holding a big raffle in aid of charity, which this year will be



for the Alzheimer's Society. **Cost:** Whilst at the time of going to press prices are not available, it is confirmed that members of the City of Norwich Branch will receive a £7.50 subsidy payable at the year end.

Please contact Maggi or David on 01603 411636 or Mary on 01603 485192 before Tuesday 19 August, to make your booking and for further details. Please note that for this event, pre-payment and pre-ordering is essential.

Friendship Month Cheese and Wine Social

Tuesday 16 September, 8.30pm

St Nicholas Rooms (behind the Church), Market Place,

North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9BT

The Trafalgar Branch are organising a cheese and wine social to celebrate Friendship Month. Come along at 8.30pm and bring a friend to St Nicholas Church Rooms for this event being organised by Janet Larter. **Cost:** £5. For more details contact Janet on 01692 407113.



Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1-30 SEPTEMBER





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

Future Events

Christmas Sunday Lunch (Trafalgar Branch)
Sunday 14 December 2025, 12 noon for 12.30pm
The Old Rectory Country House Hotel, North Walsham
Road Crostwick, Norwich NR12 7BG

Join members and friends for Lunch at the Old Rectory organised by the Trafalgar Branch, to celebrate the festive season. Choose between two or three courses. Booking and payment to be made before the event. Note Trafalgar members will be entitled to a reduction in cost of the meal. To confirm attendance and further details and menu selection, contact Janet Larter on 01603 407113. Put the date in your diary or on your calendar.



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 Edward on **01603 482517** or email **edward.murrell@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

Bring friendship to your front room

There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person.

A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

On Tuesday 8 April 10am, Liver Health Awareness Talk with the British Liver Trust. Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 891 3103 9250 Passcode: 576521.

Tuesday 10 June 7pm, Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist). Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538 Password: 616704.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Secretary Edward Murrell

Make the most of your membership



Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants

- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

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

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

Port one

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



Port two

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

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

Port three

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

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

Port four

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

Port five

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

"The sea defences were testament to the city's position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean," Wendy said.

Port six

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

Surprises and celebrations

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

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

Society News Issue 29

Trio receive university funding

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

Easing the pressure

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lillie Buckley,Nottingham Trent Branch member

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



She says the funding will

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

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

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

Society News Issue 29

Edward Smith,

Erewash Valley Branch member

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

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

"I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies," he said. "I would encourage all eligible



students to have a go at applying for this award."

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

Torsten Ellis,Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

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



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

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

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

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Society News Issue 29

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



a proud part of the Oddfellows

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

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

April to May: The tax refund scam

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

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

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

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

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

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

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

Stay vigilant year-round

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



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

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family
friendly financial products* visit
www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows
For more information call 0161 214 4628.
*Terms and conditions apply

branch venues, meetings and contacts

We regularly hold meetings in your area and all members and prospective members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meetings is to share and discuss the business of the Branch, including the sick and distressed of the Branch.

Subjects include finance, social planning, care development, publicity and promotion. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Some meetings finish with a social activity. Listed below are the regular meetings of the Branch's in the District. Please contact the relevant Branch secretary for further details.

Norwich District

District Secretary: Edward T Murrell

Address: 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich NR6 5AB.

Office Opening Times: Monday 9am-4pm and Tuesday 9am-1pm.

Telephone: Office 01603 482517 Email: edward.murrell@oddfellows.co.uk

City of Norwich

Meeting in Hellesdon, Norwich Secretary: Edward T Murrell

Address: 29 Church Close, Poringland, Norfolk NR14 7LB.

Telephone: 01508 495053 Email: edward.murrell@oddfellows.co.uk

IMPORTANT: Please remember that the meeting time of the City of Norwich Branch throughout the year has now changed to 2pm on a Tuesday every four weeks. The change in meeting times is being made to facilitate travelling of members throughout the year. Oddfellows Hall, 113A Reepham Road, Hellesdon, Norwich NR6 5AB.

Tuesday 8 April Tuesday 26 August

Tuesday 6 May Tuesday 23 September

Tuesday 3 June Tuesday 21 October

Tuesday 1 July Tuesday 18 November

Tuesday 29 July Tuesday 16 December

branch venues, meetings and contacts

Trafalgar Branch

Meeting in North Walsham Secretary: Janet Larter

Address: Warwick House, 2A Yarmouth Road, North Walsham NR28 9BW.

Telephone: 01692 407113 or 01692 407852 Email: janet.larter@oddfellows.co.uk

Development Officer: Tina Hicks

Telephone: 01692 407852, Email: tina.hicks@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at St Nicholas Church Rooms, Market Place, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9BT. Non-members are most welcome to attend our social events held after our business meetings and prospective members are most welcome to come and find out more.

Business Meetings

These follow a conventional format covering the minutes, correspondence and accounts. In addition, there are three items particular to the Oddfellows which should be covered. The first is a report of any members who are sick, distressed or in any other way may be in need of help. The second is matters pertaining to the local Branch, District or Society. The third is membership recommendations. There is also a 'member's slot' for members to raise matters of personal interest. The meeting may or may not involve a formal ceremonial element. For further details feel free to contact the Secretary of the relevant Branch.

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on 0800 028 1810, or visit our Members' Area at www.oddfellows.co.uk



*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login



*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.

Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448

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

OFW/1024A6

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

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At a glance

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Every Tue	vents see pages 3 and 4 esday Knit 'n' Natter (Trafalgar Branch) nristmas Holiday)	11am
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Thurs 17	Ten Pin Bowling	6pm
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