

events & news

Fenland District Branch

September 2025 - January 2026



Manea village sign north face



Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch – Sunday 18 January 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of your events diary and newsletter for Fenland Branch of Oddfellows.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from dining out to trips out plus lots of other activities. All our news is now included in this publication and that too has a new look and feel.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.

Contact Details

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

District Secretary: Claire Streater

Address:

104 Westbourne Road
Chatteris
Cambridgeshire PE16 6HG

Telephone: 01354 694322

Email:

claire.streater@oddfellows.co.uk

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

September 2025 – Friendship Month

Tuesday 9 – Lunch at The Letter B – BBQs & Brews, 12 noon

Friendship Month celebrations with a chance for a mid-week treat at the popular The Letter B in Whittlesey. Cost as per menu. See menu at www.theletterb.co.uk/. Book by Monday 1 September 2025. **Address:** The Letter B – BBQs & Brews, 53-57 Church Street, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1DE. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.

Tuesday 23 – Lunch at Worzals, 12.30pm

Worzals is a popular restaurant and garden centre in Wisbech. Join us to celebrate Friendship Month. Cost as per menu. See menu at <https://worzals.com/pages/bar-and-grill>. Book by Tuesday 16 September 2025. **Address:** Worzals, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE14 7DA. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.

October

Wednesday 15 – Lunch at Jack's Restaurant, 1pm

Join us for lunch at Jack's at Woodlakes.

Cost as per menu. See menu at www.jacksatwoodlakes.co.uk/ Book by Tuesday 7 October 2025. **Address:** Jack's Restaurant, Woodlakes Park, Holme Road, Downham Market PE34 3PX. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.

November

Saturday 15 – Quiz Night, 7pm

Get your thinking caps on for a quiz evening guaranteed to be lots of fun – including light refreshments and raffle. Please bring your own drinks. **Cost:** £5 per team of four. **Address:** The Church Room, Park Road, Manea, March PE15 0LL. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Trip to Baytree Garden Centre

Wednesday 26 November 2025, 11am

High Road, Weston, Spalding PE12 6JU

We will be meeting for lunch at Baytree with the possibility of some Christmas shopping afterwards if you wish! See <https://baytree-gardencentre.com/>
Cost as per menu. Book by Wednesday 19 November 2025. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.



December

Monday 1 - Unregistered Lodge Meeting, 7.30pm

The unregistered lodge meeting of the Whiting Benevolent and King William and Prince of Wales Branches will be held before the December District Management Meeting. **Address:** Back Room of Manea Village Hall, School Lane, Manea PE15 0JN. Contact Claire on 01354 694322.

Sunday 14 - Festive Sunday Lunch, 12.30pm

Get into the Christmas spirit with a friendly lunch at one of our favourite spots. Cost as per menu. Deposit required – see menu at <https://thorneylakesgolfclub.com/19th-hole/> Book by Monday 1 December 2025. **Address:** The 19th Hole, Thorney Golf Centre, English Drove, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0TJ. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.



Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch

Sunday 18 January 2026, 12 noon

The Crown Lodge Hotel, 44 Downham Road, Outwell, Wisbech PE14 8SE

Irene Cook invites you to our annual Sunday lunch. There will be a raffle in aid of her chosen charity – East Anglian Children's Hospice at Milton. Please wear your regalia. Cost as per menu. Book by Monday 5 January 2026. Contact Sandra on 07906 025566.



Bring friendship to your front room



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

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions. These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

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

Tuesday 16 September, 7pm Alzheimer's and Brain Health

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly:
<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsBrainHealth>

Tuesday 28 October, 7pm 'Ghostly Tales to be Told' with Dr. Ann Featherstone

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly:
<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsGhostlyTales>

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

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

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

Claire Streater



Interested in volunteering?

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

You can help us by:

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

Want to deliver a new activity?

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

If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Claire by phone on 01354 694322, email at claire.streater@oddfellows.co.uk

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

Cynthia, volunteer

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



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

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

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

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

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

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

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

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

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

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

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

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



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

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

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



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

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

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

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



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

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

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

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

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

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



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

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

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



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

Incredible total raised for good causes



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

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

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

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

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

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



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

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

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

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

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 Claire on **01354 694322** or email **claire.streater@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows 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**

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At a glance

September 2025 - Friendship Month

Tues 9	Lunch at The Letter B - BBQs & Brews	12 noon
Tues 23	Lunch at Worzals	12.30pm

October

Wed 15	Lunch at Jack's Restaurant	1pm
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November

Sat 15	Quiz Night	7pm
Wed 26	Trip to Baytree Garden Centre	11am

December

Mon 1	Unregistered Lodge Meeting	7.30pm
Sun 14	Festive Sunday Lunch	12.30pm

January 2026

Sun 18	Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch	12 noon
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Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at  **OddfellowsUK**

Do you have a story or great photograph to share?

Please send us your news stories! Or perhaps a picture with a caption! Email, post, hand in, or telephone. We'd love to hear anything heart-warming, humorous, or simply very interesting!

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.

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.
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