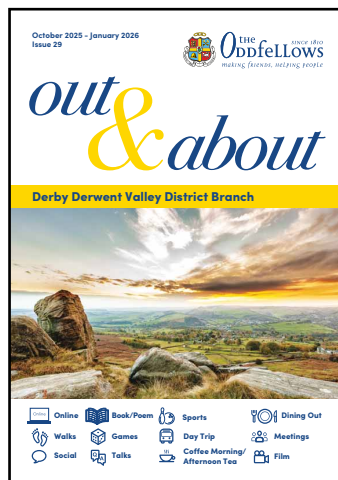


Derby Derwent Valley Out and About and The Derby Link Magazine

Please scroll down to the first page for the Derby Out and About events diary and page 17 for The Derby Link Magazine

Please scroll to page 1 or click
the link below
[Derby Out and About](#)



Please scroll to page 17 or click
the link below
[The Derby Link Magazine](#)

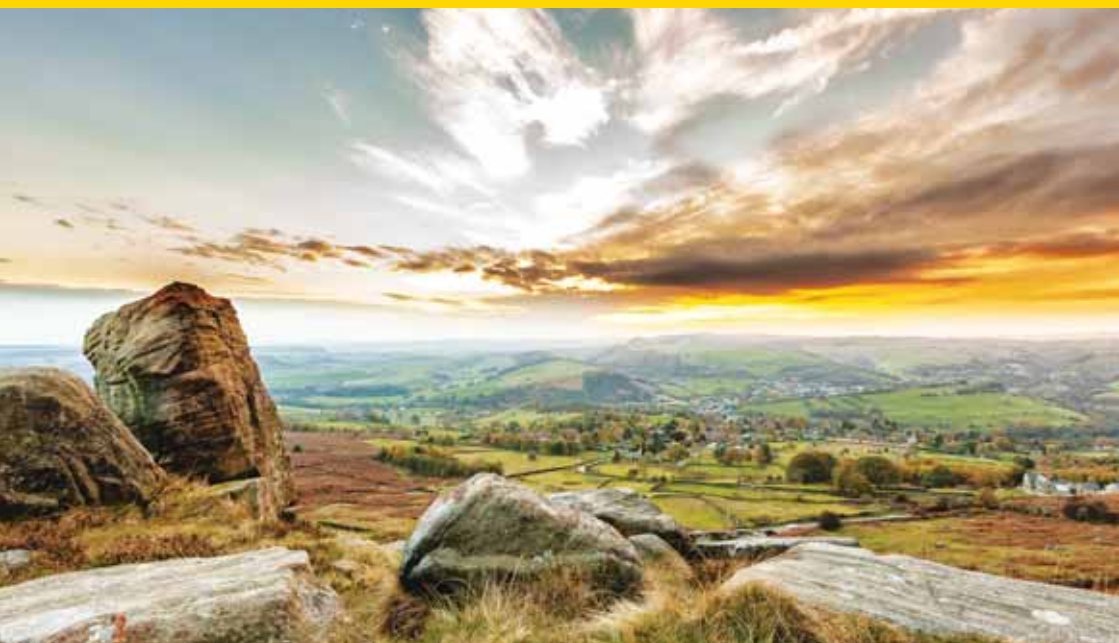


October 2025 - January 2026
Issue 29



out & about

Derby Derwent Valley District Branch



Online



Book/Poem



Sports



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Film



Coffee Morning Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 29 November 2025

Welcome to your latest edition of the Out and About!

What a fantastic summer we've had, filled with memorable events like our delightful Strawberry Tea - complete with fun games, a scrumptious buffet featuring strawberries and cream, sandwiches, and cakes.

Throughout September, we celebrated Friendship Month, which gave members the chance to bring along a friend or guest to any of our events for just £1. It was a fantastic opportunity to welcome new faces, strengthen connections, and share the fun with others in our community.

Looking ahead, our Social Planning Committee has been busy putting together an exciting programme of events and activities for the months to come - especially as we approach the

festive season. There's something for everyone, so make sure to get involved!

The festive fun begins with our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29 November 2025. Come along to pick up some early Christmas gifts. Also, treat yourself to our delicious hot cobs on sale.

Please note that the coach trip to Liverpool originally scheduled for Saturday 11 October 2025 has unfortunately been cancelled due to low interest.

Lastly, a reminder for our Good Samaritan Branch members: monthly meetings now begin at 10.30am (moved from 11am) on the second Monday of each month. We're looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events - thank you for being part of such a vibrant and welcoming community!

Weekly Events

The events below all take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Line Dancing

Every Monday

🕒 2pm - 3.30pm 💷 Members £3
Guests £4

Step into the fun – everyone's welcome! Get moving with a fantastic workout. £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits! Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

Short Mat Bowls

Every Tuesday

🕒 2pm - 4pm 💷 Members £1.50
Guests £2.50

Join us for a relaxed and friendly session – perfect for beginners and seasoned players alike. Enjoy great company, a game or two, and complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits. All are welcome – come and give it a try! Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



Lots of our events take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Really easy to find with parking at the rear off Melbourne Street.

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

01332 345697

Lauretta Stokes

Email:

lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk

Alice Smyth

Email:

alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk

f OddfellowsDerby

Chair Exercise Class

Thursday

🕒 11am 💷 Members £3, Guests £5

Come and join us on second and fourth Thursday of each month. Enjoy improving your strength, flexibility, balance and circulation, all while being safe and easy to perform at a Chair Exercise Class. £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

9 October 2025 11 December 2025
23 October 2025 8 January 2026
27 November 2025 22 January 2026

(no chair exercise class on
13 November or 25 December)

Regular Events

Knit and Natter

Fortnightly
Monday

⌚ 6.30pm

£ £1

Come and join us for a fun evening of any type of crafting whilst having a chat and refreshments. All abilities are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 01332 519062.

6 October 2025	1 December 2025
20 October 2025	15 December 2025
3 November 2025	12 January 2026
17 November 2025	26 January 2026

Coffee Morning

Thursday, Friday
and Saturday

⌚ 10.30am

£ £1

Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Hot cobs will be on sale (available only on Saturday coffee mornings). Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

Thursday 30 October 2025
Friday 14 November 2025
Saturday 29 November 2025
Saturday 13 December 2025
Saturday 10 January 2026
Thursday 29 January 2026

Join us online...

For a catch up and some fun!

Saturday at 10.30am

Zoom Countdown with Colin

11 October 2025	3 January 2026
8 November 2025	31 January 2026
6 December 2025	

Zoom Quiz

25 October 2025
22 November 2025
20 December 2025
17 January 2026

Zoom Meeting ID:
777 935 4259



For more information contact Lauretta Stokes on 01332 345697.

October 2025

WED **01** **Walking Group** **at Little Eaton**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at the New Inn Little Eaton for a walk in the Little Eaton area. Eating at the New Inn afterwards. The New Inn, Duffield Road, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5DR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



SAT **04** **FULLY BOOKED** **District Officers' Visit** **Stanhope Branch**

 6.30pm

 Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Due to room restrictions, places are invitation only. Book by Friday 26 September 2025. Hunters Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn DE56 0LU. Contact Doreen on 01332 720064.

TUES **07** **King George IV Branch** **Meeting Followed by** **Sticky 13's**

 7.30pm

 Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an evening of fun playing Sticky 13's. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Maureen on 01332 739538.



TUES **14** **Meeting followed** **by Rummikub** **Pares Branch**

 2pm

 Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of Rummikub. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 946 5105.

TUES **14** **Dining Out Experience** **at Darcy's Fish** **and Chips**

 6.45pm

 As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Book by Tuesday 7 October 2025.



Darcy's Fish and Chips, Manor Road, Littleover, Derby DE23 6BR. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

WED **15** **Walking Group at** **Radbourne**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at The Great Northern for a 5.5 mile walk in Radbourne area. Lunch will be at The Great Northern. Everyone welcome. The Great Northern, Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9FB. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



October 2025

SAT
18

Kurling



2.30pm



Members £3
Guests £5



Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and test your kurling skills. Refreshments of tea, coffee and cake



are included. Book by Friday 10 October 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.

FRI
24

Lunch at the Standing Order



12.30pm



As per
menu



Come and meet Carol and Terry at the Standing Order for lunch and a chat with friends. All our welcome. The Standing Order, Irongate, Derby DE1 3GL. Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.



WED
29

Walking Group at Shardlow



10am



As per menu



Meet at the Clock Warehouse for a four and half mile walk in the Shardlow area. Everyone welcome. The Clock Warehouse, Shardlow, Derby DE72 2GL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

November

TUES
11

District Officers' Visit Pares Branch



2pm



Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Followed by a raffle. Book by Tuesday 4 November 2025. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. For catering purposes, please contact Barbara on 01159 465105 if you would like to come along.

TUES
11

Dining Out Experience at The Silk Mill



6.45pm



As per
menu




Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Book by Tuesday 4 November 2025. The Silk Mill, 19 Full Street, Derby DE1 3AF. Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.

November

WED **12** **Walking Group** **at Heage**



 10am

 As per menu



Meet at Eagle Tavern for a five mile walk. On street parking. Lunch to be decided. Everyone welcome. Eagle Tavern, Ripley Road, Heage DE56 2HU. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

FRI **14** **Coffee Morning and** **Guest Speaker**

 10.30am  £1



Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Also, a guest from East Midlands Asbestos Support Team will do a talk about the services they offer. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



SAT **15** **Beetle Drive**

 2.30pm  Members £3
Guests £5



Come and join us for an afternoon of fun playing beetle drive. Refreshments are tea or coffee and cake.

Book by Friday 8 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



WED **26** **Walking Group** **at Breadsall**

 10am



 As per menu



Meet at The Paddock for a walk along the Northern Greenway via Breadsall Village – seven miles. Lunch at The Paddock. Everyone welcome. The Paddock, Mansfield Road, Breadsall Hilltop, Derby DE21 4AW. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



SAT **29** **Coffee Morning** **Christmas Bazaar**

 10.30am  £1



Have a cuppa and join in the fun of our Christmas Bazaar, with different stalls selling craft items and much more. Also, delicious hot cobs will be on sale. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



December

TUES **02** **Christmas Party** **King George IV Branch**

 7.30pm  Free 

Come and join us for our Christmas Party. An evening of food, laughter and games. Held at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please book by Friday 14 November 2025 in the office with Lauretta on 01332 345697.

THURS **04** **Christmas Party** **Good Intent Branch**

 2.30pm  Free 

Join us for our Christmas party. An afternoon buffet, along with a visit from Santa. Booking is essential as numbers are limited by Thursday 27 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 01332 519062.



MON **08** **Christmas Party** **Good Samaritan Branch**

 10.30am  Free 

Come and join us for our Christmas party. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Gordon on 01332 728694.



TUES **09** **Christmas Meal at** **Eaton Farm** **Pares Branch**

 12 noon  As per menu 

Come and join us for some festive fun at our Christmas meal at Eaton Farm. Book by Tuesday 2 December 2025. Eaton Farm, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4AW. Contact Barbara on 0115 946 5105.



WED **10** **Walking Group** **at Locko**

 10am  As per menu 

Meet at Bluebell Dairy for Walter's Walk (four miles) through Locko Park. We'll have lunch at Kings Corner, Oakwood DE21 4RF. Everyone is welcome. Bluebell Dairy Ice Cream Farm, Locko Road, Spondon DE21 7AR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

December

WED 10 Branch District Officers' Visit Derby Derwent Valley District

🕒 7pm

£ Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet meal will be served after the meeting. Book by Wednesday 3 December 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. For catering purposes, please contact Branch Secretary, Lauretta on 01332 345697 if you would like to come along.

FRI 12 Visit to Pickford's House Museum

🕒 10.30am

£ Free



Come and join us to visit Pickford House Museum to see the Georgian costumes and the tiny world of toy theatre. Pickford's House Museum, 41 Friargate, Derby DE1 1DA. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



FRI 12 Christmas Meal at Mickleover Golf Club Good Samaritan

🕒 1pm

£ As per menu



Come and join us for our Christmas meal at Mickleover Golf Club. Booking is essential. Mickleover Golf Club, Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9AD. Please contact Gordon Lunn on 01332 728694 by Friday 14 November 2025.

SAT 13 Christmas Coffee Morning

🕒 10.30am

£ £1



Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee, mince pie and a chat. Ukulele players will be playing Christmas songs to sing along. Hot cobs will be on sale. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



SUN 14 Junior Members Christmas Party

🕒 11am

£ Free



Calling all junior members. Come and join us for a lunchtime of fun playing games, followed by a visit from Santa bringing presents and a lunchtime of sandwiches, cake and crisps. Book by Sunday 7 December 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.

WED 24 Walking Group at Alvaston Park

🕒 10am

£ As per menu



Walk from Alvaston Park (car park by BMX track), flat, mostly paths. Everyone welcome. Alvaston Car Park, Meadow Lane, Alvaston DE24 8QQ. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

January 2026

WED
07

Walking Group to Pride Park

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Walk from Chester Green to Pride Park and return along the Derwent. Park at Old Chester Road car park DE1 3SA. Five mile walk, flat, no stiles, paths.



Photo by Russ Hamer

Pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Everyone welcome. Old Chester Road Car Park, 106 Old Chester Road, Little Chester, Derby DE1 3SA. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

TUES
13

Pares Branch Meeting followed by Bingo

⌚ 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by a fun afternoon of playing bingo. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 946 5105.



TUES
13

Dining Out Experience at The Bubble Inn

⌚ 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Book by Tuesday 6 January 2026. The Bubble Inn, Stenson, Derby DE73 7HL. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



FRI
16

Chocolate Bingo

⌚ 6.30pm

£ Members £6
Guests £8



Get the dobbers ready and join us for an afternoon of 'Chocolate Bingo'. Bingo books will be available to purchase on the day. There will be refreshments of jacket potato with various fillings. Book by Friday 9 January 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



January 2026

WED
21

Walking Group at Cromford



10am



As per
menu



Walk the Cromford Canal. Meet at Whatstandwell Station Car Park DE4 5EE (pay for parking) for a six mile walk. Flat tow path. Pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Everyone welcome. Whatstandwell Car Park, Whatstandwell DE4 5EE. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



THURS
29

Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker



10.30am



£1



Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee, biscuits and a chat. Also, a guest from Home Instead will do a talk on the services they offer. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



SAT
24

Film Night with Fish and Chips



2.30pm



Members £10
Guests £12



Come and join us for a cosy afternoon of great films and delicious food! Choose from



three fantastic films while tucking into your favourite fish and chips – the perfect weekend treat. Book by Friday 16 January 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

Join the conversation @ OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at

OddfellowsUK

Branch Contact and Business Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and member support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings, if you'd like to know more or come along to one, please contact the Branch Secretary. See below for further meeting details.

Derby Derwent Valley District Branch

Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697
Meet quarterly on 2nd Wednesday at 7pm at Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Wednesday 10 December 2025
(District Officers' Visit)

Loyal King George IV

Contact Maureen Burgoyne
01332 739538
Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

7 October 2025, 4 November 2025,
2 December 2025, 6 January 2026

Loyal Good Samaritan

Contact Gordon Lunn
01332 345697
Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10.30am at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

13 October 2025, 10 November 2025,
8 December 2025, 12 January 2026

Good Intent

Contact Margaret Henchcliff on
01332 519062
Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

9 October 2025, 6 November 2025,
4 December 2025, 8 January 2026

Loyal Pares

Contact Barbara Smith on
01159 465105
Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm at Coach and Horses Pub, Victoria Road, Draycott, Derby DE72 3PS.

14 October 2025, 11 November 2025
(District Officers' visit), 9 December
2025, 13 January 2026

Loyal Stanhope

Contact Doreen Swain on
01332 720064
Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 6.30pm at Hunters Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn, Derby DE56 0LU.

4 October 2025 (District Officers' Visit) 1 November 2025, A meal in December at a different venue (date and venue to be confirmed), 3 January 2026



Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare teas/coffees
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender

Want to deliver a new activity?

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

If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Lauretta by phone on 01332 345697, email at lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk

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

Cynthia, volunteer

At a glance

October 2025

Wed 1	Walking Group at Little Eaton	10am
Thurs 2	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 4	Stanhope Branch District Officers' Visit	6.30pm
Mon 6	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 7	King George IV Branch Meeting Followed by Sticky 13's	7.30pm
Thurs 9	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Thurs 9	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 11	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
Mon 13	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Tues 14	Pares Branch Meeting followed by Rummikub	2pm
Tues 14	Dining Out Experience at Darcy's Fish and Chips	6.45pm
Wed 15	Walking Group at Radbourne	10am
Sat 18	Kurling	2.30pm
Mon 20	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Thurs 23	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Fri 24	Lunch at the Standing Order	12.30pm
Sat 25	Zoom Quiz with Colin	10.30am
Wed 29	Walking Group at Shardlow	10am
Thurs 30	Coffee Morning	10.30am

November

Sat 1	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 3	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 4	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 8	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
Mon 10	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Tues 11	Pares Branch District Officers' Visit	2pm
Tues 11	Dining Out Experience at The Silk Mill	6.45pm
Wed 12	Walking Group at Heage	10am
Fri 14	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Sat 15	Beetle Drive	2.30pm

At a glance

November

Mon 17	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Sat 22	Zoom Quiz with Colin	10.30am
Wed 26	Walking Group at Breadsall	10am
Thurs 27	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Sat 29	Coffee Morning Christmas Bazaar	10.30am

December

Mon 1	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 2	King George IV Branch Christmas Party	7.30pm
Thurs 4	Good Intent Branch Christmas Party	2.30pm
Sat 6	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
Mon 8	Good Samaritan Branch Christmas Party	10.30am
Tues 9	Pares Branch Christmas Meal at Eaton Farm	12 noon
Wed 10	Walking Group at Locko	10am
Wed 10	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch District Officers' Visit	7pm
Thurs 11	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Fri 12	Visit Pickford's House Museum	10.30am
Fri 12	Good Samaritan Branch Christmas Meal at Mickleover Golf Club	1pm
Sat 13	Christmas Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sun 14	Junior Members Christmas Party	11am
Mon 15	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Sat 20	Zoom Quiz with Colin	10.30am
Wed 24	Walking Group at Alvaston Park	10am

January 2026

Sat 3	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
Sat 3	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Tues 6	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 7	Walking Group to Pride Park	10am
Thurs 8	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Thurs 8	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm

At a glance

January 2026

Sat 10	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 12	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Mon 12	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 13	Pares Branch Meeting followed by Bingo	2pm
Tues 13	Dining Out Experience at The Bubble Inn	6.45pm
Fri 16	Chocolate Bingo	6.30pm
Sat 17	Zoom Quiz with Colin	10.30am
Wed 21	Walking Group at Cromford	10am
Thurs 22	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Sat 24	Film Night with Fish and Chips	2.30pm
Mon 26	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Thurs 29	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Sat 31	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am

Online events you can enjoy
from the comfort of your own home...

**Talks, coffee mornings, exercise classes,
quizzes, fun & games and much more**

Visit oddfellows.co.uk/events

Need help to attend an
online event?

Just give your local Social
Organiser or Branch
Secretary a call or email
events@oddfellows.co.uk

OE/0122A6



Provincial Grand Master's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this message finds you all well. I am nearly half way through my year in Office, the time simply flies by.

It's been a busy few months with the many events on offer and I hope you find something in the new Out and About events diary that you would like to do. A new venture this year has been Chair Exercises to help with strength and balance and it is really good fun – come along and give it a try.

I am very pleased with how the fundraising is going for my chosen charity, The East Midlands Air Ambulance and am looking forward to a representative from the charity coming to our coffee morning on Thursday 25 September 2025, it should be very interesting. If anyone would like to make a donation, please contact the office.

Finally Brothers and Sisters, I wish health and happiness to all of you.

Yours fraternally,

Margaret Henchliff
Provincial Grand Master
(Chairman)

Can we add our congratulations to the King and Queen's to Sylvia and Geoff Birkbeck, who recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. May they have many more happy years together.



Office Closure Update

It has been decided that the office will be closed every Wednesday and Friday to members as part of a trial period running through to December 2025. The Office will still be open on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to make event payments. This measure is to help maintain staff focus and productivity. They will, of course, be available by telephone. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this trial period.



Coach Trip

Recently, my friend Elaine and I went on a coach holiday to Lake Garda, Verona and Venice. We stayed overnight at Dijon, on the way to Lake Garda. We had a beautiful view from our Hotel room in Lake Garda. We just got lucky!

Our first excursion was to Limone on a boat trip, a lovely town famous for Limoncello liqueur. The following day, we went on another boat trip further up to Malescine, which had a lovely castle 'Monte Baldo'. We walked around and it was very hot, so plenty of water and cool drinks were needed at 37°C degrees. The next day we went to Verona, which I found very disappointing – Juliet's balcony could have been anyone's balcony, we didn't pay the nine euros to view it. We did pay nine euros to go into the amphitheatre, which was disappointing again.

The following day we went to Venice by boat. We had a guided tour around the town, telling us some of the history and we also went on a gondola with some friends, as it was 90 euros to hire, but when you split it by five people it was more affordable. We just relaxed the next day before returning to Dijon again on the way home. Lake



Garda on its own is definitely worth a visit and very is beautiful. We have some good memories to remind us in the winter of warmer days.

Ruth Jackson and Elaine Robinson

Six little stories with lots of meanings

1. Villages decided to pray for rain. Only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh knowing you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed and set the alarm without assurance that we will wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the work suffering, but still we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written "I am not 80 years old, I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience. That is attitude. Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember, good friends are the rare jewel of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace.

VE Day Celebrations

We had two celebrations of this 80th Anniversary, including a coffee morning on the actual day, which was well attended. Christine Shelton provided a picture quiz, which got everyone talking, and there was the usual raffle and a VE Day tea and biscuits Blackout, including a special tea cosy

knitted by Margaret Henchliff, with a Union Jack on it. This was won by Suzzanne.

On the Saturday Margaret was again busy cooking a meal from recipes from a Ration Recipe Book. Members could choose between a corned beef fritter or a fishcake with peas and potatoes, followed by homemade

apple crumble and custard. She also provided a 'Black Market' raffle, with all the prizes items that had been on ration. To make it more interesting, they had all been wrapped in brown paper and string.



Fish and Chips Film Night

The film chosen for the evening was Fisherman's Friend 2: One and All. The start was delayed as a



vital lead from computer to projector had gone missing. Many thanks to Polly and Jon, who patiently tried to get things up and running and the members who patiently waited. Mid film, the fish and chips arrived from Darcey's on Manor Road and they were delicious. The problem lead will be sorted before the next film event.

Wonder Woman

I wonder where I left my keys.
I wonder how I put weight on.
I wonder where my money went.
I wonder where I put my phone.
I often wonder why I wonder!



Visit to The Albert Hall

My birthday present this year from my children was tickets to attend a concert by London Sinfonia at The Royal Albert Hall. Since seeing many concerts on the TV, I have long wanted to see one live and get the full experience with almost 6,000 others.

Bill and I decided to travel down to London by train (let the train take the strain) and stay at a Premier Inn at Earls Court. We also booked a meal in the Coda Restaurant at Albert Hall.

This is a French Restaurant and furnished with magnificent Schwarzkopf crystal chandeliers. The food was delicious, although, not surprising, it was the most expensive meal we have eaten, with the smallest portions!!! The staff were lovely and the meal was enjoyed in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Then it was time to find our seats for the main event. The Albert Hall is huge, but the staff soon had us in the right place.

John Wilson was the conductor and the music was Rogers and Hammerstein's greatest hits, so all



The photo is of a mural showing some of the many people who have appeared there.

known to us – tunes from Oklahoma, The King and I, Carousel, South Pacific and The Sound of Music to name a few. An added bonus, that we hadn't expected, were three wonderful singers, Louise Dearman, Nathaniel Hackman and Scarlet Strallon, all well known in the West End.

It was over all too soon, but thanks kids, it was a great present.

Submitted by Margaret Henchcliff

Interesting Facts

The Albert Hall is in South Kensington and has seating for 5,272. It was opened by Queen Victoria in 1871 and around 400 events are held every year, including classical, rock and pop, ballet, opera, film screenings with live orchestral accompaniment, sports, award ceremonies and school and community events.





Arboretum Walk

On Friday 11 July a dozen or so members set off from Oddfellows Hall for the short walk to the Arboretum, reputedly the first public park in England. We were on the way to see the famous Florentine Boar. It is not the original one in the park, which was a ceramic copy, which was severely damaged by WWII bombing in 1941. The one in place now is a bronze sculpture and very nice it is too.

We had a wonder around the Arboretum and were impressed how well it seems to be kept and litter free, but like all other parks in Derby, the wonderful flower beds we remember from our younger days are all missing.

Thanks to Colin and Mary for organising it and providing the coffee and biscuits on our return, on a very warm day, they were very welcome.

Strawberry Tea

This event, as always, was very popular and fully subscribed. Members enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, scones with cream and jam and of course, strawberries and cream.



It was very busy as all the Branches had a fundraising stall in aid of the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. There was also a cake stall; Doreen Swain had been very busy baking and as the saying goes, her produce 'sold like hot cakes'. The Pares Branch had a card game, which was also very popular. The Good Samaritan Branch had 'How many sweets in the jar', a Bottle Tombola from the Good Intent and a 'Name the Doll' from the Stanhope Branch.

A very enjoyable afternoon and very busy for the Social Committee in the kitchen – many thanks for your hard work.

Spike Milligan about smiling

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu.

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner, and someone saw me grin.

When he smiled I realized I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile and then realized its worth

A single smile like mine could travel round the earth

**So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic and get the world infected.**

**A friend is
one of the nicest things
you can have and
one of the nicest things
you can be.**

Open Gardens

Sadly the first open garden had to be cancelled due to an accident, so the actual first one was the garden belonging to Alice and Luke Smyth. It is not a large garden, but it had a lot of interest and they had both worked very hard to make it look it's best Being open over lunchtime Luke had cooked Indian Street Food for everyone, which was delicious, followed by Indian ice-cream. The event raised a wonderful amount for charity.

The weather was perfect when Bill and Margaret Henchcliff opened their garden, just two days before Storm Floris hit our shores. 17 members attended and had six types of cakes to choose from: Chocolate Fudge, Humming Bird Cake, Spiced Ginger, Coffee and Walnut, Lemon Drizzle or Fruit Cake. Their daughter, Emma, was a superstar busy servicing everyone. There was also a Tombola, which raised a really good amount, mainly because Bill confused Margaret's instructions – well done Bill.

For the third open garden it was yet another lovely day for it. We have been so lucky this year with the weather for all the gardens. This was another visit to Diane's garden. Many of us had visited last year when everything was newly planted and were very interested to see how it had matured. The plants had really blossomed, although Diane was disappointed that some of them had passed their best, but it still looked lovely. It was a very pleasant time and Diane and her family really looked after us with meat cobs, roast potatoes and salad followed by syrup sponge and custard.



Visit to Hampton Court RHS



To celebrate a family birthday we visited the RHS show at Hampton Court in July. We stayed in a lovely hotel by the River Thames in Old Shepperton. Parts of the Warren Lodge Hotel date back to the 1700s. The fascinating thing was a mulberry tree that stood in the garden. In the 16th century, Cardinal Wolsey, the then Lord Chancellor of England to King Henry VIII, undertook the grand task of rebuilding Hampton Court, a few miles downstream from the Hotel. Cardinal Wolsey ordered the planting of mulberry trees along the Thames, ensuring that he could have his favourite fruit during his travels along the river. The hotel mulberry tree



is one of the few remaining of this bygone era.

The RHS show was wonderful with so many flowers and plants. We were very lucky that we went on the last day of the show and at 4.30pm, most of the stall holders reduced their flowers and plants. We picked up lots of bargains as you can imagine, but it was very hard work carrying all we bought back to the car, which must have been about a mile away. Anyway, I am pleased to say that the plants are all now thriving in our gardens back home.

Submitted by Christine Shelton

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM): District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS): District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM): Immediate Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family.

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.

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 Laurretta Stokes on 01332 345697 or email laurretta.stokes@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

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

*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.

Lilian Prime MS Centre – Silk Painting Reveal

Supported by Derby Derwent Valley District Branch of Oddfellows

In early July, I was delighted to attend the official unveiling of the Silk Painted Banner, one of many things the centre has been able to provide since receiving the monies raised by Oddfellows during 2024/2025, for which they are very grateful.

In this particular case, the centre was able to commission a series of silk painting instructions, and four free afternoon sessions were overseen by artists Donna and Alice. For those attending the centre with MS or other neurological conditions, these sessions offered them an opportunity to come together with ideas about what the centre meant to them and then having their ideas interpreted in the finished silk painting. A group activity can be particularly beneficial to a person's mental and physical wellbeing, which is very much what the centre aims to achieve with its various activities, subsidised exercise classes and therapy treatments on offer each week.

During the first workshop, the basics of silk painting was learnt, whilst creating a suncatcher to take home with them. As a guide, a chosen design was placed under plastic with silk suncatcher placed on top. With a special coloured wax, the lines of the design were traced onto the silk, before applying colour. The wax stops the colours merging, whilst giving a detailed outline to the design.

The silk painted banner was a similar process, using the class member's ideas to create a community landscape, incorporating togetherness and calm. This time, the designs were traced with hot wax and a natural fibre brush. Cold water dyes were used in between the hot wax to create the overall picture. During the following sessions,



class members helped with the waxing and dying of their own design and the centre staff, Lisa and Alex were also involved with this project. One of our members, Lynn Grant, attended all four sessions and amongst her contribution is her fish design painted orange. I attended the last session, made a suncatcher and painted the orchid as my contribution to the banner. The border was inspired by the three links chain in the Oddfellows logo. On the day of the reveal, the group photo shows some of those who had contributed to the designs and painting of the banner, which includes myself and Lynn.

Finally, Donna and her team finished the banner at her studio, removing the wax, steaming, washing and then sewing. The banner now hangs in the centre for all to see. It was very much a collective achievement.

Submitted by Diane Langford



Ludlow Coach Trip

49 members and friends set off on a lovely day for Ludlow. The day before had been very hot (low 30s), thankfully it was more comfortable.

It was a good journey until we approached Ludlow and then our poor driver, Colin, was met with diversions and road closures, but eventually he managed to get us right into the Market Square.

Everyone set off to do different things, some hit the shops, especially the many charity ones, some the castle, which the children very much enjoyed. There was a little sprinkle of rain, but nothing major.

There are quite a few places of interest depicted by blue plaques, One was on Dinham House, which was where Lucien Bonaparte, Napoleon Bonaparte's younger brother had been held prisoner. Lucien Bonaparte, 1st Prince of Canino and Musignano, was a French politician and diplomat of the French Revolution and the Consulate.



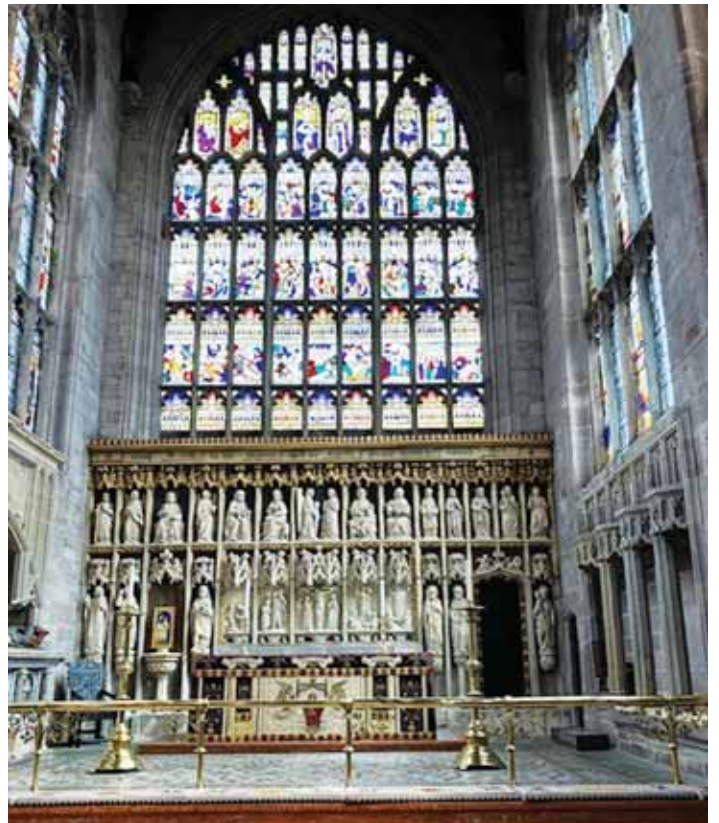
The wonderful view from the castle.

Everyone was back for the return trip on time and we were soon on our way back. All was going well until we were held up for some time by an accident on the opposite carriage way, but our carriage way was stopped to allow the Air Ambulance to land. We set off again and were nearly home when on Burton Road, the road was closed due to a police incident and our driver had to make another diversion. I think we were all happy to get home, a bit later than we expected.

Submitted by Margaret Henchcliff



Ludlow Castle.



Beautiful stained glass windows in St Laurence's Church.

A little boy said his Grandpa was the smartest man on earth! He teaches me lots of good things, but I don't get to see him often enough to get as smart as him!

A little girl came home from school and said to her grannie, "Guess what we learned today – how to make babies". The grannie kept her cool and said, "That's interesting. How do you make babies?" "It's simple, you just change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'!"

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies

For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.



Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, whose PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made

some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn

to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Incredible total raised for good causes

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



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I'm astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need. "It's what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people's welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must."

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since 2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

"We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future."

Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger. You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.



"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job.'"

She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Poets Corner from Barrie Wilson

William Wordsworth

Born in Cockermouth in the Lake District in 1770, William Wordsworth was the first poet to bring poetry to the masses he threw away the classic style that was then the norm, bringing poetry to the common people by using everyday language to compose his work. To me at least and many others he is one of the greatest poets. If you are

new to poetry start with him, you won't be disappointed. The poem I have chosen from his huge output is 'We are Seven'. It's about a little girl he met in a churchyard in the Wye Valley. He went back years later to find the woman, but alas things move on and he couldn't trace her. William Wordsworth died in 1850.

We Are Seven

A simple child, dear brother Jim,
That lightly draws its breath,
And feels its life in every limb
What should it know of death?
I met a little cottage girl,
She was eight years old, she said;
Her hair was thick with many a curl
That cluster'd round her head.

She had a rustic, woodland air,
And she was wildly clad;
Her eyes were fair, and very fair,
Her beauty made me glad.
Sisters and brother, little maid,
How many may you be?
How many? Seven in all, she said,
And wondering looked at me
And where are they, I pray you tell?
She answered, 'Seven are we,
And two of us at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea
Two of us in the church-yard lie,
My sister and my brother,
And in the church-yard cottage, I
Dwell near them with my mother.

You say that two at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea,
Yet you are seven; I pray you tell
Sweet Maid, how this may be?
Then did the little Maid reply,
Seven boys and girls are we;
Two of us in the church-yard lie,
Beneath the church yard tree.
You run about, my little maid
Your limbs they are alive,
If two are in the church-yard laid,
Then ye are only five.

Their graves are green,
They may be seen, The little maid replied,
Twelve steps or more from my mother's door
And they are side by side.

My stockings there I often knit,
My 'kerchief there I hem,
And there upon the ground I sit
I sit and sing to them.
And often after sunset, Sir,
When it is light and fair,
I take my little porringer,
And eat my supper there.

The first that died was little Jane,
In bed she moaning lay,
Till God released her of her pain
And then she went away.
So in the church yard she was
laid, And all the summer dry,
Together round her grave we
played,
My brother John and I.
And when the ground was white
with snow,
And I could run and slide,
My brother John was forced to
go
And he lies by her side.

How many are you then, said I,
If they two are in Heaven?
The little Maiden did reply,
O Master! we are seven.
But they are dead, those two are
dead!
Their spirits are in heaven!
Twas throwing words away, for
still
The little Maid would have her
will,
And said, Nay, we are seven!

Obituaries

Marion Mailer
King George IV Branch

George Knox
Stanhope Branch

Alan Pollard
King George IV Branch

Margaret Savage
Good Intent Branch

Maureen Underwood
King George IV Branch

Barbara Bloor
Good Samaritan Branch

Samuel Crawford
King George IV Branch



**Every time you think of me
I'm right there in your heart.**

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sylvia** and **Geoff Birkbeck** from the Good Samaritan Branch on their 60th Wedding Anniversary (see front page)

Congratulations to **Oliver Mo** of the Good Intent Branch, who has passed his driving test, turned 18 and passed his A levels -what a year .

Congratulations to **Margaret Henchliff** on being awarded the Unity Meritorious Service Jewel.

**If you have anything you would like to submit for our next magazine, please forward the article to the Office for the attention of the Editor to:
lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk**