

January - June 2026



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

out & about

South Wales District Dosbarth de Cymru



Film/
Movie



Music/
Concert



Travel



Games



Crafts



Walk/
Activities



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Thursday 7 May - Copper Jack River Cruise, Swansea

Croeso aelodau De Cymru. Welcome South Wales Members,

Welcome to our new 'Out and About' diary for January to June 2026. The Diary will see us welcome in 2026, the first bulbs of spring and the prospect of longer days.

Coffee mornings, our six monthly meets in Burry Port, Swansea, Port Talbot, Bridgend, Barry Island and Cardiff will continue. The only exception is Swansea, where we will start the year with our first meet in the Swansea Grand theatre, however we may be changing venue during this Diary.

Our regular events at Oddfellows House, include the popular weekly craft session 'Get Crafty with the Oddfellows' look out for our special 2Wish fundraising sessions. The monthly film club has had a makeover and is now 'Movie and Mocktails' with some fantastic films being shown over the next couple of months.

The History club at Oddfellows House continues, where we are working

Contact Details

District Secretary: Sarah Johns

Telephone: 029 20488585

Mobile: 07563 638244

Email:

sarah.johns@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows House, 19
Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA

Social Organiser: John Marvelley

Telephone: 07563 638245

Email:

john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk

f SouthWalesOddfellows

on many projects from Oddfellows History, local history to family History. Please do get in touch if you have any stories or memories with the South Wales Oddfellows.

Swansea, we are having a rethink of activities in Swansea as our group grows. For the past 4 months we have had the use of a community space 'Swansea Hub' where we held varying activities, and talks. Unfortunately our Swansea Hub has access challenges and therefore it is back to the drawing board.

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

We are also reviewing our monthly meet at the Grand Theatre. If you have any suggestions please do feedback.

Over the next few months there are some great day trips planned, where possible we will aim to organise transport, but always conscious to keep costs sensible.

In January we have our Annual Luncheon, celebrating the South Wales District followed by our Annual Summoned Meeting in April. All are welcome.

As the Diary is printed far in advance, other events will be planned as and when they become available. If you know of anything in your local area that may be of interest, please do get in touch.

Keeping in Touch.

It is important that we are able to keep in touch with you to update on any news or changes.

Email:

I send out a weekly email to update you all, if you wish to receive the newsletter please email me: john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk. You are able to unsubscribe at any time. I also send out any local community, local council information that may be useful to yourselves.

Social Media:

We also have the South Wales Oddfellows facebook page, which is regularly updated.

Whats App group:

We also have a South Wales Oddfellows Whats App Group, if you wish to join please contact me

Volunteers and Social Committee

As we are rebuilding connections throughout South Wales if you are interested in supporting by becoming a volunteer and being part of a Social Committee, please do let me know. Together we can make a difference.

Welfare:

Please do reach out to Sarah, District Secretary or myself if you have any concerns or challenges that we can support you with.

I would like to send a special thanks to all those that have helped with ideas for activities, to all the members that are able attend events, and to those that keep in touch through other means.

As we step into the New Year, we reflect on 2025 and embrace 2026 with hope of new and continuing friendships.

On Behalf of the Committee of Management

Blwyddyn Newydd dda a
Dymuniadau gorau i chi gyd.

Happy New Year and Best wishes to you all.

John

Regular Events

Did you know with the South Wales District we currently cover over 80 miles from Monmouthshire to Carmarthenshire and whilst we may not be local to you, we have set up six regular meets throughout that hopefully you maybe able to access. We also have members who travel to several of our meets, which help them forge new friendships and explore different areas.

All our venues are vetted to ensure they offer us a warm welcome, and where possible we use local independent businesses. So, if you haven't been to one of our meets please do get in touch. Don't forget our weekly craft sessions in Oddfellows House, Cardiff plus our monthly film club and history club.

Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Third Monday

The third Monday of the month, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Glan Afan Coffee Co, 56A Station Road, Port Talbot SA13 1LZ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

19 January
16 February

16 March
20 April

18 May
15 June

Get Crafty with the Oddfellows



1.30pm



Members Free
Guests £2 donations



Every Tuesday

Join Sarah for an afternoon of crafts, chat and refreshments at Oddfellows House. All abilities are welcome, we are here to support you on your crafting journey. This is the chance to meet and chat with other like-minded people. Do you have a UFO 'an Un-Finished Object?'. Then you are in good company, we have a few and we would like to finish them. Do you need help, then maybe a fellow crafter can guide you. This isn't just knitting, it's for any portable craft: calligraphy, painting, decoupage, please do join us. Book one week in advance. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



Regular Events

Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First cuppa free, then as per refreshments



First
Wednesday

Join us for a monthly catch up. We will meet in the Foyer Café next to the Box Office in Swansea Grand Theatre. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome. Parking: There is a pay and display car park opposite on Singleton Street, also at the Quadrant Multi Storey Car Park. The Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea SA1 3QJ. Please note our monthly Swansea meets may change location from February, therefore please contact John 07563 638245 to ensure you are kept up to date.

7 January
4 February

4 March
1 April

6 May
3 June

Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Second
Wednesday

Start the new year by treating yourself to friendship. Join us for our monthly coffee morning, a great opportunity to meet up with friends. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at the Ash hotel, you may also wish to stay for lunch. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. The Ashburnham Hotel, Ashburnham Road, Pembrey SA16 0TH. Contact John on 07563 638245.

14 January
11 February

11 March
8 April

13 May
10 June

Friendship Lunch in Cardiff



11am



As per menu



Third
Wednesday

Join us in Central Cardiff for our monthly luncheon. A great opportunity to meet up with friends. The Prince of Wales is next door to the Cardiff Interchange bus hub and a few minutes from Cardiff Central. We meet at 11am for coffee, then some friends will stay for lunch and we will take the opportunity to explore Cardiff. Book one week in advance. Prince of Wales, 81-83 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1FA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

21 January
18 February

18 March
15 April

20 May
17 June

Regular Events

Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Last
Wednesday

The last Wednesday of the month, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Scoop Barry, 11 Paget Road, Barry Island CF62 5TQ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

28 January
25 February

25 March
29 April

27 May
24 June

Movies and Mocktails, Cardiff



1pm



Members £2 donation
Guests £4 donation



Various Thursday

Join us in Oddfellows House for our monthly movies and mocktails. Please arrive in time for refreshments. Book by a week in advance. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

8 January
5 February

12 March
9 April

14 May
4 June

History and Social Club



12.30pm



Members Free, Guests First session
free, then £2 donation



Third Thursday
(except January
and February)

Join us for our monthly 'History and Social Club' at Oddfellows House. We will be looking at history projects - The history of the Oddfellows in South Wales, family history, local history etc... or if you have a particular interest. We will also be inviting guest speakers along. If history is not an interest, we have a wide range of games, so please do come along for a cuppa and a chat amongst friends. You are welcome to arrive from 12.30pm and you would be welcome to bring some lunch etc. Book two weeks in advance. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

26 February
19 March

16 April
21 May

18 June

Regular Events

Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First cuppa free, then as per refreshments



First Friday

The first Friday of the month, join us at the fabulous Coffee at 12, for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Due to public holidays some the following dates are moved to a different Friday Friday 9 January (instead of Friday 2 January) and Friday 10 April (due to 3 April being Good Friday). Coffee at 12, 12 Derwen Road, Bridgend CF31 1LH. Contact John on 07563 638245.

9 January
6 February

6 March
10 April

1 May
5 June

January 2026

WED
07

New Year New Friends with Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First Cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Let's start the New Year with our Swansea Friends for coffee and catch up. We will meet in the Foyer Café next to the Box Office in Swansea Grand Theatre. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome.



Parking: There is a pay and display car park opposite on Singleton Street, also at the Quadrant Multi Storey Car Park. The Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea SA1 3QJ. Please note our monthly Swansea meets may change location from February, therefore please contact John 07563 638245 to ensure you are kept upto date.

January 2026

THURS
08

New Year Movies and Mocktails - 'Mamma Mia', Cardiff



1pm



Members £2 donation,
Guests £4 donation



As we leave the festivities behind us, lets come together for an afternoon of singing and fun in the Sun with the musical comedy movie 'Mamma Mia'. The film is based on the songs of pop group ABBA, set on a Greek Island starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth to name but a few.



Join us at Oddfellows House, Cardiff for this uplifting treat. The film will start at 1.30pm, so please arrive in time for refreshments. Film duration is one hour and 50 minutes. We will be offering themed 'Mocktails and Greek Snack'. You are welcome to wear themed clothing whether Greek, 1970s ABBA Retro etc. Our monthly movies and mocktails are held on the second Thursday of every month except in June, which will be held on Thursday 4 June. Book by Friday 1 January. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

FRI
09

New Year New Friends with Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First Cuppa free, then
as per refreshments



The first Friday of the month, join us at the fabulous Coffee at 12, for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Due to public holidays some the following dates are moved to a different Friday Friday 9 January (instead of Friday 2 January) and Friday 10 April (due to 3 April being Good Friday). Coffee at 12, 12 Derwen Road, Bridgend CF31 1LH. Contact John on 07563 638245.



January 2026

WED
14

New Year, New Friends with Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First Cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Start the new year by treating yourself to friendship. Join us for our monthly coffee morning, a great opportunity to meet up with friends. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at the Ash hotel, you may also wish to stay for lunch. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. The Ashburnham Hotel, Ashburnham Road, Pembrey SA16 0TH. Contact John on 07563 638245.

THURS
15

New Year New Friends with Newport Friends Cuppa and Chat



11am



First Cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Join us in Newport at the Riverside Theatre and Arts Centre café for a coffee morning with friends. A great opportunity



to meet, and forge new friendships. If this is your first time at an event, you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. The Riverside Theatre and Arts Centre, The Riverfront Café, Kingsway, Newport NP20 1HG. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

MON
19

New Year, New Friends with Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First Cuppa free, then as per refreshments



Start the New Year with the gift of friendships. The third Monday



of the month, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Glan Afan Coffee Co, 56A Station Road, Port Talbot SA13 1LZ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

January 2026

FRI
23

South Wales District Annual Luncheon



12.30pm



Members £33, Guests £36



Our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Tony Ducroq warmly invites you to our 'Annual Luncheon' to celebrate the South Wales Oddfellows District. The luncheon is a great chance for all members and guests, near and far, to get together in a relaxed setting and enjoy a lovely afternoon amongst friends.



The celebratory set menu will be published on invite. Cost to be confirmed, but £33 for members and £36 for guests. If you are interested in attending please contact john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk or Cardiff 029 20488585. Book by Friday 9 January. Heronston Hotel and Spa, Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF35 5AW. If you are interested in attending please contact john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk or Cardiff on 029 20488585.

WED
28

New Year New Friends with Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



First Cuppa free, then as per refreshments



The last Wednesday of the month, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Scoop Barry, 11 Paget Road, Barry Island CF62 5TQ. Contact John on 07563 638245.



February

MON
02

Blue Diamond Garden Centre Spring Visit



10.30am



As per menu



Join us for a return visit to Blue Diamond Garden Centre, St Mellons. We will meet in the café and you are welcome to explore the garden centre. The restaurant at Cardiff Garden Centre, Wales' first Blue Diamond Restaurant, features Patisserie Theatre and Eat Right Deli and is part of a destination store that is situated in South Wales.

Breakfast is served from 9am until 11.30am and includes dishes such as traditional cooked breakfasts to lighter bites such as eggs benedict or our speciality Shakshuka. The lunch menu is served from 12 noon until 3pm and features both classic dishes with added flare and style as well as dishes for those that wish to try something new. Come and sample their signature burger, classic fish and chips or chicken cordon bleu. We also have their 'Eat Right Deli' where you can choose from a range of freshly prepared salads, paninis, baked potatoes and delicious deli items. This is available from 11am until 4pm. Book by Monday 26 January. Cardiff Garden Centre - Blue Diamond, Newport Road, St Mellons CF3 2WJ. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

THURS
05

Valentine's Movies, Mocktails and Lunch - 'Shirley Valentine', Cardiff



1pm



Members £2,
Guests £4



Join us in Oddfellows House for our Valentine's movies and mocktails. This month wear something red and join us to watch the romantic comedy drama 'Shirley Valentine' starring the late Pauline Collins and Tom Conti. Pauline Collins plays Shirley Valentine a bored housewife who is invited to Greece with a friend. 15 cert with adult humour.

Duration is one hour and 48 minutes. We will be offering themed mocktails, with chips and egg. Book by Friday 6 February. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

February

TUES
17

St David's Day Themed Craft '2Wish Cymru' Fundraiser



1.30pm



TBC



Join Sarah and Fran for a St David's Day craft session fundraiser. As we approach our Patron Saints day, create a wonderful memento whilst raising funds for an amazing Welsh based charity. Booking essential.



Refreshments provided. Who are 2Wish Cymru? 2wish Cymru provides immediate and ongoing support to those affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a child or young person aged 25 and under. This includes: Parents, siblings, grandparents, partners and extended family friends, witnesses professionals such as healthcare workers, emergency services, and educators who may be impacted through their work.

Anyone else who may be affected their support is free, confidential and tailored to each individual's needs. We offer a range of services to support those affected by the sudden loss of a child or young person. Book by Tuesday 3 February. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

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

March

THURS
05

St David's Day Trip to St Fagans and the Vulcan Hotel

L 11am

£ Parking fees apply, cost as per refreshment



Celebrate St David's Day with us at St Fagans, National Folk Museum. The museum is Wales' most popular heritage attraction. Since 1948 over 40 original buildings from different historical periods have been re-erected in the 100-acre parkland, among them houses, a farm, a school, a chapel and a splendid Workmen's Institute. We are hoping to secure a visit to the newly opened 'Vulcan Hotel'. A public house that



was moved from Cardiff Centre and rebuilt as a working bar in St Fagan's. The day will be yours to explore. Accessibility, we can arrange buggies for those needing support. Cost: Free entry, parking charges apply £7 currently. Book by Friday 20 February. St Fagans National Museum of History, St Fagans Museum, Cardiff CF5 6XB. Contact John on 07563 638245.

THURS
12

Welsh Movies and Mocktails - 'Grand Slam', Cardiff

L 1.30pm

£ Members £2 donation, Guests £4 donation



Join us in Oddfellows House for our monthly movies and mocktails. To celebrate everything Welsh as it is the month of Saint David's day and the Six Nations Championships, we will be showing the classic 1978 sporting comedy 'Grand Slam'. Members of a Welsh rugby union club fly to Paris to see Wales play France in the 'Five Nations' starring Windsor Davies, Sion Probert and Hugh Griffiths. What could go wrong? Cert 15, adult humour.



Duration is one hour and two minutes. The film will start at 2pm, so please arrive in time for refreshments. We will be offering Welsh themed mocktails, with Welsh delicacies. You are welcome to come dressed in Welsh National Costume, or Rugby Jerseys. Book by Friday 6 March. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

March

TUES 31 Easter Craft Fundraiser with the Oddfellows

 1.30pm  TBC



Join Sarah and Fran for an afternoon creating an Easter themed bonnet/table centrepiece, whilst raising funds for our charity '2Wish Cymru'. Booking essential by Friday 20 March. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



April

THURS 09 Family Movies and Mocktails - 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', Cardiff

 12.30pm  Members Free, Guests £2 donation



Join us in Oddfellows House for our Christmas movies and mocktails. To celebrate the Easter holidays we will be showing a family film 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' by CS Lewis. 2005. This classic children's story tells of four siblings 'The Pevensies' evacuated from wartime London to safety in the countryside. What will Lucy find in the back of a wardrobe? Cert PG. Duration is two hours and 20 minutes. The film will start at 1pm, so please arrive in time for refreshments. We will be offering magical mocktails and fun snacks. You are welcome to come as a character from the story. Book by Friday 3 April. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

April

SAT 18 Annual Summomed Meeting

 2.30pm  Free



On behalf of the South Wales District Committee of Management, we are pleased to invite you to our Annual Summomed Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to declare the past financial year's accounts, performances and addressing any matters relevant to our community. We will then elect the Committee of Management for 2025/2026. We will be sending out an agenda closer to the time. There will be refreshments and a light buffet provided, therefore we would ask that you arrive from 1.30pm with the meeting starting promptly at 2.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you. Book by Wednesday 1 April. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244.

April

THURS
30

The Gower Peninsula Sightseeing Tour



10am



Members £20, Guests
£25, excludes Lunch



The Gower Peninsula in 1956 became the first area in Great Britain to be designated 'An area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. The

tour will be fully escorted by Gilky Tours, a local tour company passionate about the history and beauty of Gower. The itinerary will take in rugged coastlines, geological formations, neolithic burial chambers, castles, fabulous sea views, shipwrecks, stories of smuggling plus many more tales from the earliest known settlers.

There will be an opportunity to stop for lunch. The tour bus will pick-up and drop-off at a central Swansea location. The duration will be approximately five hours. The accessibility, some areas may be unsuitable, however there will be opportunities to take in the views. The tour will be weather dependent and appropriate clothing, footwear is required. Book by Friday 17 April. Paxton Street Car Park, Bathurst Street SA1 3SA. Contact John on 07563 638245.

May

THURS
07

Copper Jack River Cruise, Swansea



11am



TBC



All aboard the Copper Jack for a relaxing 90 minutes sailing, relax whilst discovering Swansea's industrial heritage and how it became known as

'Copperopolis'. A whole different perspective of Swansea, along the riverbanks. The Copper Jack is run by volunteers. Refreshments available on board, not included in price. Accessibility, there are arrangements for those requiring assistance with boarding, including wheelchairs. There is a fully accessible toilet on board. Dogs - only guide/assistance dogs permitted. Afterwards, join friends for lunch at a venue in the Marina. Book by Thursday 16 April. Copper Jack, Near National Waterfront Museum, Swansea Marina SA1 3RD. Contact John on 07563 638245.

May

THURS
14

Movies and Mocktails, Cardiff



1pm



Members £2 donation, Guests £4 donation



Join us in Oddfellows House for our monthly movies and mocktails. This months title will be announced after at the beginning of the month. If you have a suggestion for a film please let us know. Refreshments provided. Book by Friday 8 May. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



THURS
04

Movies and Mocktails, Cardiff



1pm



Members £2 donation, Guests £4 donation



Join us in Oddfellows House for our monthly movies and mocktails. The film title will be announced after May's film. If you have any suggestions please let us know. The film will start at 1.30pm, so please arrive in time for refreshments. Book by Friday 29 May. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

June

THURS
25

Cardiff Bay Boat Trip



10.30am



TBC



See the sights of Cardiff Bay from a different perspective when you travel by boat: The Wales Millennium Centre, The Pierhead Building, St Davids Hotel, Norwegian Church and Cardiff Bay Barrage. Join us on a one hour long and relaxing return journey aboard Princess Katherine. The departure point from the city is located in the beautiful Bute Park which surrounds Cardiff Castle. If you wish you can get off in Cardiff Bay for some lunch and catch the return boat to Bute Park. Book by Friday 5 June. Bute Park, Cardiff CF10 1BJ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

Adolygiad De Cymru

South Wales Review

July to November 2025

This year we were treated to a better Summer and so it was great to take advantage of visiting an open garden scheme and sitting outside for Coffee mornings, and fish and chips by the sea..

In September we said YES to Friendship month and a delight to welcome many new friends. We held our Regular events, new events in St Mellons, an Open Day at Oddfellows House and a local radio interview.

Our friends travelled about South Wales to meet at the many regular events and it is always a pleasure seeing the connections grow.

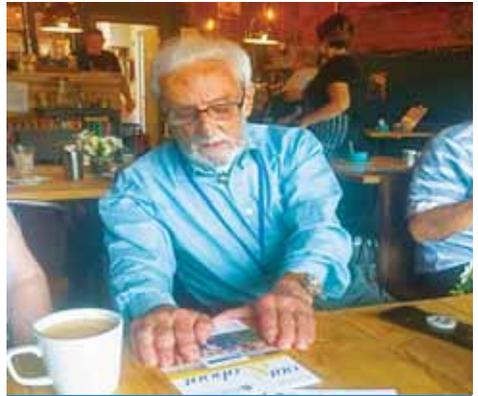
In October some of us toured the BBC Studios in Cardiff, with one friend auditioning as a weather reporter.

As well as our coffee mornings we do like eating out and experiencing different venues. In October we took over TY Caws in Castle Arcade where twenty of us sampled a selection of tasty cheeses and a few purchases too.

Our Film Club became “Movies and Mocktails” adding a bit more theatre to the event with themed food, non alcoholic drinks and even some friends in costume, do you recognise anyone?



Port Talbot Friends



Bridgend Friends

The highlight has to be our Christmas Tree project, for the Margam Christmas Tree festival. Since June 2025 our crafters have been working hard designing and creating amazing decorations from knitted to felt work,

Continued from last page...

wooden trees, button baubles, paper decorations and shapes with beautiful messages.

The end result that can be seen is a work of art, created by friends throughout South Wales.

Diolch yn fawr bawb, Too many to mention, but you know who you are.



Mumbles Summer Luncheon



Cardiff Craft Group Fundraising



Moefryn Garden Visit July

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



South Wales friends 'Out and About'



South Wales friends 'Out and About'



Movies and Mocktails

Today's showing
"A Private Function"

Enjoy with a refreshing Mocktail and 1940's snacks

Mimosa
Ginger Ale, Champagne and Honey

Tom Collins
Cucumber, Lemon, Soda and Spritz

Snacks of the Era
Savory Rolls
Common White Bread, Egg, Mustard, Milk, Butter & Sausages

Scotch eggs
Common white & Egg

Craft sessions- 2Wish Fundraiser



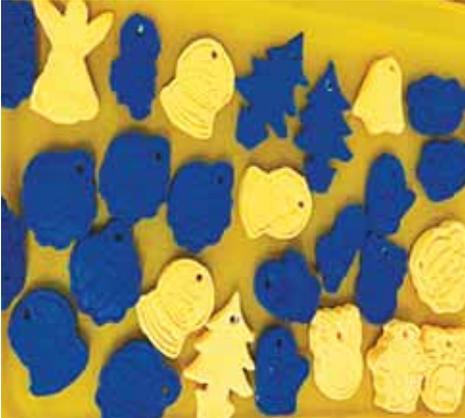
Swansea Hub



Promoting Oddfellows



Margam Christmas Tree Festival



Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

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



To find out more, contact John on **07563 638245**
john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk

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www.oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Extra – big brand offers and savings

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login



***Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.**

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OEAS0723

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for saying ‘yes’ to friendship

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

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

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

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



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

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

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

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



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

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

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

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

Making a Difference Awards



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

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

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

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

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

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 John Marvelley
telephone: **07563 638245** email: **john.marvelley@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**

At a glance

January 2026

Tues 6	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 7	New Year New Friends with Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 8	New Year Movies and Mocktails - 'Mamma Mia', Cardiff	1pm
Fri 9	New Year New Friends with Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 13	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 14	New Year, New Friends with Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 15	New Year New Friends with Newport Friends Cuppa and Chat	11am
Mon 19	New Year, New Friends with Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 20	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 21	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Fri 23	South Wales District Annual Luncheon	12.30pm
Tues 27	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 28	New Year New Friends with Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

February

Mon 2	Blue Diamond Garden Centre Spring Visit	10.30am
Tues 3	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 4	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 5	Valentine's Movies, Mocktails and Lunch - 'Shirley Valentine', Cardiff	1pm
Fri 6	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 10	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 11	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Mon 16	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 17	St David's Day Themed Craft '2Wish Cymru' Fundraiser	1.30pm
Wed 18	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Tues 24	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 25	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 26	History and Social Club	12.30pm

At a glance

March

Tues 3	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 4	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 5	St David's Day Trip to St Fagans and the Vulcan Hotel	11am
Fri 6	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 10	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 11	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 12	Welsh Movies and Mocktails - 'Grand Slam', Cardiff	1.30pm
Mon 16	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 17	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 18	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Thurs 19	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Tues 24	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 25	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 31	Easter Craft Fundraiser with the Oddfellows	1.30pm

April

Wed 1	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 7	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 8	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 9	Family Movies and Mocktails - 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', Cardiff	12.30pm
Fri 10	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 14	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 15	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Thurs 16	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Sat 18	Annual Summoned Meeting	2.30pm
Mon 20	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 21	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm

At a glance

April

Tues 28	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 29	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 30	The Gower Peninsula Sightseeing Tour	10am

May

Fri 1	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 5	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 6	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 7	Copper Jack River Cruise, Swansea	11am
Tues 12	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 13	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 14	Movies and Mocktails, Cardiff	1pm
Mon 18	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 19	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 20	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Thurs 21	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Tues 26	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 27	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

June

Tues 2	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 3	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 4	Movies and Mocktails, Cardiff	1pm
Fri 5	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 9	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 10	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Mon 15	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 16	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 17	Friendship Lunch in Cardiff	11am
Thurs 18	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Tues 23	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 24	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 25	Cardiff Bay Boat Trip	10.30am
Tues 30	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm