

April - October 2025
Issue 19



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

out & about

Ormskirk and Southport District

Incorporating the Isle of Mona (Isle of Man) See page 15



Ormskirk Parish Church



Southport



*The Great Laxey Wheel
- Isle of Man*



Music



Art/Crafts



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



*Trip to Bowness, Windermere,
including Lake Trip
Thursday 18 September*

Welcome to the April to October 2025 events diary and newsletter.

We've had an interesting and busy few months in our District. Southport coffee morning and afternoon venues have both changed and we've received positive feedback. We've room to grow so please bring along any friends or family to try us out. We've had a trip to Blackpool's new museum 'Showtown'; Croxteth Hall; Shakespeare North Playhouse and Warrington Police Museum.

We've enjoyed lovely food and entertainment at Rivington Barn, Briars Hall and Eureka Greek restaurant, as well as seeing Snow White locally, and 'Chicago' at the Liverpool Empire. **Please book early for events in this diary and take note of deadlines and any deposits requested.** Telephone, email or see Judith Catton at any of our coffee events to book and pay for trips.

Contact Details

**For all membership; claims
& convalescence contact:-**

Secretary: Bonita Hesketh

Address: 1 Royal Oak Cottages,
Liverpool Road, Bickerstaffe,
Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 0EF

Telephone and Fax:

01695 424149

Mobile: 07753 632433

Email:

bonita.hesketh@oddfellows.co.uk

**For all social event bookings &
care & welfare queries contact:-**

Ormskirk and Southport:

Judith Catton

Address: 4 Falkland Road,
Southport PR8 6LG

Telephone: 01704 545279

Email:

judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk

For information on the Isle
of Mona please contact
Bonita Hesketh.

In an emergency, please use the
national Oddfellows numbers.

Monthly Events - Ormskirk and Southport

All of the regular monthly events are ideal if you are attending for the first time. We promise a warm welcome.

Southport Coffee Morning

First Wednesday of the month, 10.30am



10.30am



Cost of
refreshments



2 April

7 May

4 June

2 July

6 August

3 September

1 October

Please use the back door off Anchor Street. Come and join us for our regular informal coffee morning. The chance to meet new friends. The Office Bar & Restaurant, 36 Anchor Street, Southport PR9 0UT. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



Southport Coffee Afternoon

(First Thursday of the month)



1.30pm



Cost of
refreshments



3 April

1 May

5 June

3 July

7 August

4 September

2 October

Meet at The Duke's Folly Hotel where we can enjoy a tea or coffee; or a drink from the well stocked bar. All are welcome to join us for a catch up and the chance to find out about upcoming events and activities. Ideal to bring friends or family along for the first time to find out more about us. The Duke's Folly Hotel, 11 Duke Street, Southport PR8 1LS. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



Monthly Events - Ormskirk and Southport

All of the events are ideal if you are attending for the first time.
We promise a warm welcome.

Formby Coffee Club

(Second Tuesday of the month)



Join us for our regular Formby coffee morning at the Toby Carvery. All welcome. The Bay Horse, Toby Carvery, 13 Church Road, Formby L37 8BQ. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

8 April
13 May
10 June
8 July

12 August
9 September
14 October

Ormskirk Coffee and Chat



Join us for a cuppa in this popular town centre café. All welcome. O'Brien's Tea Rooms, Park Road, Ormskirk L39 3BY. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

9 April
14 May
11 June

9 July
13 August
10 September

8 October

Telephone befrienders

After we asked if any of you would like to be telephone befrienders in the last diary, we had a few members come forward. Our volunteer telephone befrienders are John Roberts and Julie Rudge. If you can't get out as much as you'd like or are feeling like you'd like to have a regular chat with someone please give Judith a call on 01704 545279 and she will arrange for someone to call you on a regular basis.



If you know of any members who might benefit from this service, please also do not hesitate to get in touch.

If any of your contact details change, please advise Bonita Hesketh, so that we can ensure you don't miss out on any communications.

April 2025

MON 14 Lunch at Gibbon Bridge



Join us for one of our favourite venues for a fine dining lunch experience. Places go quickly so please book as soon as possible and fill out your menu. Gibbon Bridge, Green Lane, Chipping, Preston PR3 2TQ. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



WED 16 Annual General Meeting with Buffet Lunch



Please get involved and join us as we discuss the business of how we run Oddfellows in our District of Ormskirk and Southport. We will install our new Committee of Management and Chairman for the coming year. Meet at 11am for coffee or tea and the meeting will start at 11.30am and last no longer than one hour, followed by delicious buffet and social afternoon. You may attend the meeting free of charge. If you would like to stay behind for buffet lunch and social there is a charge of £14 per person. Please pay in advance and state any dietary requirements. Members only. Book by Wednesday 9 April. The Bold Hotel, 583 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0BE. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

TUES 29 Carnforth Station/Leighton Hall



We will travel to Leighton Hall, stopping for morning coffee at Carnforth Station. As you stand on Platform 1 with its vintage suitcases and railway posters, you can almost imagine the era when steam trains frequently passed through. We will then travel the short distance to Leighton Hall, which has been a much loved family home and the centre of an agricultural estate since medieval times. The family lives here all the year round and they look forward to sharing it with you. Book by Wednesday 9 April. Leighton Hall, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 9ST. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

Further events are being added, see:
www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

May

Photo by Dave Green

THURS
15

JAK Hanson/Derby House/Heskin Hall Shopping Village



Various pickups AM



£12 members
£15 guests
Coach only



Join us on a coach trip to JAK Hanson shopping outlet. We'll spend two and a half hours there, including time for lunch at Derby House. Back on the coach and a short 10 minute journey to Heskin Hall shopping village where we'll spend another couple of hours. Heskin Hall Shopping Village is a unique retail and leisure destination in Lancashire. Featuring over 50 unique shops and businesses which include a wide variety of gifts, clothing, food shops, jewellery, plants, homewares, hair, beauty, bathrooms, wood burning stoves, furniture and much more as well as the nationally acclaimed Hepplestone Fine Art Gallery which is the largest unit on site. Various pick-up times. Book by Thursday 8 May. JAK Hanson, Derby House, Mossy Lea Road, Wroughtington, Lancashire WN6 9RE. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

MON
19

Walk - Waterloo Front



10.30am



Free



Meet at Waterloo Sunset Café (few minutes walk from Waterloo train station) and we will have a social walk together for an hour or so, ending up in the café for a cuppa or an early lunch. Please book as spaces are limited. Book by Wednesday 14 May. Waterloo Sunset Café, Marine Cres, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 8QP. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



WED
28

Day Trip - Skipton



Various pickups AM



£15 members
£18 guests



Immense history, a rich culture, independent shops, food and drink places galore, a famous market an iconic castle, and stunning countryside. Take a trip on the canal, visit the castle or just browse the market stalls on market day (weather permitting!). Join us on a lovely day out. Book by Friday 16 May. Various pick-up times. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

June

MON
02

National Energy Action Talk



1.30pm



£3 to cover refreshments and room hire



National Energy Action is a fuel poverty charity that works to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor or vulnerable gain affordable heat. Come and find out more about them and gain some tips on how to be more energy efficient. There will be the chance to acquire a free carbon monoxide alarm for your home. Followed by tea or coffee and biscuits. Book by Wednesday 14 May. Southport Bijou Cinema, 8 Post Office Avenue, Southport PR9 0US. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



Action for Warm Homes

TUES
17

Gin Tasting Afternoon at Wild Fox Distillery



Various pickups



Members £28
Guests £31



Join us as we travel after lunch to the Wild Fox Distillery for an afternoon that includes a private talk and tasting (minimum of five gins). The venue is fully accessible and following our tour and talk we will have time to relax and have (another) drink! Snacks, bakes and cakes available to buy. Various pickup times. Book by Saturday 31 May. Wild Fox Distillery, Button Street, Preston PR3 2LH. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



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.

THURS
26

Pride & Prejudice - The Bolton Octagon - Matinee



Various
pickups



£43 plus coach



Deadline soon. We have 35 accessible tickets for the matinee performance at The Bolton Octagon of 'Pride & Prejudice'. We will travel by coach. Various pick-up times. **Please pay £10 deposit to secure your ticket as soon as possible.** First come, first served. Jane Austen's most iconic love story is brought dazzlingly to life on stage.



When it comes to the subject of marriage, headstrong Lizzy Bennet is determined to resist the mounting pressures and expectations from society. But can she resist love, especially when the infuriatingly intriguing Mr Darcy keeps popping up at every turn! With sharp humour and sparkling dialogue, this witty stage adaptation brings to life the classic story of love, misunderstandings, and second chances (with plenty of music and dancing).

Lose yourself in the world of Regency parties and courtship, as hearts race, tongues wag and passions swirl around the English countryside. Discover the absurdities and thrills of finding your perfect (or imperfect) match in life, with this vibrant retelling of Austen's beloved novel, performed by a large cast of immensely talented actors. **Book by Friday 25 April.** Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft South, Bolton BL1 1SB. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

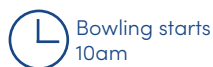
Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  OddfellowsOrmskirkSouthport

July

SAT 05 Crown Green Bowling and Buffet



Join Oddfellows from across the Lancashire area for a sociable, fun and (slightly competitive) day out. Arrival from 9.30am and bowling to start at 10am (times to be confirmed). There is a buffet lunch provided plus tea and coffee. There is also a bar which will be open from lunchtime onwards. The event finishes at approximately 4.30pm! If you don't fancy bowling, come along for the food and company. Transport will be provided providing we have enough members. Book by Wednesday 11 June. Garswood Hall Bowling & Community Club, 47 Nicol Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8LU. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

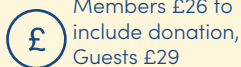
FRI 11 Lunch at The Office Bar and Restaurant



Join us for a summer lunch at this popular Southport restaurant. Menus and pricing will be available later in the year. £10 deposit to secure your place. Pre-ordering and final payment will be required by Monday 30 June. The Office Bar & Restaurant, 36 Anchor Street, Southport PR9 OUT. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



MON 28 St Giles' Church and Wrexham Market



St Giles' Parish Church (Welsh: Eglwys San Silyn) is the parish church of Wrexham, Wales. The church is recognised as one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in Wales and is a Grade I listed building, described by Sir Simon Jenkins as 'the glory of the Marches' [1] and by WD Caröe as 'a glorious masterpiece'. [2] The iconic 16th-century tower rises to a height of 41m (136 feet) [3] and is a local landmark that can be seen for many miles around. It forms one of the 'Seven Wonders of Wales'. We will visit St Giles' in the centre of Wrexham and have a tour around this historical building, and then spend the rest of the day in Wrexham (Wrexham Market is a two minute walk from St Giles'). Various pick-up times. Book by Wednesday 9 July. St Giles' Church, Church Street, Wrexham LL13 8LS. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

August

THURS - SUN

14 - 17

Southport Flower Show 2025



10am



£19



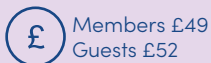
This year's show takes place from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 August 2025, and promises to be bigger and better than ever! As the UK's largest independent flower show, Southport Flower Show attracts over 55,000 visitors across four spectacular days and you won't want to miss it. Prepare to be inspired by breathtaking show gardens, stunning floral displays and expert gardening advice that will ignite your passion for plants. But that's not all! You can also enjoy live cookery demonstrations, delicious food, live music and a whole host of entertainment that makes this a fantastic day out for everyone. Kids under 16 go free when accompanied by a paying adult, so bring the whole family! With plenty of activities and fun for younger visitors, it's the perfect chance to enjoy a day out filled with flowers, food and family fun. Please book and pay for tickets by the end of July, so that we can distribute at our coffee mornings/afternoons. Book by Thursday 31 July. Victoria Park, 31 Rotten Row, Southport PR8 1RX. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

WED
20

Young at Heart Party Afternoon - The Bedford Hotel



Various
pickups AM



Members £49
Guests £52



Arrive at approximately 12 noon. We will be welcomed with a glass of bubbly or orange juice on arrival. Plus three course lunch and entertainment served in the stunning ballroom, followed by tea, coffee and a chocolate mint. Then an afternoon of Cabaret - singing, dancing and cash bingo. At approximately 4.30pm - a fond farewell as we go Homeward Bound. The kitchen is run by Head Chef, Paul Curran who has achieved an AA rosette, a recognition of outstanding accomplishment and who ensures fresh, superior quality fare is always available. Costs includes transport and tips, plus three course lunch and entertainment. Places are limited, so please book as soon as possible and pay a deposit of £10 to secure your place. Menu on page 18. Book and pay by Thursday 31 July. The Bedford Hotel, 303-313 Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes FY8 1HN. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

August

FRI
29 **Bury Market**



Various
pickups AM



£13 members
£15 guests



Various pick-ups. Join us on one of our favourite trips to the iconic Bury Market. Hundreds of indoor and outdoor stalls covering everything from bedding, toys, haberdashery, books, clothes and household items. Don't forget to pick-up the famous Bury Black Pudding, or treat yourself to a Manchester Tart. Book by Friday 15 August. Bury Market, 1 Murray Road, Bury BL9 0BJ. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



September

FRI
05 **The Trinity House Story Talk**



1.30pm



£5 to include
donation



Join us as we listen to the Trinity House Story. It is an engaging story of royal beginnings, storms and shipwrecks, lighthouse keepers (including Grace Darling, of course!) around the coast of England and Wales, and comes right up to date with what Trinity House does today with reference to state of the art electronic aids for ships, maritime charity support, and fraternity activities - all either funded by shipping companies or ourselves, as we are the largest British self-funded maritime charity. Followed by tea or coffee and biscuits. Book by Thursday 4 September. Southport Bijou Cinema, 8 Post Office Avenue, Southport PR9 0US. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



September - Friendship Month

WED
03 **Friendship Month Open Morning**



10.30am



Free





It's our monthly coffee morning with a difference. The tea or coffee is on us! It's Friendship Month and we'd love you to bring a friend or relative along who would like to find out more about the Oddfellows, or just along to share a cuppa and have a chat. No need to book. The Office Bar & Restaurant, 36 Anchor Street, Southport PR9 0UT. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



FRIENDSHIP MONTH EVENT
Invite a friend

September - Friendship Month

WED
10 **Friendship Lunch -**
O'Brien's Tea Rooms

 12.30pm  TBC



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER




Join us for a delicious lunch together celebrating Friendship Month in Ormskirk and Southport, following our monthly coffee morning. Menus and prices will be available at the beginning of August, and we will need pre-order and up front payment. Book by Sunday 31 August. O'Brien's Tea Rooms, Park Road, Ormskirk L39 3BY. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



THURS
18 **Trip to Bowness, Windermere,**
including Lake Trip

 Various
pickups AM

 Members £36
Guests £39



Join us on our very first trip to the Lake District, stopping at picturesque Bowness. We will arrive late morning and have free time exploring the shops and cafés, visit The World of Beatrix Potter (if you wish - extra cost), or just soak up the beautiful scenery and fresh air. We are booked onto the fully accessible MV Swift for a 2.50pm return 75 minute cruise, sailing on Windermere, calling at Brockhole and Ambleside (you may get off here, but not guaranteed fully accessible boat on return to Bowness). The cruise has fully accessible toilets and refreshments on board. Places are limited, so please book early to secure your place. Various pick-up times. Book by Wednesday 10 September. The Lake District, Town of Bowness LA23 3HQ. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.



October

MON
13

Ten Pin Bowling

 11.30am

 £7 approximately
TBC



Meet inside and we'll have a game of ten pin bowling, then pop across the car park and have a drink/lunch together at the Brewer's Fayre if you want to join us.

Don't worry - it's not competitive (usually!), just for fun and a bit of exercise. Please book at least a week beforehand, so that we can reserve the bowling lanes. Cost will be confirmed depending on amount of people, usually approximately £7. Book by Thursday 2 October. Ten Pin, Ocean Plaza, Marine Drive, Southport PR8 1RY. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

SAT
18

Half Yearly Meeting with Social Afternoon

 12 noon

 TBC



Join us for our half yearly business meeting, followed by delicious lunch and entertainment. Details to be confirmed. Book by Friday 10 October. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

Important Please Read

Please endeavour to contact the right person for your query

Judith

- Social events
- Payment For Social Events
- Pick up time details etc for Social Events
- Care & Welfare General
- Social events/bookings

Bonita

- Membership queries
- Membership Renewals
- Change of Address and Phone nos.
- Optical & Dental Claims
- Convalescence
- Benevolence
- All other Administrative matters

October

TUES

28

Visit Concorde - Runway Visitor Park



Various
pickups AM



£45 includes, transport, tour and lunch,
£30 without guided tour.



Visit Manchester Airport's Runway Visitor Park. You don't have to be jetting off anywhere to enjoy a day at the airport. Make the most of the unparalleled views and watch airport comings and goings, such as 787s, A380s or even the occasional special visitor. With over 9,000sqm of space, the park provides a diverse range of activities for all to enjoy.



There's a large café on site and shop which sells aircraft themed gifts and Concorde memorabilia. We will arrive and have lunch of soup and sandwich. For those that want to, we will then join a guided 90 minute Concorde tour. With extended time in the flight deck, this tour provides a great opportunity to marvel at Concorde's unique aviation engineering. A tour underneath the aircraft explores the ground breaking technology behind the supersonic airliner. **There are 26 steps with handrails up to Concorde to look inside.** You can do the tour without going onboard, but it is the highlight of the tour so try to do it if you are able. You will receive a certificate commemorating your visit. I will need a minimum of 25 people to run this trip. Limited numbers. Various pick-up times Book by Tuesday 14 October. The Runway Visitor Park, Sunbank Lane, Altrincham WA15 8XQ. Contact Judith on 01704 545279.

For Dental and Optical Claims

If you are entitled to claim optical and dental benefits as part of your membership, please do not send in any receipts to Bonita without the correct claim form. If it is your first claim please phone Bonita for a form.

If you have claimed previously your cheque will arrive attached to a form. Please keep this safe as it contains useful information that will speed up any subsequent claims. Claims cannot be processed without a form. Please also note that the date of treatment must fall under the following claim period.

Isle of Mona – Events



Discover the Best of Isle of Man with Age Concern (Isle of Man)
Join us at Age Concern (Isle of Man) as we extend a warm invitation to the Isle of Mona Social Branch to partake in our wide array of services and vibrant social gatherings.



We've been updating our Isle of Mona Facebook page regularly so please follow this if you can. Oddfellows news is shared here along with Zoom social events that everyone can share in, plus local events put on by other groups in the area.

Make new friends and engage in activities like Patchwork, Felting, Seasonal Craft sessions, and enlightening guest speaker events, lunch club Thursdays and seasonal film clubs.

For the latest events and activities, visit our website at www.ageconcern.im. For inquiries or assistance, feel free to contact us at 01624 631740 or email info@ageconcern.im, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 4pm. See below for upcoming events:

Upcoming Events:

Mah-Jong, 11am-12.30pm

Every Monday

the Ace Place, Ramsey

– all abilities welcome, cost: £2

Crochet & Natter, 2pm-4pm

Every Monday

the Ace Place, Ramsey

Gadget Clinic

Every Wednesday, 10am-4.15pm

iMuseum, Douglas

Need help with your

laptop, iPad,

or phone? Donations welcome

Every Thursday, 10am-12pm

iMuseum, Douglas

Every Thursday, 1.30pm-5pm

Barn, Port Erin

Every Thursday, 10am-3.30pm

at the Ace Place, Ramsey

All ideas are welcome for future social events/activities

Please let Judith or Bonita have details at any time.



Members on holiday in Bath

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, see contact details on page 2

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the Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

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

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



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

Young at Heart Party Afternoon

Wednesday 20 August, 12 noon for 12.30pm
The Bedford Hotel, 303-313 Clifton Drive South,
Lytham St Annes FY8 1HN

Menu

Starter

Pressed Ham Hock Terrine
Toasted Brioche, Homemade Piccalilli

Duo of Melon
Chilled Galia and Honeydew Melon, Red Berries, Mango Sorbet

Leek and Potato Soup
Homemade Bread

Main

Roasted Chump of Pendle Lamb
Baby Roast Thyme New Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Red Wine Jus

Roasted Breast of Goosnargh Chicken
Baby Roast Thyme New Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Button Mushroom Sauce

Seared Fillet of Salmon
Baby Roast Thyme New Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Lobster and Chive Veloute

Moroccan Vegetable Tagine
Couscous, Toasted Almonds, Mint Yoghurt

Dessert

Raspberry Cheesecake
Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce, Vanilla Pod Ice Cream

Vanilla Pod Crème Brûlée, Homemade Shortbread
Locally Award Winning Ice Creams
Selection of Local Cheese, Homemade Piccalilli, Oatcakes

Tea and Coffee

£49 including transport, entertainment and tips.

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 13 May 10am, Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat.

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603

Tuesday 10 June 7pm, Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538 Password: 616704

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.

Social Organiser, Judith Catton

Photos from the last few months

Here are some photos from the last six months. Hope you enjoy them



Half Yearly Meeting and Social .



Shakespeare North Playhouse.



Shakespeare North Playhouse.



The Office.



Duke's Folly.



Christmas at Rivington Hall Barn.



Christmas at Rivington Hall Barn.



Christmas at Rivington Hall Barn.



Chester Cathedral.



Briars Hall.



Briars Hall.

Meet your Ormskirk and Southport District Care Team

The Oddfellows looking after you

Care, Advice and Support



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



Bonita Hesketh

01695 424149
07753 632433



Julie Rudge

07728 685811



**Isle of Man
Carole Murren**

01624 890010
or
07624 419570



Judith Catton

01704 545279



Pauline Fairclough

07787 121520

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings? Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

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

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

To arrange for a member of the Welfare team to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Bonita Hesketh on **01695 424149** or email **bonita.hesketh@oddfellows.co.uk**

National Oddfellows Helplines



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

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*



Call 0800 0149 821

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

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

Care and Welfare Helpline*



Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, members can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help.

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

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

Your Committee of Management



Picture left to right: Bonita Hesketh, Sheila Martland, Judith Catton, Paul White, John Roberts, Tom Maddocks and Brenda Lowe

If you are interesting in finding out about getting involved on our Committee of Management, please contact Bonita Hesketh on 01695 424149.

Social Branch Contact Details and Meetings

Please find below the dates and venues of our Social Branch meetings (sometimes referred to as 'Lodges'). You are welcome to join any of the below meetings to hear the latest news from the Society and any training opportunities/other events. Just contact the relevant Secretary beforehand.

Ormskirk and Southport District

Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 16 April, 11.30am - see diary entry.

Half Yearly Meeting - Saturday 18 October, 12 noon - see diary entry

Secretary: Bonita Hesketh **Telephone:** 01695 424149

Mobile: 07753 632433

Address: 1 Royal Oak, Liverpool Road, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk L39 0EF

Fleetwood

Meets at Bijou Cinema, Southport and various social venues (please check before attending) on the second Monday of the month at 1pm (meet at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm)

Contact: David Ogden **Telephone:** 07754 057590:

Monday 14 April - Pub Lunch - Venue to be confirmed

Monday 12 May - Bijou

Monday 9 June - Lunch - venue to be confirmed

Monday 14 July - Bijou

Monday 11 August - lunch - venue to be confirmed

Monday 8 September - Bijou

Monday 13 October - Lunch - venue to be confirmed

Social Branch Contact Details and Meetings

Rose of England

Meets usually on last Tuesday of the month starting at 10.30am at the Hop Vine, Liverpool Road N, Burscough, Ormskirk L40 4BY.

Tuesday 29 April

Tuesday 27 May

Tuesday 24 June

Tuesday 29 July

Tuesday 26 August

Tuesday 30 September

Tuesday 28 October

Contact: Sheila Martland

Telephone: 01704 892393

Calmont, Bleak Lane, Lathom,
Ormskirk L40 4BP

Earl of Sefton and Lord Skelmersdale

Contact: Bonita Hesketh on
01695 424149



Earl of Sefton

Earl of Sefton meets at O'Brien's Tea Rooms, Ormskirk at 12 noon for lunch and chat on the following dates:

Friday 2 May

Friday 4 July

Friday 5 September

Lord Skelmersdale

Lord Skelmersdale meets at Trinity Church at 10.30am for coffee and chat on the following dates:

Monday 12 May

Monday 14 July

Monday 8 September

Joint Lord Skelmersdale & Earl of Sefton

Meet on the following dates:

Friday 4 April, 6pm for 6.30pm -
venue to be confirmed -
evening meal

Friday 6 June, 12 noon - O'Brien's
tea rooms - lunch and chat

Friday 1 August, 12 noon - O'Brien's
tea rooms - lunch and chat

Friday 3 October, 12 noon -
O'Brien's tea rooms - lunch and chat

Ormskirk and Southport at a glance

April 2025

Wed 2	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 3	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Tues 8	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 9	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Mon 14	Lunch at Gibbon Bridge	Various
pickups AM		
Wed 16	Annual General Meeting with Buffet Lunch	11am
Tues 29	Carnforth Station/Leighton Hall	Various

May

Thurs 1	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Wed 7	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 13	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 14	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 15	JAK Hansen/Derby House/Heskin Hall Shopping Village	Various
Mon 19	Walk - Waterloo Front	10.30am
Wed 28	Day Trip - Skipton	Various

June

Mon 2	National Energy Action Talk	1.30pm
Wed 4	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 5	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Tues 10	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 11	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Tues 17	Gin Tasting Afternoon at Wild Fox Distillery	Various
Thurs 26	Pride & Prejudice - The Bolton Octagon - Matinee	Various

July

Wed 2	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 3	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Sat 5	Crown Green Bowling and Buffet	10am
Tues 8	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 9	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am

Ormskirk and Southport at a glance

July

Fri 11	Lunch at The Office Bar and Restaurant	12.30pm
Mon 28	St Giles' Church and Wrexham Market	Various

August

Wed 6	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 7	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Tues 12	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 13	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 14	Southport Flower Show 2025	Various
Wed 20	Young at Heart Party Afternoon - The Bedford Hotel	Various
Fri 29	Bury Market	Various

September - Friendship Month

Wed 3	Friendship Month Open Morning	10.30am
Wed 3	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 4	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 5	The Trinity House Story Talk	1.30pm
Tues 9	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Wed 10	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Wed 10	Friendship Lunch - O'Brien's Tea Rooms	12.30pm
Thurs 18	Trip to Bowness, Windermere, including Lake Trip	Various

October

Wed 1	Southport Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 2	Southport Coffee Afternoon	1.30pm
Wed 8	Ormskirk Coffee and Chat	10.30am
Mon 13	Ten Pin Bowling	11.30am
Tues 14	Formby Coffee Club	10.30am
Sat 18	Half Yearly Meeting with Social Afternoon	12 noon
Tues 28	Visit Concorde - Runway Visitor Park	Various

Ormskirk and Southport Booking Form

Please reserve me a space on the following trip/s. Places are not guaranteed until confirmed by Judith.

Name:

Telephone No:

Any special requirements:

Please note any deposits requested and deadlines

April 2025

- ☐ **Mon 14** Lunch at Gibbon Bridge
- ☐ **Wed 16** Annual General Meeting with Buffet Lunch
- ☐ **Tues 29** Carnforth Station/Leighton Hall

May

- ☐ **Thurs 15** JAK Hanson/Derby House/Heskin Hall Shopping Village
- ☐ **Mon 19** Walk - Waterloo Front
- ☐ **Wed 28** Day Trip - Skipton

June

- ☐ **Mon 2** National Energy Action Talk
- ☐ **Tues 17** Gin Tasting Afternoon
- ☐ **Thurs 26** Pride & Prejudice (Deposit needed)

July

- ☐ **Sat 5** Crown Green Bowling and Buffet
- ☐ **Fri 11** Lunch at The Office Bar and Restaurant
- ☐ **Mon 28** St Giles' Church and Wrexham Market

August

- ☐ **Thurs 14** Southport Flower Show
- ☐ **Wed 20** Young at Heart Party Afternoon, Lytham
- ☐ **Fri 29** Bury Market

September - Friendship Month

- ☐ **Wed 3** Friendship Month Open Morning
- ☐ **Fri 5** The Trinity House Story Talk
- ☐ **Wed 10** Friendship Lunch, O'Brien's
- ☐ **Thurs 18** Trip to Bowness, Windermere, including Lake Trip

October

- ☐ **Mon 13** Ten Pin Bowling
- ☐ **Sat 18** Half Yearly Meeting with Social Afternoon
- ☐ **Tues 28** Visit Concorde - Runway Visitor Park

Any information you supply on this form will be used to book your chosen event(s). We will not use this information for future marketing, nor will this information be shared with any third party.