

September 2026 - February 2027



events & news

Pride of Leicestershire District Branch



Aerial view of Leicester Town hall in Leicester



Music



Art/Crafts



Friendship



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Oddfellows Brass Concert - Sunday 4 October

Welcome to the latest edition of the Events and News of the Pride of Leicestershire District Branch. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place - by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of

Contact Details

Secretary: Mike Harris

Address: Oddfellows House,
127 Upperton Road
(Corner of Fosse Road South),
Leicester LE3 0HF

Telephone: 0116 2543106

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mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Jo Brown

Email: jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk

Office Opening Hours

Monday - Closed
Tuesday to Thursday -
9.30am to 4.30pm
Friday - 9.30am - 4pm
(Answer phone available)

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

Regular Event

Games Morning



10am



£2 per week



Every Wednesday

Fancy a morning of playing board games over a cup of tea and a friendly chat? Our games morning meet up every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon. So if you enjoy a game of Rummikub, Scrabble or maybe even a game or two of cards, then come along and join us for a morning of fun! Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF. If you are interested in coming along then contact Jo on 0116 254 3106 for more details.



Buffet and Bingo



12 noon



Meal £5 or cost of meal
Bingo £4.50



**Last Friday of
the month**

Some of you will be aware that the fish and chip shop that we used has sadly had to close down. We are looking for a different one that is close enough to deliver to us, but for the time being we will be having a buffet and bingo afternoon instead! Payments will be taken on the day. If you do want to stop for the bingo the cost for that is £4.50 for nine games and a raffle, all the proceeds from this goes to Lancaster Houses chosen charity. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk to book.



28 August 2026

27 November 2026

25 September 2026

29 January 2027

30 October 2026

26 February 2027

August 2026

MON 03 Earl Howe Branch Meeting



2.30pm



Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branches monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society, with time for a raffle, tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. The room at the venue is very comfortable and there is adequate car parking available. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



TUES 04 Summoned Meeting and District Open Meeting



1.45pm



Free



We would love to see you at our Summoned and District Open meeting. It's a chance to get together with other members from the District and find out about the society's news and help with some of the issues that may arise. The meeting will be followed by tea and biscuits. Please note that the meeting is 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Mike on 0116 2543106.

THURS 06 Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust Boat from Loughborough to Mountsorrel



9.45am



£20



Everyone is welcome to join us for a trip on the Peter Le Marchant Trust Boat. We shall be travelling from Loughborough to Mountsorrel where we shall be having lunch at the Riverside Pub.

The boat is being hired solely for Oddfellow members and their guests, so it will be a great opportunity to meet up with friends from all around the District. The boat departs at 10am, so please be there by 9.45am. The boat will return to Loughborough at approximately 3pm. Book by Friday 17 July 2026. Peter Le Marchant Boat Trips, Beeches Road, Loughborough LE11 2NS. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



August 2026

TUES

11

Wells Next The Sea



8.30am



£35



The Westcotes members are going to Wells Next The Sea for the day with Paul S Winson Coaches. The bus leaves St Margaret's bus station at 9am. St Margaret's Bus Station, Gravel Street, Leicester LE1 3AG. If you would like us to check to see if there are any places left, then please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 by Friday 7 August 2026.



THURS

13

Market Harborough Branch - Talk About the History of Swear Words!



2pm



Free



Please note change of date for this meeting. Everyone is welcome to join the Market Harborough group when we are joined by Katrina Friess, who will be doing a talk on the history and origins of swear words. Fear not, there will not be any offensive language, rather an amusing look at the origins of mild swear words, insults and old sayings. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

TUES

18

Visit to the Whitemoors Antique Centre for Lunch followed by a Trip on the Battlefield Line



10.30am



TBC



Please note the date has had to be changed to Tuesday 18 August 2026 due to the trains not running now on the previous date. Members from around the District had such an enjoyable visit last year to Whitemoors and on the Battlefield Line that they have decided to go again this year.



Everyone is welcome to join them for a look around the centre followed by lunch at the tea rooms there. Then it's on to Shenton to catch the train to Shackleton Station and back on the Battlefield Line, which is the last remaining part of the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway, which was opened in 1873, so well worth a visit. Booking is essential for lunch by Friday 14 August 2026. Whitemoors Antique Centre, Main Street, Shenton CV13 6BZ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

August 2026

WED 19 Open Hand Branch - Walk Around Everards Meadows



Come along and join the Open Hand members for a leisurely stroll around Everards Meadow followed by coffee and cake at Jennos. The walk is very flat and has accessible paths along the way. Everards Meadows, Cooper Way, Leicester LE19 2AN. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more information.

September

THURS 03 Westcotes Branch - Confessions of Game Show Junkies



Come and join us for the first of our Friendship Month events and the Westcotes Branch are kicking it off in style when they are joined by Stephanie and Trevor Mee for their 'Confessions of Game Show Junkies' talk plus a quiz. You will be guaranteed an afternoon of laughter and fun when you hear what these two have been up to! Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. For more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more details.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON 07 Earl Howe Branch Meeting



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branches monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society, with time for a raffle, tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. The room at the venue is very comfortable and there is adequate car parking available. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS 10 Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at Cattows Farm



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe members for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the Cattows Farm, meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Cattows Farm, Swepestone Road, Heather, Coalville LE67 2RF. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go by Thursday 3 September 2026.

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
10

Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Canine Partners



The Market Harborough Branch are hoping to welcome Jane Bennett and her assistance dog Frank on behalf of the Canine Partners. Jane will be telling them all about the work that Canine Partners do. Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs and other highly trained dogs, so we shall hear about how the dogs are trained and what sort of things that they can do to support people. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. For more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.

TUES
15

Members Presentation Day



We are inviting all of our new and existing members and their friends along to a presentation to let them know about



all the benefits that the Oddfellows can offer and how these can be accessed, presentation start from 11am to 1pm. The presentation will be followed by a buffet lunch. Booking is required in order for us to arrange the catering. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. To book a place or for more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 28 August 2026.

WED
16

Open Hand Branch Friendship Ploughmans Lunch



Come along and join the Open Hand Branch bring and share ploughman's lunch. They had one last year and everyone had a great time, so it will become a yearly event from now on. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. If you would like to come along, please let Jo know on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk to book a place or for more information by Wednesday 2 September 2026.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT
19

Pride of Leicestershire Annual Friendship Lunch



12 noon



£15



We are delighted to invite you all again to our 'Annual Friendship Lunch'. The cost per member is £15 and includes a welcome drink, carvery and dessert of your choice.

The venue is at Gynsills Farm, meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. There are ample car parking spaces and has easy access to the venue from the M1 or A50. Bookings are being taken now and are essential to reserve your place due to the high demand of the previous years. We look forward to seeing you all. Gynsills Farm, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8HB. To secure a place, please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 11 September 2026.



October

THURS
01

Westcotes Branch - Film Show



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to come along and join Alan and Glyn from the Westcotes Branch put on a film show for us all to watch. They haven't decided which film to show yet, so this post will be updated as soon as they have decided. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



SUN
04

Oddfellows Brass Band Concert



2pm



TBC



We are delighted to announce that the Oddfellows Brass Band will be coming back to Leicester again to play for us. The concert will be held at St Ursula's Chapel. Tickets will be available nearer the time, but bookings can be made in advance. St Ursula's Chapel, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more information.

October

MON 05 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

 2.30pm  Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branches monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society, with time for a raffle, tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. The room at the venue is very comfortable and there is adequate car parking available. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

TUES 06 District General Meeting at Central Court

 11am  Free



We would love to see you at our District General Meeting. It's a chance to get together with other members from the District and find out about the society's news and help with some of the issues that may arise. The meeting will be followed a buffet and a raffle. Please note change of time. For catering purposes, can you let Jo know if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Mike or Jo on 0116 2543106.



THURS 15 Market Harborough Branch - Seated Exercises

 1.45pm  Free



Come and join the Market Harborough group when they are joined by Teresa from



Happy Days Fitness again for a fun afternoon of gentle exercises. The group enjoyed this so much when Teresa came earlier on in the year that they were keen to invite her back. Please note change of day and time. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.

FRI 16 Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Meadow Barn

 12 noon  TBC



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe members for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the Meadow Barn, meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Meadow Barn, 368 Church Lane, Whitwick, Coalville LE67 5DL. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go by Friday 9 October 2026.

October

WED 21 Open Hand Branch - Meet Up at the Vicarage Pub

L 2pm

£ Free



The Open Hand members will be going to the Old Vicarage Pub in Whetsone for a drink and a catch up. If you'd



like to join us and find out about the Oddfellows, then you will be made most welcome. Old Vicarage Pub, Enderby Lane, Whetstone LE8 6JH. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more details.

November

MON 02 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

L 2.30pm

£ Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branches monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society, with time for a raffle, tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. The room at the venue is very comfortable and there is adequate car parking available. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

November

THURS 05 Commonwealth War Graves Commission

L 2pm

£ Free



Everyone is welcome to join the Westcotes members when they have a talk from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). This presentation is about the history of the CWGC and its work today.

It will include how the commission began, its work during the First and Second World Wars, it will also focus on the war graves in our local area and tell the stories of some of those we commemorate.

There will be refreshments available afterwards. Book by Tuesday 3 November 2026. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Please let Jo know on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk if you would like to join the group for the meeting for catering purposes.

November

SUN
08

Remembrance Day Service



10.30am



Free



Everybody is welcome to join the members from the District and the residents from the Wyggestons when they get together for their Remembrance Day service. There will be a member from the Oddfellows Brass Band there to play the last post and refreshments will be served afterwards. St Ursula's Chapel, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS
12

Earl Howe Branch Lunch at the Charnwood Arms



12 noon



TBC



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe members for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the Charnwood Arms, meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Charnwood Arms, Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville LE67 1TB. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go by Friday 6 November 2026.

THURS
12

Market Harborough Branch Meeting



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join the members of the Market Harborough group at their monthly meeting. There will be refreshments available afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more information.

WED
18

Open Hand Branch Christmas Quiz



2pm



Free



Come along and join the Open Hand members for their Christmas quiz to get them in the festive spirit! There will be prizes for the winners. Refreshments available afterwards. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

December

TUES 01 District General Meeting at Oddfellows House

 11am

 Free



We would love to see you at our District General Meeting. It's a chance to get together with other members from the District and find out about the society's news and help with some of the issues that may arise. The meeting will be followed by a buffet, Please note change of time. Please let Jo know if you are able to attend for catering purposes. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF. Contact Mike or Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS 03 Westcotes Branch Christmas Lunch

 12.30pm

 TBC



The Westcotes Branch will be having their Christmas lunch today. Venue not confirmed at time of going to print, but if you contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more information.



MON 07 Earl Howe Branch Christmas Lunch at the George and Dragon

 12 noon

 TBC



The Earl Howe Branch's Christmas lunch. George and Dragon, Ashby Road, Thringstone LE67 8UH. The date and time have not yet been confirmed at time of going to print, but if you would like to go contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.



THURS 10 Market Harborough Branch Christmas Lunch

 1pm

 TBC



The Market Harborough Branch's Christmas lunch. The date, time and venue not confirmed at time of going to print, but if you would like to go contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.

WED 16 Open Hand Branch Christmas Lunch

 1pm

 TBC



The Open Hand Branch will be having their Christmas lunch today. Venue not confirmed at time of going to print, but if you contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more information.

January 2027

THURS
07

Westcotes Branch Meeting



Join the Westcotes members for their first meeting of the new year. They will be having a catch up and finalising their activities for 2027 over a tea and biscuits. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS
14

Market Harborough Branch Meeting



Join the Market Harborough members for their first meeting of the new year. They will be having a catch up and finalising their activities for 2027 over tea and biscuits. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more information.



WED
20

Open Hand Branch Meeting



Join the Open Hand members for their first meeting of the new year. They will be having a catch up and finalising their activities for 2027 over a tea and biscuits. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

February

MON
01

Earl Howe Branch Meeting



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branches monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society, with time for a raffle, tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. The room at the venue is very comfortable and there is adequate car parking available. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

Booking and Cancellations

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

February

THURS
04

Westcotes Branch - Glenfield Strummers



Back by popular demand!

Everyone is welcome to join the Westcotes Branch for their



ukulele concert from the Glenfield Strummers, which will take place at St Ursula's Chapel at the Wyggestons. They have played for us before and they were superb - definitely not to be missed! St Ursula's Chapel, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS
11

Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid



Come along and join the Market Harborough members when they joined by a guest speaker from Leicester Animal Aid. They will be telling us about the work that they do there to help over 300 cats and dogs that have been abandoned, neglected or if their owners can no longer care for them. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo 0116 2543106 for more details or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.

FRI
12

Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out



Everyone is welcome to join the Earl Howe Branch for their monthly lunch out. The venue and date had not been decided at the time of going to print, so please contact June on 07986 483476 for information.

WED
17

Open Hand Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid



Come along and join the Open Hand members when they joined by Helen Wilber from Leicester Animal Aid. Helen will be telling us about the work that they do there to help over 300 cats and dogs that have been abandoned, neglected or if their owners can no longer care for them. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo 0116 2543106 for more details or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.



Oddfellows Online Events

Staying Safe from Financial Scams

Tuesday 18 August, 7pm

Financial scams are becoming more sophisticated, using new tactics to exploit trust. This talk with Unity Mutual explains how these scams work, highlights key warning signs, and provides practical strategies to help you protect yourself and your finances.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/FinancialScams1

Understanding Diabetes with Diabetes UK

Tuesday 15 September, 7pm

Join us for this informative talk covering what type 1 and type 2 Diabetes is, signs and symptoms, who's at risk of type 2 diabetes, how to access support, and how to live well.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/OddfellowsDiabetesUK

Wellbeing webinar with Dr Anna Machin

Tuesday 13 October, 7pm

Join Dr Anna Machin for another insightful wellbeing webinar. This webinar will offer expert advice on how to be proactive about finding friendship in later life.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/AnnaMachin3

More Ghostly Tales to be Told

Tuesday 27 October, 7pm

Get ready for Halloween with another fascinating evening of stories and poems by Dr Ann Featherstone, a retired university lecturer, teacher and writer who has appeared on numerous BBC programmes and documentaries.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/MoreGhostlyTales



Pride of Leicestershire District Oddfellows | 2026



Oddfellows Brass in Concert

Everyone
welcome

Sunday 4 October 2pm

Everybody is welcome to come along and enjoy a variety of classics, to suit all ages, performed by the fabulous Oddfellow Brass.

Cost: £10

*St Ursula's Chapel,
Wyggestons
160 Hinckley Road
Leicester LE3 0UX*

For more information and to book
call Jo on **0116 2543106** or email
jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk



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www.oddfellows.co.uk

Support the 'Stars' of the Future!



One of our younger members needs our support! Ella-Rose Shaw plays as the goalkeeper for "Swadlincote Stars," a local Under-11 girls' football team (pictured below after their recent big tournament win!). The team relies entirely on sponsors and donations for their gear.

Thanks to their dedicated coaches and great team spirit, the girls love playing together and have gone from strength to strength—even moving up to a higher league last year!

Right now, the team is working to raise £500 to replace broken equipment and buy new kit as the girls grow.

They've already raised £280, but they need our help to reach their goal. Who knows—we might be looking at future England stars!



Ella Rose holding the winning trophy!

How to donate:

- Donate via the JustGiving app
- Drop it off at the office, and we'll pass it along for you.

There was a good turn out for the Inter-Lodge quiz which was held in July. There were teams from Earl Howe, Westcotes, Open Hand and Temple of Peace.

It was a close call at the finish with Open Hand and Temple of Peace drawing level.

It went to a decider question which left the Temple of Peace team the winners for the third year in a row.

Well done to them (watch out next year though, were coming for you!)



**1st place - Temple of Peace
2nd place - Open Hand
3rd place - Westcotes
4th place - Earl Howe**

Medical or Surgical claims



We just wanted to remind our Life and Associate members that you can make a claim for medical or surgical treatment that you may have had. We introduced this over a year ago and have only had one claim to date.

- The benefit is the cost incurred up to a maximum of £50 per annum and covers specialist fees and /or physiotherapy, osteopathy and Chiropractic treatments only.
- For Medical and surgical claims at least 12 months must elapse from the date of the last treatment.
- Please attach the original receipt from the specialist or practitioner
 - Receipts must be dated and in your name
 - They must include the name of the treatment provider and the amount you have paid
 - Credit and Debit cards receipts are not accepted.
- Membership subscriptions, where applicable, must be up to date.

For full terms and conditions and claim forms, contact the office (see page 2 for details). Mike is on hand to talk you through what to do.

The Geoff Chawner Educational Awards 2026

Applicants are now invited from members for our Educational Development Award of £450 per annum for up to three years.

Eligible courses are not restricted to the academic, and can be for vocational courses and apprenticeships. We encourage you to apply for an application form, and we are delighted that we were able to support two of our members.



For the last couple of years, one member has completed his electrician apprenticeship and the other is in her final year at university doing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. We wish them both well for the future.

Terms and conditions apply. For details and to obtain an application form, contact the District Office, the closing date is Friday 30 October 2026.

Give someone a great start in life **for only £10!**



**It's never too early to start
making friends for life.**

We laugh as we learn together and give each other a helping hand through the ups and downs of growing up. That's what being a Young Oddfellow is all about.

If you have a family member aged 17 or under, and would like them to experience the friendship and support of the Oddfellows, we'd love to welcome them.

There are lots of great reasons* to join Young Oddfellows – to find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/young-oddfellows

**As a parent, grandparent or guardian,
you can join them online or ask your
Branch Secretary for an application form.**



**Young
Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

***Terms and conditions apply to membership and financial benefits.
Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions**

Getting out and about and Car sharing.



Getting out and about can be difficult if you don't drive or have access to a car. Many members already offer lifts to help others attend groups, and if you would be willing to help too, please let Jo know.

There are also community car schemes across the county that can provide affordable transport for groups, appointments and other journeys. Most are volunteer-run and require registration. We've included the names of some of the schemes we know about, and if you know of any others, please let us know.

Community Action Partnership

Oadby & Wigston and Blaby District (must live in one of these areas to register)

Lutterworth Community Transport

Lutterworth and Broughton Astley

John Storer Charnwood Community Transport

Charnwood Borough

Melton Borough Community Transport

Melton Borough

Voluntary Action South Leicestershire Car Scheme

Eastern side of Harborough District (up to the A5199 boundary)

Hinckley and Bosworth Community Transport (Dial-a-Ride)

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough

If you would like any more information, please contact these schemes directly via their websites or contact Jo on **0116 2543106**

Please Note

The transport schemes listed are independent organisations and are not affiliated with or operated by The Oddfellows. We are sharing this information as a helpful guide for members only. The Oddfellows cannot be held responsible for the services provided by these organisations, including bookings, charges, driver availability, safety, or any issues that may arise. Members are encouraged to check each provider's terms and conditions and ensure the service is suitable for their needs before making arrangements.

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

OEAS0723

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



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making friends, helping people

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Lest We Forget

Everyone is welcome to join the Westcotes Lodge, who are hosting a speaker from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on Thursday 5 November 2026 at Lancaster House at 2pm. There will be refreshments and a raffle after the meeting. Lancaster House, Wyggestons, 160 Hinckley Road Leicester LE3 0UX



Remembrance Service

We shall be having a joint Remembrance Day service with the staff and residents of the Wyggestons to honour those who have made the greatest sacrifice.

St Ursula's Chapel
Sunday 8 November 2026
10.30 am

There will be refreshments served after the service.
St Ursula's Chapel, 160 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0UX

Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more details of both of these events.

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

Calling all Members – We need your Help!

In our last news and events diary, we explained that our District Open Meetings are open to all members. However, attendance is still lower than we would like. This is a shame, because we are run by our members, for our members. We rely on members to help us manage our day-to-day affairs and shape our service for the future.

The meetings take place on the Tuesday following our Committee meetings, and they do what they say on the tin: they are open to everyone! You will hear about some of the topics discussed by the Committee, including any Benevolence Grants that have been made, and you will have the opportunity to raise any issue you would like to talk about.

These meetings matter to all of us. We do not always know about the issues our members may be facing, and if we do not know, we cannot help.

We hold these meetings in our Lodge locations so that everyone gets a chance to get to one. **We are now changing the time to 11am and the meeting will be followed by a buffet**, this will give everyone a chance to not only have their say but to meet with other members over an informal lunch.



The next meetings are:

- **Tuesday 4 August**
at Lancaster House
- **Tuesday 6 October**
at Central Court, Coalville
- **Tuesday 1 December**
at Oddfellows House
- **Tuesday 2 February**
at Oddfellows House.

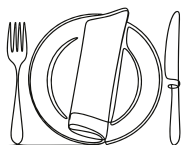
If you are able to come, please contact Jo on **0116 2543106** or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk so that we can plan the catering.

We are also always pleased to hear from members who are ready for a challenge and able to volunteer their time on a regular basis.

If you would like to join the Committee, please contact Mike on **0116 2543106** or email mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk.

For the other meetings, you can simply turn up. They are friendly, informal and a great way to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes.

Earl Howe Loves to Lunch!

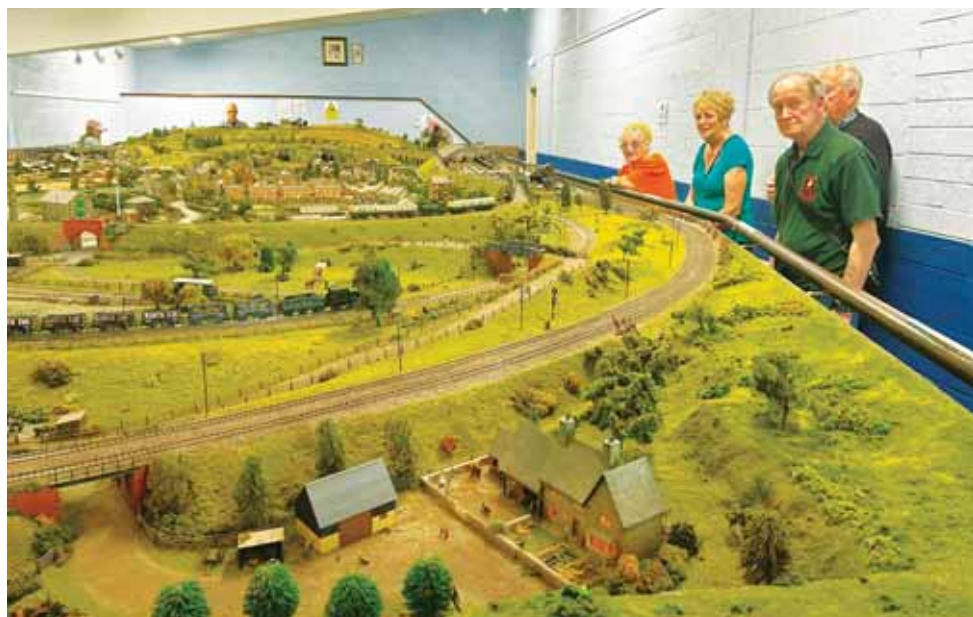


The members from Earl Howe have also been busy. They have been going out for lunch in the area every month and have had some fabulous meals (or if you want to know who does the best bacon sandwich, just ask Mike!)

So far, they've been to the Truckstop, the Charnwood Arms, Meadow Barn, and the Bulls head at Abbots Oak on Thursday July 16. If you fancy some good food and good company, then why not join them? There will be more planned for the coming months.



Members also went to Ulverscroft Grange in May and had lunch at the tea shop there. They also went to see the amazing model railway that they have there. It's based on the Great Western Railway of the 1930s and has incredible detailed scenery. Members also had a look around the charity shops and the lovely surrounding gardens. It really is a lovely place to have a nice relaxing day.



The Open Hand Branch

In February, the Open Hand Lodge was joined by Martin Grant from Remap, who shared the amazing work of the UK's only charity that provides custom-made equipment, free of charge, for disabled people.



Remap has over 60 volunteers with a vast range of skills and experience—including mechanics and carpenters, to name just a few. We were all in awe of how they problem-solve and use their talents to help people who need bespoke solutions to make their lives better.

Oh What a Bake Off!

In March, the group got together for a fun bake-off. The bakers in our group each made a cake for a friendly competition to see which one would be crowned the favourite.

We spent a really hard afternoon drinking tea and eating cake—it was absolutely exhausting! The spread included a coffee cake, a Victoria sponge, a chocolate cake, and a ginger cake, plus some shop-bought treats brought in by those who prefer eating over baking. The winner was Yvonne Buck's coffee cake, which was absolutely scrummy!



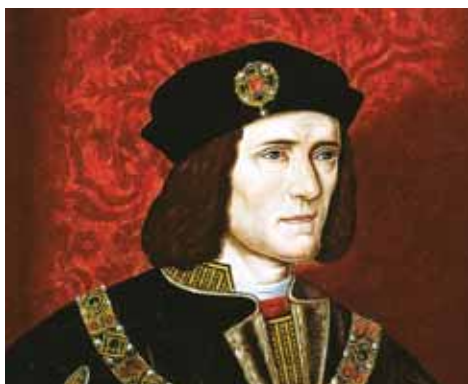
In April, members of the Open Hand Lodge were joined by friends from the Westcotes Lodge to celebrate St George's Day.

17 members in total got together to enjoy a fantastic lunch at the Lime Tree pub in Whetstone. It was wonderful to sit back and enjoy a leisurely meal in such great company. While everyone was trying to think of what occasion they could celebrate for their next meal out, they eventually came to the best conclusion: you don't need an excuse to get together with friends!



In May they were joined by some members from the Westcotes Lodge again, this time they for a tour of the Leicester Cathedral and the tomb of King Richard III.

They had a lovely afternoon and learnt so much about the history of the Cathedral and saw the final resting place of King Richard III.



Members enjoying the talk



The Tomb of Richard III

Get the most out of your membership

As well as making friends and meeting new people, the Oddfellows offers a wide range of benefits to members.



From advice and financial aid through to travel opportunities, we provide a helping hand to make life a little easier. With your standard benefit membership, for £25 a year*, you have access to:

- Local social events
- Money saving partner offers
- Care and Welfare Helpline and local support
- Dedicated Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Convalescence and Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Benevolence Grants
- Member referral rewards scheme
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Access to group holidays and travel discounts
- Educational and Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

If you're an extra benefit member, your £35 a year membership* enables access to additional benefits of:

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

Find out more about the benefits and support available

You'll find more information about member benefits in your member handbook. You can also call **0800 028 1810** 9am-5pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-4pm Fri, or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits

To make sure you receive our monthly emails for updates on benefits and offers, just email us with your full name, postcode and membership number (if you know it): membership@oddfellows.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services. For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.



the Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

The Leicester Wooly-backs!

The Westcotes members and residents from Lancaster House had a rip-roaring afternoon with Stuart Green AKA Shanty Man who did a Sea Shanty workshop for us all.

We had to choose a name for our group that reflected our origins and someone came up with the Leicester Wooly-backs which was a term used in Leicestershire to refer to rural locals, who bred wool-producing sheep, Leicestershire is famous for the Leicester Longwool breed.

Everyone had a great time having a sing song and even learning interesting facts about the origins of Sea Shanties.

Some of them had a go at pulling the ropes and we some sea shanty classics such as “Drunken Sailor” and “Blow the man down.”



Animal Magic



The Westcotes group enjoyed a talk from Helen Wilber from Leicester Animal Aid.

We found out about all of the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes, to find forever homes for all the cats and dogs that come into their care. Some need special care to help them overcome the stress of being there and it was heartwarming to hear all the

stories about some of the animals that have found a home for life.



They have many animals in their care that still need rehoming, so if any of you are thinking of getting a pet, it is well worth talking to them first. Call them directly on 01455 888257.

Flower Power!



One of our members, Shirley Burnett stepped in at the last minute when our planned event had to cancel. She did two demonstrations using supermarket flowers and foliage from her garden and made two beautiful displays.

She talked about various flowers and told us about the meaning of their names as well as some stories behind them.

There were around 30 members and residents who came to watch and considering she was a bit nervous, having never done anything like this before, she smashed it!



Market Harborough Group

Can you believe it has been over a year since this group started up again? It is steadily growing and we seem to get someone new at every meeting, which is great. We've also welcomed some members from the original Harborough group who come to the meetings now as well.

The group have had a busy year so far. In March we had Teresa Osborne from Happy Days Fitness, who put us all through our paces with some armchair exercises. The group enjoyed it so much, they want to ask her back again.

In May, one of our speakers had to cancel, so everyone in the group brought an odd object and a photo of themselves when they were young. We had a great afternoon guessing what the curious items were and trying to identify who the photos were of.

In June, we had a guest speaker, who gave us a talk on life on the Royal Britannia yacht. Our speaker, Bob Haley, had worked on the yacht for a number of years and was able to give us a glimpse of what the life was like for our Queen when she came aboard.

The group have a planned trip out in July, with some of them going to Bakewell market and Matlock Bath for the day and in August they are having a talk about the history of swear words! (Not for sensitive ears).

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, the more the merrier.

Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk for more details.



Branch Contacts

All meetings are subject to confirmation, please contact the Branch Secretaries to confirm.

Earl Howe Branch

(Ashby, Coalville, Ibstock, Whitwick)

Secretary: Kim Leake

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

Telephone: 0116 2543106

Every first Monday in the month at 2.30pm.

Open Hand Branch

(Whetstone, Blaby and Cosby)

Secretary: Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF

Telephone: 0116 2543106

Every third Wednesday in the month at 2pm.

Westcotes Branch (Leicester)

Secretary: Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

Telephone: 0116 2543106

Every first Thursday in the month at 2pm.

Temple of Peace Branch

(Markfield)

Secretary: Rob Boulter

Oddfellows Mission Hall, Shaw Lane, Markfield LE67 9PU

Telephone: 07761 716863

Market Harborough Branch

(Market Harborough)

Secretary: Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

Telephone: 0116 2543106

Every second Thursday in the month at 2pm.

Can you help by volunteering?

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

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



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Mike by phone on **0116 2543106** or email mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk

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making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this summer!

Throughout June and July, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and Saga, and in upcoming print editions of People's Friend, Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about
our Making a Difference Awards,
including previous years'
winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/
makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.

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 Mike on **0116 2543106** or email **mike.harris@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

August 2026

Mon 3	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Tues 4	Summoned Meeting and District Open Meeting	1.45pm
Wed 5	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 6	Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust Boat from Loughborough to Mountsorrel	9.45am
Tues 11	Wells Next The Sea	8.30am
Wed 12	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 13	Market Harborough Branch - Talk About the History of Swear Words!	2pm
Tues 18	Visit to the Whitemoors Antique Centre for Lunch followed by a Trip on the Battlefield Line	10.30am
Wed 19	Games Morning	10am
Wed 19	Open Hand Branch - Walk Around Everards Meadows	1pm
Wed 26	Games Morning	10am
Fri 28	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon

September - Friendship Month

Wed 2	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 3	Westcotes Branch - Confessions of Game Show Junkies	2pm
Mon 7	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 9	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 10	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at Cattows Farm	12 noon
Thurs 10	Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Canine Partners	2pm
Tues 15	Members Presentation Day	11am
Wed 16	Games Morning	10am
Wed 16	Open Hand Branch Friendship Ploughmans Lunch	1pm
Sat 19	Pride of Leicestershire Annual Friendship Lunch	12 noon
Wed 23	Games Morning	10am
Fri 25	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon
Wed 30	Games Morning	10am

At a glance

October

Thurs 1	Westcotes Branch - Film Show	2pm
Sun 4	Oddfellows Brass Band Concert	2pm
Mon 5	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Tues 6	District General Meeting at Central Court	11am
Wed 7	Games Morning	10am
Wed 14	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 15	Market Harborough Branch - Seated Exercises	1.45pm
Fri 16	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Meadow Barn	12 noon
Wed 21	Games Morning	10am
Wed 21	Open Hand Branch - Meet Up at the Vicarage Pub	2pm
Wed 28	Games Morning	10am
Fri 30	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon

November

Mon 2	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 4	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 5	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	2pm
Sun 8	Remembrance Day Service	10.30am
Wed 11	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 12	Earl Howe Branch Lunch at the Charnwood Arms	12 noon
Thurs 12	Market Harborough Branch Meeting	2pm
Wed 18	Games Morning	10am
Wed 18	Open Hand Branch - Christmas Quiz	2pm
Wed 25	Games Morning	10am
Fri 27	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon

December

Tues 1	District General Meeting at Oddfellows House	11am
Wed 2	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 3	Westcotes Branch Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
Mon 7	Earl Howe Branch Christmas Lunch at the George and Dragon	12 noon

At a glance

December

Wed 9	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 10	Market Harborough Branch Christmas Lunch	1pm
Wed 16	Games Morning	10am
Wed 16	Open Hand Branch Christmas Lunch	1pm
Wed 23	Games Morning	10am

January 2027

Wed 6	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 7	Westcotes Branch Meeting	2pm
Wed 13	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 14	Market Harborough Branch Meeting	1.45pm
Wed 20	Games Morning	10am
Wed 20	Open Hand Branch Meeting	2pm
Wed 27	Games Morning	10am
Fri 29	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon

February

Mon 1	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 3	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 4	Westcotes Branch - Glenfield Strummers	2pm
Wed 10	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 11	Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid	1.45pm
Fri 12	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out	12 noon
Wed 17	Games Morning	10am
Wed 17	Open Hand Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid	2pm
Wed 24	Games Morning	10am
Fri 26	Buffet and Bingo!	12 noon