

September 2026 - February 2027



the **ODDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Ipswich Branch



Travel



Games



Social



Meetings



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Online



Quizzes



Theatre



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



A warm welcome to your latest Out and About Magazine

We are fast approaching Friendship Month which is always a key highlight in the Oddfellows calendar.

Friendship Month is a great time to introduce Oddfellows to friends and family and we have some excellent events coming up to help to introduce people to Oddfellows.

We have events such as Out for Lunch (Tuesday 15 September), our always fun Friendship Beetle Drive (Wednesday 30 September) and Coffee Mornings across the district. This is in addition to local Christian Charity 'Tools with a Mission' coming in to deliver a presentation on their work (Tuesday 29 September) to name just a few of the events lined up this Friendship Month.

Tell a Friend

As September is Friendship Month, why not tell a friend about Oddfellows? We have so much to offer, from a range of benefits to

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Lynne Wyatt

Email:

ipswich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Martin Lambert

Email:

martin.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Host: Sherry Harrow

Email:

sherry.harrow@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Host: Teresa Marrable

Email:

teresa.marrable@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: 37 High Street,
Ipswich IP1 3QH.

Telephone: 01473 251867



OddfellowsIpswich

an active and vibrant social diary, so why don't you share this with a friend, a delivery driver, or your hairdresser... anyone really! Inside this magazine you'll find a small card; why not leave this with them?

For more information, head to our Oddfellows website, Facebook page or, alternatively, the office is always on hand should you ever need any help or assistance. We're always just a phone call away.

See you soon

Martin Lambert

Weekly Events

Activity Morning Kurling and Boccia



10.15am



£3



Every
Thursday

Join us for some light exercise and a friendly competitive morning with plenty of laughs and banter! Kurling is played with sticks and stones (no ice!) while Boccia is a seated version of boules. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Lynne or Sherry on 01473 251867 or our Social Organiser Martin on 07474 361562.



Zoom-In for Fun on Friday

Every
Friday



7pm



Free



Online

It's FriYAY and time for our fun weekly Zoom on Friday.

From bingo to beetle drives, quizzes to puzzles, there are so many games and so little time! Log in and join in as various hosts lead us in a variety of activities - with fun being at the top of the agenda. Come and join this fun group made up of members from all four corners of our great nation. All welcome, member or not, and it's free! Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603. Contact Lynne or Sherry on 01473 251867 or our Social Organiser Martin on 07474 361562.



Zoom-In for Live@5 Weekly Quiz

Every
Sunday



5pm



Free



Online



Chase away those Sunday night blues by joining us for our weekly Zoom quiz. It is a fun, relaxed way to keep your brain sharp, enjoy a few laughs and connect with other people from the comfort of your home. Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603. Contact Lynne or Sherry on 01473 251867 or our Social Organiser Martin on 07474 361562.



Regular Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning at Cookie Barista



10.30am



As per menu



Second
Wednesday

Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good cuppa, so join us for a monthly coffee morning at Cookie Barista. Cookie Barista pride themselves on being based in Suffolk and supporting local with their coffee blended and roasted locally in Halesworth, Suffolk. Cookie Barista, 50 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe IP11 7AJ. Contact Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

9 September 2026
14 October

11 November
9 December

13 January 2027
10 February

Coffee Morning On The Road



10.30am



As per menu



Third
Wednesday

Coffee mornings hit the road! Join us for our coffee mornings being held across the area. Locations ranging from garden centres to superstores to quiet little tea rooms. All venues will be announced closer to the date on www.facebook.com/OddfellowsIpswich/, weekly update and at all events. To register your interest please call Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

21 October 2026

25 November

20 January 2027

Coffee Morning at Oddfellows Hall



10am



Members £3
Guests £4



Last Friday

Our popular coffee mornings are mornings not to be missed. Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good coffee (tea is also available!). All are welcome at our coffee mornings and for £3 (£4 if you are a guest), you can have as many cups of coffee and biscuits as you like. Great value and a great time. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

25 September 2026
27 November

29 January 2027
26 February

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at  OddfellowsUK

Regular Events

Bingo



10.30am
or 2pm



Free entry with books available
at a cost on the day



Monday or Tuesday

Eyes down, it's bingo! We may not be offering mega prizes, but we do offer fun, chat and laughter! A winning formula. Entry is free with books available at cost on the day. All are welcome with refreshments served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.



Monday 7 September 2026, 10.30am

Tuesday 13 October, 2pm

Tuesday 10 November, 10.30am

Tuesday 8 December, 2pm

Tuesday 9 February 2027, 2pm

Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives



10.30am



Members £6
Guests £7



Various Monday

Come and join us for an active morning of Chair Exercise led by ActivLives. Chair Exercise is designed with the over 50s in mind, but all abilities and ages are welcome. A fun morning that will get the heart pumping. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact the office on 01473 251867 (Monday-Wednesday) to register your interest.

14 September 2026

28 September

12 October

26 October

9 November

23 November

21 December

18 January 2027

1 February

15 February

Crafty Fellows



2pm



Members £1, Guests £1.50 plus small
charge for materials on the day



First Tuesday

Unleash your inner craftiness and join us at our craft sessions on the first Tuesday of the month. Under the expert guidance of group leader Teresa, follow along and learn something new or bring your own craft and join in the chat. Refreshments included and all are welcome. Please note, in addition to the scheduled event costs, there may also be a minimal cost for any craft materials. This cost will be advertised nearer the event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Teresa or Lynne on 01473 251867.

1 September 2026

6 October

3 November

1 December

5 January 2027

Regular Events

Zoom-In for Busy Fingers - Crafts and Chat



Second
Tuesday

What project will Teresa have for us this month? This is an online get-together making simple things to help our hand-eye coordination. We use materials which are easily available. Most importantly we have a laugh! Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603. To find out what materials you may need, call us on 01473 251867.

8 September 2026
13 October

10 November
8 December

12 January 2027

Cribbage



Second and
fourth Wednesday

Join us for a friendly game of Cribbage, a traditional card game that combines skill, strategy and scoring. Whether you are an experienced player or someone looking to learn, everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. For more information call 01473 251867.

9 September 2026
23 September

2 December
13 January 2027

27 January
10 February

Out to Lunch



Various days

Out for Lunch is one of the highlights of our diary. The venue will be announced nearer the time so please contact Event Host Sherry on 01473 251867, or keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information. Out for Lunch is a popular event so booking is essential.

Tuesday 15 September 2026
Monday 2 November

Monday 8 February 2027

Lunch Club - Soup and Dessert



Various Friday

Join us for our new lunch club! Come and enjoy a delicious home-made soup (two varieties to choose from) and a dessert in the company of friends. Booking is advisable just so we know how many to cater for. Book one week in advanced. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. For more information please call 01473 251867.

22 January 2027

12 February

September 2026

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER


SUN 13 Sunday Afternoon Tea



Our afternoon tea has all the ingredients needed to be a scrumptious afternoon. Join us for sandwiches, cakes and as many cups of tea as you can manage, along with warm smiles and stories to last the afternoon. Join us for this fun and popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. To ensure we don't run out of cakes, please book before the event by calling the office on 01473 251867.

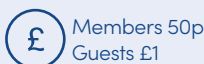
WED 30 Beetle Drive Game



Join us for 'Beetle Drive'. Never played? It's really easy and it's a great way of breaking the ice and getting to share smiles and jokes with friends or with someone you've just met. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. To book your place please call 01473 251867.

October

TUES 29 Speaker: Tools with a Mission



Join us for an informative meeting with Ipswich-based Christian charity Tools With a Mission (TWAM). TWAM collects unwanted but usable tools, refurbishes them, and transforms them into trade tool kits that help people in the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa build sustainable livelihoods. Through their work, they empower individuals to develop skills, start careers, and overcome poverty, while also supporting local communities through volunteering and reducing waste by giving tools a new purpose. An interesting morning awaits us. Refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Booking not essential, but if you would like to book a place please call 01473 251867.



FRI 02 Wonderful Woodbridge Walk



Come and join the Oddfellows for a gentle four-mile out-and-back walk along the River Deben. Starting at the historic Tide Mill, we will follow the riverside path towards Kyson Point, enjoying wonderful estuary views and wildlife before returning along the same route. Please allow approximately two hours, wear suitable footwear and bring a drink. Walk information: Predominantly flat terrain. Good surfaced paths for much of the route. Some sections may be uneven or muddy after rain. Suitable for a relaxed social walk. Toilets and refreshments available near the waterfront before and after the walk. Book by Thursday 1 October. The Tide Mill, Tide Mill Way, Woodbridge IP12 1BY. For more information please call 01473 251867.

October

WED 07 Genealogy - Researching Your Family History

L 10.30am

£ Members £3
Guests £4



Join Sherry Harrow for a session on researching your family history. Sherry will guide you on how to put together your family tree and offer hints and tips on where to find the best records and more. An interesting morning with refreshments being served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.



FRI 30 Coffee Morning with Craft Sale

L 10am

£ Members £3
Guests £4



Come along to our coffee morning and do some early Christmas shopping at our sale of home-made crafts in aid of our Chairman's charity the 'Felixstowe Lifeboat'. All are welcome at our coffee and chat mornings and for £3 (guests £4), you can have as many cups of coffee and biscuits as you like. Great value and a great time. Home-made crafts priced on the morning at additional cost. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.



November

FRI 06 Quiz, Games 'n' Chips

L 11.30am

£ Members £10
Guests £12



Come and join us for a fun quiz, games and chips in aid of our Chairman's chosen charity.



We'll have a quiz and other games before enjoying a delicious fish and chips meal (included in the price). We welcome teams of up to six, but we can also assign teams on the day, so all are welcome as we raise money for a worthy cause. Admission also includes the cost of your fish and chips. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Call 01473 251867 to book your place and place order.

MON 16 The Canary Girls

L 10.30am

£ Members £3.50
Guests £4



Join us as we learn about the munitions workers of both World Wars, often called Canary Girls. We'll learn about who they were, the factories and conditions they worked in and the times they lived through. In addition to finding out more about the essential contribution to the war effort which is still largely unrecognised, we'll also find out about the way they and women generally were viewed by society. They gave their youth, their health and in many cases their lives. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. To book your place call 01473 251867.

November

FRI
20

Lakeside Shopping Trip

9.30am

Members £26
Guests £28



Join us for a fun day of shopping at Lakeside Shopping Centre! Grab those Christmas stocking fillers, enjoy a nice cuppa or perhaps even a relaxing meal. Lakeside offers over 250 shops, eateries and family attractions so there is plenty to do. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required, with full payment due by Tuesday 10 November 2026. Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock Way, West Thurrock RM20 2ZP. For more information or to book a place call us on 01473 251867.



December

MON
07

Christmas Carols with Ipswich Signing Choir

1pm

£ £2



Christmas isn't Christmas without our traditional start to the festive season with our friends from the Ipswich Signing Choir. Bring along your friends and your singing voices and join us for a selection of Christmas carols. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a festive mince pie... well it is the season after all. As with previous years, we will once again be holding a collection raising funds for the choir. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Sherry, Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

December

WED
16

Christmas Lunch at Chefs' Whites

12 noon

£ TBC



Join us at Chefs' Whites for our Oddfellows 'Christmas Celebration Lunch'. A great chance to enjoy the company of other members to help celebrate Christmas while savouring some excellent food. The cost of two or three courses will be advised nearer the event once confirmed. Book by Monday 2 November 2026. Chefs' Whites Restaurant, Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, Ipswich IP4 1LT. Please keep an eye on local communication channels such as the Branch events update, Facebook or contact the office on 01473 251867 (Monday to Wednesday) to book your place or to find out more information.

FRI
25

Zoom-in for Christmas Day Fun

7pm

£ Free



You've had your dinner, you've worn the paper crown and you've watched the King, now join us for a special Christmas get-together over Zoom with Friends. A fun, lively evening with party games and chat. All are welcome so grab your friends and let's get together. Please contact Wendy for Zoom Meeting ID on 07722 191437.



December

MON
28 Festive Chat on Zoom



Join us for some festive chat, fun and games on Zoom. A fun, social evening with party games and chat. Hosted by our friends at North Wales and Chester. All are welcome. Join by using the Zoom Meeting ID: 844 1660 9433. Contact Wendy on 07722 191437.

THURS
31 New Year's Eve Online Party



It's New Year's Eve so get comfortable, grab your favourite refreshment and join us for a New Year's Eve party over Zoom. Hosted by our friends, North Wales and Chester, a fun, lively evening with party games and chat awaits. All are welcome for our goodbye to 2026 and hello 2027. Zoom Meeting ID: 844 1660 9433. Contact Wendy on 07722 191437.

January 2027

TUES
26 Tales of an Adventure across South America



Join Maxine as she shares the story of her journey through South America, visiting Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. From the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu and the Andes to the vibrant streets of Buenos Aires, the spectacular Iguazu Falls and beautiful Rio de Janeiro, her talk combines history, culture and stunning landscapes with personal experiences, photographs and memorable moments. An inspiring afternoon that brings this remarkable continent to life. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. For more information please call 01473 251867.



January 2027

MON
11 Sound On - Talking Newspaper - Speaker



Sound On is the talking newspaper providing a weekly 90-minute audio programme of local news, serving people with a visual impairment in Ipswich, Stowmarket, Leiston and surrounding towns and villages. The talk will cover the purpose, operation and history of Sound On and options for its future. Tim and Rachel will also talk about volunteering and fundraising for Sound On. Also present will be Tim's Golden Retriever Guide Dog, Kola. The talk will last approximately an hour, including time for questions and answers. Refreshments will be served following the talk. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

February

SUN
14

Sunday Afternoon Tea - 'Amour Cake'



4pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Our afternoon tea has all the ingredients needed to be a scrumptious afternoon. Join us for sandwiches, cakes and as many cups of tea as you can manage, along with warm smiles and stories to last the afternoon. Join us for this fun and popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. To ensure we don't run out of cakes, please book before the event by calling the office on 01473 251867.

WED
24

Activity: Square Dancing



2pm



Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for a brilliant afternoon as square dancing comes to Ipswich Oddfellows. Join us for a do-si-do around the hall. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.

SAT
27

Annual General Meeting with Fish and Chip Lunch



10.30am



Free



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a chance for all members to be involved in the running of the Branch; to hear reports from the Committee and to vote on proposals. Members will also support the installation of the new officers for the forthcoming year. Coffee will be served at 10.30am. Business starts promptly at 11am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm approximately. It is important that you register your attendance, so that you receive the relevant papers ahead of the meeting and so we can also order your fish and chips. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Lynne to book on 01473 251867.

Members' Meeting

Ipswich Oddfellows is run by its members for members and this is your chance to hear how the Branch is run and to have your say, as well as upholding some of the Oddfellows traditions. Don't be shy, come and get involved. All members will be welcome. Start at 1.30pm at Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Contact Lynne on 01473 251867.

22 September 2026

17 November

19 January 2027

Events Round Up

February

Annual General Meeting

At the February 2026 AGM, the most important event on the Society's calendar, members welcomed new branch officers: Wendy Atkins (Chairman), Peter Wyatt (Deputy Chairman) and Ian Hayles (Past Chairman). Ian said it had been an honour to serve as Chairman and thanked everyone for their support and fundraising for St Elizabeth Hospice. Wendy Atkins, who is taking over the reins as Chairman, is no stranger to this role, having been Chairman only two years ago. Officers can be contacted via Branch Secretary Lynne 01473 251867 or by emailing ipswich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk.



Race Afternoon

Take six horses and a bunch of Oddfellows; add oats, straw and crunchy carrots with a glass of fizz and what do you have? All the ingredients of a fun afternoon at the races. Betting was frantic as punters studied the form to decide who to back, 'Lovely Lynne' or 'Sweet Sherry' in the Membership Mile.



Jockeys were at the ready and "raced" from one end of the hall to another - all on the roll of dice! Congratulations to lucky owners and punters. This was the final fundraising event of the year for the Chairman's Charity and about £100 was added to the total. It was an excellent afternoon.

Sunday Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Teas are a great chance to make special memories, create friendships and have a jolly good time while filling up on delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and cups of tea. Check your events listing for the latest dates to join us and indulge your sweet tooth.



March

Quiz 'N' Chips

On Friday 13 March, we held a successful quiz evening in the hall, complete with fish and chips, as well as games including Pinch the Prize, Heads or Tails and Zingo. The event also featured a raffle, raising more than £200 for the Eden Rose Coppice Trust, the charity chosen by former East Anglian Group Conference President Teresa Marrable, who is passionate about the healing benefits of nature and green spaces.

The Trust supports Brickmakers Wood in central Ipswich, a woodland that provides a safe and welcoming environment for people affected by cancer, the wider community and local wildlife. As well as offering opportunities for recreation, volunteering and social connection, the restored woodland helps to increase biodiversity and create valuable habitats in an urban setting. Thank you

to everyone who attended and supported this worthy cause. We look forward to welcoming even more members to our next event on Friday 6 November.

Pet Shop to Show Bench - The Trill of owning Budgies

A subject most will not have had any experience of, our very own Martin gave us a wonderful talk about his experience of raising, breeding and showing budgerigars. He explained how he came into it from an early age, how he manages his birds and that his love of them continues to this day. The anecdotes of those he met and helped him with his passion for these birds were enlightening and entertaining! As he showed us three of his wonderful show birds, the care and dedication needed to raise his budgies came across, as well as the skills and knowledge he has developed over the years.



Learn to Paint with Sunflower Artistry

We were joined once again by the always popular Sarah from Sunflower Artistry who transformed our Hall into an art studio. Members of all painting abilities ranging from those with no artistic talent to those hidden Picassos were all guided through the steps of painting a stunning picture. On this occasion, the design (chosen by a Facebook poll) was a rabbit. Members, even as young as five, carefully followed Sarah's instructions and within two hours, blank canvases had been transformed into something to be really proud of. Thank you, Sarah, and well done to all who created stunning masterpieces on the morning.



Coffee Morning on the Road and Felixstowe Coffee Morning

Our first 'Coffee Morning on the Road' headed to Costa Coffee located on the Anglia Retail Park. Five members all enjoyed a beautifully crafted coffee in the company of good friends. We also relaunched our monthly coffee morning in Felixstowe which is now held on the second Wednesday of each month, 10.30am at the Cookie Barista. Our first Wednesday saw 14 members join us for a fun and lively morning. A great success, so don't miss out, come and join us in sunny (not promised) Felixstowe. Check your events diary for future dates as we take our 'Coffee Morning on the Road' around our beautiful county of Suffolk.



June

Beetle Drive

In June 24 members attended our always popular Beetle Drive with a twist event. These events are always full of fun and laughter and a great way for members to interact and get to know each other, particularly as the two winners on each table progress onto the next table. So nobody stays very still for long! Come and join us for our next Beetle Drive in September. As it's Friendship Month, don't forget to bring along any friends or family.



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 Lynne Wyatt on **01473 251867** or email **ipswich.branch@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

Tues 1	Crafty Fellows	2pm
Mon 7	Bingo	10.30am
Tues 8	Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
Wed 9	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Wed 9	Cribbage	1pm
Sun 13	Sunday Afternoon Tea	4pm
Mon 14	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Tues 15	Out for Lunch	12.30pm
Tues 22	Members' Meeting	1.30pm
Wed 23	Cribbage	1pm
Fri 25	Coffee Morning - Ipswich	10am
Mon 28	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Tues 29	Speaker: Tools with a Mission	10.30am
Wed 30	Beetle Drive Game	10.30am

October

Fri 2	Wonderful Woodbridge Walk	11am
Tues 6	Crafty Fellows	2pm
Wed 7	Genealogy - Researching Your Family History	10.30am
Mon 12	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Tues 13	Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
Tues 13	Bingo	2pm

October

Wed 14	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Wed 21	Coffee Morning on the Road	10.30am
Mon 26	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Fri 30	Coffee Morning with Craft Sale	10am

November

Mon 2	Out for Lunch	12.30pm
Tues 3	Crafty Fellows	2pm
Fri 6	Quiz, Games 'n' Chips	11.30am
Mon 9	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Tues 10	Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
Tues 10	Bingo	10.30am
Wed 11	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Mon 16	The Canary Girls	10.30am
Tues 17	Members' Meeting	1.30pm
Fri 20	Lakeside Shopping Trip	9.30am
Mon 23	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Wed 25	Coffee Morning on the Road	10.30am
Fri 27	Coffee Morning - Ipswich	10am

December

Tues 1	Crafty Fellows	2pm
Wed 2	Cribbage	1pm
Mon 7	Christmas Carols with Ipswich Signing Choir	1pm

At a glance

December

Tues 8	Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
Tues 8	Bingo	2pm
Wed 9	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Wed 16	Christmas Lunch at Chefs' Whites	12 noon
Thurs 17	Kurling and Boccia - Christmas Jumper Day	10.15am
Mon 21	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Fri 25	Zoom-in for Christmas Day Fun	7pm
Mon 28	Festive Chat on Zoom	7pm
Thurs 31	Say Goodbye to 2026 with our New Year's Eve Online Party	7pm

January 2027

Tues 5	Crafty Fellows	2pm
Mon 11	Sound On - Talking Newspaper - Speaker	10.30am
Tues 12	Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
Wed 13	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Wed 13	Cribbage	1pm
Mon 18	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Tues 19	Members' Meeting	1.30pm

January 2027

Wed 20	Coffee Morning on the Road	10.30am
Fri 22	Lunch Club - Soup and Dessert	12.30pm
Tues 26	Don't Cry for me Argentina - Tales of an Adventure across South America	2pm
Wed 27	Cribbage	1pm
Fri 29	Coffee Morning - Ipswich	10am

February

Mon 1	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Mon 8	Out for Lunch	12.30pm
Tues 9	Bingo	2pm
Wed 10	Coffee Morning - Felixstowe	10.30am
Wed 10	Cribbage	1pm
Fri 12	Lunch Club - Soup and Dessert	12.30pm
Sun 14	Sunday Afternoon Tea - 'Amour Cake'	4pm
Mon 15	Activity Morning: Chair Exercise Session with ActivLives	10.30am
Wed 24	Activity: Square Dancing	2pm
Fri 26	Coffee Morning - Ipswich	10am
Sat 27	Annual General Meeting with Free Fish and Chips Lunch	10.30am