

October 2026 – March 2027



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Halifax Branch



Hebden Bridge by Colin & Linda McKie



Social



Talks



Quizzes



Dining Out



Art/Crafts



Cinema



Meetings



Travel



Games



Walks



Coffee Morning
/Afternoon Tea



History



Christmas meal at The Sportsman, Greetland. - Thursday 10 December

Welcome to the latest edition of the Halifax District Branch Events Diary

We hope you are keeping well. A varied programme of events has been organised for you all and we want to see as many of you as possible having fun and socialising at them. Our Social Organiser, Katie, regular members and I would love to see as many of you as possible so please do come along, you can be sure of a warm welcome.

We are here to support and help you when needed and all you need to do is ask. Dawn Terblanche our Welfare Visitor has settled into her role well and will have spoken to many of you already. If you don't hear from us please get in touch with your contact details so we can support you when needed. Our District officials, such as Branch Secretary and Welfare Visitor are happy to talk to members by phone and can also send letters, emails and text messages. Let us know if you would like a chat, a visit or any support needed.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

District Secretary:
Debra Haley



*District Secretary:
Debra Haley*

Address:
Unity House
3 Coleridge Street
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 2JF

Telephone: 07572 986452
Email: debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser:
Katie Caufield



*Social Organiser:
Katie Caufield*

Telephone:
07854 281191
Email:
katie.caufield@oddfellows.co.uk

Welfare Visitor:
Dawn Terblanche



*Welfare Visitor:
Dawn Terblanche*

Telephone:
07548 855261
Email:
dawn.terblanche@oddfellows.co.uk

f HalifaxOddfellows

We try to reach out to you and want you to feel comfortable in communicating so let us know how you would prefer for us to get in touch and we will do what is best for you.

You will find details about Care and Welfare Support on page 22, please feel free to contact Dawn, Debra or the Care Department if you need any support.

Oddfellows provide national online events for our members every week, which all members are welcome to attend regardless of location. Enjoy, make new friends and experience the friendly welcome of an Oddfellows get together in the comfort of your own home. They are accessible to all with an internet connection so if you are struggling to get out or fancy a change, why not try one? If you need more details, please contact the Branch.

All members are welcome to get involved in activities, events and in running the Branch. You will be most welcome and appreciated. Please see page 23 for further details and speak with Debra if you would like more information or to get involved.

Your wellbeing is especially important to us. We try to put nice walks on through the summer and a few meals out or at Oddies for good food, socialising and a few laughs. We like to provide activities that you will enjoy so please let us know whether you would like to see any activities or events offered in the future.

We are working hard to stay connected with you and make sure that there are plenty of interesting activities for you to do, make you feel welcome and offer support when needed and we truly hope you get lots out of being an Oddfellow.

**Psychic Night -
Saturday 14 November**
See page 8 for more information

***Glasgow Edinburgh Trip
October 2026 - FULLY BOOKED**

***as advertised in previous diary**

Unless otherwise stated, any refreshments purchased whilst out on visits are at menu prices and if no price is stated for an activity then it's free. Transport may be available for visits, please enquire.

Unless otherwise stated events, bookings and queries are through Katie on Telephone/Text: **07854 281191** or email: **katie.caufield@oddfellows.co.uk**

You can also get in touch with Katie should you wish to pay by bank transfer for social events.

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 social events, as well as supporting our members through a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for our members. For more information visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Regular Events

Gentle Exercises



Thursdays
at 11am



Members £5,
Guests £6



Every other
Thursday

Join us for a gentle exercise class for all abilities. Brogan will lead us in a session including gentle seated and standing exercises tailored to our needs. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please book a week in advance to ensure your place, so that the class can go ahead. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



5 November 2026

19 November 2026

3 December 2026

17 December 2026

14 January 2027

28 January 2027

11 February 2027

25 February 2027

11 March 2027

Wanted: Professional Coffee Drinker (and Occasional People Greeter)

We're on the hunt for a friendly host for a coffee morning or lunch in Todmorden, a few times a year.

Your mission (should you choose to accept it):

- Turn up.
- Enjoy free coffee, cake... or lunch (our treat!).
- Smile, chat, and make people feel welcome.

Contact Debra on 07572 986452 or debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk.



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

October 2026

THURS
01

Hebden Bridge Treasure Trail



11am



Members £2
Guests £3



Following the success of the previous treasure trails, let's discover Hebden Bridge by following the detective clues. The Great Veggie Whodunnit: Lettuce Investigate! The trail is approximately 1.5 miles long and takes two hours to complete. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 24 September 2026. St George's Square, Hebden Bridge HX7 8ET. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



TUES

06

A Meal at Julio's



6.30pm



As per
menu



After such a delicious meal last time, we have been asked to arrange Julio's again. Great sized portions on the early bird menu and fantastic service. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Monday 5 October 2026. Julio's, 2 Princess Street, Halifax HX1 1TS. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

FRI
09

Glasgow and Edinburgh Weekend



8am



£139 shared
twin room, £164
single room



FULLY BOOKED. Spectacular scenery, stunning sights and two great cities await you on this three day break with the promise of coach travel throughout, two nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the Adamton Country House Hotel and an inclusive itinerary visiting Moffat, Glasgow and the delights of Edinburgh. Single rooms will be limited and will be on a first come first served basis. Note the early booking date to ensure that we can book enough rooms to accommodate everybody. Departing on Friday 9 October and returning Sunday 11 October. Halifax Bus Station, Winding Road, Halifax HX1 1UU. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



Edinburgh skyline from Calton Hill

October

THURS
15

Springhead for Lunch

🕒 12.30pm 📍 As per menu 🍴🍷

The Springhead is a firm favourite for some of our members, the food is always delicious and you can visit their farm shop afterwards for great fresh produce. Weather dependent, we could go for a little countryside walk after lunch. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 8 October 2026. The Springhead, 33 Heath Hill Road, Halifax HX2 0UT. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
19

Branch Meeting

🕒 1pm 📍 Free 👥

This meeting is specifically looking at investments and to see what is happening at the moment in the District. We would like to encourage members to attend our committee meetings and consider joining the committee. If you would like to observe a committee meeting and what is involved, please register your interest by getting in touch with Debra on 07572 986452 or debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF.

THURS
22

Pumpkin Painting

🕒 11am 📍 Members £4
Guests £5 🎨

Let's get together for some autumn crafts and decorate pumpkins. Carving is optional or we can paint the pumpkins to be displayed. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Book by Thursday 15 October 2026. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
26

Steve Midgley - Yorkshire's Hidden Gems

🕒 7.30pm 📍 Members £4
Guests £5 🗣️📺

Come along for a talk by Steve Midgley, a wildlife photographer. He will give us a talk about some of the amazing wildlife in 'God's Own County'. Sure to be a great evening. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

October

THURS
29

Society Colours Degree Ceremony



12 noon



Free



Join us for a buffet lunch after a formal ceremony as some of our members advance through the society's colour degrees. This will enable them to be more involved in the committee, taking on roles such as the Provincial Grand Master (Chairperson) and to be able to represent the Branch at our Annual Movable Conference. We would love more members to come along and support this celebration to see what the more formal side of Oddfellows entails. Those taking part in the ceremony will need to arrive for 11am. Book by Thursday 22 October 2026. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

MON
02

Alternative Card Games



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Think Uno and Cards Against Humanity with maybe a few more options too! Cards Against Humanity contains adult humour and some cards that some may find offensive, so not for everybody, but other games will also be available. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

MON
09

Scrabble



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Come along and test your word knowledge with a fun game of Scrabble. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



THURS
12

Gordon Riggs



11am



As per menu



A lovely time to visit this garden centre as they will be getting ready for the festive season, why not pick up a few Christmas gifts. We will have a look around and then head to the café for lunch or coffee. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 5 November 2026. Gordon Rigg Garden Centre, Farm Shop and Tea Room, Rochdale Road, Walsden, Todmorden OL14 7TJ. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



November

SAT
14

Psychic Night



7pm



£17.50



Join us for an evening of mediumship exploring the psychic and spirit realms with Chantelle Lockhart. This event will raise money for our charity this year - Diabetes UK. A relaxed evening with gentle humour, audience connection and spirit communication. Pie and peas will also be served and a raffle will be held. Book by Friday 30 October 2026. West End Golf Club, Paddock Lane, Halifax HX2 0NT. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
23

Snowman Drive



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Think beetle drive, but with snowmen! Roll the die to be able to draw the different parts of the snowman and see who wins. Lots of fun to be had. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

THURS
26

Bennett's Farm Shop



12 noon



As per menu



Back by popular demand. We have been to this great farm shop before, a lovely little shop with lots of gift ideas ready for Christmas. There is also a delicious café. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 12 November 2026. Bennetts Farm Shop, Croft Farm, Clough Lane, Liversedge WF15 8AD. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

MON
30

Christmas Cake Tasting



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



Have a small tea and save some room for Christmas cake! Last year, we taste tested mince pies and it was a huge success. This year, we will sample cakes from local shops, but also feel free to bring home-made ones to see whose is the best. Tea or coffee will be provided. Book by Monday 23 November 2026. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



December

MON 07 Committee of Management and Branch Meeting



1pm



Free



This is the last meeting in 2026 and is to pass that the secretary can close the Year End Accounts ready for audit and any other business. We would like to encourage members to attend our committee meetings and consider joining the committee. If you would like to observe a committee meeting and what is involved, please register your interest by getting in touch with Debra on 07572 986452 or debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF.

SUN 13 Christmas Party!



2pm



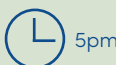
Members £7.50
Guests £8.50



Come and celebrate the festive season at our annual Christmas get together. Let's share delicious food and good company with a buffet, games and a quiz. Let's get the party season started! **(Please note the earlier booking date).** Due to using outside catering - we need bookings and payment by that date please, along with any dietary requirements. Book by Monday 16 November 2026. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



THURS 10 Christmas Meal at The Sportsman - Greetland



5pm



As per menu



Come and enjoy a delicious Christmas meal at The Sportsman, where we had a great time earlier in the year. The menu and cost will be confirmed nearer the time, but two or three courses will be available. Menu choices to be given upon booking once the menu is confirmed. Sure to be a wonderful celebration with friends. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 19 November 2026. The Sportsman, Rochdale Road, Greetland HX4 8PL. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



January 2027

MON
04

New Year Feast



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Let us start the New Year with good food and great company. Bring along a little something to share, it could even be the leftover cheese and biscuits or chocolates from Christmas! Please let Katie know what you would like to bring when booking, so that we can ensure a range of food. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Book by Monday 21 December 2026. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



THURS
07

Shuffleboard



11am



Approximately
£4



We always have great fun playing shuffleboard. A maximum of 16 players due to space at the tables, so book early to avoid disappointment. The cost will be split between players, so may vary depending on numbers. We can eat at the venue after our game or head into Halifax to find lunch. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Friday 1 January 2027. Electric Bowl, 70 Commercial Street, Halifax HX1 2JE. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
11

Dominoes



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Always a great evening, come along and play a range of dominoes. We can enjoy the classic or test our brains with triominoes or bendominoes. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



January

MON
18

Blue Monday



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



Apparently the third Monday in January is 'Blue Monday', the most depressing day of the year. So let us get together and liven it up with a 'blue' party. We will enjoy games and nibbles, please join in by wearing something blue! Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Book by Monday 4 January 2027. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



THURS
21

The Rex



10.15am



£5.50



Join us to watch a film at the lovely local Rex Cinema in Elland. The film shown will be announced the week before, but it is sure to be a great one! Refreshments are available at the interval. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 14 January 2027. Rex Cinema Elland, Coronation Street, Elland HX5 0DF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
25

Fish and Chips at Oddies



6.30pm



Members £3 / Guests £3.50
Food as per menu



Join us for fish and chips supper at Oddies. Have a light lunch because we are sure they will serve a good portion. Come and have a chat over tea with friends. Please order upon booking and Katie will collect on the evening. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Book by Monday 18 January 2027. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



February

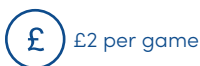
TUES

02

Ten-Pin Bowling



11am



£2 per game



Come and try your hand at ten-pin bowling, no need to be competitive, we just play for fun! We can have some lunch at the venue or head into Halifax after. Transport may be available, please enquire. Time may be subject to change depending on numbers and availability. Book by Thursday 21 January 2027. Electric Bowl, 70 Commercial Street, Halifax HX1 2JE. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON

08

The Wyke Lion



6.30pm



As per menu



We had a delicious meal here last time, so hopefully it will be just as good again! They offer a two course menu for £17.95 or three courses for £22.95. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Monday 25 January 2027. Wyke Lion, Whitehall Road, Wyke, Bradford BD12 8LL. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

MON

22

Committee of Management Meeting



1pm



Free



We will go through the financial statement of accounts and any other business. We would like to encourage members to attend our committee meetings and consider joining the committee. If you would like to observe a committee meeting and what is involved, please register your interest by getting in touch with Debra on 07572 986452 or debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF.

THURS

04

Streets in the Sky Tour



11am



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Did you know there are two 'secret' streets above Halifax Borough Market? Discover them on this guided tour. Places are limited to 16, with priority given to members, so book early. After the tour, we'll visit the market for lunch. All profits will be donated to this year's chosen charity, Diabetes UK. Transport may be available; please enquire. Book by Thursday 14 January 2027. Halifax Borough Market, 36 Market Street, Halifax HX1 1PB. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



Miles Marriner Facebook

March

MON
01

The Winterburn Pub



6.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for a delicious evening meal at this country pub, hopefully there is something to suit everybody on the menu. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Monday 8 February 2027. The Winterburn Pub, 1-2 Winterburn Lane, Warley HX2 7SQ. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



THURS
04

Elland Canal



11am



As per menu



We will meet on Elland Bridge and go for a gentle walk along the canal towards Brighouse and back. We will then go to Project Colt for a coffee or delicious lunch. Transport may be available, please enquire. Book by Thursday 25 February 2027. Elland Bridge, Elland HX5 9HP. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



MON
08

Inter District Quiz



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



We will be entering teams of four into this annual event and hoping to defend last year's winning title! The winning team from Halifax will attend the Bradford final (date tbc) and will be served some delicious food! Always good fun and great to meet people from other Districts. Food and drink will be served after the quiz, so please provide dietary requirements upon booking. Book by Monday 1 March 2027. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



March

MON 15 David Glover - Halifax and the Slave Trade: The Sinners?

🕒 7.30pm

£ Members £4
Guests £5



What, exactly, was the slave trade? Who were the people in the old Halifax parish who profited from this dreadful profession? Who was the man from the Calder Valley who brought a black slave back to Yorkshire? Which slave trader knew Anne Lister? Which slave captain opened a bank branch in Halifax and which road is named after his heir? As usual, with talks from David Glover it is sure to be a great evening. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.

MON 22 Annual Summomed Meeting

🕒 1pm

£ Free



This meeting is to approve the audit report, install the new Provincial Grand Master



(District Chairperson), and review plans for the remainder of the year. We would like to encourage members to attend our committee meetings and consider joining the committee. If you would like to observe a committee meeting and what is involved, please register your interest by getting in touch with Debra on 07572 986452 or debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk. The Oddfellows, Unity House, 3 Coleridge Street, Halifax HX1 2JF.

THURS 18 Todmorden Canal

🕒 11.30am

£ As per menu



From Todmorden train station we will head for a walk along Todmorden Canal. After a short stroll we will find somewhere nice for a coffee or a light lunch. For those wishing to go together by train we will meet at Halifax train station, time to be confirmed, aiming to meet others in Todmorden at 11.30am. Book by Thursday 11 March 2027. Todmorden Railway Station, Todmorden OL14 9BL. Contact Katie on 07854 281191.



Give someone a great start in life **for only £10!**



**It's never too early to start
making friends for life.**

We laugh as we learn together and give each other a helping hand through the ups and downs of growing up. That's what being a Young Oddfellow is all about.

If you have a family member aged 17 or under, and would like them to experience the friendship and support of the Oddfellows, we'd love to welcome them.

There are lots of great reasons* to join Young Oddfellows – to find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/young-oddfellows

As a parent, grandparent or guardian, you can join them online or ask your Branch Secretary for an application form.



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

***Terms and conditions apply to membership and financial benefits.
Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions**

Photos from recent events



Lunch at Hatch Brunch House – 2 April 2026

A fantastic turnout today and what a gorgeous place for brunch, 17 of us and 4 new members who it was great to meet.



Crossley Heath Tour – 18 May 2026

A fantastic evening was enjoyed at Crossley Heath Grammar School, where around 20 of our members gathered on the steps for a group photo. After a request from one of our members, we arranged a visit and were treated to a fascinating tour, complete with some amazing historical memorabilia.



The Pottery Café – 28 May 2026

A fantastic morning at the Pottery Café in Halifax, where creativity was in full flow! It was especially lovely to welcome one of our younger members, who enjoyed making their own pottery masterpiece.



Crown Green Bowls – 15 June 2026

What a great way to spend an afternoon! Our members enjoyed a friendly game of Crown Green Bowls, with one of our experienced bowlers kindly teaching everyone the basics. Hopefully we'll do this again next summer.



Jerusalem Farm – 9 July 2026

Members felt very blessed to spend such a lovely day together. The sun shone and we had a delicious picnic by the stream. We traversed the stepping stones and some of us dipped our feet in too!



Manor Heath Park Bench Donated by Halifax Oddfellows

A visit to Manor Heath park and just happened to sit on the bench donated by us in 1995, still providing a place to pause and take in the wonderful scenery.

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.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

For local help or support and for information about Branch benefits and benevolence, contact Dawn on **07548 855261** or email: **dawn.terblanche@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**

Branch Meetings, Events and Meetups

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members and regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and member support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings, and in time to join the Committee of Management.



We try and hold group events and meetups that members will enjoy, an afternoon tea might be your thing or a race night and can raise money for our chosen charity but there's lots of different types of events to choose from. You might want to try something new, let us know and we will try to include it in a future events diary. Why not get involved – come along and join in, you will probably enjoy it! If you'd like to join us or know more, please contact Debra on 07572 986452 for more information.

Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members Guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or telephone befriender.



To find out more, contact Debra on **07572 986452**
debra.haley@oddfellows.co.uk

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The Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Further events are being added, see: **www.oddfellows.co.uk/events**.

At a glance

October 2026

Thurs 1	Hebden Bridge Treasure Trail	11am
Tues 6	A Meal at Julio's	6.30pm
Fri 9 - Sun 11	Glasgow and Edinburgh Weekend	8am
Thurs 15	Springhead for Lunch	12.30pm
Mon 19	Branch Meeting	1pm
Thurs 22	Pumpkin Painting	11am
Mon 26	Steve Midgley - Yorkshire's Hidden Gems	7.30pm
Thurs 29	Society Colours Degree Ceremony	12 noon

November

Mon 2	Alternative Card Games	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 9	Scrabble	7.30pm
Thurs 12	Gordon Riggs	11am
Sat 14	Psychic Night	7pm
Thurs 19	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 23	Snowman Drive	7.30pm
Thurs 26	Bennett's Farm Shop	12 noon
Mon 30	Christmas Cake Tasting	7.30pm

December

Thurs 3	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 7	Committee of Management and Branch Meeting	1pm
Thurs 10	Christmas Meal at The Sportsman	5pm
Sun 13	Christmas Party!	2pm

Thurs 17	Gentle Exercises	11am
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January 2027

Mon 4	New Year Feast	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Shuffleboard	11am
Mon 11	Dominoes	7.30pm
Thurs 14	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 18	Blue Monday	7.30pm
Thurs 21	The Rex	10.15am
Mon 25	Fish and Chips at Oddies	6.30pm
Thurs 28	Gentle Exercises	11am

February

Tues 2	Ten-Pin Bowling	11am
Thurs 4	Streets in the Sky Tour	11am
Mon 8	The Wyke Lion	6.30pm
Thurs 11	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 22	Committee of Management Meeting	1pm
Thurs 25	Gentle Exercises	11am

March

Mon 1	The Winterburn Pub	6.30pm
Thurs 4	Elland Canal	11am
Mon 8	Inter District Quiz	7.30pm
Thurs 11	Gentle Exercises	11am
Mon 15	David Glover - Halifax and the Slave Trade: The Sinners?	7.30pm
Thurs 18	Todmorden Canal	11.30am
Mon 22	Annual Summoned Meeting	1pm