

August 2025 - February 2026



events & news

Pride of Leicestershire District Branch



Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire



Music



Art/Crafts



Friendship



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Pride of Leicestershire Annual Friendship Lunch - Saturday 20 September

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

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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.

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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, Wygggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Menus are available from you Branch Secretaries or alternatively contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk.



29 August 2025
26 September 2025
31 October 2025

28 November 2025
30 January 2026
27 February 2026

August 2025

MON 04 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

⌚ 2.30pm

£ Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

TUES 05 District General and Summoned Meeting

⌚ 1.45pm

£ 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 society's 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. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Michael on 0116 2543106.

WED 06 Day Trip to Hunstanton

⌚ 9am

£ TBC



The Westcotes Branch will be going to Hunstanton for the day with Paul Winson Coaches. If you fancy bringing your bucket and spade and having a day at the seaside, then please let us know as places are booking up fast.

The full itinerary will be available nearer the time. St Margaret's Bus Station, Gravel Street, Leicester LE1 3AG. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more details.

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August 2025

THURS
07

Talk on the Agatha Christie Books



2pm



Free



Join the members of the Westcotes Branch when they will be having a talk on the Agatha Christie books by Mark Temple. Whether you are a Miss Marple or a Poirot fan, there is sure to be something for everyone. As always there will be refreshments and a raffle after the meeting. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Hugh on 0116 2877643 for more details.



FRI
08

Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at The Robin Hood, Swannington



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 Robin Hood. Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Book by Friday 18 July 2025. The Robin Hood, Spring Lane, Swannington, Coalville LE67 8QQ. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go.



WED
13

Open Hand Branch - Afternoon Tea at Palmers Garden Centre



2pm



£12.50



You are all welcome to join the Open Hand members for an afternoon tea at Palmers Garden Centre. The cost per person will be £12.50 and booking is essential. Book by Wednesday 6 August 2025. Palmers Garden Centre, St Johns, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BS. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email

jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk to book a place or for more details.



August 2025

THURS
14

Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Voluntary Action South Leicestershire



2pm



Free



You are all welcome to come along to the Market Harborough Branch meeting. They will be joined by Rohini Corfield, who is the Community Champion Manager for the Voluntary Action South Leicestershire and she will be talking about all the projects that they do, such as the volunteer 'Drivers Car Scheme', tackling loneliness and about the groups they run. If you live in the area and want to find out how they could help you, then please come along, even if you pop on for half an hour, you would be most welcome. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

VASL

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THURS
21

Open Hand Branch Cream Tea Mystery Tour



10am



Members £30
Guests £40



Everyone is welcome to come along and join the Open Hand members when they embark on another 'Cream Tea Mystery Trip' with Swift Valley Coaches. Booking early is essential to secure a place.

The coach will pick-up from Whetstone or Blaby, but the full itinerary will not be available until nearer the time, so the pick-up times may vary. Book by Wednesday 6 August 2025. Whetstone URC Church, High Street, Whetstone LE8 6LJ. Please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 to book a place or for more information.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON 01 **Earl Howe Branch Meeting**



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

FRI 05 **Members Presentation Day**



We are inviting all of our new and existing members and their friends along to a presentation to let them know about all the benefits that the Oddfellows can offer and how these can be accessed, from 11am to 1pm. The presentation will be followed by a buffet lunch. Booking is required in order for us to arrange the catering. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. To book a place or for more information contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Tuesday 19 August 2025.

THURS 04 **Westcotes Branch - Visit to the Secret Garden at Glenfield Hospital**



The Westcotes Branch invites you and your friends to join them when they visit the Secret Garden at Glenfield Hospital. There will be time for refreshments at the gardens afterwards. Book by Friday 22 August 2025. Glenfield Hospital NHS Trust, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QP. Contact Hugh on 0116 2877643 for more details.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

September

THURS
11

Market Harborough Branch - A Film Show about the History of the Symington Building and Carnivals in Market Harborough

L 2pm

£ Free



You are all invited to come along to the Market Harborough Branch meeting where they will be welcoming Dr Len Holden from the Market Harborough Historical Society. He will be giving us a talk and a film show about the history of the Symingtons Building and Carnivals in the area. There will be time for refreshments afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. If you would like to come along give Jo a call on 0116 2453106.

FRI
12

Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at The Bulls Head at Abbots Oak

L 12.30pm

£ TBC



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe members for one of their regular lunches. This one will be at the The Bulls Head. Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Book by Friday 5 September 2025. The Bulls Head, Warren Hills Road, Coalville, Coalville LE67 4UY. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

WED
17

Ploughmans Lunch and Cheese Tasting

L 1pm

£ TBC



You are all welcome to come and join the Open Hand members for a ploughman's lunch to celebrate our Friendship Month. It will also include some cheese tasting as well, where we will all decide which cheeses are 'gouda' or bad! Book by Tuesday 2

September 2025. 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 for more details.



September

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun

SAT
20

Pride of Leicestershire Annual Friendship Lunch



11.45am



£15



We had such a great time last year, so we are delighted to invite you all again to our 'Annual Friendship Lunch'. The cost per member is £15 and includes a welcome drink, carvery and dessert of your choice.



We look forward to seeing you all. The venue is at Gynsills Farm. Meet at 11.30am for a 12 noon lunch. There is ample car parking space and easy access to the venue from the M1 or A50. Following the success of last year's lunch, booking is essential. Gynsills Farm, Leicester Road, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8HB. To secure a place, please contact Jo on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 1 August 2025.

Say *yes* to friendship in September

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

All welcome



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

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



October

THURS
02

Westcotes Branch - Name that Tune!



If you fancy a good old sing along then you are all very welcome to join the Westcotes



monthly meeting, where the 'Name of the game' is to name that tune! We shall be saying "Thank you for the music" to Alan Baker, one of the Westcotes Branch members, who will be hosting the afternoon. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Hugh on 0116 2877643 for more details.

MON
06

Earl Howe Branch Meeting



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

TUES
07

District Open Meeting



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. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Michael on 0116 2543106.

THURS
09

Market Harborough Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz



You are all very welcome to join the members from Market Harborough for their monthly meeting and catch up. There will be refreshments and a quiz afterwards. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



October

WED 15 Open Hand Branch - Police Safety Talk

 2pm

 Free



You are all invited to join the Open Hand members when they welcome PC Murphy-Welch, who will be giving us all a talk on how to keep safe. They will cover topics such as tips and advice on keeping yourself protected from crime, which is something that we all need to be aware of. There will be refreshments available after the meeting. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

FRI 17 Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at Cattows Farm, Heather

 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 Cattows Farm.

Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Book by Friday 10 October 2025. Cattows Farm, Swepstone Road, Heather, Coalville LE67 2RF. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go.



TUES 28 Earl Howe Branch - Visit to the Whitemoors Antique Centre and Trip on the Battlefield Line

 11am

 TBC



You are all welcome to join the Earl Howe Branch on their visit to Whitemoors Antiques Centre. There will be time to have look around and maybe bag a bargain or two before having lunch at the tea room there.

In the afternoon they will be moving on to Shenton Station and catching train from there to Shackerstone, along the Battlefield line. They will also have time to watch a glass blowing demonstration there. After which, it will then back to Whitemoors for a well deserved cup of coffee and some cake! Book by Tuesday 14 October 2025. Whitemoors Antique Centre, Main Street, Shenton CV13 6BZ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



November

MON 03 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

 2.30pm

 Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

THURS 06 Earl Howe Branch - Lunch at The Robin Hood, Swannington

 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 Robin Hood. Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Book by Friday 31 October 2025. The Robin Hood, Spring Lane, Swannington, Coalville LE67 8QQ. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go.



THURS 06 Westcotes Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz

 2pm

 Free



Come and join the Westcotes Branch for their monthly meeting, which will be followed by a pre-Christmas quiz to get you in the festive spirit early! There will be refreshments and a raffle afterwards. Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Wyggestons, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Hugh on 0116 2877643 for more details.

THURS 13 Market Harborough Branch Meeting followed by a Game of Bingo

 2pm

 Free



You are welcome to join the Market Harborough members for their final meeting of the year as next month is their Christmas lunch, but there will be mince pies and wine to help get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



November

WED
19

Open Hand Branch - Christmas Quiz and Mince Pies!



2pm



Free



Join the Open Hand members when they get into the festive spirit early and enjoy a Christmas quiz followed by mince pies. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

December

MON
01

Earl Howe Branch Meeting



2.30pm



Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. We look forward to seeing you all. Central Court, Avenue Road, Coalville LE67 3PY. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

December

TUES
02

District 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. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Oddfellows House, 127 Upperton Road, Leicester LE3 0HF. Contact Michael on 0116 2543106.

THURS
04

Westcote Branch Christmas Dinner



12 noon



TBC



The Westcotes Branch will be having their Christmas lunch at Groby Ex-Service Mens Club. Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm start, finish at 3.30pm. This was hugely popular last year, so book early to avoid disappointment. Groby Ex-Service Mens Club, Leicester Road, Groby LE6 0DJ. For more details and to book a place please contact Hugh on 0116 2877643 by Friday 7 November 2025.



December

THURS
11

Market Harborough Branch Christmas Lunch



12 noon



TBC



Everyone is welcome to join the Market Harborough members for their Christmas lunch. Book by Friday 7 November 2025. Venue and menu details will be available nearer the time. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



TUES
16

Open Hand Branch Christmas Lunch



12 noon



TBC



The Open Hand Branch will be having their Christmas lunch out on Tuesday 16 December*.



Due to the festive menus not being available before going to print, we shall let everyone have the information and menus when they are available. (*Please note this date may change. Book by Friday 7 November 2025). Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

WED
17

Countesthorpe Hand Bell Ringers



2pm



Free



Everyone is welcome to join the Open Hand members for their last meeting before Christmas, where they welcome the Countesthorpe Hand Bell Ringers, as they come and play for them.

There will be plenty of Christmas songs to sing along to, to get everyone in the festive spirit.

There will be mince pies available after the concert.

Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



December

FRI 19 Earl Howe Branch Christmas Lunch Out at the George and Dragon

 12 noon

 TBC



You are all very welcome to join the Earl Howe members for their Christmas lunch. This year they will be going to the George and Dragon. Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. To avoid disappointment - booking early is essential. Book by Friday 14 November 2025. George and Dragon, Ashby Road, Thringstone LE67 8UH. Booking is essential, so please contact June on 07986 483476 if you would like to go.



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conversation @
OddfellowsUK**

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OddfellowsLeicester

January 2026

THURS 08 Westcote Branch Meeting

 2pm

 Free



Join the Westcotes members for their first meeting of the New Year, where they will be having a catch up and having what's left of the mince pies! Lancaster House, Wyggestons, 160 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0UX. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106 for more details.

WED 21 Open Hand Branch - Guest Speaker from REMAP

 2pm

 Free



Join the Open Hand members when they welcome Martin Grant from Leicestershire and Rutland REMAP. He will be giving a presentation about their charity, which provides custom-made equipment, free of charge for disabled people and the types of adaptations that they can offer. There will be time for questions and refreshments afterwards. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



February

MON 02 Earl Howe Branch Meeting

🕒 2.30pm 📅 Free



You are all very welcome to come along to the Branch's 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. 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.

THURS 12 Market Harborough Branch - Lunch Out at The Waterfront, Union Wharf

🕒 12 noon 📅 TBC



Everyone is welcome to join the Market Harborough members when they go to the Waterfront for lunch. Menus will be available nearer the time. Book by Friday 16 January 2026. The Waterfront, Union Wharf, Market Harborough LE16 7UW. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

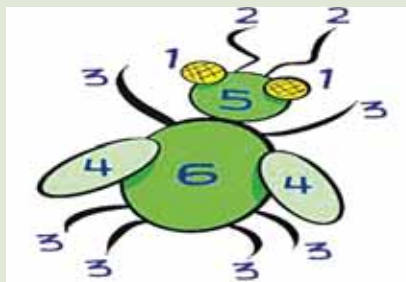


WED 18 Open Hand Branch Meeting and a Beetle Drive

🕒 2pm 📅 Free



Join the Open Hand members for their monthly meeting after which they will have a friendly game of beetle drive. You don't have to played it before, it's easy to pick up and is great fun! There will be refreshments available afterwards. Edward Wright Room, Whetstone Parish Council Offices, Cemetery Road, Whetstone, Leicester LE8 6LL. Contact Jo on 0116 2543106.



Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.

Earl Howe's Trip on the Great Central Railway

On Thursday 19 June 2025, some of the members from Earl Howe enjoyed a lovely day out on the Great Central Railway, even though it was the hottest day of the year on that day!

They all met up for a coffee at the Station Café at Quorn beforehand and then they went on a Steam train from there onto Rothley and then onto then Mountsorrel.

They all had lunch on the griddle car and were able to hop off at Rothley station for a look around all the memorabilia that they have there.

On the way back to Loughborough they had to stop whilst the guards changed the engine as the steam train had caused two small fires on the embankment, so a diesel engine took them home safely.

Many thanks to Kim for all the lovely photos.



Inter-Lodge Quiz And the winner is.....

We had a great turn out when we held our Inter-Lodge quiz in April.

On Tuesday 15 April around 30 members got together for their Annual Inter-Lodge quiz.

Hugh Lord devised the questions and was the quiz master on the day. After a close race to the end the final set of (devious!) questions stumped a few but the Temple of Peace team won again for the second year running, closely followed by Westcotes who came in second and Open Hand who came third.

The winners will be taking the trophy home again and sharing it with their band



mates from the Oddfellows Brass Band. We will be having another quiz next April so if you fancy being on one of the teams then let us know.

Congratulations to the Temple of Peace Team!

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Open Hand Go Crazy!

Some of the members from the Open Hand Branch got together to have a game of crazy golf. They went to the Blaby Golf Centre to have a go on the Congo River Adventure Crazy Golf course which has 18 holes.

The course is meant to take about an hour but that didn't account for all the scrabbling through the undergrowth for all the missing golf balls that wouldn't stay on the course for some reason, so it actually took us two hours! There was a lot of laughter and quite a lot "did you see where the golf ball went!"

After they eventually completed the course, ice-creams were the order of the day. The scores were totted up and Mike Howkins came first and he was also the only person to score a hole in one! They enjoyed it so much that they definitely want to go back again soon. It would be great if we could start a new tradition and



Mike, Hugh, Peter and Yvonne from the Open Hand Branch.

have an inter-lodge match next year with representatives from Open Hand, Earl Howe, Westcotes, Market Harborough and Temple of Peace.

If would like to take part then contact Jo on 0116 2543106.

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

OEW/1024A6

A Step Back in Time

The Empire Stone Orchestra

No doubt some of you will remember the Empire Stone Works in Narborough which opened in 1900 and closed in 1994. It was the largest employer in Narborough employing over 3300 people and even had its own railway siding.

It had its own orchestra as well and both my Dad, George Lord and my Uncle Sam Lord were members. They were both members of the Prince Albert Lodge in Narborough. My Uncle played the violin and my dad played the piano.

I was given this photo in 2001 when my Uncle passed away. He is on the second row on the right hand side to the end next to the double bass player.

I think this photo was taken around 1932, and my dad, who was born in 1920, is I think standing behind the double bass

player but I can't be certain of this. I don't believe you had to be an employer of the Empire Stone as my uncle never worked there. At the outbreak of the war my Dad was working on a site in Coventry for Empire Stone and I was born on November 13th, the day before Coventry got bombed. The building my dad was working on got destroyed so he decided to join the Army so my Mum and I moved to her Aunt's house in Yorkshire where we stayed until the war was nearly over.

I wonder if anyone recognises any of the members from the Orchestra or if you worked at the company?

Hugh Lord

If you have any stories that you would like to share then please let us know, we would love to hear from you.



Visit to 1620's House and Gardens

Some of the members from the Earl Howe Branch enjoyed a lovely day at the 1620s House and garden at Donington le Heath recently.

They had a guided tour of the house and gardens which is a surviving example of a manor house built over seven hundred years ago. For those who were not able to have a look around upstairs, the volunteers were on hand to give them a virtual tour on their tablets. They enjoyed lunch together at the Old Barn Tea room before



having another look around the gardens. Many thanks to all the volunteers and Julian Price and June Edwards for all the lovely photos.



The Market Harborough Branch

We are extremely please to inform you all that the Market Harborough Branch has begun meeting again. The group will be meeting on the second Thursday of every month at the Market Harborough Conservative Club, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough LE16 9QQ from 2pm till 4pm.

We have some new members to welcome as well as some members who used to come

to the meetings there. If you were part of this Branch previously, then why not come along and join us, even if it's for half an hour, we would love to see you, and there will always be refreshments available.

The group have been deciding what sort of meetings or events that interest them but because we have only had two meetings so far, we had not organised them all in time before this went to print. We will let everyone know in due course.

Its Lunch Time!

Some of the Earl Howe members have been enjoying having their monthly lunches in and around the Coalville area. They have been to the Toby Carvery, the George and Dragon and the Bulls Head in Thringstone and the Open Hand members also enjoyed a lunch out at the Whetstone Golf Club. We have many more lunches planned for the coming months, contact Jo on



0116 2543106 if you would like to come along to one of them. Details are in the diary pages.



Some of the Earl Howe members enjoying their lunches out.



Some of the Open Hand members at the Whetstone Golf Club.

A Big Thanks to Hugh

At our Annual Summoned Meeting we said a big thank you to Brother Hugh Lord who had been our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) for the past year.

During his time in office Hugh chose the Rainbows Children's trust as his charity to support for the year. In May, we had Kerrie Laurie from the trust come to the Westcotes Branch meeting to give us a very moving talk about all the fantastic work that they do at the hospice to help children and their family and friends. From raffles and donations Hugh was able to present them with a cheque for £1,250.

This year Sister June Edwards was elected for the third time as Provincial Grand Master and Sister Jo Brown was elected as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



Hugh pictured with Kerrie Laurie from the Rainbows Children's Trust.

June's chosen charity for the coming year is Heart Link and I'm sure that all of our members will continue to support these worthy causes.



June (C) pictured with Mike Harris, Jo Brown and Hugh Lord.

Fish and Chips Friday!

You are all welcome to come along and join us for a Fish and Chips 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!

Held at Lancaster House, 160 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0UX at 12 noon onwards. Cost of meal is £5 per person (or cost of meal if under £5). Contact Jo Brown on 0116 2543106 or 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.



*Please note that there will not be a fish and chips in July or December.

Dates for 2025	2026
29 August	30 January
26 September	27 February
31 October	27 March
28 November	24 April



Annual Friendship Lunch 2025

We had an amazing turn out at our last Friendship Lunch with 45 members in attendance.

It was a great success and everyone enjoyed their meal and catching up with old friends that they hadn't been able to see for a while.

We have decided to do the same this year, so we hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us on Saturday 20th September 2025 at the Gynsills again.

The cost of the meal will be £15 per person which will include a Carvery, Dessert and a welcome drink.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jo Brown on 0116 2543106 or email jo.brown@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 29th August 2025 or return reply slip below.

If anyone needs any assistance with collecting their meals, I shall be more than happy to help.

Places are limited to 47, so will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The places are booked being already, so don't leave it too late!

Name:

Address:
.....
.....

Telephone Number:

We shall/shall not be attending the Annual friendship Lunch.

Please Return by Friday 29 August 2025.
We look forward to meeting up with you all again.

The Geoff Chawner Educational Awards 2026

Applicants are now invited from members for our Educational Development Award of £350 per annum for up to three years.

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, as we sadly didn't have any nominations last year.

Please apply to the District Office for an application form for which the closing date is Friday 31st October 2025.

Tote' 26

There was only one lucky winner who scooped the final jackpot for 2024 with the winning numbers 1 and 28.

If you would like to enter the Tote next year then please see the entry form inside.

District Branch Tote 2026 Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone Number:

Any two number between 1 and 30 inclusive per entry

1st Entry 2nd entry 3rd Entry

Please remember each pair of numbers cost £3 and cheques should be made to 'The Oddfellows'



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

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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



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

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact 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



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

August 2025

Mon 4	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Tues 5	District General and Summoned Meeting	1.45pm
Wed 6	Day Trip to Hunstanton	9am
Wed 6	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 7	Westcotes Branch - Talk on the Agatha Christie Books	2pm
Fri 8	Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at The Robin Hood, Swannington	12 noon
Wed 13	Games Morning	10am
Wed 13	Open Hand Branch - Afternoon Tea at Palmers Garden Centre	2pm
Thurs 14	Market Harborough Branch - Guest Speaker from Voluntary Action South Leicestershire	2pm
Wed 20	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 21	Open Hand Branch - Cream Tea Mystery Tour	10am
Wed 27	Games Morning	10am
Fri 29	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm

September - Friendship Month

Mon 1	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 3	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 4	Westcotes Branch - Visit to the Secret Garden at Glenfield Hospital	2pm
Fri 5	Members Presentation Day	11am
Wed 10	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 11	Market Harborough Branch - A Film Show about the History of the Symington Building and Carnivals in Market Harborough	2pm
Fri 12	Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at The Bulls Head at Abbots Oak	12.30pm
Wed 17	Games Morning	10am
Wed 17	Ploughmans Lunch and Cheese Tasting	1pm
Sat 20	Pride of Leicestershire Annual Friendship Lunch	11.45am
Wed 24	Games Morning	10am
Fri 26	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm

At a glance

October

Wed 1	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 2	Westcotes Branch - Name that Tune!	2pm
Mon 6	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Tues 7	District Open Meeting	2pm
Wed 8	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 9	Market Harborough Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz	2pm
Wed 15	Games Morning	10am
Wed 15	Open Hand Branch - Police Safety Talk	2pm
Fri 17	Earl Howe Branch - Lunch Out at Cattows Farm, Heather	12 noon
Wed 22	Games Morning	10am
Tues 28	Earl Howe Branch - Visit to the Whitemoors Antique Centre and Trip on the Battlefield Line	11am
Wed 29	Games Morning	10am
Fri 31	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm

November

Mon 3	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 5	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 6	Earl Howe Branch - Lunch at The Robin Hood, Swannington	12 noon
Thurs 6	Westcotes Branch Meeting followed by a Quiz	2pm
Wed 12	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 13	Market Harborough Branch Meeting followed by a Game of Bingo	2pm
Wed 19	Games Morning	10am
Wed 19	Open Hand Branch - Christmas Quiz and Mince Pies!	2pm
Wed 26	Games Morning	10am
Fri 28	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm

December

Mon 1	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Tues 2	District Open Meeting	2pm
Wed 3	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 4	Westcote Branch Christmas Dinner	12 noon

At a glance

December

Wed 10	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 11	Market Harborough Branch Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Tues 16	Open Hand Branch Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Wed 17	Games Morning	10am
Wed 17	Countesthorpe Hand Bell Ringers	2pm
Fri 19	Earl Howe Branch Christmas Lunch Out at the George and Dragon	12 noon
Wed 31	Games Morning	10am

January 2026

Wed 7	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 8	Westcote Branch Meeting	2pm
Wed 14	Games Morning	10am
Wed 21	Games morning	10am
Wed 21	Open Hand Branch - Guest Speaker from REMAP	2pm
Wed 28	Games morning	10am
Fri 30	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm

February

Mon 2	Earl Howe Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Wed 4	Games Morning	10am
Wed 11	Games Morning	10am
Thurs 12	Market Harborough Branch - Lunch Out at The Waterfront, Union Wharf	12 noon
Wed 18	Games Morning	10am
Wed 18	Open Hand Branch Meeting and a Beetle Drive	2pm
Wed 25	Games Morning	10am
Fri 27	Fish and Chips Friday	12.30pm