

OUL Cabout

Oswestry Branch







Wellbeing Art/Crafts



Afternoon Tea



Meetings



Walks

Social







Talks









Afternoon Tea at the British Ironwork Centre - Tuesday 3 March 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Oswestry District 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.

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 - we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

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.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

Secretary: Lana Shtakun 07927 515230

Event Contacts: Extend Classes: Kath Barkley 01691 828587



Coffee Morning and Meals: Arthur Cotterill 01691 671699

Correspondence and benefit claims to Lana:

Oswestry Memorial Hall, Smithfield Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2EG

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. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Regular Event

Extend Exercise Class



Every Monday Afternoon







Join our fun and friendly class and get fit and toned with popular music and songs all for just £4! Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Kath on 01691 828587.



Lunch at the Orangery, **Derwen College**







Come and join us for lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College, Gobowen for good food and great company. Enjoy the garden centre and gift shop at the college, if you want to wander round and help lunch go down. The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen, Shropshire SY11 3JA. Please let Arthur know if you would like to attend on 01691 671699.

9 October 2025 -

Book by Thursday 2 October 2025

Second **Thursday**



13 November 2025 -

Book by Thursday 6 November 2025

11 December 2025 -

Book by Thursday 4 December 2025

15 January 2026 -

Book by Thursday 8 January 2026

12 February 2026 -

Book by Thursday 5 February 2026

12 March 2026 -

Book by Thursday 5 March 2026

October 2025



Porthywaen Silver **Band**







Immerse yourself in the fabulous sound of the local Porthywaen Silver Band. Join us at their musical



celebration for the Mr John Pugh MBE on Saturday 4 October 2025 at 7pm. The Holroyd Community Theatre, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry SY10 7SZ. For more information and bookings please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk by Wednesday 1 October 2025.

Coffee Morning







Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun, we'll have a raffle,



talk or quiz. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at



OddfellowsUK

November



Visit the Christmas **Makers Market at Trentham Gardens**





Come and join us on a trip to the Christmas Makers Market at Trentham Shopping Village. Browse the many



stalls showing original art, quirky modern crafts, vintage artefacts and tasty food and drink. You will be able to meet the makers and sample some of the delights on offer. Entrance is free and the coach travel will be £15 for members (£17 for non-members). The coach will depart the Cae Glas Park Gates at 9.30am and the old railway station building at 9.40am. Trentham Shopping Village, Stone Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8|G. For more information and bookings please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk by Thursday 13 November 2025.



Coffee Morning



10.30am





Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun, we'll have a raffle, talk or quiz. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.





Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay

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

OFM/1024SMALL

December



Christmas Dinner at The Keys







Join us for a wonderfully festive Christmas meal at The Keys. Renowned for its home cooked food and relaxed atmosphere, enjoy the Christmas spirit with the company of old and new friends. Do not forget to wear your Christmas jumper! Arrival at 12.30pm with dinner to be served at 1pm. The Keys, Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 3AR. For more information and bookings please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk by Tuesday 25 November 2025.





Christmas Decorations Making Time!



12 noon



£ Members Free Guests £5



Ho Ho Ho. It's time to get into the Christmas spirit! Let's have a lovely day together, enjoying each others' company and create beautiful Christmas decorations for your home. Expect some tasty Christmas treats! Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk Book by Friday 5 December 2025.



Coffee Morning







Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun. we'll have a raffle. talk or quiz. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.

January 2026



Pantomime Time!
Dick Whittington at
Shrewsbury Severn
Theatre









Come to Shrewsbury Severn Theatre for a Saturday fun-filled pantomime of Dick Whittington, starring Shropshire's legendary Dame and Director Brad Fitt. The show is written by the award-winning Paul Hendy and produced by the team behind more than a decade of box office smash-hit pantomimes at Theatre Severn. Join Dick Whittington and his streetwise cat in the ultimate tale of fame and fortune! This purr-fectly magical pantomime promises an adventure filled with toe-tapping tunes, laughter and a host of outrageous characters! Tickets are £31. Coach option (approximately £10) may be available subject to demand. Severn Theatre, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 8FT. For more information and bookings please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk by Saturday 20 December 2025.



Oddfellows Active Games Club







Come and have a go at curling, Bagatelle and other fun indoor games! Feel free to join in or just come to watch and enjoy a cuppa! Nothing too strenuous, just a bit of fun and gentle exercise for those that want it. Games will be suitable for all abilities and for those with mobility restrictions. The first game session is free. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.



Coffee Morning and Bingo!







Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun, we'll be holding bingo



today. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.

February



Oddfellows Active Games Club





Come and have a go at curling,

Bagatelle and other fun indoor

games! Feel free to join in or just come to watch and enjoy a cuppa!

Nothing too strenuous, just a bit of fun and gentle exercise for those that

want it. Games will be suitable for all

abilities and for those with mobility

lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.

restrictions. The first game session is

free. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on

Members £4



Coffee Morning



 $(L)_{10.30am}$ (





Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun, we'll have a raffle, talk or quiz. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.





Flipping Fun for **Pancake Day!**



07927 515230 or email





Join us for a delicious 'Pancake Day' celebration! A stack of pancakes, sweet treats, good company and traditional celebrations, as well as showcasina some customs from Ukrainian culture. Come ready to eat, chat and celebrate! Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.



March



Afternoon Tea at the British Ironwork Centre







Join us at British Ironwork Centre on Tuesday 3 March 2026. We will start the day by having an afternoon tea in the café at 12 noon. Then you are free to wander round the ironworks and all of the fabulous displays and sculptures, visit the shop or stroll around the grounds until closing time. Afternoon tea, entrance fee and a parking will be £27 and will need to be booked in advance. The British Ironworks Centre, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4JH. For more information and bookings please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk by Tuesday 24 February 2026.





Oddfellows Active Games Club







Come and have a go at curling, Bagatelle and other fun indoor games! Feel free to join in or just come to watch and enjoy a cuppa! Nothing too strenuous, just a bit of fun and aentle exercise for those that want it. Games will be suitable for all abilities and for those with mobility restrictions. The first game session is free. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.





Coffee Morning and **Beetle Drive!**







Come and join us on a Tuesday morning for a coffee, cake and chat. To add to the fun, we'll be holding a beetle drive today. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and say 'Hello'. Oswestry Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. For more information please contact Lana on 07927 515230 or email lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk.

Recent Events

A Day out at the Black Country Living Museum.



In July a group of us Oddfellows from Oswestry journeyed down to Dudley, the Black Country, to have a look around the Black Country Living Museum. This is a fascinating place, and it provided even our youngest members with a trip down memory lane. There were whole houses and streets set up as a bygone era, and lots of us could remember the way people used to live and work. In fact, many said that the exhibits were very familiar and still part of their home life. Some of our members managed to visit the open mine and several enjoyed the tasty 'old fashioned' fish and chips for lunch.

Although there was quite a bit of walking as the museum covers a wide area, there were lots of places to sit and relax for a while. Some of us took tea in a village hall, while others took advantage of the old pubs for some alternative refreshment! Everyone enjoyed their day, it was really interesting and worth a second visit.





Eighteen Oswestry Oddfellows enjoyed the lovely summer weather and took a cruise on the River Severn in Shrewsbury, followed by a delicious afternoon tea.

Aboard Sabrina the cruise boat, we had a grand view of the Shrewsbury riverside as we sailed gently from the Welsh Bridge to the English Bridge and back again. We had a guided commentary on the way providing an insight into Shrewsbury's fascinating history. Refreshments were served, and we were royally treated by the helpful staff. After the scenic cruise, we were taken to the lovely Orchard Café, conveniently located right by the beautiful Shrewsbury cathedral.

Tea at the Orchard Café was spectacular: there was so much food left over that most





people took enough home for the evening as well! Oh, and the scones were just so light and fluffy.

It was so warm we were happy to sit and enjoy the sunshine, whilst some of us wandered off to the cathedral, Quarry park and the gardens beyond the castle walls. Another fabulous day out finished off with a raffle on the coach, and (we must confess) a little snooze for some of us on the journey home.



Spotlight on one of our long standing members... Olive Morris

Congratulations to one of our long standing members, Olive Morris, who regularly attends our coffee mornings and other social events and has been with Oddfellows for over 20 years.

Olive recently took part in a local sponsored 10K walk, in aid of Derwen College. Olive raised a fabulous £580.

The circular walk is an annual event with about 200 people taking part, going from the college at Gobowen, through Edenhall and St Martins, before returning to the college via Henley Golf Course. Amazingly Olive has only missed one of the walks in the past 56 years!

Well done Olive, you did us all proud.



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



Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. 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 teas/coffees
- 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 befriender

Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, like a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Lana by phone on 07927 515230, email at lana.shtakun@oddfellows.co.uk

"Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".

Cynthia, volunteei



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 Arthur on **01691 671699**.

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

Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

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 Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, whose 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."

Society News Issue 30

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, Linconlshire, 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."

Society News Issue 30

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."

Society News Issue 30

Incredible total raised for good causes



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

Somerset Air Ambulance.

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 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."

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 - See page 3 for more info on regular events

October 2025

Sat 4	Porthywaen Silver Band	7pm
Mon 6	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Thurs 9	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 13	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 20	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 27	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 28	Coffee Morning	10.30am

November

Mon 3	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 10	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Thurs 13	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 17	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Sat 22	Visit the Christmas Makers Market at Trentham Gardens	9.30am
Mon 24	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 25	Coffee Morning	10.30am

December

Mon 1	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 2	Christmas Dinner at The Keys	12.30pm
Sat 6	Christmas Decorations Making Time!	12 noon
14 0	F	_
Mon 8	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 8 Thurs 11	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	2pm 12.45pm

January 2026

Sat 3	Pantomime Time! Dick Whittington at Shrewsbury Severn Theatre	2pm
Mon 12	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 13	Oddfellows Active Games Club	2pm
Thurs 15	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 19	Extend Exercise Class	2pm

At a glance - See page 3 for more info on regular events

January 2026

Mon 26	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 27	Coffee Morning and Bingo!	10.30am

February

Mon 2	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 9	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 10	Oddfellows Active Games Club	2pm
Thurs 12	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Sat 14	Flipping Fun for Pancake Day!	12 noon
Mon 16	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 23	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 24	Coffee Morning	10.30am

March

Mon 2	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 3	Afternoon Tea at the British Ironwork Centre	11.30am
Mon 9	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 10	Oddfellows Active Games Club	2pm
Thurs 12	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 16	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 23	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 30	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 31	Coffee Morning and Beetle Drive!	10.30am

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.

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