

January - June 2026



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

out & *about*

Cinque Ports Warden



Shopping



Craft



Talks



Social



Food with Friends



Holiday



Games



Coffee Morning



Film



Walks



Meeting



*Oddfellows Holiday, to Isle of Wight - Thursday 23 April.
We hope you can join us!*

Welcome to our latest edition of the Out and About for Cinque Ports Warden Branch of the Oddfellows.

A message to our members

Well where did that six months disappear to? I honestly can't believe how quick 2025 has gone! Although as I write this it's not quite over with, we still have seven weeks to go until the end of the year. We look forward to our last few events of the year, including all of our Christmas ones and look ahead to the first half of 2026, which just doesn't seem possible! As we reflect on 2025, we can say that we have had quite a consistent year, with our regular events continuing to be well attended. We also had two successful branch holidays to Weymouth and Llandudno as well as our Friendship Month trip to the newly refurbished Dover Town Hall. 2026 brings us lots to look forward to with events both in the hall and trips out. We can't wait to share these happy times with as

Contact Details

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

Secretary: Jan Reading

Address:

Oddfellows Club,
29 Pencester Road, Dover,
Kent CT16 1BT

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm

Mobile number: 07594 220715

Telephone: 01304 202556

Email:

jan.reading@oddfellows.co.uk

many of our members and guests as possible. Both Jan and I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has continued to support the Branch this year, with not just member recruitment and attending our events, but also helping out, welcoming new members, donations to our book shelves, clothes rails and raffles. We couldn't do what we do without your support, so thank you so very much. It just leaves us to wish all of our members and guests a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in friendship

Jan and Charmaine

Regular Events

Monthly Bingo Afternoon

L 12.30pm

£ Members 30p,
Guests 50p



Come along and join us for our monthly Tuesday bingo session. Doors open at 12.30pm and its eyes down at 1pm. Entry costs are 30p for members and 50p for guests. You never know you may win big! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

6 January 3 February 3 March 7 April 5 May 2 June

First Tuesday (of the month)



Prince Arthur Meeting and Social

L 10.30am

£ Free



Members can come along and catch up with Branch and society wide news, as well as having a cuppa and a chat with people, followed by a couple of games of bingo. Don't miss out, come along and find out! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

4 February 4 March 1 April 6 May 3 June

First Wednesday (of the month)



Food with Friends

L 12 noon

£ £7



Food with Friends continues to be one of our most popular events. Come along and join us for a two-course meal, along with tea or coffee for just £7.

Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556. Menu is subject to change, **please see page 11 for menu choices.**

Second Wednesday (of the month)



Our menu is as follows, but can be subject to change:

14 January

*Sausage and Mash, follow by
School Cake with Custard*

11 February

*Roast Chicken Dinner,
followed by Cheesecake*

11 March

*Jacket Potatoes with various fillings,
followed by Gateaux*

8 April

*Toad in the Hole, followed by
Fresh Fruit and Meringue*

13 May

*Pie, New Potatoes and Vegetables,
followed by Roulade with Cream*

10 June

*Ploughmans Lunch, followed by
Ice-Cream selection*

Regular Events

Coffee Morning

L 10.30am £ Free



Come and join us for our monthly coffee morning, where you are guaranteed a warm and friendly welcome! On offer we have tea, coffee, cake and our raffle. And who can forget Jan's legendary cheese scones. We have something for everyone! No need to book, just come along. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine on 01304 202556.

21 January 18 February 18 March 15 April 20 May 17 June



Third Wednesday (of the month)

Breakfast Club

L 10am £ £5.50



Come and enjoy a six item cooked breakfast with tea, coffee and toast for just £5.50. We have sausage, bacon, scrambled egg, hash browns, mushrooms, beans or tomatoes. It is one of our more popular events and those that come along always enjoy food, fun and friendship, so what's not to love! For catering purposes you have to book your space no later than mid-day on the Monday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

15 January 19 February 19 March 16 April 21 May 18 June



Third Thursday (of the month)

Craft, Cuppa and Chat

L 10am £ Members £2, Guests £3



Come along and join us for a morning of crafting, fun and friendship with lots of chatting and cuppa's in between! Whether you like to colour, knit, crochet or simply would like a cuppa and a chat everyone is welcome! You are more than welcome to bring along any type of crafting that you enjoy. No need to book just come along! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

22 January 26 February 26 March 23 April 28 May 25 June



Fourth Thursday (of the month)

Morning Bingo Session

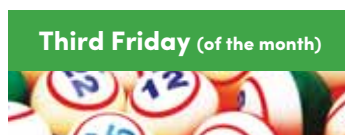
L 10.30am £ Members 30p, Guests 50p



Come along and join us for our new monthly morning bingo session! Doors open at 10am and eyes down at 10.30am.

Entry is 30p for members and 50p for guests, you never know you may win big! Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

16 January 20 February 20 March 17 April 15 May 19 June



Third Friday (of the month)

January 2026

FRI
09

Marlowe Theatre Canterbury - Pantomime Trip



1.30pm



£32



We have managed to secure seats to watch the ever so popular pantomime at the Marlowe Theatre Canterbury. The cost is £32 per person, plus mini bus fare and these seats are on a first -come first-serve basis. Payment and booking must be made to Branch no later than Friday 19 September 2025. Marlowe Theatre, The Friars, Canterbury CT1 2AS. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.



FRI
23

St John's Ambulance Talk



11am



Free



St John Ambulance



Join us as we have St Johns Ambulance talk to us about the world of heart attacks and what to do (and also CPR). This talk will be most informative and really interesting, so it would be lovely if you could join us! We will be serving tea or coffee afterwards. Book by Thursday 22 January 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

WED
28

Film Morning



10.30am



Members £5,
Guest £8



Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests you get all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks, as well as tea or coffee! The films for the first half of this year are as follows: Wednesday 28 January - Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, Wednesday 25 March - Easter Parade, Wednesday 27 May - The Railway Children. For catering purposes if you would like to book a space please book no later than mid-day on the Monday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

January 2026

THURS
29

Beetle Drive



10.30am



£2.50



Join us for a fun morning of beetle drive, a game that has become quite popular again! When we have hosted this event in the past, we have had lots of fun and giggles! We will be serving tea, coffee and cake afterwards. Book by Monday 26 January 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

February

MON
02

Barbara's Lunch Club



12.30pm



TBC



Come along to the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, where you can have the choice of a delicious two or three course meal. Menus are available in the office. Arrive at 12.30pm to eat at 1pm. Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

February

FRI
27

Lunch at the Plough Beefeater



12 noon



TBC



Come enjoy a leisurely lunch at the Plough Beefeater in Dover. Menu available to book in the office. We will be taking advantage of the local bus route, as there is a bus stop directly opposite the restaurant. Book by Friday 20 February 2026. The Plough (Beefeater), Folkestone Road, Dover CT15 7AB. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

March

FRI
13

Mother's Day Brunch



11am



Members £7,
Guests £10



Come along and join us for a Mother's Day brunch to celebrate the wonderful mums, grandmas, and mum figures in our lives. We look forward to welcoming you! Book by Monday 9 March 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

March

TUES
17

Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social



10.45am



£9



Come and join us for our Lord Palmerston meeting and social. This is a quarterly meeting to catch up with all of the Branch and Society news.

Prior to the meeting we have an hours beetle drive (10.45am to 11.45am), then during the meeting we have fish and chips. The cost to do the beetle drive with fish and chips is £9 or it's £2.50 for beetle drive and £6.50 for fish and chips. When booking your space, please let the office know whether you would like both or just one. If booking for fish and chips, then we would need to know by the Thursday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

BEETLE DRIVE



WED
25

Film Morning



10.30am



Members £5,
Guest £8



Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests you get all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks as well as tea or coffee! The films for the first half of this year are as follows: Wednesday 28 January - Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, Wednesday 25 March - Easter Parade, Wednesday 27 May - The Railway Children.



For catering purposes, if you would like to book a space, please book no later than mid-day on the Monday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

March

MON
30

Barbara's Lunch Club

L 12.30pm

£ TBC



Come along to the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, where you can have the choice of a delicious two or three course meal.



Menus are available in the office. Arrive at 12.30pm to eat at 1pm. Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

April

THURS
02

Cribbage Morning

L 10.30am

£ £2.50



Come along for a morning of fun and friendship, where we will learn how to play this classic card game. For those established players among us feel free to bring your own cribbage board and cards. We look forward to welcoming you! We will be serving tea, coffee and cake afterwards Book by Monday 30 March 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

April

FRI
10

Retro Games Morning

L 11am

£ Members £7,
Guests £10, Young
Oddfellows £5



Come along and join us for our very first retro games morning! We will have lots of games such as pin the tail on the donkey, musical chairs, pass the parcel and lots more followed by food afterwards. This promises to be a great morning with lots of fun to be had! Book by Monday 6 April 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.



April

THURS
23

Oddfellows Holiday to Isle of Wight



7am



£304



Operated by Daish's Holiday, come and join us on our spring holiday to the Isle of Wight. We will be staying at the Daish's Hotel in Shanklin on a half-board basis with all travel included. At the time of going to print, we have no single rooms available, however, we will have a reserve list incase anyone is unable to make it. Currently, we have plenty of twin and double rooms available. To secure you space we will require a £30 per person non-refundable deposit with the balance payable by Friday 27 February 2026. Daish's Hotel, High Street, The Old Village, Shanklin PO37 6NP. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

May

FRI
22

Visit to Kearsney Abbey



11am



Free



Come along and join us on a lovely little trip to Kearsney Abbey. Visit the newly refurbished tea room, visitor area and enjoy a cuppa whilst taking in the lovely views of the lake, or come and have a gentle walk and enjoy the fresh air. We will be taking advantage of the local bus route which stops outside. Book by Thursday 21 May 2026. Kearsney Abbey Park and Gardens, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, Dover CT16 3DZ. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.



WED
27

Film Morning



10.30am



Members £5,
Guest £8



Our bi-monthly film morning has continued to grow in popularity and is enjoyed by all those who attend. For just £5 for members and £8 for guests you get all of the usual cinema style treats and snacks as well as tea or coffee! The films for the first half of this year are as follows: Wednesday 28 January - Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again, Wednesday 25 March - Easter Parade, Wednesday 27 May - The Railway Children. For catering purposes, if you would like to book a space, please book no later than mid-day on the Monday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

June

MON
01

Barbara's Lunch Club



12.30pm



TBC



Come along to the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, where you can have the choice of a delicious two or three course meal. Menus are available in the office. Arrive at 12.30pm to eat at 1pm. Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Dover Waterfront, Dover CT17 9BP. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.



MON
22

Father's Day Brunch



11am



Members £7,
Guests £10



Come along and join us to celebrate all our dads, granddads and father figures in our lives and enjoy a lovely Father's Day brunch. Book by Monday 15 June 2026. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

TUES
16

Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social



10.45am



£9



Come and join us for our Lord Palmerston meeting and social. This is a quarterly meeting to catch up with all of the Branch and Society news. Prior to the meeting, we will play a beetle drive (10.45am to 11.45am), then during the meeting we have fish and chips. The cost to do the beetle drive with fish and chips is £9 or it's £2.50 for beetle drive and £6.50 for fish and chips. When booking your space, please let the office know whether you would like both or just one. If booking for fish and chips, then we would need to know by the Thursday prior to the event. Oddfellows Club, 29 Pencester Road, Dover, Kent CT16 1BT. Contact Jan or Charmaine 01304 202556.

Interested in volunteering?

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

You can help us by:

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



To find out more, contact Jan or Charmaine by phone on 01304 202556 or jan.reading@oddfellows.co.uk

VA160423/v1



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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Oddfellows Cinque Ports Warden Branch:

Susan Philpott
Sheila Dowle
Penny Chainey

John Chainey
Andrew Goldup
Annette May

Jean Ballantyne
Kathleen Forbes

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 [oddfellowscinqueportswarden](https://www.facebook.com/oddfellowscinqueportswarden)

Event Write Ups

The summer started a little slowly with the unfortunate cancellation of 2 of our trips out to the Dover Transport Museum and Crabble Corn Mill so our events write ups begin with our Friendship Month trip to the newly refurbished Dover Town Hall.

Dover Town Hall

Friday 12 September 2025

We visited the newly refurbished Dover Town Hall. The town hall had been closed for just over four years and re-opened in May 2025 after having nearly £11 million spent on it. We were very lucky that the sun was shining and it made the stained-glass windows really pop!



Whilst our tour was self-guided, there were lots of willing volunteers on hand to answer any questions we had and give us lots of interesting information. We took lots of lovely photos (far too many to share here!) and this was followed by a cream tea. All of our members and guests had a lovely time.

Meeting, then beetle and then Fish and Chips

Tuesday 16 September 2025

On 16 September, we had our third quarterly Lord Palmerston Lodge meeting of the year. Ahead of the meeting, we have an hour of playing Beetle and then fish and chips following the meeting. It gives our members a chance to catch up with other members on a social basis as



well as with all of the branch and society wide news. We had eight members join us for the beetle drive and then an additional three members for the meeting and fish and chips.



Llandudno - Friday 31 October to Tuesday 4 November 2025

Mike and I finally managed to get away together for the Oddfellows Tinsel and Turkey holiday to Llandudno and had a thoroughly good time! It was Mike's first time in Llandudno, but my fourth if memory serves me right (two Oddfellows AMCs and two holidays). We did plenty of walking; which we both really enjoy. We walked around The Great Orme on the Saturday and the views and wildlife are amazing. The Kashmir goats and Herdwick sheep are lovely but the billy goats are a little bit smelly and reminded me of when we had goats when I was a kid; memories.



Sunday, we got the tram up to the summit and then walked back down visiting, St Tudno's Church on the way, a beautiful little church high on the hill.

The weather stayed lovely until our day trip on Monday to Caernarfon and Beau Maris - both lovely towns but apart from the castles, not really much to see. On a sunny day and a few more shops open, I imagine they would be much better, but



we made the most of it and had a good wander around both places, almost getting blown away in Beau Maris.

The evening entertainment at the Somerset Hotel was overall quite good, but the singing of Elvis songs always makes me bid my good nights and retire to bed. I can't help it and most people who know me know how I feel. The hotel put on a couple of bingo sessions each night and a few of our travellers won the bingo, which was good.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the holiday enjoyable. I have received mostly good reports from the holiday, with quite a few people already booked up for our next one on the Isle of Wight in April 2026.

See you in April 2026 if I don't see you before. Jan x

Event Opening Times

Just a little reminder: when we are holding events in the hall, we ask that members and guests don't turn up until 10-15 mins before the start. This way, we can set up the hall, we love to welcome everybody when everything is all ready. Many thanks, Jan and Charmaine xx

Office Opening Hours

On the fourth Wednesday of every month, the office will be open until 4pm, to be able to assist those people who cannot make it into the office in the morning. Our normal operating hours will carry on the rest of the time from 9am-1pm. If, on reflection after a period of time, we find that no one is using the extended opening hours, then we will notify you and we will revert back to 9am-1pm.

**CHANGE TO
OFFICE
OPENING
HOURS**



REFER A FRIEND

**Share the love
and make
someone smile**

To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk**

*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

Social Committee

We are still looking for people who would be interested in joining our Social Committee. We hold meetings roughly every quarter to discuss and share ideas for our events diary that

is published every six months. If you feel that you would like to become involved with helping to bring our events schedule to life then please contact Jan or Charmaine.

Your Branch needs you!

In any Branch, we cannot work without the help of our volunteers. We are looking for people who would like to join both the Social Committee and our Committee of Management.

The Social Committee meet once a quarter to discuss both the contents of our Out & About magazine and to plan and execute our events that we hold over the next six month period.



Our Committee of Management meet once a month on the second Tuesday. We discuss everything to do with the running of the branch and more. If you would like to join our Committee of Management, then all we ask is that you are over the age of 18 and you have to of been an Oddfellows member for two years or more. If you have any questions or would like any information about either committee, then please contact Jan or Charmaine.

Obituaries

Sadly the following members of the branch who have passed away:



Dennis Jones

Michael Beier

Peter Davies

Mr L Williams

Meet your Cinque Ports Care and Welfare 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.



Cynthia



Jenny

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 Jan on **01304 202556** or email jan.reading@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/

Meet the Team

Jan

Where have the last six months gone? Blinking in July and we are now nearly at Christmas. I love this time of year, preparing special treats to eat and making the house look all festive and all the get togethers with friends and family. Special thanks to Charmaine as always for getting the Out & About all prepped and on time, although she does have to keep bugging me about my articles (oops, haha!) They are now done obviously. Also, thank you for her help with the cleaning whilst Anne was out of action for a couple of months. Our little team here is the best, have a lovely Christmas and New Year everyone. See you soon x



Charmaine

I can't believe it's that time of year again already. It seems like yesterday that I was doing my write up for the previous out and about! The Branch continues to keep me busy with all of our events and office tasks and I can genuinely say that I enjoy my job and love to be able to spend time with our members at various events throughout the year.



January marks my 6 year anniversary with the Oddfellows, which has just flown by. I started here with both of my children in primary school and now they are growing up so fast! After nearly 6 years, I still love working alongside Jan and we can have lots of laughs as well as work hard too, which makes the office a great place to work. I look forward to welcoming in the new year and all of the events that we have coming up.

Anne

So, 14 years and counting as your branch cleaner! During some of this time, I have served on the Committee of Management and for almost the last 2 years it has been my great privilege to serve as your Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and I have also attended the Oddfellows Annual Moveable Conference (AMC). At the annual summoned meeting in March 2026, Charmaine will take over from me as Chairman and it will be my privilege to support her as much as possible as she learns the role. Oddfellows continues to be a very sociable place to be and I have just enjoyed my first Turkey and Tinsel holiday to Llandudno with a great crowd of fellow oddies and friends. My nominated charity (Cardiomyopathy Association) will still need your support until the end of my term in office, when Charmaine will choose a new charity. Thank you all for the support that I have received during my time as Grand Master. You are all very special to our Branch.



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

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

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

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

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



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

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

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

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



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

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

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

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

Making a Difference Awards



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

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

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

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

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

At a glance

- see pages 3 and 4 for more info on regular events

January 2026

Tues 6	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Fri 9	Marlowe Theatre Canterbury - Pantomime Trip	1.30pm
Wed 14	Food with Friends	12 noon
Thurs 15	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 16	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Wed 21	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 22	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am
Fri 23	St John's Ambulance Talk	11am
Wed 28	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 29	Beetle Drive	10.30am

February

Mon 2	Barbara's Lunch Club	12.30pm
Tues 3	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Wed 4	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Wed 11	Food with Friends	12 noon
Wed 18	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 19	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 20	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Thurs 26	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am
Fri 27	Lunch at the Plough Beefeater	12 noon

March

Tues 3	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Wed 4	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Wed 11	Food with Friends	12 noon
Fri 13	Mother's Day Brunch	11am
Tues 17	Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social	10.45am
Wed 18	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 19	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 20	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Wed 25	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 26	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am
Mon 30	Barbara's Lunch Club	12.30pm

At a glance

- see pages 3 and 4 for more info on regular events

April

Wed 1	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Thurs 2	Cribbage Morning	10.30am
Tues 7	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Wed 8	Food with Friends	12 noon
Fri 10	Retro Games Morning	11am
Wed 15	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 16	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 17	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Thurs 23	Oddfellows Holiday to Isle of Wight	7am
Thurs 23	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

May

Tues 5	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Wed 6	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Wed 13	Food with Friends	12 noon
Fri 15	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Wed 20	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 21	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 22	Visit to Kearsney Abbey	11am
Wed 27	Film Morning	10.30am
Thurs 28	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

June

Mon 1	Barbara's Lunch Club	12.30pm
Tues 2	Monthly Bingo Afternoon	12.30pm
Wed 3	Prince Arthur Meeting and Social	10.30am
Wed 10	Food with Friends	12 noon
Tues 16	Lord Palmerston Meeting and Social	10.45am
Wed 17	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 18	Breakfast Club	10am
Fri 19	Morning Bingo Session	10.30am
Mon 22	Father's Day Brunch	11am
Thurs 25	Craft, Cuppa and Chat	10am

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