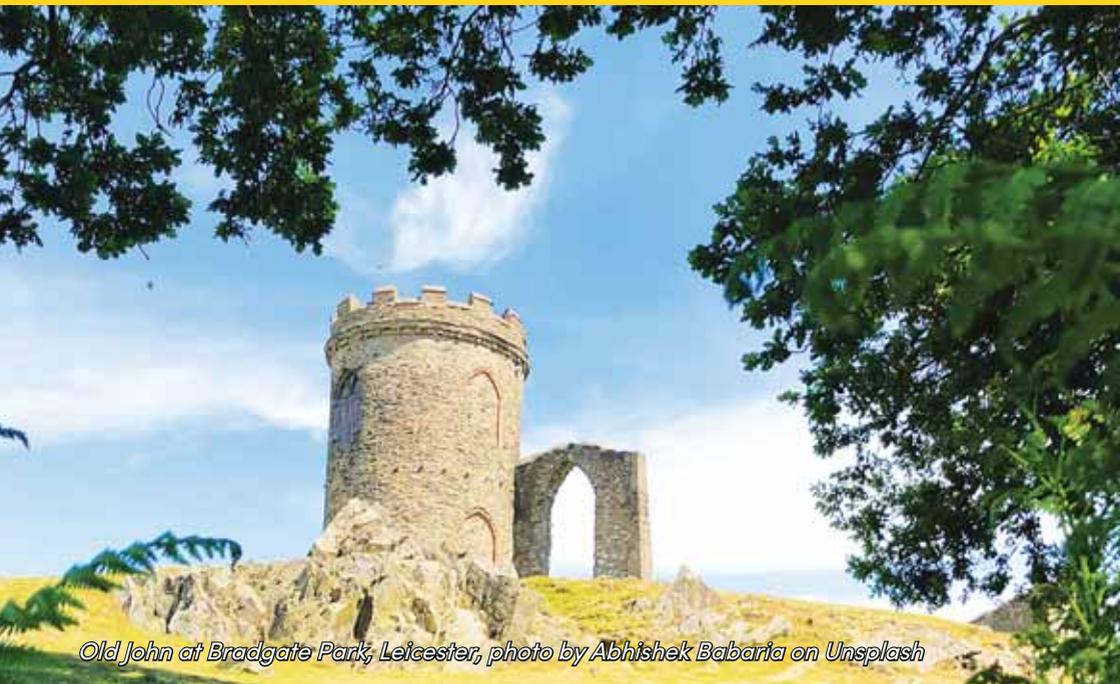


March - August 2026



# events & news

## Pride of Leicestershire District Branch



*Old John at Bradgate Park, Leicester, photo by Abhishek Babaria on Unsplash*



Music



Art/Crafts



Friendship



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



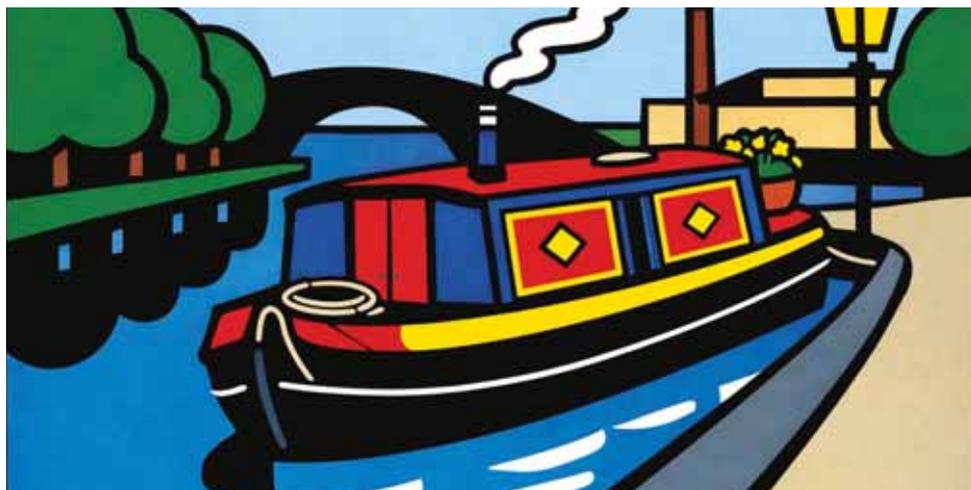
Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



*We hope you can join us for our boat trips!*

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

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

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

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

## Contact Details

**Secretary:** Mike Harris

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

**Telephone:** 0116 2543106

**Email:**  
[mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Social Organiser:** Jo Brown

**Email:** [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk)

### Office Opening Hours

Monday - Closed

Tuesday to Thursday -  
9.30am to 4.30pm

Friday - 9.30am - 4pm  
(Answer phone available)

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

# Regular Event

## Games Morning



10am



£2 per week



Every Wednesday

Fancy a morning of playing board games over a cup of tea and a friendly chat? Our games morning meet is every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon. So if you enjoy a game of Rummikub, Scrabble or maybe even a game or two of cards, then come along and join us for a morning of fun! Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF. If you are interested in coming along then contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more details.



## Fish and Chips Friday!



12.30pm



Meal £5 or cost of meal  
Bingo £4.50



Last Friday of  
the month

You are all very welcome to join us for our 'Fish and Chips Friday' followed by a friendly game of bingo and a raffle. Our lunches will be held on the last Friday of every month. The cost per member is £5 or the cost of the meal if under £5. Non-members pay full price. If you do want to stop for the bingo the cost for that is £4.50 for nine games and a raffle, all the proceeds from this goes to Lancaster House's chosen charity. Please make sure you let us know your order at least one week before, so that we can book in advance of the day. Payments to be made on the day. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Menus are available from you Branch Secretaries or alternatively contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).



27 March

24 April

29 May

26 June

31 July

28 August

# March 2026

## MON 02 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

🕒 2.30pm    💷 Free



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



## THURS 12 Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Truck Stop

🕒 12 noon    💷 TBC    🍴🍷

You are all welcome to join us for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the Truck Stop. 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Truck Stop, Ashby Road East, Shepshed, Loughborough LE12 9BS. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 by Thursday 5 March if you would like to go.



## THURS 05 Westcotes Branch - Guest Speaker from Canine Partners

🕒 2pm    💷 Free



Everyone is welcome to come along and join the Westcotes Branch when they will be joined by Jane Bennett and her assistance dog Frank on behalf of the Canine Partners. Jane will be telling them all about the work that Canine Partners do. Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs and other highly trained dogs. We shall hear about how the dogs are trained and what sort of things that they can do to support people. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. For more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).

# March 2026

## THURS 12 Market Harborough Branch - Happy Days Fitness



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join us for an afternoon of fun and fitness. Teresa Osborn from 'Happy Days Fitness' will be coming along to do an exercise class for seniors and will be focussing on strength and balance. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. For more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).



## TUES 17 Annual Summoned Meeting



1.45pm



Free



We would love to see you all at our Annual Summoned Meeting. You will be able to catch up with all the societies news and events that have taken place in the past year and have your say in any any of the issues raised. It's a great forum for you to help us make important decisions for the coming year and for you to share any of your ideas that you think will benefit us all. The meeting will start at 2pm promptly, so please arrive a bit early to save any disruption. There will be tea and biscuits available after the meeting and time for all of us to have a catch up. We look forward to seeing you all. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Mike on 0116 2543106.

## WED 18 Open Hand Branch Meeting followed by a Bake Off Competition



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join the Open Hand members for their monthly meeting followed by a bake off style competition. They will all be bringing in a home-made confectionery delicacy, which will then be tasted and anonymously judged by everyone and the one with the highest points will be the winner!

Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. If you would like to join us and maybe bring your own home-made item, then contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).

# April

THURS  
02

## Sea Shanty Workshop!



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join the Westcotes Branch members when they take part in a Sea Shanty Workshop with Stuart Green. Stuart will be telling us about a little history and we'll do a variety of activities and group singing for us all to join in. This is a sing along workshop, not a choral masterpiece, so even if you can't sing, come along, you will be guaranteed a laugh! Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more details.



THURS  
09

## Market Harborough Branch - Bits and Bobs!



2pm



Free



The Market Harborough members will be joined by Bob Neill who will be giving us a quiz about the fascinating objects from his grandfather's shop and his grandmother's house. Bob will bring a collection of interesting items from the past and we will try to identify them and what they were used for. Everyone is welcome to come along and join them, there will be refreshments afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. For more details contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).



Photo by Black Chritsulo on Unsplash

TUES  
07

## District Branch Open Meeting



2pm



Free



We would love to see you at our District general meeting. It's a chance to get together with other members from the District and find out about the societies news and help with some of the issues that may arise. The meeting will be followed by tea and biscuits. This meeting will be at the Market Harborough Conservative Club. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Mike or Jo on 0116 2543106.



# April

## MON 13 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

🕒 2.30pm    💷 Free



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

## WED 15 Open Hand Branch Lunch Out to Celebrate St George's Day

🕒 12.30pm    💷 TBC



The Open Hand members will be having lunch out to celebrate St George's Day. They will be going to the Lime Tree at 12.30 onwards. Please feel free to bring your own flag! The Lime Tree, 2 Cambridge Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LF. If you would like to join us then please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) to book a place by Tuesday 31 March.

## TUES 14 Annual Inter-Lodge Quiz

🕒 1.30pm    💷 Free    ❓

This year's Inter-Lodge Quiz will take place at Lancaster House, 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Who will win the coveted trophy, Earl Howe, Open Hand, Market Harborough, Temple of Peace or Westcotes. There needs to be four players per team and refreshments will be served during the break, so come along and support your Branch team. We had such a good laugh last year and there is definitely some friendly rivalry between the teams, especially as the Temple of Peace pipped everyone to the trophy for the second year running! We look forward to seeing you there. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. If anyone is interested in coming along or would like to join a team then please let Jo know on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) by Friday 27 March for catering purposes.



# April

THURS  
16

## Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Charnwood Arms



12 noon



TBC



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe members for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the Charnwood Arms. 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Charnwood Arms, Beveridge Lane, Bardon Hill, Coalville LE67 1TB. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 by Thursday 9 April if you would like to go.



MON  
11

## Earl Howe Branch Meeting



2.30pm



Free



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

### Booking and Cancellations

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

# May

THURS  
07

## Westcotes Branch - Glenfield Strummers



2pm



Free



The Westcotes members have invited back the brilliant Glenfield Strummers for another concert and everyone is welcome to come along and join them. It's an enjoyable afternoon of singing along to some old and new tunes that we'll know and love. St Ursula's Chapel, Wyggestons and Trinity Almshouses, 160 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0HF. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more details.

# May

## THURS 14 Market Harborough Branch Meeting



You are all very welcome to come along to the Market Harborough Branch monthly meeting. You will be able to find out about the matters of the society and have a chance to share ideas. There will be time for tea, biscuits and a natter afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more information.

## FRI 15 Lunch at Ulverscroft Grange and a Visit to the Model Railway



Everyone is more than welcome to join us for lunch at the Ulverscroft Grange Tea Shop. Afterwards, they plan to look at the model railway there, which is based upon the Great Western Railway of the 1930s. The model railway was started in 1970 and is made to look as realistic as possible. There are also some charity shops to look around and the amazing gardens where they grow some of the produce that the kitchen uses for the tea room. Ulverscroft Grange, Whitwick Road, Ulverscroft LE67 8LR. Booking is essential for the lunch, so to book a place by Friday 1 May or for more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).

## WED 20 Open Hand Branch - Tour of the Leicester Cathedral and the Tomb of King Richard III



We will be having a tour of the Leicester Cathedral which includes a visit to the tomb of King Richard III plus the Redemption Windows and other stained glass inspired by the Arts and Craft movement. The tour lasts one hour and is for groups of 10 people at a time, so if there are more people wanting to go there will be another tour afterwards to accommodate everyone. The group will be going to a nearby café afterwards for coffee and cake. If you would like to join them then please book by Friday 8 May. Leicester Cathedral, Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5PZ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

# June

MON  
01

## Earl Howe Branch Meeting



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

Photo by Rohan Verma on Unsplash



TUES  
02

## District Branch Open Meeting



We would love to see you at our District general meeting. Its a chance to get together with other members from the District and find out about the societies news and help with some of the issues that may arise. The meeting will be followed by tea and biscuits. This meeting will be at the Whetstone Parish Council Offices. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Mike or Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS  
04

## Westcotes Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid



Come along and join the Westcotes members when they joined by Helen Wilber from Leicester Animal Aid.



Helen will be telling us about the work that they do there to help over 300 cats and dogs that have been abandoned, neglected or if their owners can no longer care for them. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more details or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).

# June

THURS  
11

## Market Harborough Branch - 'Life Onboard the Royal Yacht'



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join us for a talk by Bill Haley about the on 'Life on board the Royal Yacht Britannia'. 'The Fun, the Laughter and the Ceremonial'. Bob promises to give us a glimpse of life on board during a royal tour. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. For more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more details.



FRI  
12

## Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Meadow Barn



2pm



TBC



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

WED  
17

## Open Hand Hand Crazy Golf



1pm



TBC



We had such a brilliant time last year when they went to the 18 hole River Congo Crazy Golf at the Blaby Golf Club last year that they have decided to go again this year. Everyone is welcome to join them and can be guaranteed a lot of fun and laughter! There is a lovely café at the finish for a well earned cuppa or ice-cream. The cost is £7 per person (based on last years prices, so subject to change) and there is plenty of free parking.

Please note that the course is quite steep at times and there are lots of steps up and down to the different holes. Booking is essential by Wednesday 3 June. Look forward to seeing you! Book by 3 June. Blaby Golf Centre, Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicester LE8 4DP. Timing may change, so please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more information and to book a place.

# June

THURS  
18

## Earl Howe Branch - Trip on the Great Central Railway

🕒 10.30am

£

Book online  
£24, buy at  
the station £26



Come along and join us for a trip on the Great Central Railway.



They will be having lunch in the griddle car and the tickets give you unlimited rides along the railway, so there will be plenty of things to keep any railway buffs very happy! It's £24 if you book online or £26 if you buy your ticket at the station on the day. Great Central Railway, Great Central Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 1RW. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

# July

MON  
06

## Earl Howe Branch Meeting



2.30pm



Free



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



Photo by Roger Cornfoot, CC BY-SA 2.0

# July

THURS  
02

## Westcotes Branch - The Life of Malcolm Sargent

🕒 2pm

£

Free



Come along and join us, as we welcome Sam Dobson who will be coming to talk about the life of Malcolm Sargent. Sam will be talking about Malcolms' humble beginnings in Stamford, Lincolnshire and his foundational role in establishing music at Leicester University College (now the University of Leicester), as well as his vital morale-boosting concerts during World War II and his work as an unofficial music ambassador. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more details.

# July

WED  
08

## Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust Boat from Loughborough to Normanton



9.45am



TBC



Everyone is welcome to join us for a trip on the Peter Le Marchant Trust Boat. We shall be travelling from Loughborough to Normanton, where we shall be having lunch at the The Plough in at Normanton on Soar.

The boat is being hired solely for Oddfellow members and their guests, so it will be a great opportunity to meet up with friends from all around the District. The boat departs at 10am, so please be there by 9.45am. The boat will return to Loughborough at approximately 3pm. Due to the popularity of the trip last year another one has been organised for Friday 31 July. This will allow as many of you as possible to enjoy this day out. Peter Le Marchant Boat Trips, Beeches Road, Loughborough LE11 2NS. For more information and to book a place please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) by Friday 19 June.

WED  
15

## Open Hand Branch Meeting followed by a Beetle Drive



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to come along to the Open Hands monthly meeting, which will be followed by a beetle drive. Don't worry if you haven't played before, its very easy to pick up and there will be lots of tea and biscuits! Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more details.

THURS  
16

## Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at The Bulls Head at Abbot Oak



12 noon



TBC



You are all welcome to join us for one of their regular lunches.



This one will be at The Bulls Head. 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. The Bulls Head, Warren Hills, Coalville LE67 4UY. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 Thursday 9 July if you would like to go.

# July

MON  
20

## Market Harborough Branch - Trip to Bakewell Market and Matlock Bath



9am



Adults £30,  
Seniors £25



The members from the Market Harborough Branch are going to Bakewell Market and Matlock Bath for the day with Fleckers Coach Trips. If you would like to join them, please contact Jo to book a place as soon as possible to avoid losing a seat. The cost is £30 for adults and £25 for over 65s. Please note that this is on a Monday and takes the place of their usual meeting day on Thursday 9 July. A full itinerary will be available nearer the time so the start time and pick up point may vary. Book by Tuesday 30 June. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).

# August

MON  
03

## Earl Howe Branch Meeting



2.30pm



Free



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

TUES  
04

## Summoned Meeting and District Open Meeting



1.45pm



Free



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

# August

THURS  
06

## Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust boat from Loughborough to Mountsorrel



9.45am



TBC



Everyone is welcome to join us for a trip on the Peter Le Marchant Trust Boat. We shall be travelling from Loughborough to Mountsorrel, where we shall be having lunch at the Riverside Pub. The boat is being hired solely for Oddfellow members and their guests, so it will be a great opportunity to meet up with friends from all around the District. The boat departs at 10am, so please be there by 9.45am. The boat will return to Loughborough at approximately 3pm. Due to the popularity of the trip last year another one has been organised for Wednesday 8 July. This will allow as many of you as possible to enjoy this day out. Book by Friday 17 July. Peter Le Marchant Boat Trips, Beeches Road, Loughborough LE11 2NS. For more information and to book a place please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk).



THURS  
13

## Market Harborough. Talk about the History of Swear Words!



2pm



Free



Please note change of date for this meeting.

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



WED  
19

## Open Hand Branch - Walk Around Everards Meadows



1pm



Free



Come along and join us for a leisurely stroll around Everards Meadow followed by coffee and cake at Jennos. The walk is very flat and has accessible paths along the way. Everards Meadows, Cooper Way, Leicester LE19 2AN. Contact Jo on 0116 254316 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more information.

# August

## **FRI** **21** Visit to the **Whitemoors Antique Centre for Lunch** followed by a Trip on the **Battlefield Line**



10.30am



TBC



Members from around the District had such an enjoyable visit last year to Whitemoors and on the Battlefield Line that they have decided to go again this year. Everyone is welcome to join them for a look around the centre followed by lunch at the tea tooms there. Afterwards, they will be going the nearby Shenton Station for another glass blowing exhibition by Kayleigh Young at Station Glass. Then it's on to Shackleton Station and back on the The Battlefield Line, which is the last remaining part of the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway which was opened in 1873, so well worth a visit. Whitemoors Antique Centre, Main Street, Shenton CV13 6BZ. Booking is essential for lunch, so if you would like to book or need anymore information please call Jo on 0116 2543106 by Friday 7 August.

## 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 Jo on [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) or Mike on **0116 2543106**

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[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

# Market Harborough Group

**We are delighted to tell you that the Market Harborough Group has now reopened. We have welcomed twelve new members so far and also welcomed back some of the existing Lodge members.**

The group meets every second Thursday of the month at the Market Harborough Conservative Club on Fairfield Road.

So far, they have enjoyed a magical afternoon when they were entertained by John Constantine who came to give us a talk on the different types of magic followed by a magic show. There was a lot of audience participation and a lot of head scratching thinking “how did he do that?”

What was also magical was that we welcomed four new members who joined on the day! We have also had a talk from Rohini Corfield who is the Community Champions Manager from Voluntary Action Market Harborough. She gave us a presentation about all the amazing projects that they do in the area, their main focus is how to reduce loneliness for the elderly people who live in their area.



*Rohini from Voluntary Action South Leicester.*

They have some wonderful projects such as their community transport scheme and their befriending service.

*If you are looking for social events and friendship in Market Harborough then you would be more than welcome to come along and join us. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.*



*Some audience appreciation!*



*Chris taking part in one of the tricks.*

# A Step Back in Time

**This extract is from the forerunner to our news and events diary, the Oddfellows Magazine dated from July to August 1952 about the Annual Twyford Feast that the Rose of Sharon Lodge celebrated on Whit Sunday. The following poem which was written in 1842 by Brother Porter Wright was recited by Brother JT Queenborough.**

## Twyford Odd Fellows' Club and Jubilee

There is a club, a prosperous club,  
At Twyford it is true,  
And almost 50 years have passed  
Since it started new.

Still it remains a prosperous club  
And daily seems to thrive,  
With land belonging to its firm  
And honey in the hive.

The "Rose of Sharon" it is called  
Held at the Saddle Inn,  
Which is now kept by Mr ward  
Who sells good ale and gin.

It has become a noted club  
And getting good and strong,  
With fresh young members entering in  
To keep it going along.

'Twas the month of August last,  
The five and twentieth day,  
For it held a Jubilee,  
And all around was Gay.

The morn was fair, the sun shone bright,  
With everything to cheer,  
The prosperous Rose of Sharon club,  
The pride of Leicestershire.

A band appeared upon the spot,  
With gay and livening tune,  
The members they came flocking in,  
And filled the "Saddle" soon.  
Then to St Andrews they marched,  
So nobly two by two,  
The flag waved high; the music played  
As the streets they marched through.

The service o'er they each returned  
Unto a large marquee,  
In Mr Gelsons paddock,  
Where they held their jubilee.

The dinner at the "Saddle" cooked,  
Was the best I hear,  
With something good to wash it down  
To give their spirits cheer.

They all partook in English cheer  
And nothing had to pay,  
The cloth was drawn and then again,  
The band began to play.

Some harmless songs and merry tunes,  
Played by the Sibley band,  
And no one there could help but say  
The Jubilee was grand.

The gents and ladies danced with glee,  
To music skilfully played,  
And merry was the Jubilee  
Beneath the elm trees shade.

Till ten o'clock they kept it up  
With spirits good and gay,  
And then to their respective homes,  
Contented went away.  
So may this Rose of Sharon club  
Improve as time goes on  
And be as prosperous as it was  
In days now passed and gone.

So now to it I wish success  
And never short of tin,  
And may it be conducted proper  
At the good old "Saddle Inn".

*If you Remember the Twyford Feast or any of the other Lodges celebrations we would love to hear from you for our "A step back in time" piece in our next news and events diary.*

# Trip to the Secret Garden

**Some members from the Westcotes members braved the weather and went to visit the Secret Garden at the Leicester Glenfield General hospital.**

They all met up at the café there for a drink and by the time they were ready to have a look around the the rain had stopped and they were able to have a lovely walk round the garden, which features various hidden gardens, a courtyard, and a memorial area for patients and staff, and visitors.

It really was a relaxing afternoon having a look around all the different areas and they all agreed it would be well worth a return visit during the spring.



## The Geoff Chawner Educational Award

**We thought that we would remind you about our Educational Development Award as sadly we have not had any applications for a few years.**

The award is for any member over the age of sixteen and is £450 per annum for up to three years and eligible courses are not restricted to the academic, and can

be for vocational courses and apprenticeships. We encourage you to apply for an application form in July 2026 when it is advertised in our next news and events diary.



# All aboard!

**There was so much interest in our trip last year that it meant that unfortunately some members had to miss out, so this year we booked two boat trips!**

There were 52 members from all over the district in total who attended.

The first trip on Wednesday 9 July 2025 departed from Loughborough to Mountsorrel, where members enjoyed lunch at the Waterside Inn.

The second boat trip on Thursday 31 July departed from Loughborough to Normanton-on-the-Wolds where members had lunch at the Plough inn.

The crews on both trips looked after us all and were very friendly and helpful. Thankfully the weather was good to us on both days and we had such a lovely



relaxing time that we have booked another two boat trips for next year already!

They are provisionally booked for Wednesday 8 July and Thursday 6 August 2026. The first boat will be going to Normanton and the second to Mountsorrel, so if you would like to go on one of them then please give Jo a call on 0116 2543106 to book a place.



# Earl Howes Escapades!

**The members from the Earl Howe Lodge have also been very busy. They have enjoyed their monthly lunches out together along with some members from our other Lodges.**

They have been to various places around the Coalville area such as the Bulls Head at Abbotts Oak and Cattows Farm. They have more planned for next year so why not join them? You'll be guaranteed good food, good company and a good time! Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 to book a place.



In October they went to the Whitemoors Antique Centre. In the morning and after a look around the shops they had a lovely lunch at the tea rooms there.



In the afternoon they went to the nearby Heritage Steam railway station in Shenton and had a trip on the Battlefield Line to Shackerstone. After a look around the museum they returned to Shenton where they were treated to a glass blowing exhibition. Kayleigh Young at Station Glass came in especially for the group and did two demonstrations for them and produced a robin and a fruit bowl, which she made look so easy! The group were very impressed and enjoyed their day immensely.

# Fabulous Friendship Lunch!



**We ended our friendship month in style at our Annual friendship Lunch on Saturday 20 September 2025 at Gynsills Farm.**

We had an amazing turn out with members from all over the district coming together in friendship. We had one lady who came along to meet everyone and joined on the day which was fantastic!



There was lots a chatter and noise from everyone and it was just lovely to see them all having a good time.

The desserts were something to behold as usual but Jan's beat everyone hands down with her giant éclair! Needless to say, there were lots of take-out boxes going home with some of them!



## Calling all Young Oddfellows!

**We are arranging a trip to Ten Pin Bowling in Leicester in the Autumn half term in 2026 especially for our young Oddfellows and their parents or carers.**

Can you or your parent and carer get in touch with us to let us know if you would like to join us. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) for more information.

# Calling all Members – We need your Help!

Our business meetings are open to all members but they are not very well attended, which is a shame as we are run by our members for our members. We rely on our members to help us manage our day-to-day affairs as well as shape our service for the future.



We are always on the lookout for members who are ready for a challenge and are able to volunteer time freely on a regular basis.

We thought we would explain briefly what our meetings are about and the differences between them.

**Summoned** meetings take place every March and August. You all receive a notice with an Agenda and a brief financial statement.

In this meeting we have a report from the Auditor regarding our finances, we elect Officers' and members for the Committee, Trustees and our Provincial and Deputy Grand Masters. We also decide which charities we want to donate to.

**Committee meetings** take place every other month on a Thursday. They have a finance and Social Organisers report as well as discussing any benevolence requests. The meeting is for the Committee only, but if you are thinking of being on the Committee you are very welcome to speak to Mike.

The following Tuesday after our Committee Meeting, we always have our **District Open Meetings**. It does what it says on the tin, its open for everyone! In this meeting you will hear about some of what was discussed in the Committee Meetings, including any Benevolence Grants that have been made and you will have the opportunity to raise any issue that you want to talk about.

These meetings are important for all of us. We don't always see or hear about any issues our members may have, and if we don't know, we can't help! We hold these meetings in our Lodge locations so that everyone gets a chance to get to one.

If you would like to join the Committee then please contact Mike on 0116 2543106 or email [mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk). For all of the other meetings just turn up, they aren't as boring as you might think! Plus, you get to find out what Mike and Jo get up to all day!



## Kudos to Kezia!

**Hello, I hope this finds you well. For anyone that doesn't know me, I'm Kezia. I've been an Oddfellows member for many moons now. Originally my membership was a Christmas gift from my Auntie who is a proud member in Kent and since then I haven't looked back.**

I'm not able to get to every meeting due to my work commitments but I enjoy going to Fish and chips and meals out with the Westcotes members when I can, but I do I take part in a couple of the online events and attend the Chi Gong and Tai Chi lessons every week.

I have multiple-sclerosis and was diagnosed half-way through training to become a Holistic Therapist. I have had a multitude of tests and treatments until I was told that there was nothing else that the NHS could offer but through sheer determination, I managed to fundraise thousands of pounds to get some life changing treatment abroad.

As part of my ongoing treatment, I attend Leicestershire MS Therapy centre

once a week for physiotherapy and Oxygen Therapy. Oxygen Therapy is the medical use of oxygen in a pressurised environment. Breathing pure oxygen through a mask during one-hour sessions in a pressurised oxygen chamber increases the oxygen level in the bloodstream.

This encourages the body to begin healing itself, generating new stem cells and repairing damaged tissues, so you can understand how important this is for me and other people who attend the Centre.

The centre costs over £100,000 a year to run and is funded entirely by fundraising which the members and staff of the Centre do throughout the year

We are always thinking of new fundraising ideas and one such day as I had just had my Oxygen Therapy, my friends shouted. "Kezia, you'll jump out of an aeroplane, won't you?" I was rushing out for the school run and replied, "Just check my diary!"

The week after I had been signed up for a tandem skydive!

**The next project was the fun day that originally started off as a little get together in my garden and snowballed somewhat!**

After a lot of planning and cajoling people and other agencies to get involved, the event took place at New Parks Community Hub at the end of August. We had tombolas, craft stalls and a chocolate tombola (run by the Oddfellows) to name but a few and a huge raffle with hampers, experiences and gifts galore.

Throughout the day we had a fire engine, ice-cream van and dance and music performances.



*Some of our younger Oddfellows joining Leicester in the fun.*

We would like to thank those members who donated all the chocolate for our tombola. We raised £120, which was split between the fundraising day and our Provincial Grand Masters Charity for the year which is Heartlink.

Kezia also came to one of our Westcotes groups to a relaxation for a better life session with them all. As a qualified Holistic Therapist, she was able to teach us all some relaxation techniques, this was followed by a half hour relaxation session that saw more than a few of us nod off.

The day was an incredible success with people from the local community, Oddfellows, Mums in business, Leicestershire MS community and so many more all coming together.

On the day we raised £1617.25 but the final total we raised was a whopping £2588.50 for Leicestershire Multiple-sclerosis Therapy Centre.

Thankyou everybody

**Kezia x**



*Leicester Oddfellows Chocolate Tombola*



*Kezia hosting relaxation session*

## Inter-Lodge Quiz

Our next Inter-Lodge quiz will take place at the Lancaster House, Wyggestons, 160 Hinckley Road Leicester LE3 0UX on Tuesday 14 April 2026, from 2pm til 4pm

Who will win the coveted Trophy, Earl Howe, Open Hand, Market Harborough, Temple of Peace or Westcotes?



- 1st prize** – A bottle of wine each
- 2nd prize** – Box of chocolate each
- 3rd prize** – Bag of sweets each

There needs to be four players per team and refreshments will be served during the break, so come along and support your Branch.

**For more details contact Jo on 0116 2543106.**

## Tote

There were only two lucky winners this year who scooped £4.20 in January and in the final draw in December, £93.60. The winning numbers for January were 21 and 25 and December's lucky numbers were 23 and 24.



The Tote is organised and operated solely by Pride of Leicestershire District Branch. Full terms and conditions are available from the Branch on request. By participating, entrants confirm they are aged 18 or over and agree to be bound by the terms. The Branch reserves the right to amend, suspend, or cancel the draw where necessary to ensure fair conduct and compliance with applicable rules.

## Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy. Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events)

OEW/1024A6

## Look out for updates on Facebook!

Find us at  **OddfellowsLeicester**

# Fish and Chip Frydays!

**You are all welcome to come along and join us for a Fish and Chip Lunch followed by a friendly game of bingo every last Friday of the month.**

The lunches will be at Lancaster House and some of the people who live there will be joining us so will be able to meet up with old friends and forge new friendships as well, so make sure that you put these dates in your diary!

**Place:** Lancaster house, 160 Hinkley Road, Leicester LE30UX.

**Time:** 12 noon onwards.

**Cost of meal per person:** £5  
(Or cost of meal if under £5, guests pay for price of meal).

**Contact:** Jo Brown 01162543106 or [jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk) to book or for a menu. Please let Jo know your menu choice\* by the Tuesday before. Payments will be taken on the day.

**Dates for 2026 from February to September:**

**Friday 27 February**

**Friday 27 March**

**Friday 24 April**

**Friday 29 May**

**Friday 26 June**

**Friday 31 July**

**Friday 28 August**

**Friday 25 September**



# The Open Hand Lodge

**The Open Hand Lodge have had a busy time in August. They enjoyed day out with Swift Valley Coach Travel when they went on a another Cream tea Mystery tour with them. They stopped off for a short while at the Heart of the Shires Shopping Village in Northampton where they had time for a coffee and a mooch around some of the independent shops, boutiques and garden centre.**



They then had a ride through some lovely countryside and villages to The Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne for a delicious cream tea. Peter and Deanna also gave us an impromptu singalong on the piano at the pub! There was plenty of time afterwards for a look around the museum or to have a walk along the canal, some of even went on a boat ride to the famous Blisworth Tunnel. Many thanks again to our driver, Leno for looking after us all.



They also enjoyed an afternoon tea at Palmers Garden Centres in August and were treated to some lovely sandwiches and scones. It was nice to be able to sit and have a natter and a catchup



**And in September, to celebrate our Friendship Month, they had a bring and share ploughman's lunch. There was certainly enough to go round.**

It was just nice to sit around and enjoy each other's company. It really was a lovely

afternoon, so much so they have decided to have another one next year. There was a selection of cheeses to try and pick a favourite but to be honest with all the other lovely food that was there it got forgotten!



## Receipts for Dental and Optical Claims

**Just another gentle reminder that when you make a dental or optical claim you must include the original receipt which must show your name, the date, the name of your dentist or optician and the amount you have paid. Without this information we will have to reject your claim.**

Credit and debit card receipts on their own are not acceptable. This is a requirement from our Auditor so please be mindful that if you do not send in the correct receipts your claim cannot be processed and you will be asked to supply them which will delay your reimbursement.

If you know you have appointments for both dental and optical near each other can you please send the claims in together. This will save the cost of having to post out separate cheques as it costs over a £1 plus bank charges for every single cheque that is posted out.

Can you also make sure that your claims are sent to the Office and not to Unity in Manchester as they do not process them. It will also delay your reimbursement as they cannot be processed until Unity sends it back to us.

Our address is Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF or you can email them to [mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk).

# Festive Fun

The Westcotes Lodge kicked off the Leicester Oddfellows Christmas festivities in style when thirsty six members went to The Groby Ex-Servicemen's Social Club again for their Christmas Lunch. Many thanks must go to the staff at the club for looking us after us all so brilliantly.



The meal was delicious, although after a starter and a carvery some didn't quite have enough room for dessert!

Afterwards they enjoyed a sing-a-long with Bryan Classz who came to sing us a few oldies that everyone knew, with help from Louise and Val who volunteered to play the tambourine and the maracas to the Christmas songs which definitely helped to get us all in the festive spirit!

Next up was the Market Harborough we went to the Coach and horses in Lubenham. As you know the group only started in May and we have had new members join along the way. It was nice to be able to sit as a

group and get to know each other better over a lovely lunch and what made it more special is that another member joined on the day!



The Open Hand members enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch at the Vicarage in Whetstone and it was great to see one of new members who joined us after only his first meeting.



Finally, the Earl Howe members went to the George and Dragon in Thringstone where they enjoyed their Christmas Lunch. They too had new members join them which great news.

Our Provincial grand Master, June Edwards looking resplendent in her Christmas outfit!

All in all, the Lodges had a fabulous time celebrating yet another busy year.



# Branch Contacts

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

## Earl Howe Branch

(Ashby, Coalville, Ibstock, Whitwick)

**Secretary:** Kim Leake

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

**Telephone:** 0116 2543106

Every first Monday in the month at 2.30pm.

## Open Hand Branch

(Whetstone, Blaby and Cosby)

**Secretary:** Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF

**Telephone:** 0116 2543106

Every third Wednesday in the month at 2pm.

## Westcotes Branch (Leicester)

**Secretary:** Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

**Telephone:** 0116 2543106

Every first Thursday in the month at 2pm.

## Temple of Peace Branch

(Markfield)

**Secretary:** Rob Boulter

Oddfellows Mission Hall, Shaw Lane, Markfield LE67 9PU

**Telephone:** 07761 716863

## Market Harborough Branch

(Market Harborough)

**Secretary:** Jo Brown

Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE30HF

**Telephone:** 0116 2543106

Every second Thursday in the month at 2pm.

## Can you help by volunteering?

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

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



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Mike by phone on 0116 2543106 or email [mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk)

 **THE Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
making friends, helping people  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

## Friendship: the constant that carries us forward A message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

**Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.**

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship. Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

**Yours in friendship,**

**Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows**

## A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate)



# Talented trio win Educational Awards

**We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).**

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

## Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

## Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.



She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".

## Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

## Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

## More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards).

# 2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

**The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.**

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

## Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

## Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

## Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

## Find out more

Visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk) or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

# Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



**None of us know what is around the corner...**

## **Local Care and Welfare Support**

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Mike on **0116 2543106** or email **mike.harris@oddfellows.co.uk**.

## **Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line**

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](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**

# At a glance

## March 2026

<b>Mon 2</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Wed 4</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Westcotes Branch - Guest Speaker from Canine Partners	2pm
<b>Wed 11</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Truck Stop, Shepshed, Loughborough	12 noon
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Market Harborough Branch - Happy Days Fitness	2pm
<b>Tues 17</b>	Annual Summoned Meeting	1.45pm
<b>Wed 18</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Open Hand Branch Meeting followed by a Bake Off Competition	2pm
<b>Wed 25</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 27</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon

## April

<b>Wed 1</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Sea Shanty Workshop!	2pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	District Branch Open Meeting	2pm
<b>Wed 8</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 9</b>	Market Harborough Branch - Bits and Bobs!	2pm
<b>Mon 13</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Annual Inter-Lodge Quiz	1.30pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 15</b>	Open Hand Branch Lunch Out to Celebrate St George's Day	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Charnwood Arms, Bardon Hill, Coalville	12 noon
<b>Wed 22</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 24</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon
<b>Wed 29</b>	Games Morning	10am

# At a glance

## May

<b>Wed 6</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Westcotes Branch - Glenfield Strummers	2pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Wed 13</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Market Harborough Branch Meeting	2pm
<b>Fri 15</b>	Lunch at Ulverscroft Grange and a Visit to the Model Railway	11am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Open Hand Branch - Tour of the Leicester Cathedral and the Tomb of King Richard III	2pm
<b>Wed 27</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 29</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon

## June

<b>Mon 1</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Tues 2</b>	District Branch Open Meeting	2pm
<b>Wed 3</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Westcotes Branch - Guest Speaker from Leicester Animal Aid	2pm
<b>Wed 10</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Market Harborough Branch - 'Life Onboard the Royal Yacht'	2pm
<b>Fri 12</b>	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at the Meadow Barn, Whitwick, Coalville	2pm
<b>Wed 17</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Open Hand Hand - Crazy Golf	1pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Earl Howe Branch - Trip on the Great Central Railway	10.30am
<b>Wed 24</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 26</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon

## July

<b>Wed 1</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Westcotes Branch - The Life of Malcolm Sargent	2pm
<b>Mon 6</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm

# At a glance

## July

<b>Wed 8</b>	Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust Boat from Loughborough to Normanton	9.45am
<b>Wed 8</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 15</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 15</b>	Open Hand Branch Meeting followed by a Beetle Drive	2pm
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Earl Howe Branch Lunch Out at The Bulls Head at Abbot Oak	12 noon
<b>Mon 20</b>	Market Harborough Branch - Trip to Bakewell Market and Matlock Bath	9am
<b>Wed 22</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 29</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 31</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon

## August

<b>Mon 3</b>	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Tues 4</b>	Summoned Meeting and District Open Meeting	1.45pm
<b>Wed 5</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 6</b>	Day Trip on the Peter La Marchant Trust boat from Loughborough to Mountsorrel	9.45am
<b>Wed 12</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Thurs 13</b>	Market Harborough. Talk about the History of Swear Words!	2pm
<b>Wed 19</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Wed 19</b>	Open Hand Branch - Walk Around Everards Meadows	1pm
<b>Fri 21</b>	Visit to the Whitemoors Antique Centre for Lunch followed by a Trip on the Battlefield Line	10.30am
<b>Wed 26</b>	Games Morning	10am
<b>Fri 28</b>	Fish and Chip Fryday!	12 noon