

March - August 2026



Othe SINCE 1810
ODDFELLOWS
making friends, helping people

out & about

Heart of the West District



Walks



Theatre



Day Trip



Dining Out



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



History

Dear Members and Friends welcome to our Out and About Events Diary

Dear Members and Friends
I hope you will enjoy looking through this edition of our Out and About Diary. There's lots to look forward to and I really hope to meet more of you over the coming year. Extra events sometimes get added in, or things might get cancelled, and this information is included in a weekly email update, so having your email address really is the best way to stay in the loop. Do let me have it if you are happy to supply this and haven't previously. Our Facebook page (Heart of the West Oddfellows) and our website are also a good resource.

I so enjoy getting to know you all, so don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions. Our new secretary, Julia Street, joined us at the end of last year and she has written a few lines, by way of introduction. As a team, we are here to help you get the most out of membership and we both look forward to interacting with you throughout 2026 and beyond!

Hi, I'm Julia,

Originally from Wiltshire, my mum, young family and I moved to Teignmouth 18 years ago.

With a business and marketing background, I made a career change and worked for Sanctuary Housing Association, managing a supported living leasehold retirement scheme. I

Contact Details

Secretary: Julia Street

Telephone: 07881 836294

Email:

julia.street@oddfellows.co.uk

Julia is our Branch Secretary and is responsible for the day to day running of our Branch, monthly accounts, Care & Welfare claims, meeting minutes and administration.



Social Organiser: Tara Carlisle

Telephone: 07909 449703

Email:

tara.carlisle@oddfellows.co.uk

For more information or to book any event, please call Tara.



then joined Age Concern Teignmouth & Shaldon, and took on running their community centre, 'The Alice Cross Centre'.

I have been working in the voluntary sector now for over 15 years, predominantly with people over 50.

I'm a keen sea swimmer, coastal walker and absolutely love living in Devon.

I'm looking forward to working as Branch secretary for The Heart of the West. Please contact me if I can help you with anything.

Julia

Regular Events

Coffee and a Catch Up



11am



First drink free



The first Monday of every month, we'll be waiting to greet you and hear all your news. A great chance to make new friends and bring along some of the ones you already have! Pop upstairs and join us for a relaxed but friendly welcome. Austins Coffee Shop, Courtenay Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2DU. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

First Monday of the month



2 March, 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July and 3 August

Teacup Meet Up



11am



As per menu



We meet the last Monday of the month. On the seafront, this spacious hotel commands magnificent views and is metres from the town centre. Come alone or bring a friend or three and find out why we are one of the best friendship groups on your doorstep! Join the fun, join the group, make friends and get more out of life. Caledonian Torbay Hotel, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5EY. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

Last Monday of the month



30 March, 27 April, 25 May 29 June, 27 July and 31 August

Tea at 2!



2pm



As per menu



Join us for Tea at 2, every second Tuesday of the month. The owner, Ross, makes fabulous cakes and no-one will judge if you order more than one. Toasties, scones, sandwiches – join us regularly and try it all! This is now member-lead, not attended by the Social Organiser, so please get in touch with Tara to confirm it's going ahead, to avoid a wasted trip, or if you have joined the Member's WhatsApp Group, you can check there. Indulgence Tearooms, 40 Devon Square, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2HH. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

Second Tuesday of the month



10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July and 11 August

Regular Events

Wednesday Waffle



11am



As per menu



Join us upstairs in the John Lewis café - The Place To Eat, in Exeter. We meet on the last Wednesday of each

month. A great chance to meet new friends and bring along some of the ones you already have. An informal, relaxed meet-up for friendship to develop. Look out for our banner and our smiles! John Lewis, 1 Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

Last Wednesday of the month

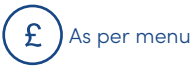


25 March, 29 April, 27 May, 24 June 29 July and 26 August

Meet, Eat, Repeat



12 noon



As per menu



Join us for our regular lunch club. The same time, but a different venue, on the third Thursday of each month. A

great chance to eat somewhere new with a group of friendly people. Spaces are limited. A £10 deposit secures your space - no exception on this and a pre-order may be needed the week before. Once the pre-order has been submitted, no refunds can be issued. Book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

Third Thursday of the month



19 March

The Barn Owl, Aller Mills, Aller Road, Kingskerswell TQ12 5AN.

16 April

Angels, 49 Babbacombe Downs Road, Babbacombe, Torquay TQ1 3LP.

21 May

The Old Rydon Inn, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton TQ12 3QG.

18 June

The Yacht, 18-19 Victoria Parade, Torquay TQ1 2BB.

16 July

Le Bistrot Pierre, Abbey Sands, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5HB.

20 August

Royal Seven Stars, The Plains, Totnes TQ9 5DD.

March 2026

MON
09

Composting for Everyone and Lunch at Bruto Lounge



1pm



Members £2.50
Guests £4



Suitable for all composters: beginners, budding experts and even those without a garden! Learn how to turn food and garden waste into rich compost, speed up decomposition and solve common issues. After the talk, enjoy a short compost walk and an informal chat at Bruto Lounge with expert Melissa Harvey, who is a grower, a teacher and has extensive experience in community-based composting and ecological education. Ticket doesn't include drinks or food. Mansion House (In The Old School Hall - beside Library), 36 Fore Street, Totnes TQ9 5RP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

THURS
12

Local Myths and Legends by Dr Kevin Dixon



6.30pm



Members £5
Guests £7



An illustrated talk by Dr Kevin Dixon - Pixies, ghosts, giants, sea serpents, Greek heroes, and the Devil: all have made appearances in our county. Are they simply traditional stories that we once believed were true but are now discredited? Or do our local legends have meanings and origins we can understand? The Oddfellows have secured 25 seats. These will sell out fast, so get in touch early to secure your place. Newton Abbot Museum, Newton's Place, 43 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 1JQ. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



MON
16

Magic from Mark Leveridge



11.15am



Members £5
Guests £10



Mark Leveridge is a member of the Inner Magic Circle and has been a professional magician and magic creator for 44 years. His talk 'A Life in Magic' will combine fascinating insights into the world of magic entertainment, alongside the performance of tricks to amaze and amuse! Leave your white rabbits at home! 11.15am for a prompt 11.30am start. Kingsteignton Town Council - Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



March 2026

WED 18 Virtual Bowling or Golf (and more!)

1.30pm

Members Free
Guests £10



If you have never tried virtual gaming before, you are not alone! It is great fun and suitable for all skill levels and most games can be enjoyed even with restricted mobility. What's more, it's all indoors so the weather doesn't matter. A simulator projects a background on to a huge screen, whilst a camera tracks your actions and movements to simulate a real-life gaming experience. We can choose two different sports to try. There are no heavy balls to roll, it doesn't matter if you've never scored a goal, swung a golf club or fired a shotgun!

Booking is essential and we will then take a poll for the two most popular sport choices: This is an exciting opportunity to try something new for a two hour session – totally free to members! Once you've tried it, we're sure you'll return. Booking essential. Only 14 places available. There are buses available to Dartington Estate. If you drive and are willing to offer a lift to people on your route, please mention when you book with us. MiGolf Dartington, Lower Close, Dartington Estate, Totnes TQ9 6EL. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

MON 23 Guide Dogs for the Blind Talk

1.30pm

Members £4
Guests £8



We have all heard of this fabulous charity, but do you know what goes in to training a madcap puppy into a dog with a job?

Lindsay will be accompanied by a dog (or three), to explain how a guide dog can be life-changing for someone with sight loss, giving them the freedom to live the life they choose. Collection pots will be available for donations and merchandise for you to purchase – anything you can give helps change lives. Cost includes £2 deduction from any refreshments you order. Arrive at 1.30pm for 2pm start and the chance to buy your food and/or drinks. Please note this venue has approximately 12 steps to navigate. Bank, 6 Fleet Street, Torquay TQ1 1DB. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

April

WED 01 VIP Tour to St Michael's Chapel



1pm



Free



It might be April Fools Day but this is no joke! The Oddfellows are hosting a visit to Torquay's St Michael's Chapel and we will be inviting the wider community to join us from 1pm. Atop a dramatic limestone outcrop near Torre Station, this lovely medieval chapel is usually locked up, but we have been given a rare opportunity to enter a place that was sacred to many thousands of the faithful for centuries. Local Historian, Dr Kevin Dixon, will host the visit and will be there to tell us all about this mysterious and long-forgotten chapel.

We will take groups of 10-15 up every 15 minutes or so, and you are welcome to stay and chat afterwards. We hope to invite the press and there's even a rumour that some of the Social Committee might be in costume! We'll meet on Barton Road at 1pm and small groups will be lead through the woods to the chapel, so you may need to wait a short while to be taken for the tour. Please be aware that the ground is steep and uneven and in places, not easily accessible. Good footwear is advised and there are no toilets on the site. St Michael's Chapel, Barton Road, Torquay TQ1 4DJ. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

THURS 09 Hearing Loss and Tinnitus Talk



1.30pm



Members £4, Guests £6

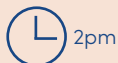


Join us for a talk from Bevis Taylor, from the Torbay and South Devon NHS Sensory Team. He will give a general overview, suggest some coping strategies and ways you might be able to help yourself or those you know that are living with these conditions. It can be very isolating, cause stress, anxiety and even lead to depression, so we all benefit from knowing more. You will have the chance to ask questions at the end of the talk and find out more about the support group Bevis runs. Ticket cost includes £2 off any refreshments you might buy. Arrive for 1.30pm to be seated for 2pm start. Please note there are several steps up to the seating area. Bank, 6 Fleet Street, Torquay TQ1 1DB. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

April

MON
13

Taiko Drumming Taster Workshop



2pm



Members £10, Guests £15



Taiko Drumming is a Japanese art form involving movement and powerful drumming rhythms on large drums called taiko. It draws from ancient traditions used in warfare and is visually spectacular. Wonderful to watch and exciting to participate. This workshop will last around an hour and a half and is suitable for all ages and abilities.



Join us for a demonstration and have a go yourself if you would like to, with expert guidance from the Taiko South West team. Maybe you'll get bitten by the Taiko bug and take it up as a hobby. It is great for your health, helping anxiety, mobility and concentration. Kingsteignton Town Council, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

THURS
30

Buckfast Abbey Craft Workshop (with option of lunch)



11am



Members £10, Guests £14



Nicola of Buckfast Abbey will be teaching us how to make a professional and appealing 'Bear Keyring' from pompoms. The craft is suitable for most abilities and you'll go home with a keyring to be proud of. Keep it or gift it, but we're confident you won't want to part with it! All tuition and materials are included and you have the option to add in a luxury toastie and hot drink deal. The session will last two hours. Held at a fabulous café that always has the best interests of the local community at its heart. Full payment secures your space. The Cwtch Hub, 17 Union Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2JX. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



May

TUES
05

Gong Bath



1.45pm



Members £12, Guests £16



You don't get wet in a Gong Bath!

A gong bath is a form of sound healing relaxation. Participants lie on a mat and unwind whilst being immersed in the powerful vibrations of gongs and other instruments. It is an immensely pleasurable way to reduce stress, encourage deep relaxation and some people even fall asleep. The session is hosted by Julie Clark of



Inner Space Sounds. Julie is a fully qualified COSH Gong Practitioner and Classical Homeopath. It may not be suitable if you've recently had a joint operation, or have a pacemaker. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a gym mat to lie on – some spare mats available. 1.45pm arrival for prompt 2pm start. Kingsteignton Town Council, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

THURS
07

Mark Leveridge - Magic Talk and Demonstration



1.30pm



Members £6, Guests £10



Mark Leveridge is a member of the Inner Magic Circle and has been a professional magician and magic creator for 44 years. Having done a show for us back in March, he returns with another talk; 'My Funny and Horrific Magic Stories'. It will combine fascinating insights into



the world of magic and some tricks to amaze and amuse! Ticket cost includes £2 off any refreshments you may choose to buy. Show starts promptly at 2pm. We'll be there at 1.30pm to issue your £2 token to redeem against food or drink purchases. Please be aware that the venue has around 12 steps to navigate. Bank, 6 Fleet Street, Torquay TQ1 1DB. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

May

MON
11

Sailing Opportunity



10am



Members £10, Guests £15



A two hour sail with experts and a chance to go again every week if you like it! This is a very special opportunity to see the bay from a different perspective and a good chance of seal spotting! Spaces are limited to five per session. In order to participate, you need to have a disability, but the DSA include, eyesight/hearing problems, mobility issues, anxiety/depression and whilst you must disclose your issue on the form given to the captain, no doctor's note/verification is needed. Disabled Sailing Association, Beacon Quay, Torquay TQ1 2BG. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



June

WED
03

Pottery Workshop



1.30pm



Members £16
Guests £20



Explore the medium of pottery in a 2.5 hour workshop, lead by Verran Townsend, who has many years of experience teaching ceramics. Everyone will be able to have a go at both throwing a pot on the potter's wheel and hand building (for example, creating a small cup or bowl, a tile, or a small sculpture). At the end of the session, choose to take your items home straight away (the clay will still be soft), or the studio can finish your work off for you (trimming the bases of thrown pieces, bisque firing the work, applying a glaze of your choice). You can then collect the fired work approximately three weeks later - there is a £5 additional charge for this service. Mansion House, Mansion Pottery Studio, 36 Fore Street, Totnes TQ9 5RP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



June

THURS
25

Plants Behaving Badly

🕒 1.45pm

£ Members £10
Guests £15



Caradoc Doy NDH is a Freelance Horticulturist, Gardening Speaker and Veitch Researcher. Today, he will be giving an illustrated talk on 'Plants Behaving Badly'. This will be amusing and informative, highlighting popular plants that can cause issues if the gardener is not aware of their potential for trouble, with a brief opportunity for questions at the end. Caradoc has featured on the BBC for his help with an exhibit at the RHS Chelsea Flower, winning a Silver Gilt Medal and the chance to meet Her Majesty The Queen and he has also appeared on Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. Kingsteignton Town Council - Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

July

THURS
02

Train Trip to The Box, Plymouth

🕒 10.15am

£ Cost of train ticket



The Box is a modern, free museum where you can learn about Plymouth's history, wander through art galleries and explore the archives and exhibitions. We can meet for a train journey at Newton Abbot, or find each other at The Box itself, if you prefer to drive. We'll spend a couple of hours, grab a bite in the coffee shop and come home feeling cleverer! Please note some exhibitions have a charge. Approximately 10 minute walk from the station. At the time of going to print, train times cannot be confirmed. Estimated 10am departure, we will set this when the timetables have been released and you can buy our ticket when suits. The Box, Tavistock Place, Plymouth PL4 8AX. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.



July

MON
13

The Story of Agatha Christie's Extraordinary Life Tour

2.30pm

£ Members £12.50
Guests £20



This fascinating tour, hosted by a professional tour guide, tells the story of Agatha Christie's extraordinary life. How she overcame personal and professional challenges to become the world's best selling novelist. We follow the stunning English Riviera coastline whilst conveying the story of her life and her incredible achievements. The route is flat and paved with plenty of places to sit, but it is around two hours long and a certain pace is needed to be kept to schedule, so it may not be suitable for those with mobility issues, though the tour is suitable for mobility scooters. There are toilets at the start, with a chance to buy refreshments and have a comfort break at the halfway point. Weather can affect suitability of proceeding with event, so please check with us before you set off, if you are in any doubt of the event going ahead. The English Riviera Visitor Information Centre (opposite Hoopers), 5 Vaughan Parade, Torquay TQ2 5JG. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

August

MON
10

Torquay's Wartime Memories Tour

2.30pm

£ Members £12.50, Guests £20



Discover Torquay's heroic history on a memorable two-hour walking tour. Hear remarkable local stories, from wartime bravery to military milestones, stand where American troops left for Utah Beach and visit the graves of Torquay's two Victoria Cross recipients. The route is flat, includes places to sit and there'll be a midway comfort break.



Suitable for mobility scooters. Weather dependent. Starts promptly at 2.30pm. English Riviera Visitor Information Centre (opposite Hoopers), 5 Vaughan Parade, Torquay TQ2 5JG. Contact Tara on 07909 449703.

Heart of the West Annual Summoned Meeting

We would like to invite you to Heart of the West District's Annual Summoned Meeting (ASM) on Monday 30 March. The meeting will take place at St Matthias Church, Babbacombe Road, Torquay TQ1 1HW starting at 4.30pm in the hall, not the lounge.

The agenda for the meeting, along with any relevant paperwork, will be issued to those attending but the purpose of the meeting is to review

the Branch's activities over the last year and plan ahead for the future. A light buffet will be available after the business has been concluded.

Please could you confirm your attendance or otherwise, for catering and seating purposes (plus those of any other members from your household), by email to: julia.street@oddfellows.co.uk with the information requested, by Wednesday 18 March at the latest.

The Joys of Growing Your Own – Part 3

We moved from our Victorian terraced home, to a 15th Century cottage at the bottom of the village, that needed a lot of TLC.

The most important thing was that we now owned a larger garden, where I could grow plenty of vegetable. There was also room to keep chickens and rabbits as an extra interest for the children.

The first thing I bought to grow was potatoes that I purchased from a greengrocer in Exmouth. He told me he had some that were too small to sell and I could have a bagful for two shillings.

I prepared a trench and threw them in. I didn't add manure because the soil looked fine and very quickly they grew to three feet and six inches high.

My Father-in-law took one look and told me it was all top growth and I wouldn't get any potatoes from them. When I dug

them up, I was surprised that I had a bumper harvest of good quality potatoes.

I also grew brussels, savoy cabbage and, our favourite; runner beans and peas. The seven feet tall variety of runner beans were from the old variety, Alderman. I finally was able to put a name to those beans I grew at our first house.

All of this was lost, when South West Water needed to put a new main sewer right through the middle of our garden. They told us they would pay to have our garden put back just as we wanted. My wife, Margaret, decided she would go for a designer garden, with a lovely lawn with a private hedge, and arched gates through to a secret garden containing an orchard of old varieties of apples, pears, plums and nut trees. This was finished with an attractive rose border and statues. Margaret was delighted with it but I did miss my vegetables!



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 Julia on **07881 836294** or email julia.street@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@manchestercab.org



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**

Friendship: the constant that carries us forward A message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship. Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate



Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



Will Stevenson
Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham’s Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: “Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me.”

Will also hasn’t mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that’s one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given “the breadth of Geography and its wide application”.

Emma Corbin
Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

“I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications,” she said. “I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available.”

Emma too hasn’t decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

“It’s an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics,” Emma added.

More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards.

2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of Guaranteed Investment Bonds and Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Find out more

Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

At a glance

March 2026

Mon 2	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Mon 9	Composting for Everyone and Lunch	1pm
Tues 10	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 12	Local Myths and Legends by Dr Kevin Dixon	6.30pm
Mon 16	Magic from Mark Leveridge	11.15am
Wed 18	Virtual Bowling or Golf (and more!)	1.30pm
Thurs 19	Meet, Eat, Repeat - The Barn Owl	12 noon
Mon 23	Guide Dogs for the Blind Talk	1.30pm
Wed 25	Wednesday Waffle	11am
Mon 30	Teacup Meet Up	11am

April

Wed 1	VIP Tour to St Michael's Chapel	1pm
Mon 6	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Thurs 9	Hearing Loss and Tinnitus Talk	1.30pm
Mon 13	Taiko Drumming Taster Workshop	2pm
Tues 14	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 16	Meet, Eat, Repeat - Angels Tea Rooms	12 noon
Mon 27	Teacup Meet Up	11am
Wed 29	Wednesday Waffle	11am
Thurs 30	Buckfast Abbey Craft Workshop (with option of lunch)	11am

May

Mon 4	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Tues 5	Gong Bath	1.45pm
Thurs 7	Mark Leveridge - Magic Talk and Demonstration	1.30pm
Mon 11	Sailing Opportunity	10am
Tues 12	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 21	Meet, Eat, Repeat - The Old Rydon Inn	12 noon
Mon 25	Teacup Meet Up	11am
Wed 27	Wednesday Waffle	11am

At a glance

June

Mon 1	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Wed 3	Pottery Workshop	1.30pm
Tues 9	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 18	Meet, Eat, Repeat - The Yacht	12 noon
Wed 24	Wednesday Waffle	11am
Thurs 25	Plants Behaving Badly	1.45pm
Mon 29	Teacup Meet Up	11am

July

Thurs 2	Train Trip to The Box, Plymouth	10.15am
Mon 6	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Mon 13	The Story of Agatha Christie's Extraordinary Life Tour	2.30pm
Tues 14	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 16	Meet, Eat, Repeat - Le Bistrot Pierre	12 noon
Mon 27	Teacup Meet Up	11am
Wed 29	Wednesday Waffle	11am

August

Mon 3	Coffee and a Catch Up	11am
Mon 10	Torquay's War Time Memories Tour	2.30pm
Tues 11	Tea at 2!	2pm
Thurs 20	Meet, Eat, Repeat - Royal Seven Stars	12 noon
Wed 26	Wednesday Waffle	11am
Mon 31	Teacup Meet Up	11am

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.