

September 2025 – February 2026



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**St Marnock District – Covering East and West of Scotland Branches**



Bo'ness Steam Train



Burns Cottage



Quizzes



Sports



Travel



Dining Out



Talks



History



Social



Meetings



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



*Lauriston Castle and Lunch -  
Wednesday 19 November,  
we hope you can join us!*

## Welcome to the latest Out and About and newsletter for September 2025 - February 2026

You will read about two of our members, who were recognised for the excellent work they have achieved. Pamela Maxwell was invited to Westminster Abbey by Christian Aid and Neil Macleod attended Holyrood Palace Garden Party for his work with the Children's Panel.

Our members also donated £150 from the Christmas Lunch in Glasgow for Glasgow Children's Hospital. This was greatly appreciated by the charity, who advised they will use the money to buy gifts for the children who are unable to have chocolate at Easter or Christmas for medical reasons. The Management Committee agreed to donate to the British Legion.

## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

## Contact Details

### Social Events Organiser:

Christine Cuthbertson

**Telephone:** 07389 826328

### Email:

[christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk)

If I am unavailable for any general enquires about the St Marnock District of Oddfellows, please contact Yvonne Rice on 01563 572727 or email her at [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk)

### Branch Address:

1 Howard Street  
Kilmarnock  
Ayrshire  
KA1 2BW

Again, this was welcomed and will be put towards their 80th anniversary celebrations.

You can read about the variety of events members enjoyed over the last six months and planned events for the next six months.

I hope there is something for everyone to enjoy.

**Christine  
Social Organiser**

## Books with Friends

If you would like to join our friendly book group, please let me know and I will supply the relevant details. We all love a book recommendation so come along and share your favourite books within a friendly group of like minded reading enthusiasts.

Thank you to our member who organises this event.



## Coffee with Friends

We have regular 'Coffee with Friends' events in the West and East.

All dates are incorporated in the 'Events at a Glance' section.

Coffee with Friends is an informal event where we meet for coffee, chat and an update on forthcoming outings. There is no need to book for these events. If you know someone who would benefit from membership of the Oddfellows, please feel free to bring them along for a coffee.

**Christine**  
Social Organiser

## Colour Key

● East of Scotland

● West of Scotland

## Say *yes* to friendship in September

Make someone's day  
and invite them along to  
share the friendship fun.

**All welcome**

Make friends with the Oddfellows



www.friendshipmonth.com

To see what's on and find out  
more about Friendship Month  
visit **[www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)**

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



# Regular Coffee Morning

## East of Scotland



**Second Tuesday  
of the month**

Our monthly 'Coffee with Friends' events in Edinburgh offer members an opportunity to come along for an informal coffee and chat. You will meet new friends and learn about our monthly events, such as meals, visits to museums, theatres and much more. We even have an annual holiday.



You will always be made welcome and you can also bring a friend along. Our 'Coffee with Friends' is held in Le Monde at 11.30am. We hope to meet you soon for a coffee and chat. Le Monde, 16 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PF. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

**9 September 14 October 11 November 13 January 2026 10 February**

## West of Scotland



**Last Monday  
of the month**

Our monthly 'Coffee with Friends' events in Glasgow offer members an opportunity to come along for an informal coffee and chat. You will meet new friends and learn about our monthly events, such as meals, visits to museums, theatres and much more. We even have an annual holiday.



You will always be made welcome and you can also bring a friend along. Our 'Coffee with Friends' is held in the café/Bar in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (opposite Buchanan Street Bus Station) at 10.30am on the last Monday of the month (please note the coffee event will be held on the Tuesday morning following Bank Holiday Mondays in September and May). We hope to meet you soon for a coffee and chat. Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Killermont Street, Glasgow G2 3NW. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

**30 September 27 October 24 November 26 January 2026 23 February**

# September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES  
09

## Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland



11.30am



Free



Come join our Friendship Month 'Coffee with Friends' event in Edinburgh, where you can meet new friends and have an informal coffee and chat. As September is Friendship Month, we would love for you to bring a friend, neighbour or family member for a complimentary coffee/scone. Our coffee mornings are a great way to meet new and interesting people. You can also learn about the benefits of becoming a member, including our regular events, such as meals, trips to museums, theatres and so much more. We even have an annual holiday!

Our 'Coffee with Friends' is held in Le Monde, 1 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PF at 11.30am. We'd love for you to come – and you will always be made to feel welcome. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

THURS  
11

## Fiddler on the Roof



2.30pm



£45

approximately



This is a rare opportunity to catch this critically acclaimed production from the powerhouse creative team directed by Jordan Fein (Oklahoma, Young Vic), choreographed by Julia Cheng (Cabaret) and designed by Tom Scutt (Winner of the 2024 Tony Award for Cabaret). It's 1905 in the tiny village of Anatevka where Tevye, a Jewish milkman, lives his life by their proud traditions. For his five daughters, that means a visit from the matchmaker.

As each daughter challenges his beliefs, against the backdrop of a changing world, can Tevye hold on to his roots, or must he bend to the will of his children and learn to embrace the unfamiliar? One of the greatest musicals of all time – featuring 'If I Were A Rich Man', 'Tradition', 'Matchmaker' and 'Sunrise, Sunset' 'Fiddler on the Roof' is a classic musical of joy, revolution and community and an exuberant celebration of love and life. Please advise us as soon as possible if you would like to attend this as tickets are selling very quickly. Festival Theatre, 13-29 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# September - Friendship Month

SAT  
13

**Grease**



2pm



£47 approximately plus £10 for bus



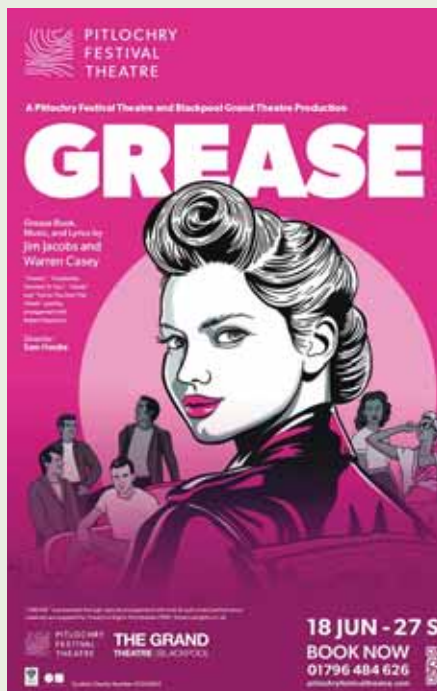
ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



We will travel from Glasgow in a private coach at 10am to Pitlochry Festival Theatre to step into the electrifying world of 1950s Rydell High School. Follow the whirlwind romance between new girl Sandy Dumbrowski and popular guy Danny Zuko, who find their summer love challenged by the pressures of teenage life.

Join Sandy, Danny and the rest of Rydell High, as they navigate the trials and tribulations of high school with their respective cliques - the sassy Pink Ladies and the greaser gang Burger Palace Boys - adding plenty of laughs, drama and unforgettable musical moments along the way. With iconic songs like 'Summer Nights', 'Greased Lightnin' and 'You're the One that I Want', this high-energy show promises a nostalgic journey full of rock 'n' roll flair. Bursting with a vibrant, dynamic and talented company, who express the essence of teenage exuberance, rebellion and young love, this new version of the timeless classic is told with grit and verve, capturing the idealism of the 50s, and the character's dreams, desires and journeys of self-discovery.

Grease is one of the world's most popular musicals and this fresh take on the story is sure to be the one that you want! Please advise us as soon as possible if you would like to attend this, as tickets are selling very quickly. Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Port-Na-Craig Road, Port na Craig, Pitlochry PH16 5DR. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.





# September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES  
30

**Coffee with Friends  
- West of Scotland**



**FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT**

*Invite a friend*

Come join our Friendship Month 'Coffee with Friends' event in Glasgow, where you can meet new friends and have an informal coffee and chat. As September is Friendship Month, we would love for you to bring a friend, neighbour or family member for a complimentary coffee/ scone. Our coffee mornings are a great way to meet new and interesting people. You can also learn about the benefits of becoming a member, including our regular events, such as meals, trips to museums, theatres and so much more. We even have an annual holiday!

Our 'Coffee with Friends' is held in the café/bar in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Killermont Street, Glasgow G2 3NW (opposite Buchanan Street Bus Station) at 10.30am. We'd love for you to come – and you will always be made to feel welcome. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# October

WED  
08

**Tutankhamun  
Exhibition**



Step into ancient Egypt like never before at Tutankhamun: The Immersive Exhibition in Glasgow! A

stunning hi-tech production featuring an eight-metre-high 360-degree video mapping room, a hologram of the full mummification process, a VR walk through of the Valley of the Kings. Not to mention two treasure rooms full of artefacts, replicas and curated Egyptian historical displays.

This 14-week run in Glasgow is not to be missed! An exceptional day out for fans of culture, technology and history and those interested in being immersed in a huge experiential and unique production. Book by Wednesday 24 September 2025. Scottish Event Campus, Exhibition Way, Glasgow G3 8YW. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# October

WED  
15

## Bo'ness Steam Train with Afternoon Tea

2.30pm

£ £40



There's nothing like a departure by steam, or the rumble of a mighty heritage diesel locomotive. Enjoy a scenic 10 mile return train journey to Manuel, along the Forth Estuary, through woodlands, past waterfalls and over the Avon Viaduct.

We will travel by private minibus from Edinburgh city centre. Friendly volunteers are waiting to welcome you aboard and invite you to soak up the atmosphere of the award-winning heritage railway through the sights, sounds and smells of yesteryear. Included is an afternoon tea of freshly made sandwiches, cakes and scones with tea or coffee. Book by Tuesday 30 September 2025. Bo'ness Station, Union Street, Bo'ness EH51 9AQ. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# November

FRI  
14

## The Magic of Motown

7.30pm

£ £46



Seen by millions, it's back with its 20th Anniversary Tour! It's no surprise that this show is one of the biggest success stories in British theatre history. Come celebrate as we 'Reach Out' and show you there ain't no mountain high enough with the biggest Motown party of the year. Get ready for all the hits, glittering costumes, dazzling dance routines and outstanding musicianship in this breath-taking live concert spectacular.

You will be going 'Loco' down in Acapulco as we take you back down memory lane with all the Motown classics, from artists such as: Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Supremes, The Four Tops, Martha Reeves, The Jackson 5, Smokey Robinson and many, many more. Celebrate the sound of a generation with one very special night of 'The Magic of Motown!' Book by Tuesday 30 September 2025. Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Killermont Street, Glasgow G2 3NW. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# November

## WED 19 Lauriston Castle and Lunch



12 noon



Tour £10,  
Lunch £15  
approximately



With its calm, tranquil atmosphere and stunning views across the Firth of Forth, Lauriston is the perfect place to escape from the bustle of the city centre. Enjoy a woodland walk, a visit to the award-winning Japanese garden, or step back in time and experience what life was like in an Edinburgh middle-class home at the beginning of the 20th century.

Following the tour, we will have a light lunch in Mimi's Café within the grounds. Book by Wednesday 15 October 2025. Lauriston Castle, 2 Cramond Road S, Edinburgh EH4 6AD. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# December

## TUES 02 Christmas Lunch in Ardnamurchan



12.30pm



TBC



Following the success of last year's Christmas lunch, we will return to Ardnamurchan in Glasgow for our festive lunch. 41 members enjoyed the lunch and service and the location is close to Buchanan Street Bus Station. The concept behind Ardnamurchan Contemporary Scottish Restaurant and Bar is to bring a taste of Scotland's best produce to the table in Glasgow.

The name Ardnamurchan comes from the Gaelic 'Àird nam Murchan', translating as 'Headland of the great seas'. Sourcing unique and artisan products from the Highlands and islands is of great importance to the restaurant. Book by Monday 3 November 2025. Ardnamurchan, 325 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3PT. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# December

## WED 10 Christmas Lunch at Howie's Waterloo



A popular restaurant with our Edinburgh members, we will dine at Howie's to celebrate Christmas.

Informal dining with fresh, seasonal, Scottish food, within a stunning Georgian building. This is an iconic building, located a short walk from Waverley Station. Cost to be confirmed. Book by Monday 3 November 2025. Howie's Waterloo, 29 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3BQ. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# January 2026

## SUN 04 Mamma Mia



My, my, how can you resist the world's favourite feel-good musical, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. Since first opening in London's West End, the exhilarating smash-hit has become a global phenomenon, thrilling over 70 million people worldwide.



The sunny, funny tale of a mother, a daughter and three possible dads on a Greek island idyll, all unfolding to the magic of ABBA's timeless pop masterpieces, has also been turned into two record-breaking movies: 'MAMMA MIA! The Movie' and 'MAMMA MIA! Here We Go Again'. Experience the sheer joy of 'MAMMA MIA!' live on stage in London, where it all began. You already know you're gonna love it! Book by Monday 1 September 2025. Edinburgh Playhouse, 18-22 Greenside Place, Edinburgh EH1 3AA. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# January 2026

## WED 21 Burns' Cottage and Lunch in Brig O' Doon

11.30am

£

Burns' Cottage £9  
(free to National  
Trust members),  
Lunch £20



This cosy four-room cottage is where Burns was born and lived until the age of seven. Take a look at the tiny box bed that young Robert shared with three of his siblings. Outside is the small cottage garden where Robert tended the crops alongside his father and brother Gilbert. The cottage was a privately rented residence and then an alehouse for most of the 19th century, before being restored to its former glory by the Burns Monument Trust in 1881. We will then have lunch in the newly refurbished restaurant - Tales, in Brig O' Doon, where you can choose from the two-course market menu. Book by Monday 1 December 2025. Burns' Cottage, Alloway, Ayr KA7 4PQ. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# February

## WED 18 Midsomer Murder

2.30pm

£

£35  
approximately



Murder comes to the countryside in the theatrical world premiere of the critically acclaimed television favourite, Midsomer Murders. When well-loved spinster Emily Simpson is found dead in the picturesque village of Badger's Drift, her friend Lucy Bellringer refuses to accept it was an accident. DCI Tom Barnaby and Sergeant Gavin Troy are called in to investigate, uncovering a world of hidden passions, long-buried secrets and deadly rivalries. Book by Monday 3 November 2025. Theatre Royal, 282 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3QA. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

## TUES 24 Chocolatier Tour and Tasting

2.30pm

£ £28



Voted the best food experience in the UK, Trip Advisor 2022. The original 90-minute, fully-guided Tour of Chocolate. Create your very own dream chocolate bar to take away. Discover the magic of where chocolate comes from. See and smell how chocolate is made. Choose from over 40 flavours in the Tasting Room. Book by Monday 5 January 2026. The Chocolatarium, 3-5 Cranston Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BE. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# What's been happening in the East and West of Scotland

## Thursday 16 January

### Burns Lunch

18 members braved the cold weather and enjoyed lunch in The Pipers' Tryst.

Although we very much missed the entertainment previously provided by Ken and Friends, we still had a lovely, relaxed time with delicious food. It was great to get out and meet fellow members and friends after the festivities at Christmas and New Year.



Photo by Connor Bection

## Thursday 20 February - Inverary Jail and Lunch



Members from Edinburgh and Glasgow travelled to Inverary to visit the well known attraction, Inverary Jail. This is a fascinating tour, giving an insight to what life was like in a 19th century prison. There were many gruesome forms of punishment, including having

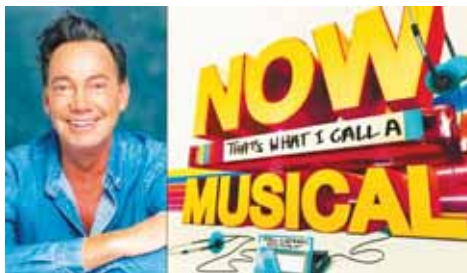
your ear nailed to a post – what I'm sure would be a deterrent today! We then had a lovely lunch in a nearby restaurant, The Cottage, before heading home in the private coach subsidised by The Oddfellows.



## Wednesday 26 February

### Now That's What I Call A Musical

Choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, this was an uplifting 80's musical based on two school friends who are reunited decades later. Toyah was the guest and she didn't fail to impress. A fabulous show filled with laughter and great music!



## Wednesday 19 March

### The Georgian House and Lunch

Members enjoyed hearing the story of the Georgian House, the epitome of late 18th-century attitudes and ideologies towards wealth and class. In the late 1700s, this grand townhouse was at the heart of Edinburgh's New Town development. The house was designed by acclaimed Scottish architect Robert Adam and was a true statement of luxury in an era of enlightenment.



Excellent guides throughout the tour provided information and answered any questions. Lunch in La P'tite Folie was fabulous.

Located a few minutes walk away, we enjoyed fantastic French food in an atmospheric environment. We will definitely re-visit this restaurant.

## Tuesday 25 March

### Glasgow Police Museum and Lunch

Here we learned about the history of the Police from 1800 through to the last 30 years, and read about the dramatic cases investigated by the outstanding Detectives of the City of Glasgow Police, including Peter Manuel and Bible John. The guides were both retired policemen and their enthusiasm and knowledge was exemplary.

Lunch was in Café Gandolfi, a well established restaurant in the Merchant City. Again, we enjoyed excellent food and will return in the future.



# What's been happening in the East and West of Scotland

## April

### The Diana Ross Story

Members in Edinburgh and Glasgow attended The Diana Ross Story (Edinburgh – 19th April, Glasgow 20th April). Comments from members for both performances included 'fabulous', 'excellent', 'best seats in the concert hall'.

These musical concerts have always been successful in lifting the spirits of members, and, as you will see, I have incorporated more musical events in the next six months.



## Wednesday 14 May

### Culzean Castle and Lunch in Souter's Inn, Kirkoswald



Members travelled from Edinburgh and Glasgow to Culzean Castle on 14th May. The weather was fabulous and members viewed the castle and stunning grounds.

We then travelled to Kirkoswald to Souter's Inn, where we met some additional members and enjoyed a delicious lunch.





## Tuesday 20 May

### Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life and lunch in Museum Café

We were again blessed with glorious weather when we visited Summerlee Museum. Summerlee is the museum of Scottish industrial life and is based around the site of a 19th century ironworks.

Members visited Miners Row and discovered the story of Lanarkshire's industrial past. We then enjoyed a light lunch and the lovely sunshine.

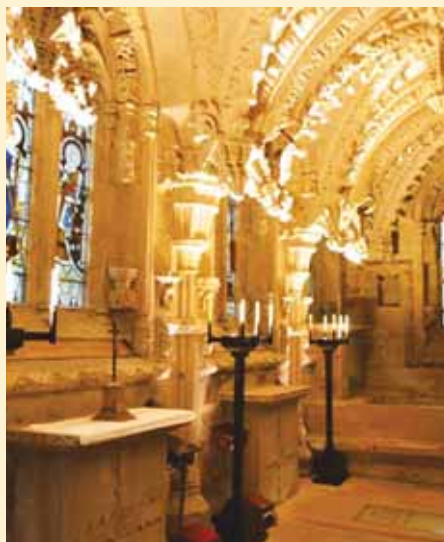
## Thursday 5 June

### Rosslyn Chapel and Peebles

Members travelled by coach to Roslin to visit this beautiful chapel.

Featured in The Da Vinci Code, Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 as a place of worship and services continue to be held here weekly. The Chapel has also been a popular destination for visitors for generations. By the late 18th-century, it was starting to appear on itineraries and its profile greatly increased after the publication of Dan Brown's novel, The Da Vinci Code, in 2003.

'When I decided to write The Da Vinci Code, I knew that its finale would have to take place at the most mysterious and magical chapel on earth - Rosslyn.'



Following the visit, members were taken to the picturesque town of Peebles where they had free time to enjoy lunch and visit the individual shops.

# What's been happening in the East and West of Scotland

## Wednesday 18 June

### Boat and Bridges Tour, Queensferry and Lunch

Members enjoyed a 90-minute boat tour on the Firth of Forth, learning about the Three Bridges and spectacular engineering. We sailed past Inchcolm Island with its medieval abbey, whilst looking out for the seals and marine wildlife. We then had a lovely lunch in Thirty Knots across from the pier, before heading home to Edinburgh and Glasgow.



## British Legion Donation

**The Management Committee agreed to make a donation to the Kilmarnock branch of the British Legion, as well as donations to other worthwhile charities.**

Stewart Finlay from the Kilmarnock Royal British Legion stated: "The money from the Oddfellows went towards sending 15 veterans to the Scotland Salutes 80th anniversary celebrations of VE Day in the Usher Hall Edinburgh". The donation ensured veterans could travel to the event and watch it free of charge.



# Two Members Receive Recognition for Outstanding Work

## Pamela Maxwell

Pamela Maxwell was invited to Westminster Abbey on June 12th to celebrate 80 years of Christian Aid. Guests were greeted by children singing outside the Abbey and they later joined the service. There were many reflections about Christian Aid and various posters were carried to show the kind of work that they have done over the years. This was Pamela's first visit to the Abbey and she was thrilled to see how beautiful it is inside.



## Neil Macleod

Neil was invited to the Garden Party at Holyrood Palace for his services to the Children's Panel. Neil commented: 'It was a lovely day and felt very honoured to have been given this award! Although I did not actually get to speak to the King himself as around 8,000 people attended, the Party itself was a very memorable one. The reception given by the Scottish Children's Panel Board beforehand was really nice to meet Panel members from across Scotland (25 of us were invited.)



Overall a most enjoyable and relaxed afternoon with the weather smiling on us! Congratulations to both Pamela and Neil for their well deserved honour.

## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at **f** OddfellowsUK

# Two Members Represented St Marnock District at the AMC 2025

**Two of our members, Chris and his wife Sandra, attended the AMC in Scarborough in May this year.**

Chris commented: 'It was a worthwhile and enjoyable event with around 200 attending'.



'The Unity Brass Band was exceptional and we enjoyed the church service and the Social Events held throughout the week'.

'New Committees were elected and awards were made to members and Lodges/Branches for recruitment and 'making a difference'. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Immediate Past Grand Master were confirmed'.

'Total membership is around 340,000' Chris spoke on a number of occasions, including welcoming the decision of the Society to leave the platform, 'X' (formerly 'Twitter'). Thank you to Chris and Sandra, who travelled from Northern Ireland to represent the St Marnock District.

## 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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/login)



**\*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.

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## 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](http://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](http://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 Yvonne Rice on **01563 572727** or email [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

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# At a glance

## September 2025 - Friendship Month

<b>Tues 9</b>	Friendship Month - Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland	11.30am
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Fiddler on the Roof	2.30pm
<b>Sat 13</b>	Grease	2pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Friendship Month - Coffee with Friends - West of Scotland	10.30am

## October

<b>Wed 8</b>	Tutankhamun Exhibition	1pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland	11.30am
<b>Wed 15</b>	Bo'ness Steam Train with Afternoon Tea	2.30pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Coffee with Friends - West of Scotland	10.30am

## November

<b>Tues 11</b>	Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland	11.30am
<b>Fri 14</b>	The Magic of Motown	7.30pm
<b>Wed 19</b>	Lauriston Castle and Lunch	12 noon
<b>Mon 24</b>	Coffee with Friends - West of Scotland	10.30am

## December

<b>Tues 2</b>	Christmas Lunch in Ardnamurchan	12.30pm
<b>Wed 10</b>	Christmas Lunch at Howie's Waterloo	12.30pm

## January 2026

<b>Sun 4</b>	Mamma Mia	2.30pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland	11.30am
<b>Wed 21</b>	Burns' Cottage and Lunch in Brig O' Doon	11.30am
<b>Mon 26</b>	Coffee with Friends - West of Scotland	10.30am

## February

<b>Tues 10</b>	Coffee with Friends - East of Scotland	11.30am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Midsomer Murder	2.30pm
<b>Mon 23</b>	Coffee with Friends - West of Scotland	10.30am
<b>Tues 24</b>	Chocolatier Tour and Tasting	2.30pm

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.  
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB