

January - April 2026



O^{the} **DDfeLLows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Bristol Branch



Bridgwater Carnival



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining Out



Meetings



Talks



Social



Quiz



*Afternoon Tea at The Goddard Arms, Swindon - Monday 16 March
We hope you can join us!*

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Bristol District.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

Any event which is taking place outside will be weather dependent. It is essential that you book on for all events and provide us with up to date contact details so that we can advise of any changes or cancellations.

Life, widow, associate and national members - don't forget, you are entitled to make a claim following a visit to the dentist or optician.

Contact Details

District Secretary:

Kelly Armfield

Address: 374 Portway,
Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9UD

Telephone: 0117 4310845

Email:

kelly.armfield@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser:

Demi Trotman

Telephone: 07722 010120

Email:

demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk

For more information, contact Secretary Kelly Armfield by email or by telephone.

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.

Regular Events

Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath



10am



From £1 per cup/slice



First Wednesday of the month



Join us at our regular The Henfield Hall monthly coffee morning which takes place on the first Wednesday of the month. From just £1 a cup/slice it is great value and a lovely social event. There is also a raffle which includes meat prizes. Henfield Village Hall, Ram Hill, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS36 2TZ. Please let Demi know on 07722 010120 if you'd like to attend or to request more information.

4 February

4 March

1 April

Cuppa and Chat in Yate



10.30am



As per menu



Second Wednesday of the month



Join us for a cuppa and chat at our Yate coffee morning. This regular informal event takes place on the second Wednesday of every month and everyone is welcome. Pop in and enjoy a cuppa on us while catching up with friends, old and new. Please note Oddfellows members can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee on us and non-members are welcome to a complimentary drink on their first visit. Located in the popular Yate Shopping Centre, there is ample free parking at the centre. Bolero Lounge, 34-36B West Walk, Shopping Centre, Yate BS37 4AX. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.

14 January

11 February

11 March

8 April

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at **f** OddfellowsBristol

Regular Events

Monthly Coffee Morning in Kingswood



Third Wednesday of the month



We'd love you to join us for our regular coffee morning at the Ravenna Coffee

Bar in Kingswood. Hosted by Karen, one of our lovely Social Team. You'll always be sure of a warm welcome. Pop in and say hello, catch up with friends and make some new ones on the third Wednesday of every month. All members are eligible for a cuppa on us and your guests can enjoy a complimentary drink on their first visit. Ravenna Coffee Bar, 91 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8LJ. For more information just contact Demi on 07722 010120.

21 January

18 February

18 March

15 April

Cuppa in Cadbury Heath



Fourth Wednesday of the month



We'd love you to join us for our regular coffee morning at Cadbury Heath Social Club. Pop in and say hello,

catch up with friends and you could even enjoy a slice of cake on the fourth Wednesday of every month. All members are invited to join us for a cuppa on us and your guests can enjoy a complimentary drink on their first visit. Cadbury Heath Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. For more information just contact Demi on 07722 010120.

28 January 25 February 25 March 22 April

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 support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Regular Events

Fish, Chips and Bingo



12 noon



Members £15
Guests £17



Second Friday of the month



Join is for a great afternoon of light-hearted fun this month! Delicious fish and chips, a few exciting games of bingo, a refreshing soft drink (1/2pt or can) all for just £15 per person! Bring

your friends and enjoy good food, games and great company. We can't wait to see you there! Cadbury Heath Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. Simply contact Demi on 07722 010120 to reserve your place by Friday 6 February 2026.

13 February

13 March

10 April

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 befriender



To find out more, contact Demi on 07722 010120
demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk

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THE Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

January 2026 February

FRI 09 Lunch at The Moorend Spout

 12.30pm

 As per menu



With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks, The Moorend Spout has everything you need to enjoy a great catch up with friends. Why not join us for our regular event in Nailsea? Places are limited, so they will be allocated on a first come first served basis, book early to avoid disappointment. The Moorend Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB. Booking is a must, please book your place with Demi on 07722 010120 by Friday 26 December 2025.



MON 09 Let's Get Quizzical!

 7pm

 Members £4, Guests £5




Love is in the air this week and so is a bit of friendly competition!



Grab your partner, friends, or come solo and join in the fun at our Valentine's themed quiz night, celebrating all things love and friendship. It's sure to be a night full of fun, laughter and friendship! Snacks will be provided and there will be prizes for the winning team! Booking is a must and spaces will fill up fast, so book early to avoid missing out! Book by Monday 2 February 2026. Cadbury Heath Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. For more information just contact Demi on 07722 010120.

FRI 23 JAN Post-Christmas Lunch

 12 noon

 £14.95/
£19.95/£24.95



What better way to beat the post-Christmas lull than to get together with friends? It's even better when there's a gorgeous lunch to enjoy together too! We are excited to be able to offer a choice of one, two or three courses at the gorgeous Swan Inn. See menu later in this events diary. Cost: £14.95 for one course, £19.95 for two courses and £24.95 for three courses. Please note places are limited and your booking will not be confirmed until payment has been received. The Swan Inn, Badminton Road, Nibley, South Gloucestershire BS37 5JF. Please contact Demi on 07722 01012 to book your place by Friday 16 January 2026.

February

TUES

17

Lunch at Brent House Carvery



12.30pm



Main Course £14.50,
Dessert £7.99



Us Oddfellows love nothing more than spending time with friends, and what better way than to spend that time than enjoying a sumptuous meal at the wonderful Brent House Carvery? Enjoy a hearty carvery of your choice from beef, turkey, pork or lamb. If you've got any room left, then why not treat yourself to one of their famous (and huge!) desserts? Early booking is a must



and bookings are not confirmed until payment has been received. Brent House Carvery, Bristol Road, Brent Knoll, Highbridge TA9 4HL. Please book your place with Demi on 07722 010120 by Tuesday 3 February 2026.

TUES

24

Boardom Breakers



11am



Free



Join us for a friendly session of fun, laughter and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just in it for the laughs, there'll be games for everyone to enjoy.



Come roll some dice, draw a few cards and see what all the fun's about. You could even stay for lunch or a drink afterwards. The Port of Bristol Sports and Community Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9XW. To book your place or for more information contact Demi on 07722 010120. Like all our events, booking is a must by Tuesday 10 February 2026.

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

March

FRI **13** Lunch at The Moorend Spout

 12.30pm

 As per
menu



With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks, The Moorend Spout has everything you need to enjoy a great catch up with friends. Why not join us for our regular event in Nailsea? Places are limited, so they will be allocated on a first come first served basis, book early to avoid disappointment. The Moorend Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB. Booking is a must, please book your place with Demi on 07722 010120 by Monday 6 March 2026.



April

MON **20** Lunch at Winterstream Farm

 12.30pm

 As per
menu



Join us for lunch at the ever popular Winterstream Farm. You can tuck into their hearty carvery or enjoy something from the a la carte menu, the choice is yours. Booking is a must so that we can reserve a table large enough, but you can order your food on the day, so no need to pre-order. Winter Stream Farm, Vantage Office Park, Old Gloucester Road, Hambrook BS16 1GW. We'd love you to join us, simply contact Demi on 07722 010120 by Monday 13 April 2026 to reserve your place.

MON **16** Afternoon Tea at The Goddard Arms, Swindon

 1.30pm

 £15



Fancy a spot of afternoon tea? Well look no further! Join us for a gorgeous get together at The Goddard Arms and enjoy a selection of wraps and sandwiches, scones and sweet treats, all for just £15 per person. Places are limited and bookings are not confirmed until payment has been received.

Book by Monday 2 March 2026. The Goddard Arms, 1 High Street, Swindon SN1 3EG. To book your place or for more information, contact Demi on 07722 010120, or at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

Bookings and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for ALL events to avoid disappointment. We have cancelled some events recently due to low numbers, which in hindsight we would have been able to run but people who were planning to attend hadn't booked with Demi.

Remember – where charges apply, these are payable in advance and your place is not booked until payment is received!

Outdoor Events – Any event which is taking place outside will be weather dependent. It is ESSENTIAL that you book on for ALL events and provide us with up to date contact details so that we can advise of any changes or cancellations.

Thank you

I'd like to thank each and every one of you who has come along to an event. We are always on the lookout for new things to do. If you have any ideas or requests for things to do going forward then please just let me know at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on **07722 010120**.

Also, if you have some spare time you can offer to support an event we are always looking for volunteers; Whether it's to welcome attendees, host events or just help out in general. Why not get involved and help us out at an event? The more volunteers we get the more events we can hold in more areas. It's that simple.

Important Notice About Claim Requests!

Please note that Benefit Claim requests asking for payment by cheque will take longer to process than normal. Due to a number of cheques going missing in the post, we now require all cheques to be countersigned in person before being issued. As a result, cheque payments will be made monthly.

For faster processing, we recommend choosing payment by BACS (bank transfer), as these payments are completed weekly and will reach you much more quickly. If you have a claim and would like us to transfer the money directly to your bank account simply put the details on your claim form and Kelly will arrange payment.

Our recent Oddfellows Brass Concert was a huge hit!

The concert took place on Sunday 21 September and we had 60 members and guests in attendance. We cannot thank the band and attendees enough for making it a truly memorable afternoon.



Hitting all the right notes.



Oddfellows funny.



Oddfellows Brass.

MNDA Fundraising news

As you know our Provincial Grand Master (Chairperson), Catherine Ovenden, chose MND Association as her charity during her year in office. We are now in the final throes of her 12 months in office, so look out in the next events diary for updates about our wonderful fundraising efforts, and for information on our next worthy cause.

Friendship Month Feedback!

2025 was a great year for us, and our Friendship Month event was no exception. Thank you so much to those of you who came along and showed your support, and thank you to those of you who brought new friends with you – and welcome to those new friends who have joined us! We know you won't regret your decision to join us, check out some of the photos below.



It's a family affair!



Our Prov GM was treated like the Queen!



Us Oddfellows love a good boogie!



Play that funky music Karen!



Sam and Christine are head to head!



Sam hitting all the right notes in Friendship Month.



Jean + Jean + Jean = Fun, Fun, Fun!



Polly Watts Memorial Golf Day 2025

Thank you so much to all our volunteers for their help on the day.

As most of you will know Sam and Neil Watts host a charity golf day every year in memory of Neil's dad. They very kindly chose to support our fundraising efforts for MND Association this year, and raised a huge amount of much needed and greatly appreciated funds. We will give more details of this in our next events diary.

Very aptly, and thoroughly deservedly, Neil's team came first and we are proud to say that our team of Oddfellows members came a very respectable third!

Well done and thank you so much to all who took part.



The 2025 Polly Watts Memorial Golf Day Winning Team.



Our very own Oddfellows Bristol District Team – Lachlan, Colin, Arthur and Richard.

Bristol District Post-Christmas Lunch 2026

The Swan Inn, Nibley, Friday 23 January 2026, 12.30pm

Menu

Starter

(A) Roasted celeriac soup (*ngi*)
finished with pan-fried chorizo and pesto oil

(B) Creamy garlic mushrooms (*v, ngi*)
finished with crumbled blue cheese and garlic croutons

(C) Chicken liver and whiskey pate (*ngi*)
caramelised red onion chutney, toasted bread

(D) Breaded whitebait, tartare sauce

Main

(E) 6oz sirloin steak (*ngi*)
thick cut chips, rocket and parmesan shavings

(F) Honey glazed wiltshire ham (*ngi*)
fried egg, coleslaw, salad, thick cut chips

(G) Beer battered cod, peas and chips (*ngi*)
with our house tartare sauce, garden peas, thick cut chips

(H) Lasagne al forno, dressed side salad

(I) Butternut squash and goats cheese risotto (*v, veo, ngi*)
topped with toasted pine nuts

Dessert

(J) Hot chocolate fudge cake

(K) Crumble of the day

(L) Duo of mixed ice-cream

Cost: one course £14.95, two courses £19.95, three courses £24.95

ngi: no gluten-containing ingredients, *v*: vegetarian option, *veo*: vegan option.

Unity Mutual: A brand-new website and exciting Oddies member benefits

Unity Mutual, the financial arm of the Oddfellows, is delighted to have launched a brand-new website.

The fresh design reflects its updated brand identity, but more importantly, it has been built with accessibility and inclusion at its heart – a continuation of the Oddfellows' ethos.



Whether looking for information on savings, investments or life insurance, the new site is easier to use, clearer to navigate and designed so that everyone can get the most from it.

Unity Mutual has partnered with Recite Me to introduce a full suite of accessibility tools, allowing visitors to customise their browsing experience. These include a text-to-speech function, styling features and translation options, which ensure their online services are available to all –

including those who may face barriers due to disability, neurodivergence or limited English language ability.

James Gilliver, Chief of Operations at Unity Mutual, explained: “Accessibility is extremely important to us at Unity Mutual. Our new website reflects our promise to inclusivity, ensuring all customers can access information in the way that best meets their needs.”

“But it’s not just about accessibility. We’ve also worked hard to make our content clearer and more engaging, so you can feel confident in understanding your financial choices. Our aim is to empower you and your family to make informed decisions about saving for the future.”

An extra reason to take a look is that Oddfellows members can currently benefit from special Guaranteed Investment Bond rates, available exclusively through Unity Mutual.

To see the new website, its new accessibility features and for more information about its products and rates, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows, and discover how Unity Mutual can help build a brighter financial future.

Application deadlines approach!

Whether it's enhancing careers or highlighting fantastic people, the Oddfellows has a number of ways we can give our members a boost – but we can only do so if we hear about them.

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for two of our wonderful schemes are fast approaching – the Apprenticeship Educational Award and the Making a Difference Awards.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



Each year, the Oddfellows grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards, which consist of £250 per year for the duration of the apprenticeship.*

Eligible members must apply via their Branch. If you, or someone you know, has been an Oddfellows member for five or more years, which includes Young Oddfellows membership, and started or plan to start an apprenticeship in 2025, get in touch with your Branch Secretary.

The Branch's deadline for submitting applications for consideration is **Wednesday 31 December 2025**.

*Each case is reviewed on personal merit. For previous recipients' stories, details on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Making a Difference Awards



Want to shine a light on those special people at your Branch who go above and beyond? Every Branch has them, so make sure we hear about their brilliance.

Any member can nominate a fellow member, so if there are people at your Branch who make a difference, speak to your Branch Secretary to find out how you can nominate them.

The deadline for Branches to submit their shortlist is **Saturday 31 January 2026**, so get your nominations in as soon as possible so they can be considered.

To find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, the categories, nomination process and the prior winners, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

If you've missed these deadlines this time don't worry, just make a note for next year!

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

This Friendship Month, we've been encouraging people to say 'yes' to trying new things, making new friends, and discovering all the brilliant things happening at our Branches throughout the nation.

It's safe to say, September 2025 has been another fabulous celebration of friendship. The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Friendship Month 2025 has once again demonstrated what the Oddfellows is all about, and I'm thankful of every single

person up and down the country who had been a part of it."

"Saying 'yes' to trying new things can be daunting, but you've all done an excellent job of showing how positive it is to be a part of friendship groups like ours. So, thank you for saying 'yes' to helping make your Friendship Month events a success, whether that's organising events, serving cups of tea, or simply making people feel welcome and comfortable. It all adds up to another wonderful Friendship Month."



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

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 Kelly on **0117 4310845** or email **kelly.armfield@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to 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

Please see below for information on all future meetings scheduled for 2026.

We'd love all members, both new and old to join us. Why not come along and learn a little bit more about us?

Branch Meetings in Bristol

Meetings will be held at the BAWA Healthcare and Leisure, Southmead Road, Bristol BS34 7RG, from 7.30pm and all members are invited to join us.

Monday 26 January, 7.30pm

Monday 23 March, 7.30pm

Monday 27 April, 7.30pm

No meeting in May

Monday 22 June, 7.30pm

Monday 27 July, 7.30pm

Half Yearly Summoned Monday

24 August, 7pm – earlier time

Monday 28 September, 7.30pm

Monday 26 October, 7.30pm

Monday 23 November, 7.30pm

Monday 14 December, 7.30pm

Half-yearly summoned meeting date – all members are invited to join us Saturday 21 February – 11am start followed by a light lunch

Cuppa and Chat sessions in Swindon

Meetings will run from 11am – 12pm and will take place at The Bakers Arms, Upper Stretton, Swindon SN2 7RE.

Wednesday 14 January

Wednesday 11 March

Wednesday 13 May

Wednesday 8 July

Wednesday 9 September

Wednesday 11 November

Online Events....

Remember to keep your eyes peeled for the weekly online events listings which get emailed out every Friday. If you do not currently receive these then just let Demi (demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk) have your email address and she will add you to the circulation.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you who has come along to an event. We are always on the lookout for new things to do. If you have any ideas

or requests for things to do going forward then please just let me know at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on **07722 010120**.

Also, if you have some spare time you can offer to support an event we are always looking for volunteers. Whether it's to welcome attendees, host events or just help out in general. Why not get involved and help us out at an event? The more volunteers we get the more events we can hold in more areas. It's that simple.

At a glance - See pages 3, 4 and 5 for regular events info

January 2026

Fri 9	Lunch at The Moorend Spout	12.30pm
Wed 14	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Wed 21	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Fri 23	Post-Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Wed 28	Cuppa in Cadbury Heath	10.30am

February

Wed 4	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Mon 9	Let's Get Quizzical!	7pm
Wed 11	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 13	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Tues 17	Lunch at Brent House Carvery	12.30pm
Wed 18	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Tues 24	Boardom Breakers	11am
Wed 25	Cuppa in Cadbury Heath	10.30am

March

Wed 4	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Wed 11	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 13	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Fri 13	Lunch at The Moorend Spout	12.30pm
Mon 16	Afternoon Tea at The Goddard Arms, Swindon	1.30pm
Wed 18	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Wed 25	Cuppa in Cadbury Heath	10.30am

April

Wed 1	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Wed 8	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 10	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Wed 15	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Mon 20	Lunch at Winterstream Farm	12.30pm
Wed 22	Cuppa in Cadbury Heath	10.30am