

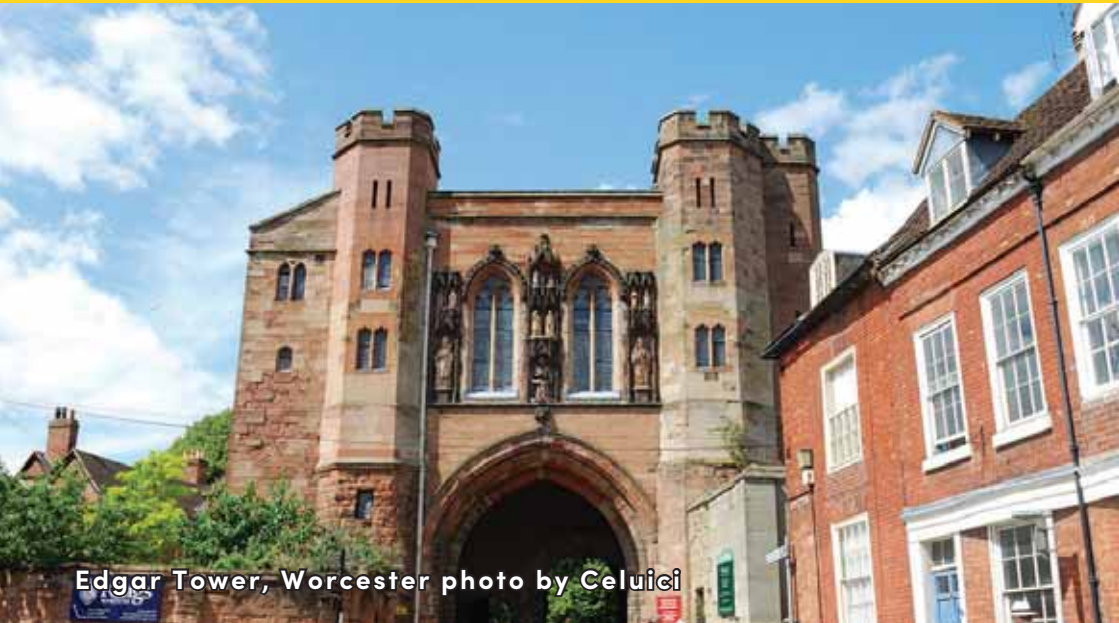
April - September 2025



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

Events & News

Worcester Branch



Edgar Tower, Worcester photo by Celuici



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



We hope you can join us for our social events! See pages 3-8 for more details.

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Worcester District Oddfellows Events & News.

As a local District 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 a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you, your family and your friends to attend any of our events that take

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Sandra Loynes

Telephone: 01905 422591

Email:
sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk

Address:
3 Windsor Avenue,
Worcester WR2 5LZ

your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

If any member has an interesting story they would like to share with our members please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming months

**Sandra, Branch Secretary
Worcester District Branch**

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

Regular Event

Ten Pin Bowling



10am



£4.80



Come and join us for a game of ten pin bowling. Bowl Extreme, Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester WR3 7SN. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

8 April

3 May

13 June

8 July

9 September



**Second Tuesday
of the month**

Coffee Mornings



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for a coffee and a chat. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Cherry Lane - Barnett Hill,
Worcester Road, Clent, Barnett Hill,
Stourbridge DY9 0EE.

21 May

23 July

7 September

Webbs Garden Centre, Worcester
Road, Wychbold, Worcester WR9 0DG.

16 April

18 June

20 August

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

April

TUES
01

Easter Quiz Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



Time to get your thinking caps on. It's quiz time! Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
28

Name That Tune Fernhill Heath Branch



12.15pm



Free



How well do you know your music? Why not come along and test your knowledge, who knows you may win a prize. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



MON
14

Easter Bingo



2.15pm



Free



An Easter themed game of bingo with chocolate prizes. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.

May

TUES
06

Card Bingo Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



Bingo with a difference. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



May

MON
12

A Talk by Worcester Animal Rescue Shelter



2.15pm



Free



WARS (Worcester Animal Rescue Shelter) will give a talk on their work, rescuing unwanted and abandoned dogs. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



THURS
15

Committee of Management Meeting



2pm



Free



Committee Members Only. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.

June

TUES
03

Name That Thing Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



This is a game a bit like Scattergories but not Scattergories. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
09

Mosaic Pictures



2.15pm



Free



We will be making pictures or patterns on tiles using ceramic pieces. A fun craft. Refreshments



will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.

June

MON
23

Bingo Fernhill Heath Branch

L 12.15pm

£ £1



An Oddfellows favourite, bingo with cash prizes! Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



July

TUES
01

Wine and Cheese Night Stanley Baldwin Branch

L 7pm

£ Free



Ever wanted to do a bit of wine tasting? Now's your chance. We will also have soft drinks for the drivers. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



July

MON
14

Riverside Walk

L 2.15pm

£ As per menu



A circular walk alongside the river from cherry orchard fields. There is a café halfway round the walk, where you can purchase refreshments if you wish. The walk back will be shorter and a lift back can be arranged for anyone if needed. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.

MON
28

Annual Day Trip

L 9am

£ TBC



Details of the day trip are yet to be confirmed, we will update you as soon as arrangements have been finalised. Book by Monday 23 June. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



August

TUES 05 **Bingo** Stanley Baldwin Branch

L 7pm

£ Free



An Oddfellows favorite, a traditional game of bingo. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON 11 **A Talk by Worcester Talking Newspaper**

L 2.15pm

£ Free



Kate Hudman from Worcester Talking Newspaper will give a talk on the work of the Talking Newspaper. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



MON 18 **Back Stage Tour of the Swan Theatre** Fernhill Heath Branch

L 12.15pm

£ As per menu



Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the screens of a theatre? Well why not join us and find out. Followed by tea or coffee and cake in the theatre restaurant. Book by Monday 28 July. The Swan Theatre, The Moors, Worcester WR1 3ED. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



THURS 28 **Committee of Management Meeting**

L 2pm

£ Free



Committee Members Only. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.

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

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
02 **Quiz**
Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



Time to put those thinking caps on again. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle.

Elizabeth Mills Centre,
Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH.
Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
22 **Table Top**
Treasure Hunt
Fernhill Heath Branch



12.15pm



Free



This is a team game, which team will find the treasure first. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



MON
08 **A Musical Afternoon**



2.15pm



Free



An afternoon of entertainment by the Worcester Ukulele Band plus a quiz for you to do either at the event or to take home with you. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

On Tuesday 8 April 10am, Liver Health Awareness Talk with the British Liver Trust. Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 891 3103 9250 Passcode: 576521.

Tuesday 10 June 7pm, Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist). Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538 Password: 616704.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Branch Secretary Sandra Loynes

Social Events from 2024-2025

Tenpin Bowling

Every month a few of our members enjoy a game of tenpin bowling, we have a great laugh and time for a chat afterwards with a nice hot drink and biscuits.



Some of our bowlers

Coffee Morning

Throughout 2024, our coffee mornings have become more popular at both Cherry Lane Garden Centre, Stourbridge, and Webbs Garden Centre, Wychbold.



Remembrance Service

Several of our members attended the service of remembrance at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 10 November, where our Provincial Grand Master Brother Ken Link and Sister Sandra Loynes (President of the Midland Group Conference) lay wreaths on the cenotaph.



Christmas Party

On Monday 9 December, we had a great afternoon singing Christmas songs, a lovely afternoon tea and a surprise guest visitor.



Christmas Lunch

Monday 16 December, 32 members enjoyed a fabulous carvery lunch at the Bluebell Farm restaurant.



New Year Lunch

On Monday 13 January, we celebrated the new year with a meal at the Harvester restaurant.



Pantomime

Sunday 26 January, several members attended the Monday Night Club Panto at the Civic Centre in Stourport on Severn, this year's performance was Cinderella, this was followed by a fish and chip supper.



The ugly sisters

Charitable Donations



Every year the Provincial Grand Master chooses a charity to which the District makes a donation, last year 2024, Brother Ken Link chose Kidderminster & Worcester Prostate Cancer Support Group to which a donation of £250 was made.

The management committee also agreed to make a donation of £250 to each of the following charities, Worcester Talking Newspaper, Herefordshire & Worcestershire Community Stroke Service

as well as £250 to the Oddfellows Society charity H.A Andrews Fund. A Total of £1,000.

If any member has a local charity that they would like to be considered for a donation at the end of the year, please send details of the charity to the Secretary Mrs Sandra Loynes, 3 Windsor Avenue, St Johns, Worcester WR2 5LZ.

Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Sandra by phone on **01905 422591** or email **sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk**

 **the Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
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www.oddfellows.co.uk

100 Club 2024

Date	No.	£10	No.	£5
September 2024	21	Anita Hill	53	Jill Smith
October 2024	56	Amy Stone	14	Julia Clark
November 2024	27	Jeff Loynes	8	Heather Broom

December 2024				
£50	14	Julia Clark		
£25	27	Jeff Loynes		
£15	51	Joan Rackham		
£10	58	Wendy Turberfield		
£5	28	Sandra Loynes		

Celebrations 2025

Saturday 12 April

Lynn Denham will celebrate her 70th Birthday

Tuesday 6 May

Roger Rackham will celebrate his 80th Birthday

Wednesday 6 August

Claire Hadland will celebrate her 70th Birthday

Sunday 31 August

Sandra Rath will celebrate her 70th Birthday

Sunday 17 August

Andrew Lippitt will celebrate his 60th Birthday

Wednesday 20 August

Roy Bilboe will celebrate his 80th Birthday

Friday 29 August

Don Handy will celebrate his 80th Birthday

Obituaries 2024/2025

Memories comfort you
for memories are treasures
that time cannot destroy

Mr Derek Hudson

Mr Robert Prescott

Mrs Elizabeth Smith

Mrs Patricia Batchelor

Mr David Prince

Mr Brian Clayton

Mr Robert Bennett

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 Sandra on **01905 422591** or email **sandra.loynes@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**

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”

Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.



Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Social Events at a glance

April 2025

Tues 1	Easter Quiz – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Tues 8	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 14	Easter Bingo	2.15pm
Wed 16	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 28	Name That Tune – Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

May

Tues 6	Card Bingo – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 12	A Talk by Worcester Animal Rescue Shelter	2.15pm
Tues 13	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Thurs 15	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm
Wed 21	Coffee Morning	10.30am

June

Tues 3	Name That Thing – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 9	Mosaic Pictures	2.15pm
Tues 10	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 18	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 23	Bingo – Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

July

Tues 1	Wine and Cheese Night – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Tues 8	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 14	Riverside Walk	2.15pm
Wed 23	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 28	Annual Day Trip	9am

August

Tues 5	Bingo – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 11	A Talk by Worcester Talking Newspaper	2.15pm
Mon 18	Back Stage Tour of the Swan Theatre – Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm
Wed 20	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 28	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm

Social Events at a glance

September – Friendship Month

Tues 2	Quiz – Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 8	A Musical Afternoon	2.15pm
Tues 9	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 17	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 22	Table Top Treasure Hunt – Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

Committee of Management

Committee of Management Branches are responsible for their own business activities and administration. This is done through a Committee of Management supported by the Secretary.

Attendance at this event is for Committee of Management members only, unless agreed in advance with Sandra Loynes.

Volunteering

If you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities here at Worcester Oddfellows, including joining the Committee of Management please contact Sandra Loynes for more information.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

f OddfellowsUK

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.



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

OEW/1024SMALL