

April - October 2026
Issue 21



Othe SINCE 1810
DDfellows
making friends, helping people

out & about

St Helens and Warrington District



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz

Image courtesy of Inglenook Farm Rainford



Come and join the Oddfellows as we get out and about this Spring and Summer - we have lots planned!

Welcome to the latest edition of our Events Diary and Newsletter

This is a handy guide for you to keep so you know what is happening in our area and to help you plan your Spring and Summer in great company.

At St Helens and Warrington, we organise and host regular meet ups along with day trips. We have lots of new exciting adventures planned and hope you might like to join us!

We offer a mix of light-hearted social and enriching experiences. Our events offer four things: regularity – so you've always got something to look forward to; variety – so you can try new things and visit new places; reassurance – a friendly, welcoming environment; and affordability – so no one misses out on good company because of cost.

We welcome everyone at Oddfellows events. Why not share us to friends on Facebook or invite them to come along with you, let's share our fun!

A bit about us...

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

Branch Contacts

Please note the new change to
Branch Secretary

Branch Secretary: Dawn Powell
Address: 121 Mill Lane, Newton-le-
Willows WA12 8BG

Telephone: 07482 130531
Email:
dawn.powell@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Nicola Daffern
Telephone: 07456 915655
Email:
nicola.daffern@oddfellows.co.uk

Care and Welfare/ Safeguarding Adults Officers

Margaret Harrison Ingham
Carol Rigby
Please contact Dawn or Nicola to
request contact information.

Branch meetings are held on
various Tuesdays throughout the
year at the URC (United Reformed
Church), Ormskirk Street, St
Helens WA10 2JZ. For further
details or if you would like to
attend any of the meetings please
contact Dawn or Nicola.

Branch Contact Hours

Please remember that Dawn
and Nicola both work part time
and flexi hours. Dawn is best
reached between 9am and
1pm on Tuesday-Thursday.
Nicola between 9am and 4pm
Monday - Thursday. If you cannot
reach them, please do leave a
message/send an email and they
will respond as soon as possible.

Keeping informed

Are you receiving our regular
Monday members' email? If not
please contact Nicola to request,
and why not also follow us on
Facebook too to see news and the
fun we have:

 [facebook.com/oddfellows.sthandw](https://www.facebook.com/oddfellows.sthandw)

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

St Helens Regular Events

Tuesday Drop In

 1.30pm  Members £2.50
Guests £3

Various Tuesdays

Join us at the URC for our Tuesday social. Due to popularity we are now in the larger Lower Hall. This is a great chance to come along and make new friends, have a chat, bring your chosen craft or pass time to work on, join in with some games or pick-up/drop-



off any membership documents. Cost includes refreshments. There is a small free onsite car park, but please remember to sign in with your car registration number at the reception. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

7 April

14 April

21 April

5 May

12 May

19 May

2 June

9 June

16 June

23 June

7 July

14 July

21 July

4 August

11 August

18 August

1 September

8 September

22 September

6 October

13 October

20 October

St Helens Coffee Morning

 10.30am  As per menu

Various Thursdays

Join us in St Helens for our monthly Thursday catch up from 10.30am. This event location is moveable, please contact Nicola for this month's venue. Wherever we choose, we know there will be a good selection of refreshments and a warm welcome offered, cost will be as per menu. Venue to be confirmed, around St Helens Town Centre, St Helens WA10 1AX. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.



30 April

21 May

11 June

16 July

13 August

15 October

Warrington Regular Events

Catch Up in Barley Mow

 10.30am  As per menu

Join us at the Barley Mow, just outside Golden Square, for our monthly Monday catch up from 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for a chat and catch up. Refreshments and food available from the bar. Cost as per your menu choice. Barley Mow Warrington, Old Market Place, Golden Square, Warrington WA1 1QB. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

Various Mondays



13 April
11 May

8 June
13 July

10 August
12 October

Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island Coffee

 10.30am  As per menu

Rhode Island Coffee, situated just outside the Golden Square Shopping Centre, is the venue for our monthly coffee morning in Warrington. Everyone is welcome to come and join us upstairs (approximately 18 steps) in the Latte Lounge for a chat and catch up. Rhode Island Coffee, 23-25 Market Place, Golden Square, Warrington WA1 1QB. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

Last Tuesday

28 April
26 May

30 June
28 July

25 August
29 September

27 October



Regular Events

Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons

Every Friday



2pm



As per menu

Fancy a meet up to dine with friends? Then come along and join us at our Friday Dining Club hosted by Eric. We meet regularly at 2pm at The Nine Arches (Wetherspoons) in Earlestown. No need to book, just pop in! Cost as per your choice from bar/food menu.

Earlestown Wetherspoons, The Nine Arches Pub, 3 Legh Street, Earlestown WA12 9NE. For more information or any questions, please email Nicola at nicola.daffern@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07456 915655.



April 2026

THURS
16

Chester Boat Trip



9am



Members £30
Guests £34



Limited availability remaining (a reserve list will be held). Enjoy free time in Chester centre in the morning and then an afternoon two-hour scenic cruise. At 1pm, we meet at the quayside for a prompt sail at 1.30pm down the River Dee. On the river cruise, we will be treated to a jam and cream scone with tea or coffee, plus we will be joined by Paul Ray, a versatile keyboard vocalist, who will provide on-board entertainment, playing songs from 60s, 70s and 80s. The coach will drop us in the centre of Chester, but please note, there is an incline to walk down to reach the quayside and a few steps to the landing stage. There are also a few steps on board if sitting downstairs near the bar. The coach will collect us directly off the boat for our return journey to avoid the climb back up the hill! Although the boat is undercover, please wear suitable clothing/shoes. Pick-up in Warrington at 9am and St Helens at 9.20am. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place, final balance is due by Tuesday 7 April. Chester Boat, The Groves, Souter's Lane, Chester CH1 1SZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

May

TUES
05

Branch Meeting followed by St Helens Tuesday Drop In

L 1.30pm

£ Donations



Come along and be updated with all the latest information regarding the Oddfellows at both local and national level. This is also your chance to see how the Branch is run and share your views. Remember, we are run by our members, for our members. Following the meeting, refreshments and the normal Tuesday social will go ahead for those wishing to stay. Donations towards refreshments. Members only for the meeting, non-members are welcome to attend following at approximately 2pm. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

THURS
28

Portland Basin and Manchester Tour

L 9am

£ Members £25, Guests £29, Children £12



We start the day at Portland Basin, which is at the junction of three canals. Step back in time inside the museum on the recreated 1920s street and view the temporary exhibit on the history of public health. Then you might like to take lunch at the café on the canal side where you can purchase refreshments and lunch (not included), or maybe you'd like to bring your own and eat at the picnic benches outside.



Please note the car park is laid with cobbles. At 1pm, we rejoin the coach with Jonathan Schofield as our tour guide as we visit Fairfield Moravian Settlement for a quick history insight into the late 1700s self-contained village. We follow this with an hour's drive-by tour of some of Manchester's highlights with lively, humorous and factful commentary along the way. We finish at the Lowry, where we will stop for a quick comfort break before heading back. Pick-up in Warrington at 9am and St Helens at 9.20am. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place, final balance by Tuesday 12 May please. Portland Basin, Portland Place, Ashton-under-Lyne OL7 0QA. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

June

WED
17

L1 Old Dock Tour



11.45am



£13



Meeting at 11.45am (for a prompt 12 noon tour start time) outside the Pump House pub at the docks. We will head down to the site revealed during excavations in 2001 to see a large portion of the Old Dock, rising more than 20 feet from the bed of the pool - the creek that gave Liverpool it's name. A modern bridge and walkway give grandstand views. There are two flights of stairs to go down/up, but there is a seated chairlift, should this be required (please notify Nicola if needed when booking). The tour is one hour. Afterwards, if you would like to join us, we will head for lunch at a location to be chosen nearer the day, cost for lunch would be as per your menu choice. Please note no transport is included in this trip. For Old Dock ticket please register your interest and make payment by Tuesday 31 March. Ticket allocation will be assigned to those who registered interest first to last as we cannot guarantee a private tour due to sales being open to public, money to be refunded if unsuccessful in ticket allocation. After this date, any request must be accompanied with full payment and confirmation of booking will be subject to securing the extra ticket. Pumphouse Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AN. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

July

SAT
11

LADGC Bowling



10am



TBC



The annual LADGC Bowling Competition once again returns to Garswood Hall Bowling Club. This has proved to be growing in popularity over the last few years, with beginners and more experienced bowlers, along with spectators enjoying the day. Tea or coffee is available all day with a pay bar open from 12 noon, a buffet lunch is included in the price (to be confirmed closer to the time) for both player and spectators. Limited transport may be available, please speak to Nicola. Book by Tuesday 16 June. Garswood Hall Bowling Club, Nicol Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 8LU. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

July

WED
22

A Day in Llandudno

 9am

 Members £23, Guests £27, Children £10



Our free time day out to Llandudno offers you the chance to explore this vibrant Victorian seaside gem, known for its beautiful views and pebble



beaches. The coach will drop us within reachable distance of Llandudno Pier, North Shore Beach, cable car station, the Great Orme Tramway and the Great Orme Mines (additional charges to be paid locally). A little further afield are Haulfre Gardens and West Shore Beach.

Coach pick-up at Warrington 9am and at St Helens 9.20am. Please speak to Nicola for arrangements if you wish to make your own way to Llandudno. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place, final balance by Tuesday 7 July please. Llandudno, Mostyn Broadway, Llandudno LL30 1YL. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

August

TUES
04

Branch Meeting followed by St Helens Tuesday Drop In

 1.30pm

 Donations



Come along and be updated with all the latest information regarding the Oddfellows at both local and national level. This is also your chance to see how the Branch is run and share your views. Remember, we are run by our members, for our members. Following the meeting, refreshments and the normal Tuesday social will go ahead for those wishing to stay. Donations towards refreshments. Members only for the meeting, non-members are welcome to attend following at approximately 2pm. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

August

WED
19

Carnforth Station and Leighton Hall

L 9am

£ Members £45, Guests £49



We will first visit Carnforth Station, where we will have morning coffee and later enjoy a soup and sandwich light lunch (all included in cost). The award-winning Heritage Centre is located within a working railway station, famously featured in the classic 1945 film 'Brief Encounter'. As you stand on Platform 1 with its vintage suitcases and railway posters, you can almost imagine the era when steam trains frequently passed through.



We will then travel the short distance to Leighton Hall, a much loved family home and the centre of an agricultural estate since medieval times for a guided tour. We will have tea and biscuits (included in cost) before leaving for home. Coach pick-up at Warrington 9am and at St Helens 9.20am. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place, final balance by Tuesday 4 August please. Leighton Hall, Storrs Lane, Carnforth LA5 9ST. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

September - Friendship Month

TUES
01

Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In

L 1.30pm

£ Members £2.50
Guests £3



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Join us at the URC for our Friendship Month Tuesday social. This is a great chance to come along and celebrate Friendship Month with us while making new friends over a chat or maybe bring your chosen craft or pass time to work on. You can join in with some games or pick-up/drop-off any membership documents. Cost includes refreshments. There is a small free onsite car park, but please remember to sign in with your car registration number at reception. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
03

St Helens Friendship Lunch



Join us for this special Friendship Month Coffee Morning/Lunch in St Helens town centre. Wherever we choose, we know there will be a good selection of refreshments, delicious lunch and a warm welcome offered. Cost will be as per menu. This is a great chance to see what the Oddfellows are all about, meet some of our members and see what they like about being an Oddfellow and of course make new friends along the way. Book by Tuesday 18 August. This event location is to be announced, please contact Nicola on 07456 915655 more details.

TUES
08

Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In



Join us at the URC for our Friendship Month Tuesday social. This is a great chance to come along and celebrate Friendship Month with us, while making new friends over a chat or maybe bring your chosen craft or pass time to work on. You can join in with some games or pick-up/drop-off any membership documents. Cost includes refreshments. There is a small free onsite car park, but please remember to sign in with your car registration number at reception. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

MON
07

Warrington Friendship Ten Pin Bowling



We love a session of ten pin bowling, so what better way to celebrate Friendship Month in Warrington with the added bonus of crazy golf. If you have never played before, we can have bumpers up to keep us in a straight line. And for those who may struggle to bowl, there are frames available to help out. Cost to be confirmed nearer the day, at the time of going to press, one game of Early Bird Bowling is £3, two games £6, one round of crazy golf £6. If you don't want to play, you are more than welcome to come along and watch others attempt to get a strike or a hole in one, grab a coffee and have a chat. Discobowl Warrington, Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington WA1 1QE. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
15 **Half Yearly Summomed Meeting**



Join us for our Half Yearly Summomed Meeting to keep up to date on all Branch matters. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

TUES
22 **Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In**



Join us at the URC for our Friendship Month Tuesday social. This is a great chance to come along and celebrate Friendship Month with us while making new friends over a chat or maybe bring your chosen craft or pass time to work on. You can join in with some games or pick-up/drop-off any membership documents. Cost includes refreshments. There is a small free onsite car park, but please remember to sign in with your car registration number at reception. United Reformed Church (URC) Lower Hall, Ormskirk Street, St Helens WA10 2JZ. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

WED
23 **St Helens Friendship Breakfast at Toby Carvery**



FRIENDSHIP MONTH EVENT
Invite a friend

After the success of last year's 'Friendship Month Breakfast and Steal A Prize' charity raffle game, we are back for more! We meet from 9.45am at the Toby Carvery Waterside, where we will have our own private room at the back overlooking Carr Mill Dam. You can choose as much or as little as you like from the breakfast carvery, or for those with smaller appetites toast, porridge and cereals are available. Please note, the breakfast carvery closes at 11am to get ready for the lunch offerings. Refillable tea and coffee will still be available after this time. Cost as per menu. Please note this can be a lively event! There is free onsite parking for diners, but please remember to register your car once inside. Buses, the number 352 stops outside, please ask Nicola for times/stops. Booking by Tuesday 8 September is preferred but not essential. Toby Carvery Waterside, East Lancs Road, St Helens WA11 7LX. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
29

Warrington Friendship Coffee Morning at Rhode Island



10.30am



As per menu



Rhode Island Coffee, situated just outside the Golden Square Shopping Centre, is the venue for our monthly coffee morning in Warrington and this month is Friendship Month. Everyone is welcome to come and join us upstairs in the Latte Lounge for a chat and catch up. Rhode Island Coffee, 23-25 Market Place, Golden Square, Warrington WA1 1QB. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.



Say *yes* to friendship in September

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

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

October

THURS
29

Boundary Mill, Colne



9am



Members £17, Guests £21, Children £8



Join us for a day of mooching and shopping at the popular shopping venue of Boundary Outlet in Colne, where you can browse fashion, cosmetics and homewares, plus a choice of eateries all indoors, ensuring potentially rainy October weather won't dampen our fun. Coach pick-up at Warrington 9am and at St Helens 9.20am. A £5 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your place, final balance by Tuesday 13 October please. Boundary Mill, Vivary Way, Colne, Lancashire BB8 9NW. Contact Nicola on 07456 915655.



Booking on Events

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation of an event due to lack of support.

Please note a place is not guaranteed until your deposit has been received. Deposits are non refundable. When a booking is made for events that require a deposit or a purchase of ticket, payment of this must be made within 7 days of booking. Refunds will only be made where the event is cancelled, no refunds will be given in any other circumstances, unless the place can be filled.

To keep our trips as affordable as possible, our coach has no facilities and we book one pick-up/drop off in both Warrington (near Central Station) and St Helens (URC). To ensure we stick to our agreed booking (and insurance) we cannot have extra drop offs. Note: car parking at URC on day trips is not available.

Please advise of mobility issues/ medical needs at time of booking. The first few rows of seating on coach are reserved for this reason and allocated on priority needs. Sitting in these seats may require you sitting away from friends. Please sit in the same seat on return journey. On return to St Helens, please let those who need to catch a bus home get off the coach first.

Thank you as always for your co-operation.

Payment Options

There are various ways to make payment:

- **Card and cash** – both options available at events via Nicola.
- **Cheque** – Please speak to Dawn or Nicola
- **Bank transfer** – please ensure that you advise Dawn by call/ email/text of the event you are making payment for. For bank details please call Dawn.

Are your contact details up to date? If not please get in touch



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  facebook.com/oddfellows.sthandw

New Branch Secretary

In November we welcomed our new Branch Secretary, Dawn Powell. Dawn serves our committee with financial administration of Branch and also offers member support for membership queries, claims and onward referrals for assistance. She will be attending some social events to meet our members and is very much looking forward to meeting you all.

A message from Dawn: “Hello, let me introduce myself. I am an experienced secretarial and accounting professional

with a keen eye for detail and a strong commitment to my community. I love supporting people and meeting their needs and

hopefully making a real difference in the lives of those around me. I am happy to have discovered the Oddfellows and I look forward to good times ahead with this wonderful group”.



Welcome to our new members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members who have joined us since the last diary.

Valerie Allan

Karen Betney

Margaret Birch

Barbara Brack

Jean Chambers

Marion Crosby

Amelia Daffern

Paul Ellis

Barbara Hibbert

Maureen Holmes

Denise O'Donoghue

Dawn Powell

Jane Pritchard

Phoebe Smith

Jim Tracey

Rosie Woods

Along with David Clift and Pauline Columbine, who have both recently transferred to our Branch. We hope you are all enjoying being Oddfellows!



Branch News

Charity Work

Our on-going knitting projects for Warrington Hospital are still being well received and appreciated. We knit HALS, prem baby goods, blankets and squares. We would be delighted to receive any oddments of left over wool if anyone wishes to donate for our volunteers to use in these projects, or if you would like to help make, please do speak to Nicola.

Ongoing fundraising is continuing for this year's Chairman's charity of Hope House at the Hope Centre St Helens. Since our last update, we held 'Steal A Prize' Friendship Month charity raffle in September, a musical charity afternoon in October with superb entertainment from the Hope Singers and Vernon Fuller, yummy cake sales on various Tuesday afternoons at URC (courtesy of Joan), lots of mini raffles on coach trips and of course



Knitted goods.

our main Christmas Hamper raffle. Well done everybody in supporting us. We will confidentially smash the £1,000 that we aimed to raise. Watch out for our final total announcement very soon.

Pictured is just a small sample of the knitting generously completed by members and delivered to Warrington Hospital by Barbara on our behalf; one of Joan's sell out cream scones; Christmas fundraising hamper raffle and the Hope Singers and Vernon Fuller entertaining at our charity afternoon.



Cream scone.



Christmas hampers.



Hope Singers.

Friendship Month Fun!

September 2025 brought our annual Friendship Month and saw us having fun celebrating friendships! We started the month indulging in fish and chips at the Nelson pub in St Helens, having brunch at the Dorado Lounge in Warrington and an unlimited breakfast at the Waterside pub in St Helens. We certainly proved

good food tastes even better in the company of good friends!

At the Waterside pub, we held our charity 'Steal a Prize' raffle, where the lucky won a prize, the unlucky lost their prize and the grand opening of wins were revealed with much hilarity and questioned if the winners were indeed winners!



A Day In The Life: Beatles Magical Mystery Tour Adventures!

We loved it yeah, yeah, yeah! St Helens and Warrington joined Mersey Branch on a Day Tripper to do a little Twist and Shouting With A Little Help From our (My) Friends on a Magical Mystery Tour. Meeting at a certain public house chain (well it was my birthday – Nicola) before heading through town on the open topped tour bus and stopping at landmarks and the homes of the Beatles.

The Long And Winding Road took us to a planned lunch stop at Strawberry Fields (Forever) for an optional wander around the exhibition, before we needed to Get Back to the second half of the tour.

We learned factual information, such as Paul McCartney writing what he could see whilst waiting for a bus on Penny Lane... the barber, the banker and the fireman. The fire station he saw was actually on Mather Avenue - right next door to the old Oddfellows Liverpool Office. Imagine if he'd seen on Oddfellow, how would he have described them? I'm guessing very happy!

We enjoyed lots of singing along to Beatles tracks along the way, such as (good opportunity to fit more song titles in! - Nicola) I Saw Her Standing There and All You Need Is Love. It was a real feel-good trip with new friendships made and old friendships celebrated, a proper good day to remember!



Christmas 2025

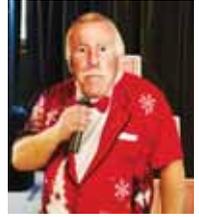
Our Festive Fun started with our famous Halifax Bingo, always guaranteed to bring a giggle!

For our Christmas party, we went to The Unison Sports and Social Club (formerly known as Nalgo) for Rick's famous carvery lunch.



Rick excelled himself again this year with the finest carvery and pudding offering. After eating, whilst it settled, we held

our annual Christmas hamper raffle and we followed this with a game of Play Your Cards Right with our special host Paul 'Bruce' Ray. We raised £275 for our Chairman's charity of Hope House at the Hope Centre in St Helens. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to everyone who joined in!



To start our party proceedings off, we recreated our party month of August by welcoming B-ringo Starr and Eric Lennon-ish to rock out a few Beatles tunes and then our very own Liz reimaged the Tina Turner tribute act by sashaying into the spotlight to reinforce why she is Simply the Best.



A couple of party games, spot prizes and a little more shimmying on the dance floor rounded off the event... Same time next year? A few snapshots of the event ...



Photos of past events



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



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.

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 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 Dawn on **07482 130531** or email **dawn.powell@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

At a glance

April 2026

Tues 7	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 10	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 13	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 14	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 16	Chester Boat Trip	9am
Fri 17	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 21	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 24	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 28	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am
Thurs 30	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am

May

Fri 1	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 5	Branch Meeting followed by St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 8	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 11	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 12	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 15	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 19	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 21	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 22	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 26	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am
Thurs 28	Portland Basin and Manchester Tour	9am
Fri 29	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm

June

Tues 2	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 5	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 8	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 9	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 11	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am

At a glance

June

Fri 12	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 16	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Wed 17	L1 Old Dock Tour	11.45am
Fri 19	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 23	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 26	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 30	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am

July

Fri 3	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 7	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 10	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Sat 11	LADGC Bowling	10am
Mon 13	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 14	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 16	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 17	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 21	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Wed 22	A Day in Llandudno	9am
Fri 24	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 28	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am
Fri 31	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm

August

Tues 4	Branch Meeting followed by St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 7	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 10	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 11	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 13	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 14	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 18	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Wed 19	Carnforth Station and Leighton Hall	9am

At a glance

August

Fri 21	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 25	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am
Fri 28	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 3	St Helens Friendship Lunch	11am
Fri 4	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 7	Warrington Friendship Ten Pin Bowling	10.30am
Tues 8	Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 11	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 15	Half Yearly Summoned Meeting	1.30pm
Fri 18	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 22	Friendship St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Wed 23	St Helens Friendship Breakfast at Toby Carvery	9.45am
Fri 25	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 29	Warrington Friendship Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am

October

Fri 2	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 6	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 9	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Mon 12	Warrington Catch Up at Barley Mow	10.30am
Tues 13	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Thurs 15	St Helens Thursday Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 16	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 20	St Helens Tuesday Drop In	1.30pm
Fri 23	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm
Tues 27	Warrington Coffee Morning at Rhode Island	10.30am
Thurs 29	Boundary Mill, Colne	9am
Fri 30	Earlestown Friday Dining Club at Nine Arches Wetherspoons	2pm

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