

OUL Cabout

Oswestry Branch







Wellbeing Art/Crafts



Dining Out

Day Trip



Meetings



y Walks

Social







Talks



Coffee Morning/ **Afternoon Tea**





Buffet Lunch at the Oswestry Ironworks - Wednesday 14 August

Welcome to the latest edition of the Oswestry District Events Diary. 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.

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

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.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

Secretary: Viv Osborne 07706 036305

Event Contacts: Extend Classes: Kath Barkley 01691 828587



Coffee Morning and Meals: Arthur Cotterill 01691 671699

Correspondence and benefit claims to Viv:

4 Breeze Hill Barns, Breeze Hill Farm, Chorley, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 8JR

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK

Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Regular Event

Extend Exercise Class

Every Monday Afternoon







Its fun, friendly and all for £4. Sit on a chair and get fit and toned with popular music and songs. The Memorial Hall, Oswald Room, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Kath on 01691 828587.



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Oddfellows Travel 2024

Yorkshire Dales Discovery Tour - Malhamdale Fri 11 - Mon 14 October (3 nights)



Staying at Newfield Hall with HF Holidays. Classic single room £454. Classic twin room or double room £454 per person – based on 2 people sharing. Full board.

Contact Emma Gorst 0161 214 4634 or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Travel holidays are arranged through third party providers, please reference their terms and conditions before booking. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

August 2024



Lunch at The Orangery, **Derwen College**







Come and join us for lunch at The Orangery for good food and even better company. There is also a garden centre and gift shop at the college, if you want to wander round and help lunch go down... The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen, Shropshire SY11 3JA. Arthur will be on holiday, so please let Vivienne know if you would like to attend on 07706 036305.



Buffet Lunch at the **Oswestry Ironworks**







We're visiting the Oswestry Ironworks on Wednesday 14 August, join us at 11.30am to start the day, then we'll



gather on the Balcony of the café for a buffet lunch with coffee or tea. Then you're free to wander round the ironworks and all the sculptures, maybe visit the shop or stroll around the grounds until closing time. Lunch will be £14 and will need to be booked in advance. The British Ironworks Centre, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4JH. Please let Vivienne know if you would like to attend, by Monday 5 August on 07706 036305.

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

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

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

Ref 1644

August 2024



Indoor Curling!









Come and have a go at Indoor Curling! We tried this earlier in the year, and had a great time, once we worked out what we were doing! But this time we might have more of an idea, at least with the scoring.... It's a little bit of gentle exercise, we promise there are no bended knees and no-one sliding along the floor. It's open to everyone, including wheelchair users, but if you just want to come along to watch and have a catch up with some friends that's fine too. We'll have a break at half time for a cup of tea and a biscuit as well. We'll be in the Oswald Room at the Memorial Hall from 2pm. If you want any more details, contact Vivienne on 07706 036305. The Memorial Hall. Oswald Room. Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305.



Coffee Morning







Come and join us for a coffee and a chat on a Tuesday morning. Sometimes there is a raffle, sometimes we'll have a talk or a quiz. We're still in the Festival Suite at the Memorial Hall, which is a little



more cosy. Although this room is upstairs, there is a lift for those who prefer it and there are also facilities upstairs. Everyone is welcome, please come along and say hello. We'll see you in the Festival Suite, Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 for more information.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at f OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

September - Friendship Month



Beetle Drive







ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1-30 SEPTEMBER











Join us for a Saturday afternoon Beetle Drive in the Festival Suite at the Memorial Hall in Oswestry. See how quickly you can draw your beetle, there will be a prize for the prettiest beetle and for the biggest number of points. Its good fun, you get to move around and chat to all your friends and make some new ones whilst the dice get thrown and everyone tries to add up their beetle points! And don't worry, there will be instructions and a picture of a beetle to help you get going. Come and join us for a couple of hours of laughter and chat. The Festival Suite, Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 for more details.



Coffee and Cake for Friendship Month







We've had some great coffee and cake mornings so we've decided to continue the tradition and have another get together in September to celebrate Friendship Month. Do come along and try our homemade cakes and biscuits, have a chat and a catch up, maybe meet some new friends and renew old acquaintances. We'll



be in the Festival Suite at The Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG from 10am until 12 noon. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 for more details, or just turn up on the day. Everyone is more than welcome, we would love to see you, the more the merrier!

September - Friendship Month



Lunch at The Orangery, **Derwen College**







Come and join us for lunch at The Orangery for good food and even better company. There is also a garden centre and gift shop at the college, if you want to wander round and help lunch go down... The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen, Shropshire SY11 3JA. Please let Arthur know if you would like to attend on 01691 671699.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER















Coffee Morning







Come and join us for a coffee and a chat on a Tuesday morning. Sometimes there is a raffle, sometimes we'll have a talk or a guiz. We're still in the Festival Suite at the Memorial Hall, which is a little more cosy. Although this room is upstairs, there is a lift for those who prefer it and there are also facilities upstairs. Everyone is welcome, please come along and say hello. We'll see you in the Festival Suite, Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 for more information.



October



Oddfellows Brass Band Concert





) 2pm $\left(oldsymbol{\mathfrak{L}}
ight)$ £5 per ticket, £20 for the bus



We had a great concert last October, when the Oddfellows Brass Band visited the Oswestry Cricket Club and regaled us with a wide selection of really toe-tapping music, old and new favourites amongst the programme.

Their enthusiasm and love for what they do is so infectious, all our sell out audience were doing their best chair-dancing and loved the intimacy of the venue - it felt like we were really amongst the band themselves. We had so many lovely comments and great feedback on the day, many of you asked if we would be able to hold such an event again. However, the band have such a busy schedule, competing all over the country in national events, that



being able to book them two years running sadly isn't possible, but our neighbouring Branch of Oddfellows, the Severn and Trent Branch are holding a concert in October this year and we have been able to obtain a limited number of tickets for our Oswestry members.

The date for your diary is Saturday 5 October, from 2pm to 4pm at Church and Chetwynd Aston Village Hall. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis and are £5 for the concert itself. We are laying on a mini-bus from the centre of Oswestry to take us there and back, if you would like a place on the bus, the cost will be £20 - so £25 in total. Church and Chetwynd Aston Village Hall, Wallshead Way, Church Aston, Newport TF10 9JG. If you would like to go, please contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 by Wednesday 11 September.

October



Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College







Come and join us for lunch at The Orangery for good food and even better company. There is also a garden centre and gift shop at the college, if you want to wander round and help lunch go down... The Orangery, Derwen College, Whittington Road, Gobowen, Shropshire SY11 3JA. Please let Arthur know if you would like to attend on 01691 671699.





Coffee Morning



) 10.30am (£) Free



Come and join us for a coffee and a chat on a Tuesday morning.



Sometimes there is a raffle, sometimes we'll have a talk or a quiz. We're still in the Festival Suite at the Memorial Hall, which is a little more cosy. Although this room is upstairs, there is a lift for those who prefer it and there are also facilities upstairs. Everyone is welcome, please come along and say hello. We'll see you in the Festival Suite, Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 for more information.

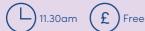
Do you have a story or great photograph to share?

Please send us your news stories! Or perhaps a picture with a caption! Email, post, hand in, or telephone. We'd love to hear anything heart-warming, humorous, or simply very interesting!

October



Care and **Welfare Talk**







Following on from our coffee morning we are delighted to have some members of the Care and Welfare team from our Head Office joining us to give everyone a bit more detail



about the wonderful Care and Welfare benefits available to our members. There will be lots of information about the help we can give and plenty of time for you to ask questions and make contacts. Please do join us to find out how much more the Oddfellows can benefit you. We will be in the Festival Suite at the Memorial Hall, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 2EG. Please contact Vivienne on 07706 036305 or Arthur on 01691 671699, for more details, or just turn up, we'd love to see you.

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 Viv by phone on **07706 036305** or email vivienne.osborne@oddfellows.co.uk



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Coffee and Chat Coffi a Sgwrs

The Lemon Tree 29 Rhosddu Road, Wrexham LL11 2LP

Join us at our new regular meet up in Wrexham, and enjoy a cuppa and a chat – we're a friendly bunch! FREE launch event.

7 and 21 August 4 and 18 September 10.30am – 12noon

Ongoing events will be twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at. All welcome.

Cost as per menu.

For more information, contact us on **01244 675757** or email **caroline.davey@oddfellows.co.uk**



Your local Oddfellows friendship group f OddfellowsDeesideLlandudno www.oddfellows.co.uk



RAF Cosford

A select group of the Oswestry
Oddfellows paid a visit to RAF
Cosford on Thursday 20 June 2024.
We had a lovely day, the sun was
shining (in fact it got quite warm for
some) and we had a good few hours
to meander around all the exhibits
and the various hangars showing
aircraft from the early 1900s.

A highlight of the day was the guided tour by Cameron, from the volunteers at RAF Cosford – as an aircraft historian and retired engineer, he was able to bring to life all the aircraft and stories from the Battle of



Britain exhibits – his undoubted knowledge and passion for his subject really made the time fly (no pun intended...) Everyone enjoyed their time at the museum, rounded off with a raffle and chocolates on the bus home – I'm sure we'll visit again!





Bring friendship to your front room

There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have some wonderful online events coming up and we'd love to see you there.

On Tuesday 6 August at 7pm 'Women in the Picture'

Join us on Zoom by going to www.zoom.uk/join and entering Meeting ID: 851 6847 9066 Passcode: 935814. Followed by **Art Unscrewed** on **Tuesday 20 August 4pm**, both sessions will be focusing on women artists.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live or if they're a member or not. So spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Oddfellows Extra

- big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

Members meet in Llandudno for AMC

The late May Bank Holiday weekend in the beautiful North Wales coastal town of Llandudno was the setting for this year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

Hosted by Deeside Oddfellows, members from throughout the UK made the trip to reflect on the previous 12 months and discuss and vote on the course of the next, all presided over by the Grand Master (Chairman), Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham.



Business conducted, AMC Llandudno

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, with Oddfellows Brass putting on another wonderful performance.



Oddies on the coach to Portmeirion

Members also took part in a ceilidh at the welcome evening, graced the green at the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, took a day trip to Portmeirion and got all dressed up for the Farewell Dance.

Who should be our next major Fund recipient?

Our HA Andrews Memorial Fund provides major financial support over a two or three year period to a project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research in the UK.



The funding for Southampton University's Centre for Cancer Immunology, which was nominated by a member in Guernsey, is in its final year, so we're now open to suggestions on who to support from 2025.

If you've a suggestion of who we can support next, let us know. Go to **www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews** to find out more about the criteria, how to nominate and our deadlines.

Society News Issue 26

Making a Difference Awards 2024

Five members have received national recognition for the brilliant and selfless work they put into making their Branch and the Society as wonderful as they can be.



Terry Rendle, Oswald Branch

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Terry's contributions to the running of Oswald Branch's social events.

He regularly comes up with ideas for events, plans and advertises them, organises and purchases supplies, arranges



catering, sells tickets, physically arranges chairs and tables in the room, taxis people to and from, hosts and clears up after. All this at the age of 84.

"Socialising is so important as you get older," Terry said. "It keeps your brain busy and your body busy which means you might last a bit longer."

He added: "I was flabbergasted. I had to read the letter three times before I realised what I was reading."

Pat and David Lang, Three Counties Branch

Achieving Together

The married couple from Didcot, Oxfordshire, joined the Oddfellows over half-a-century



ago, and in that time have taken on many voluntary roles, including serving as Branch Chairman five times between them.

They are Welfare Visitors, regularly checking in on around 50 fellow members, and are well known for providing food for events and meetings. They are also responsible for an annual Christmas lunch event which, since 2009, has raised over £2,100 for the HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

David said: "It has never been about being rewarded. We love what we do, it's as simple as that.

Pat added: "I'm honoured. We have much to thank the Oddfellows for and have met so many lovely people." Society News Issue 26

Peter Coe, City of Norwich Branch

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

As a mutual society, the Oddfellows is run by and for our members and this award seeks to recognise those who have gone the extra mile to assist in the running of their Branch and the Society as a whole.

Peter has gone several extra miles, having held a number of voluntary roles, including Branch and



District Chairman, and is still a member of the social committee to this day, helping to organise many wonderful events.

Peter said: "The Oddfellows is full of very, very friendly people. We all get on. I've made some very good friends here over the years.

"It's my life. It's what I do. The best thing I did was join the Oddfellows."

Claire Needham, Vale of York District

Giving Something Back

Lifelong member Claire has been recognised for the work she does to raise money and awareness for worthy causes.



She donated nearly £3,000 for

Motor Neurone Disease Association and Martins House Children's Hospice having run the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon last year, and has helped raise more than £30,000 through her role as Chairman of her workplace's Charity Committee.

Claire has also held positions on the Oddfellows' Benevolence Committee and Investigations Committee, making a positive difference to the lives of her fellow members.

"I was completely surprised and I feel really honoured," Claire said. "It's a really nice feeling. It's nice that other people think it's making a difference and it's having an impact."

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Each of the winners are fully deserving of this recognition and I'm very proud of all of them. They typify what it is to be an Oddfellow and the Society and their respective branches are lucky to have them."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2025 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Society News Issue 26

Financial worries revealed



Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, recently surveyed 2,000 people throughout the UK to uncover what's keeping them up at night when it comes to their finances. Here's what they discovered. Do any of these resonate with you?

Cost of living

The worry peaks for those aged 40-49, with 63% feeling the pinch, closely followed by those in their 50s and 60s (both at 62%).

Emergency planning

35% of those surveyed worry they don't have enough money set aside for emergencies like car repairs or medical treatments. Additionally, 28% fret about potential home repair costs.

Pension and retirement

Living on a tight pension is a reality for 22% of respondents, and 18% worry they aren't contributing enough to their pension pot. Many in their 60s regret not paying more into their pensions earlier.



Savings and financial planning

Only 39% of people have money in savings or investments, but this number jumps to 61% for those in their 70s. Yet, just a third have a financial life plan.

Stress and anxiety

Financial stress affects 58% of respondents. Those in their 60s and 70s are less worried compared to younger age groups, with only 35% and 27% respectively reporting anxiety.

Financial regrets

Over half (51%) have financial regrets, including not saving enough each month (46%) and spending on pointless things (43%). Interestingly, more than one in 10 (12%) wish they'd married someone with more money.

These findings show that, while financial worries are largely universal, planning and saving can make a significant difference, especially as we age. Whether you're setting up your first financial plan or adjusting your retirement strategy, it's never too late to take control of your financial future.

Go to www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

Oddfellows members have access to a dedicated Citizens Advice Line. Its advisers can help you to find a way forward with any money or debt problems but are unable to give financial advice. Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/citizens-advice to find out more.



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 Arthur on **01691 671699.**

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 EDCWA50223

At a glance

August 2024

Mon 5	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Thurs 8	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 12	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Wed 14	Buffet Lunch at the Oswestry Ironworks	11.30am
Sat 17	Indoor Curling!	2pm
Mon 19	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 27	Coffee Morning	10.30am

September - Friendship Month

Mon 2	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Sat 7	Beetle Drive	2pm
Mon 9	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Wed 11	Coffee and Cake for Friendship Month	10am
Thurs 12	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 16	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 23	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 24	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 30	Extend Exercise Class	2pm

October

Sat 5	Oddfellows Brass Band Concert	2pm
Mon 7	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Thurs 10	Lunch at The Orangery, Derwen College	12.45pm
Mon 14	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 21	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Mon 28	Extend Exercise Class	2pm
Tues 29	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 29	Care and Welfare Talk	11.30am

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