

July - December 2026



Othe **ODDFELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Cinque Ports Warden



Shopping



Craft



Talks



Social



Food with Friends



Holiday



Games



Coffee Morning



Film



Walks



Meeting



Welcome to our latest edition of the Out and About for Cinque Ports Warden Branch of the Oddfellows.

A message to our members

Well where on earth has the last 6 months gone to? Time seems to of flown by and it's getting quicker to think we are nearing July already! The Branch has had some really fun activities for the first half of the year including our Mother's Day brunch, the Branch holiday to the Isle of Wight as well as the continuation of our regular events. November 2025 saw the start of the additional morning bingo session which has been very well attended since the start and continues to grow well.

We have lots of exciting events and day trips coming up to take us through to the end of December 2026 and Christmas! We look forward to continuing to see all of our members and welcoming new ones into branch as the year continues. We couldn't run our events without the help of our

Contact Details

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

Secretary: Jan Reading

Address:

Oddfellows Club,
29 Pencester Road, Dover,
Kent CT16 1BT

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm

Mobile number: 07456 452310

Telephone: 01304 202556

Email:

jan.reading@oddfellows.co.uk

volunteers from those that meet and greet our new members, to people who volunteer with drink making and washing up and also those who donate to our book shelves and clothing rails. Many thanks to everyone, we couldn't do it without you all so a very heart felt thank you from Jan & myself.

Myself and Jan can't wait for another exciting 6 months in the branch, we look forward to seeing you all over the coming months.

Yours in friendship

Jan and Charmaine x

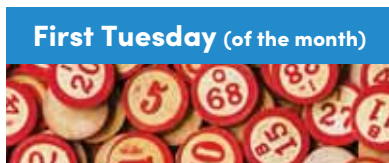
Regular Events

Monthly Bingo Afternoon



Come along and join us for our ever popular afternoon bingo session. Doors open at 12.30pm and its eyes down at 1pm, you never know you may win big! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November and 1 December



Prince Arthur Meeting and Social



Members can come along and catch up with Branch and society wide news, as well as having a cuppa and a chat with other members followed by a couple of games of bingo afterwards. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

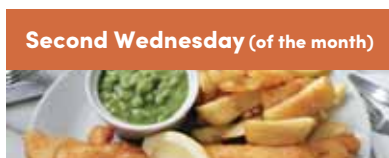


1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December

Food with Friends



Food with friends continues to be one of our most popular events. Come along and join us for a two course meal with tea or coffee for just £7. For catering purposes, if you would like to book a space, then we will need to know no later than midday on the Monday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556. **(Menu subject to change):**



8 July

*Gammon Salad
followed by Cheesecake*

12 August

*Quiche and Salad followed by
Trifle*

9 September

*Jacket Potatoes followed by
School Cake and Custard*

14 October

*Beef Stew and Dumplings followed
by Apple Crumble and Custard*

11 November

*Fish and Chips followed by
Gypsy Tart*

9 December

Christmas Buffet

Regular Events

Coffee Morning

 10.30am  Free



Third Wednesday (of the month)

Come along and join us for our monthly coffee morning, where you are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome. On offer we have tea or coffee, cake, our raffle and who can forget Jan's legendary cheese scones! We have something for everyone. No need to book, just come along! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November and 16 December

Breakfast Club

 10am  £5.50



Third Thursday (of the month)

Come along and enjoy a six item cooked breakfast along with tea, coffee and toast for the bargain price of just £5.50. We have sausages, bacon, scrambled eggs, hash browns, mushrooms, beans or tomatoes. It is one of our most popular events and those that come along always enjoy fun, food and friendship. For catering purposes we will need to know you would like to book a space no later than midday on the Monday prior to the event. Due to office appointments July's breakfast club is at an earlier date than normal. However, after July it will revert back to every third Thursday of the month. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

2 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November and 17 December

Craft, Cuppa and Chat

 10am  Members £2,
Guests £3



Fourth Thursday (of the month)

Come along and join us for a morning of crafting, fun and friendship with lot of chatting and a cuppa in between! Whether you like to knit, colour, cross stitch or simply would like a cuppa and a chat, everyone is welcome! You are more than welcome to bring along any type of crafting that you enjoy. No need to book just come along. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

23 July, 27 August, 24 September, 22 October and 26 November

Morning Bingo Session

 10.30am  Members 30p,
Guests 50p



Third Friday (of the month)

Come along and enjoy a morning bingo session. This is a relatively new event and is growing in popularity. Doors open at 10am and it's eyes down at 10.30am. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

17 July, 21 August 18 September, 16 October, 20 November and 18 December

July 2026

TUES
21

Day Trip to Hythe



10am



Free



Come and enjoy a nice little day out to Hythe. As we are on a direct bus route we will be meeting at the bus stop by the court house in Pencester Road. You are then free to be at your leisure, whether you fancy a walk by the canal, a jaunt along the seafront or having a look in the shops in the high street. We will see where the day takes us. The trip is weather dependant. As it is on a local bus route, bus passes can be used. Book by Monday 20 July. Hythe High Street, Hythe, Kent CT21. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



WED
22

Film Morning



10.30am



Members £5
Guests £8



Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all of those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests, you get to enjoy all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks, as well as tea or coffee! For catering purposes if you would like to book a space, then we will need to know by no later than midday on the Monday prior to the event. The films for the second half of this year are as follows: July - The Thursday Murder Club. September - Genevieve. November - It's a Wonderful Life. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

August

MON
03

Barbara's Lunch Club



12.30pm



Members £18.15
Guests £24.15



Come along to the Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, where you can enjoy a delicious two or three course meal. Menu and costs are available in the office to book. Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



August

FRI
07

Trip to the Roman Painted House



11am



Free



Come along and join us on a trip to the Roman Painted House and discover lots of local history. We will meet outside the painted house and go in together at 11am. We will then continue on to the Dover Museum in the market square or a stop for coffee at the Green Room. Book by Thursday 6 August. The Roman Painted House, New Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9AJ. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON
07

Day Trip to Deal



10am



Free



Come along and join us on a day trip to Deal. We will be using the local busses with bus passes as we are on a direct route. Come and have a stroll on the sea front, mini golf in Walmer, or come and enjoy fish and chips by the seaside. Book by Friday 4 September. Deal Seafront, Deal CT14. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



TUES
15

Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social



10.45am



£9



A meeting of three parts. We start at 10.45am with a social of a beetle drive for one hour, then the meeting starts at 11.45am with fish and chips being served at midday, whilst the meeting is going on. If you would like to book a space, then the beetle drive is at a cost of £2.50 per person and the fish and chips is at a cost of £6.50. We have to order the food on the Friday prior to the event, so we will need to know by the previous Thursday at the latest. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

September

WED
23 Film Morning

 10.30am  Members £5
Guests £8 

Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all of those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests, you get to enjoy all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks, as well as tea or coffee! For catering purposes if you would like to book a space, then we will need to know by no later than midday on the Monday prior to the event. The films for the second half of this year are as follows: July - The Thursday Murder Club. September - Genevieve. November - It's a Wonderful Life. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

October

FRI
02 Fraud Protection Talk

 11am  Free 

Come along for an interesting talk by a Kent Police representative regarding protecting ourselves from fraud. Book by Thursday 1 October. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



TUES
29 Taste Test Day

 11am  Free 

Something new to try! We are asking for any budding bakers, cake makers to chefs to bring in a pie, cake or dessert and lets have a taste test of all of the culinary delights that we have to offer. All we ask is, that due to allergens, we ask that you bring in the recipe/ingredients with any potential allergens that are in the dish. Book by Friday 25 September. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



October

MON 05 Barbara's Lunch Club



Come along to the Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, where you can enjoy a delicious two or three course meal. Menu and costs are available in the office to book. Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

November

FRI 06 Lunch at Aspendos Turkish Restaurant



Come along and enjoy lunch at the Aspendos Turkish Restaurant in the Market Square. They do a wide range of delicious Turkish dishes. Menu and costings available in the office. Book by Monday 2 November. Aspendos Turkish Restaurant, King Street, Dover CT16 1NU. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

November

FRI 13 Turkey and Tinsel Holiday to Torquay



Come along and join in our festive trip to Torquay. This holiday is operated by Daish's Holidays. Staying at the Abbey Lawn Hotel in Torquay on a 'Half Board' basis with pick-up and drop-off in Dover. This holiday is for five days/four nights and at the time of going to print we have twin/double rooms available. The holiday is from Friday 13 to Tuesday 17 November 2026. There is a £30 non-refundable deposit to pay and to book your space with the balance payable 10 weeks prior to departure. Departure times are normally published 10 days prior to departure, so 7am is as a guideline only and is subject to change. Abbey Lawn Hotel, 8A Scarborough Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5UJ. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



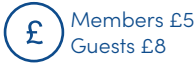
This holiday is operated by Daish's Holiday. Please understand their terms and conditions before booking at www.daishs.com/information/booking-terms. The Oddfellows cannot be held responsible for any bookings made with Daish's Holiday.

November

WED 25 Film Morning



10.30am



Members £5
Guests £8



Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all of those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests, you get to enjoy all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks, as well as tea or coffee! For catering purposes if you would like to book a space, then we will need to know by no later than midday on the Monday prior to the event. The films for the second half of this year are as follows: July - The Thursday Murder Club. September - Genevieve. November - It's a Wonderful Life. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

FRI 27 Kent Coalfields Talk



11am



£3



Come along and join us for a really interesting talk on the Kent Coalfields. We will be serving soup and a roll after the talk, so a small charge will be made for this. Book by Monday 23 November. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



December

TUES 08 Saint Martins Church Great Mongeham Hand Bell Ringers and Christmas Sing Along



11am



£3



Come and join in the wonderful return of the St Martins Hand Bell ringers and then directly afterwards, we will be having our Christmas sing along. We will be serving tea or coffee and mince pies, so a small charge will be made for this. Book by Friday 4 December. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



December

THURS 10 Household Recycling Talk

🕒 11am

💷 £2.50



Come along and hear all about how your household recycling is used right from when it leaves



our properties to where it goes to beyond the recycling bin! We have a representative from Dover District Council coming to give us a really insightful talk in all things recycling! Book by Monday 7 December. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

TUES 15 Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social

🕒 10.45am

💷 £9



A meeting of three parts. We start at 10.45am with a social of a beetle drive for one hour, then the meeting starts at 11.45am with fish and chips being served at midday, whilst the meeting is going on. If you would like to book a space, then the beetle drive is at a cost of £2.50 per person and the fish and chips is at a cost of £6.50. We have to order the food on the Friday prior to the event, so we will need to know by the previous Thursday at the latest. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

SAT 12 Branch Christmas Lunch

🕒 12.30pm

💷 £27.50



Come along and join us for our annual Christmas lunch at the Dover Marina Hotel & Spa. Arrival for 12.30pm and eat at 1pm. Menu choices will be available in the office in due course when they are released. If anyone would like to kindly donate any suitable raffle prizes to go towards our yearly Christmas raffle on the day of the lunch, then these will be greatly appreciated and can be brought with you on the day. Book by Thursday 26 November. Dover Marina Hotel & Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.



Event Write Ups

Sunday 14 December 2025 – Branch Christmas Lunch

This is an event the branch always looks forward to! 86 members and guests met up at the Dover Marina Hotel & Spa for our annual Christmas lunch. We had a wonderful and very tasty 3-course lunch followed by coffee and mince pies. Whilst we had no naughty elves or angels visit this year Jan and myself were dressed up in all our finery! We would like to thank everyone who very generously donated to our Christmas raffle, proceeds from our Christmas raffle go to the district chairman's nominated charity which was the Cardiomyopathy Association and a wonderful £317 was raised.



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:

f oddfellowscinqueportwarden

Friday 23 January 2026 – St Johns Ambulance

We had well over 20 members and guests join us for this wonderful talk on CPR and what to do if you suffer the symptoms of a heart attack when alone. Graham from St John's ambulance gave us a really insightful talk with lots of useful hints and tips as well as showing us the CPR dolls and we got to have a go at using the defibrillator machines too! We look forward to inviting them back to the Oddfellows at a future date.



Wednesday 11 February 2026 – Food with Friends

Our Food with Friends continues to be one of our most popular events and has been steadily growing in numbers since we started. This month we served up a roast chicken dinner followed by various different cheesecakes along with tea and coffee and this went down very well!



Committee of Management

We would like to welcome Shelley Rylands-Brown and Gloria Dangerfield who joined our committee of management and the social committee in February 2026. If you know anyone or you would like to look at joining either the Committee of management and/or the social committee then please speak to Jan or Charmaine.



Thursday 12 March – Mother’s Day Brunch

This was the first time that we had run this particular event and for our first time we had 14 members and guests join us. We served up a brunch style buffet and then brought all our ladies a lovely posy of daffodils for Mother’s Day.



Saturday 14 March – Annual Summomed Meeting

Today saw our new district officers installed for the coming year. This year saw Charmaine Pitchford installed as the new Grand Master (District Chairman) for this year alongside John Wickenden becoming the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Anne Collins becoming the Past Provincial Grand Master. Charmaine’s nominated charity for this year is a wonderful charity called Level Water. The charity works to give disabled children access to swimming lessons.



Tuesday 16 March – Lord Palmerston Meeting & Social

Our first quarterly Lord Palmerston meeting of the year was held. Prior to the meeting we hold a Beetle drive and then during the meeting we enjoy fish and chips. We had eight members join us for the beetle drive with a further 6 people joining us for the meeting and fish and chips.



Wednesday 8 April 2026 – Food with Friends

This particular Food with Friends was our busiest one yet with 28 members and guests all coming to enjoy a two-course lunch with tea and coffee. This was our biggest number yet to cater for. All of our meals our home cooked and we always enjoy a lively and friendly atmosphere. Our food with friends lunch runs on a monthly basis all year round, costing just £7 for a two-course meal with tea and coffee.

Branch Holiday to the Isle of Wight

23-27 April 2026

On Thursday morning at 9.27am, 29 Oddfellows and friends departed Dover for the journey down to Portsmouth.

We had one stop at Cobham and then continued, arriving in Portsmouth at 12.45pm; making good time we managed to get the 1.20pm ferry instead of the scheduled 2pm sailing. We landed at Fishbourne and were soon on our way to the Daish's Hotel in Shanklin, arriving there about 3pm. The hotel was situated in Old Shanklin Village in lovely surroundings and was very peaceful. Once there, it was time for unpacking, then coffee; and finally, let the holiday begin.

Dinner was at 6.15pm, which followed a safety briefing. Our entertainer for the evening was Dave Lee who sung a selection of songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Friday morning, we had breakfast and then boarded the minibus for our trip to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, the Garlic Farm and then Arreton Barns Craft Village. First stop, the donkey sanctuary and Mike was in absolute bliss. We spent a while there, had a good look around and took a little trip to the



gift shop. The donkey sanctuary was founded in 1987 and became a registered charity in 1990. Our last visit was around 2015 and it has changed and much improved since then. They currently have 106 donkeys, one horse, one mule and six ponies.

The minibus then picked us up and dropped us off at The Garlic Farm; I loved this place and I think I tried every sample on offer and there were a lot; oils, pickles, chutneys and mayonnaises, yum yum! Ending the day, we went to the Arreton Barns Craft Village. First we had lunch in The Dairyman's Daughter; the food was very nice and the portions huge. After lunch we wandered around the craft centre and watched glass blowing, silver smithing and leather working. There was plenty to see including a crystal shop, sweet shop, handmade toys and lots more.

The evening's entertainment on Friday evening was a man and woman duo called Small Talk and they were the best



entertainment of the whole holiday in my opinion and sung a good variety of music.



On Saturday morning, some of our group went to Osbourne House; the home of Queen Victoria, while some of us used the local bus to visit Godshill shopping centre, had a cuppa in a local outdoor café and then went to Godshill Model Village, which was amazing.

We spent a couple of hours there and we all really enjoyed it. We then jumped back on the bus and went to Newport. We had a little look around the shops and got a late lunch before heading back to the hotel. The evening's entertainment was a singer called Terry; (sorry didn't catch his surname). One of our group won a house at the bingo which cheered us up.



Sunday saw some of our group join the Daish's trip to Isle of Wight Pearl, The Needles and Yarmouth and Mike and I went with another group catching the local bus to the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary in Sandown.

We had a lovely time looking at the animals, which included monkeys, meerkats, tigers,

lions, bears and more. We spent a good couple of hours there and had a drink before leaving to get the bus to Ryde, where we had some lunch and a little wander around the shops, before getting a bus back to the hotel. Sunday evening's entertainment was Simon Howard with a mixture of dad jokes and singing.

Mike and I won the quiz and received a box of fudge and then I went on to win the first game of bingo and only needed the number 73 for the 2nd game. As the evening drew to a close, we went back to our room and finished packing, in readiness for our journey home the next day.



On Monday, breakfast was at 8am. We tried to get everyone in a group photo at 8.45am but not everyone arrived in time, so we handed room keys in at 8.55am and we were all on the bus and ready to leave at 9am. It was an uneventful journey home with just the one stop again at Cobham services and we arrived home around 3pm.

I was glad to be going home to see my boys but it had been a great holiday with plenty of laughs and great company, making fab memories. Here's to the next holiday our Tinsel & Turkey trip in November; if you would like details please pop in and see either myself or Charmaine or give us a ring.

Jan

Meet your Cinque Ports Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



We would like to introduce you to our friendly Care and Welfare team who are here to help you.



Cynthia



Jenny

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a member of the Welfare team to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Jan on **01304 202556** or email jan.reading@oddfellows.co.uk.

National Oddfellows Helplines

As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.

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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/

Meet the Team

Jan Reading

Well, I have now been here at Cinque Ports Warden for over 13 years and still loving it. No week or even day is the same and there is plenty going on event wise. Welcome to our new members and they are joining in with our one-off and regular events; which is great to see. Anne and Charmaine are great to work with and we make a nice, neat little team. The members are upbeat which helps making coming to work a positive experience.



Charmaine Pitchford

Well time has seemed to of flown by! I've blinked and we are in the beginnings of the warmer weather and the year seems to be disappearing all too quickly. I have been at the branch now for 6 and a half years and I am continuing to enjoy my job and the many hats it brings! As of March 2026, I found myself wearing a new hat in the branch for the first time and that is as the Provincial Grand Master (sounds very posh!). I am very grateful to be in this position to help raise some money for my chosen charity this year which is Level Water, a charity which helps provide vital swimming lessons to children with physical and developmental difficulties and as a swimming instructor outside of the Oddfellows this means a great deal to me. Myself and Jan have a great relationship and we have got to the point we even sound the same on the phone! We work well together and enjoy the ups, downs, twists and turns that the job brings. I look forward to all of the events that we have coming up for the rest of the year and look forward to spending more time with our members.



Anne Collins

The 2026 ASM saw me move to become your Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Gosh that's a tongue twister!). My main role now is to Support Charmaine in her new role as Provincial Grand Master. I continue to serve on the Committee of Management with all of the duties that involves. I will also have served as a Branch representative at the Oddfellows Annual Moveable Conference (AMC) 2026 which will be held online this year. As your Branch cleaner, I have now reached official retirement age but here at Oddfellows age is just a number, alongside friendship so I will continue to do the job that I love doing whilst still serving you, all of our lovely members.



Oddies autumn getaway to Llandudno

Join us as we take a trip to Llandudno, North Wales, on an Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows members and guests will take in some breathtaking scenery during a four-night stay at the Hydro Hotel from Saturday 26 September to Wednesday 30 September 2026.

From £369 per person, half board, the price includes coach pick up and drop off from locations across the South East via Reading, or a self-arrival option.



Outstanding natural beauty

Two optional day trips are included in the price of the holiday.

On day two, you'll head by coach to the Isle of Anglesey, where the entire coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll call at the seaside town of Beaumaris with its mix of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

On day four, the second day trip will head to Caernarfon, home to Wales' most famous castle and a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. Afterwards, you'll venture into the Snowdonia National Park, calling at Llanberis, situated at the foot of Mount Snowdon, and Porthmadog.

Relax in great company

We'll be organising some group drinks and times to dine together during the stay, and enjoying the hotel's evening entertainment, but your days will be largely free to plan as you please.

The hotel has a large entertainment suite with a dance floor and entertainment most evenings, and there are sun lounges and a games room with a snooker table.

You'll also find spectacular views over the bay or over the town to the Snowdonia mountain range from many of the hotel's bedrooms and from its Looking Glass Bar.

Interested in joining us?

This group holiday is open to any members and their guests and will be hosted by our Oddfellows Travel coordinator and South East Lancashire Branch member, Emma Gorst.

For any enquiries, and to find out how to book, get in touch with Emma by calling **0161 214 4634**, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk.

Please read and understand Alfa Travel's terms and conditions before booking at www.alfaholidays.co.uk/booking-conditions.

Support with fundraising and donations

Donating to good causes is a cornerstone of Oddfellowship, and symbolises what it is all about – helping to improve lives through friendship and support.

It's a thread that runs right through every Branch of the Society. Whether it's members dropping some spare change into a collection at a coffee morning, or the HA Andrews Memorial Fund supporting cutting-edge medical research projects, it all adds up and contributes to that ethos.

Branch donations add up to huge 2025 total



Reading Oddfellows donated £4,300 to Camp Mohawk

Oddfellows branches and members are avid fundraisers. In 2025, more than £148,000 was handed over to a huge range of wonderful causes throughout the country.

Beneficiaries included schools, charities for people with special needs, animal sanctuaries, causes to improve health conditions, lifeboat and air ambulance

charities, and one branch provided the funds required to buy state-of-the-art medical equipment.

As well as handing over funds, many members bought and collected for foodbanks, including tinned goods and other long-life foods, toiletries and further everyday items.

To find out how you can get involved with Branch fundraising initiatives, speak to your Branch Secretary.

£10,000 raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts

The Oddfellows recently donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.



Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa.

HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipient announced

In October 2025, representatives of the Oddfellows visited the impressive facilities at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to present a cheque for £67,068 to Prevent Breast Cancer, courtesy of our HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

The money will fund an innovative breast cancer prevention research project for two years.

Carried out by University of Manchester PhD student Anthony Wilby and Dr Hannah Harrison, the project is aiming to discover alternative preventative breast cancer therapies for pre-menopausal women.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which was set up in 1971 to back UK-based medical research projects and organisations, has donated over £1.1m

since its launch. Head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the Fund, including previous recipients.

The very best of Oddfellowship

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey (pictured below at MCRC), said: "The work the Oddfellows does for charities and good causes always astounds me. It reflects the very best of Oddfellowship and it makes me incredibly proud.

"Donating to good causes, no matter how big or small, or how much we can contribute, can make a huge difference. Our efforts might well have saved a life, put some food on a young family's table, or simply have made someone's day a little brighter.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. You're all a huge credit to yourselves and the Society."



For more on how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Spring clean your finances for the new tax year

The start of the new tax year on Monday 6 April might sound like an event reserved for accountants, but at Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's a time everyone can make the most of.

Here are some simple ways to spring clean your finances and get on top of your money for the tax year ahead.

Make the most of your ISA

Every adult receives a fresh £20,000 ISA allowance at the beginning of each tax year, so if your savings are lying dormant, why not move them somewhere your interest is protected from tax?



For those comfortable with investment risk, the Unity Mutual Stocks and Shares Flexible ISA* offers potentially higher growth than traditional Cash ISAs (capital is at risk).

Guaranteed returns, less hassle

If you have a lump sum sitting idle or an investment coming to maturity, a Unity

Mutual Fixed Rate Bond* provides a predictable, low-effort option. Simply deposit your money for a set term to secure a guaranteed return.

Even better, Oddfellows members benefit from preferential rates on our 2, 3, and 5-year Bonds.

Make savings work harder

With many banks still offering low rates, a quick comparison is essential to ensure your money is working for you. Even moving savings to a higher-interest account with your current provider can significantly boost your balance over the year.

Find out more

Unity Mutual has over 200 years of experience managing Oddfellows members' funds, and our friendly team is on hand to help you navigate the year ahead. Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

**Terms and conditions apply to all products. With stocks and shares, your investment can go down as well as up meaning your capital is at risk.*

New tax year, new scams

Stay vigilant against common scams such as fake HMRC tax rebates or urgent payment requests for 'unpaid tax'. While these communications can look genuine, always verify them by going directly to the official government website.

At a glance

- see pages 3 and 4 for more info on regular events

July 2026

Wed 1	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Thurs 2	Breakfast Club	10am
Tues 7	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 8	Food with Friends	12 noon
Wed 15	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 17	Morning Bingo	10am
Tues 21	Day Trip to Hythe	10am
Wed 22	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 23	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

August

Mon 3	Barbara's Lunch Club	12.30pm
Tues 4	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 5	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Fri 7	Trip to the Roman Painted House	11am
Wed 12	Food with Friends	12 noon
Wed 19	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 20	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 21	Morning Bingo	10am
Thurs 27	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 2	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Mon 7	Day Trip to Deal	10am
Wed 9	Food with Friends	12 noon
Tues 15	Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social	10.45am
Wed 16	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 18	Morning Bingo	10am
Wed 23	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 24	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am
Tues 29	Taste Test Day	11am

At a glance

- see pages 3 and 4 for more info on regular events

October

Fri 2	Fraud Protection Talk	11am
Mon 5	Barbara's Lunch Club	12.30pm
Tues 6	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 7	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Wed 14	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 15	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 16	Morning Bingo	10am
Wed 21	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 22	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

November

Tues 3	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 4	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Fri 6	Lunch at Aspendos Turkish Restaurant	12 noon
Wed 11	Food with Friends	12 noon
Fri 13	Turkey and Tinsel Holiday to Torquay	7am
Wed 18	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 19	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 20	Morning Bingo	10am
Wed 25	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 26	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am
Fri 27	Kent Coalfields Talk	11am

December

Tues 1	Afternoon Bingo	12.30pm
Wed 2	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Tues 8	Saint Martins Church Great Mongeham Hand Bell Ringers and Christmas Sing Along	11am
Wed 9	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 10	Household Recycling Talk	11am
Sun 13	Branch Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
Tues 15	Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social	10.45am
Wed 16	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 18	Morning Bingo	10am