

March - June 2026



Othe **ODD**fello**WS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

West London Branch



Christmas Lunch



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



We hope to see you at our events!

Welcome to our latest events diary

Booking for events will be open from 11am on Wednesday 18 February.

This is to make it fair to those who do not have internet access. Please call or email me from 11am to book your places.

We have some great events and trips coming up but please do remember that the diary is prepared well in advance and it could be possible that events must be altered. We do also add new events so please check the website www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/ or our Facebook page, West London Oddfellows, for up-to-date information. If you would like to receive updates by email please let me know so that I can add you to the list.

Please note that many events sell out well before the booking deadline.

Contact Details

Branch Secretary:

Barbara Moorhouse

Telephone: 020 8741 5297

Mobile: 07727 026707

Email:

barbara.moorhouse@oddfellows.co.uk

Care and Welfare:

Christine Rattray

Telephone: 07727 358456

Email:

christine.rattray@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Rosalind Earp

Telephone: 07421 140970

Email:

rosalind.earp@oddfellows.co.uk

Office Address:

The Oddfellows

186 Hammersmith Road

Hammersmith

London

W6 7DJ.

We do operate a waiting list for events that sell out, so even if the booking deadline has passed it is worth asking if there is something that you are interested in. We require a deposit at the time of booking with the balance being due at least two weeks before the event. We can accept cash, cheques and bank transfers. We can take card payments using a secure link as well as in person. If you are unable to attend an event and we are able to resell the place we will of course give you a full refund. Please note that if you are attending an event that involves a service charge on the final bill you will be expected to pay your share, the Lodge is unable to pay this on your behalf.

The art class continues to be held every Thursday starting at 10.30am. All are welcome, even if you think you cannot draw or paint why not pop along, you may be surprised at yourself! Please see the advert later in the diary for more information.

The Craft Club continues to run on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2–4pm at 186 Hammersmith Road.

Bring along a project that you are working on or we do have some equipment available to use. Refreshments are provided. For more information, please contact Barbara Moorhouse on 020 8741 5297 or 07727026707 or email Barbara.moorhouse@oddfellows.co.uk There are still many virtual events run by different Oddfellows branches throughout the country, taking place on Zoom and Facebook each week. Again up to date information can be found on the website. If you would like to receive information by email each fortnight please let me know.

If you have any ideas or would like something included in our next diary please get in touch. I can be contacted on the office number 020 8741 5297 on Thursdays from 10am–3pm or Monday to Friday 9am–3 pm on 07421140970. Alternatively email me rosaland.earp@oddfellows.co.uk.

I hope to see you at an event soon.

Best wishes
Rosalind

Assistance at events

Please be aware that we do not provide staff to give assistance to individuals at any events, including, but not limited to, pushing wheelchairs, providing physical support or to provide individual attention for any personal needs. If you need any such assistance, in the interest of your own safety we cannot accept your attendance unless it includes a companion or carer to accompany you. If a carers rate is available it will be passed to you. Thank you for your understanding.

Regular Events

Craft Club



2pm - 4pm



Free



A new Craft Club is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. Bring along a project that you are working on. We also have some equipment available to use. Refreshments are provided. Donations are welcomed. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Barbara on 07727 026707.

Second and Fourth Tuesday



Weekly Watercolour Art Class



10.30am - 1pm



Free



Beginners weekly watercolour art class. Everyone can draw and everyone can paint with a little help! Join us for our weekly class, which is designed for beginners, but more experienced painters are welcome. The Oddfellows, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith, London W6 7DJ. Contact Heather on 07951 546958.

Every Thursday



Booking and Cancellations

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

March

TUES

03

Healthy Homes



2pm



Free



Today we will be joined by the team at Hammersmith and Fulham Council's Healthy Homes department. They offer advice and support to help get energy improvements for your home. Whether it's simple fixes like draught-proofing, or bigger upgrades like solar panels or heat pumps, they are here to help you make your home warmer, greener and cheaper to run. Light refreshments will be served, donations are welcomed. **Please note that the afternoon will begin at 2pm, late comers may not be admitted.** Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

Photo by Watt4 Lot on Unsplash

MON

09

Guards Museum



11.30am



Members £5
Guests £9



The Guards Museum tells the story of the five regiments of Foot Guards who have the honour and duty of protecting the Sovereign and the Royal Palaces from 1660 to the present day. The museum follows the proud history of these world-class fighting soldiers from the English Civil War to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, with displays of their unique collection, which stretches back some 380 years. Book by Monday 2 March. The Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk SW1E 6HQ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

Photo by Tarquin Binary - Own work, CC BY 2.5

SAT

07

Monthly Meal - Modern British Cuisine



1pm



Members £39
Guests £49



Each month we have a meal in a different area of our District and try different cuisines. Join us this month at Origin Kensington for a three course meal and a mimosa. Please note that attendees will be expected to pay any service charges included in the final bill. The Branch will not pay this on your behalf. Full payment will be required when booking by Friday 27 February. Origin Kensington, Royal Garden Hotel, 2-24 Kensington High Street W8 4PT. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

March

WED 11 **The Last Days of Pompeii: The Immersive Exhibition**



12 noon



Members £28
Guests £33



Join us for an afternoon at this immersive exhibition where we will be transported back to 79AD. The exhibition blends dramatic storytelling with cutting-edge technology to bring the doomed Roman city to life. Spanning over 2,000 square metres this event delivers a multi-sensory journey through multiple rooms, showcasing reconstructed Roman architecture, vivid frescoes, artefacts and replicas. Visitors encounter meticulously recreated streets and domestic scenes, giving a textured sense of Pompeii's vibrant daily life before catastrophe struck.

The tour then transitions to a moving display of ash-cast citizens, underscored by immersive projections that capture both the vitality and sudden destruction of the city. The exhibition's highlights include a 360-degree digital experience, a seated VR adventure where visitors enter the coliseum and witness a gladiator fight. Designed for all ages, the exhibition features an evocative original score, inviting both education and emotional connection as guests witness one of history's most dramatic events unfold. Book by Wednesday 4 March. Immerse LDN, Excel London Waterfront, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway E16 1FR. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

TUES 17 **Social and Games Afternoon**



2pm



Free



Join us for an afternoon of games, bingo or a quiz and socialising. Light refreshments will be served. Free - donations are welcomed. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



March

TUES
24

Angels Costumes - Behind the Seams Tour



2pm



Members £25
Guests £30



We are invited to go 'Behind the Seams' at the world's largest costume house: Angels Costumes. A one-of-a-kind experience, the tour showcases their extensive costume collection, which spans eight miles worth of rails and over one million items. On the tour, we will be guided around all of Angels Costumes departments including tailoring, ladies making, alterations, uniform, badge room and warehouse.



We will hear first-hand accounts of working on the biggest productions such as Shakespeare in Love, The Lady in the Van, Downton Abbey, Wicked and Game of Thrones. See clothes made or recreated for Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench, Fred Astaire, Johnny Depp, Cate Blanchett and many more. Please note this tour last for two hours and there is no seating available. Book by Tuesday 17 March. Angels Costumes, 1 Garrick Road NW9 6AA. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

FRI
27

The Play That Goes Wrong



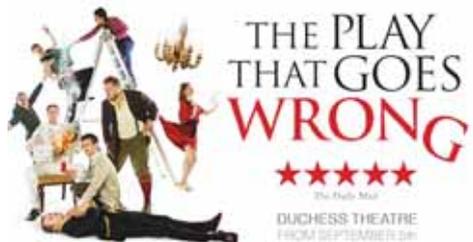
7.30pm



Members £32
Guests £37



The Play That Goes Wrong at the Duchess Theatre, is the West End's longest-running comedy. This award-winning slapstick whodunnit follows the hilariously chaotic efforts of The Cornley Drama Society as they attempt to stage a murder mystery, where everything that can go wrong, does! With non-stop laughs and theatrical mayhem, it's perfect for a fun night out. Book by Friday 20 March. Duchess Theatre, Catherine Street WC2B 5LA. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



April

TUES 07 Social and Games Afternoon



Join us for an afternoon of games, bingo or a quiz and socialising. Light refreshments will be served. Free - donations are welcomed. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



FRI 10 Monthly Meal - Pub Classics



Each month we have a meal in a different area of our District and try different cuisines. This month we will be visiting The Thatched House in Hammersmith, a cosy spot where good food, great drinks and friendly faces come together. Please note that attendees will be expected to pay any service charges included in the final bill. The Branch will not pay this on your behalf. A £10 deposit will be required when booking by Friday 3 April. The Thatched House, 115 Dalling Road, Hammersmith W6 0ET. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

SAT 11 Cinema and Champagne



Saturday Night Classics. We will be heading to the private cinema at the Court House Hotel to see Moulin Rouge. This truly is a movie outing with a difference, as you enter the former Old Street Magistrates' court and Police Station in a beautiful grade II listed building, where many famous names such as Oscar Wilde and the Kray Brothers have appeared. We will receive a complimentary glass of champagne.

The Moulin Rouge movie is a dazzling musical film, directed, produced and written by Baz Luhrmann. The picture offers a unique reinterpretation of songs from the 1940s to the 2000s that fits the atmosphere of this spectacular and dramatic love story between their characters, Satine and Christian. Book by Thursday 2 April. Courthouse Hotel, 335-337 Old Street EC1V 9LL. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

April

SUN
19

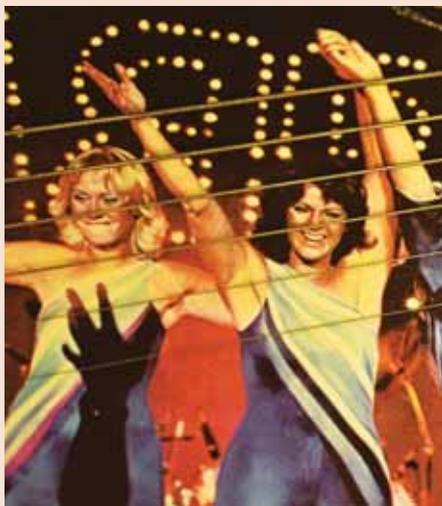
ABBA Voyage

L 1pm

£ Members £59
Guests £70



Blending cutting-edge technology, spectacular lighting and some of the most beloved songs ever written, ABBA take to the stage in a whole new way. In a stunning, purpose-built arena, one of the most popular groups in history appear as digital avatars in a 'ground-breaking' (Metro) concert that really 'needs to be seen to be believed' (BBC).



To mark the third anniversary of ABBA voyage, ABBA added new tracks to the concert's setlist. Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid want to make the concert as spontaneous as possible. Please note these are seated tickets. Book by Thursday 2 April. ABBA Arena, Pudding Mill Lane, Newham, London E15 2RU. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

TUES
21

The History of Afternoon Tea

L 2pm

£ Free



Today is UK National Tea Day and we're celebrating with an exploration of the perfect afternoon tea! Meryl White will be joining us to take a dive into the history, the key figures and the traditions that make this iconic British ritual so special. Meryl White is the author of 'Grandma Abson's Traditional Baking', a collection of her grandmother's recipes from her time in service and her long life of baking for family and friends (1886-1977).



Light refreshments will be served, donations are welcomed. **Please note that the afternoon will begin at 2pm, late comers may not be admitted.** Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

April

FRI 24 Savill Gardens and Boat Trip with Cream Tea



£ Members £44
Guests £49



Join us for a morning trip to Savill Gardens with an optional guided tour. Lunch will be at your own expense. There is an optional visit to The Valley Gardens,



before we head we head over to Runnymede for a two hour boat trip with a cream tea. Cost includes return coach travel. Book by Friday 27 March. The Savill Garden, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Egham TW20 0UJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

MON 27 Lawyers' London: Courts of Justice and Inns of Court Walking Tour



£ Members £19
Guests £24



We will delve into the rich history of a London district that



most visitors overlook, on this Royal Courts of Justice walking tour. We will explore at a relaxed pace in a small group and discover how the English Common Law 'the origin of global law' was developed in this district. Book by Friday 24 April. Temple Tube Station, London WC2R 2PH. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

SAT 25 Annual General Meeting



£ Free



As an organisation, which has been around for over 200 years, and in line with other guild and fraternal organisations of similar age, we have certain traditions, ceremonies, titles and regalia which have been used over the years. The West London District of Oddfellows celebrate this rich tradition by continuing to hold such traditional meetings and welcome all members who are good to join us, take part and find out more about the true meaning of Oddfellowship. **If you wish to attend this meeting you must let Barbara know by Friday 17 April, we cannot admit anyone that has not done so.** Light refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Barbara on 07727 026707.

May

FRI 01 Comedy at Soho Comedy House



Members £9
Guests £14



Join us for an evening of laughs and good company. Soho Comedy House is a premier comedy and entertainment venue right in the vibrant heart of Soho. Acts to be confirmed. Book by Friday 24 April.



Soho Comedy House, 30 Dean Street W1D 3RZ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

TUES 05 Social and Games Afternoon



Free



Join us for an afternoon of games, bingo or a quiz and socialising. Light refreshments will be served. Free - donations are welcomed. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

WED 06 Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style



Members £17
Guests £22



Discover the remarkable style of Britain's longest-reigning monarch through clothing worn in all 10 decades of her life - from birth to adulthood, from Princess to Queen and from off-duty style to dressing for the global stage for momentous occasions in Britain's history. Featuring approximately 200 items, many on display for the first time, this is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of the late Queen's fashion ever mounted.

Alongside clothing, jewellery, hats, shoes and accessories, explore never-before-seen design sketches, fabric samples and handwritten correspondence that reveal the behind-the-scenes process of dressing the most famous woman in the world and shed new light on the late Queen's close involvement in the creation of her wardrobe. Highlights include her bridesmaid dress, wedding dress, Coronation dress and the ensemble worn for the wedding of Princess Margaret. Book by Wednesday 29 April. The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

May

TUES
19

The Real Wolf Hall - What really happened between Henry VIII, Cromwell and Anne Boleyn



2pm



Free



On the 490th anniversary of Anne Boleyn's execution, we are joined by Ian Porter, historian, novelist, public speaker and walks guide, for a fascinating talk exploring the untold backstories of Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell, and Anne Boleyn. It explores details often overlooked in films and TV shows.



Ian also delves into two intriguing theories behind Henry's terrible behavior - could it have been linked to a hereditary blood disorder, another medical condition, or possibly brain damage from an accident? Additionally, Ian examines the plot against Anne, the men accused alongside her and offers insights into the lives of Jane Seymour and Anne of Cleves. Light refreshments will be served, donations are welcomed. **Please note that the afternoon will begin at 2pm, late comers may not be admitted.** Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

TUES
26

Barts North Wing Tour



2.30pm



Members £12
Guests £17



We will be visiting Barts North Wing to see the newly conserved, repaired and restored interiors of one of the most impressive historic buildings in London. The guided tour takes in the remarkable paintings and monumental interiors of the Great Hall and Hogarth Stair. Book by Tuesday 19 May. Barts North Wing, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield EC1A 7BE. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



Photo by Nevilleley CC BY-SA 3.0

May

WED 27 Monthly Meal - Brunch

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Each month we have a meal in a different area of our District and try different cuisines. This month we will be visiting Peggy Jean at Riverside Green in Richmond for brunch. Please note that attendees will be expected to pay any service charges included in the final bill. The Branch will not pay this on your behalf. A £10 deposit will be required when booking by Friday 22 May. The Boat, Bridge Boat House, Riverside, Richmond TW9 1TH. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

June

TUES 02 Social and Games Afternoon

🕒 2pm

£ Free



Join us for an afternoon of games, bingo or a quiz and socialising. Light refreshments will be served. Free - donations are welcomed. Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



SAT 30 Charles Dickens Walking Tour

🕒 2pm

£ Members £12
Guests £17



We will be stepping back into a bygone era to learn about the wondrous life of Charles Dickens. Beginning with his troubled childhood and ending with his breakthrough as an world renowned author. We will visit areas of London that Charles Dickens not only knew, but which he wrote about in his beautiful stories and gain an insight into the years that helped him into becoming a grand personality. Our guide will lead us through twisting alleyways showing us streets he walked through and buildings he recognised. We will hear fascinating facts and beautiful quotes, while walking through ancient corners of London. Book by Friday 22 May. Charing Cross Station, Strand WC2N 5HX. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



June

SAT
06

Ultimate Pottery Experience - BYOB



5pm



Members £18
Guests £23



Join us for the Ultimate Pottery Experience at Token Studio. We will ditch the ordinary! Whether you're a first-timer or a clay rebel, this standing-wheel pottery workshop is where creativity, cocktails and chaos collide.

A 90-minute session of spinning, sculpting and pure unadulterated fun. No skills needed - just good vibes! Bring your own drinks and glasses. Optional firing £10 - ready in two weeks. Book by Friday 29 May. Token Studio, Arch 76, Druid Street, Bermondsey SE1 2HQ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



MON
15

Monthly Meal - Thai



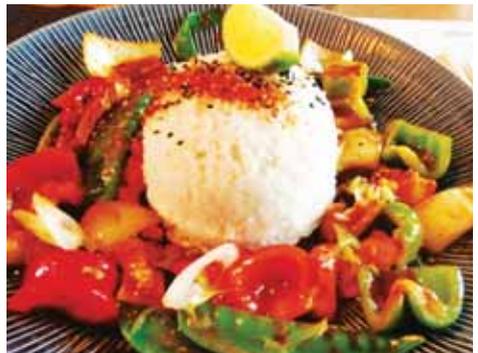
7pm



As per
menu



Each month we have a meal in a different area of our District and try different cuisines. This month we will be visiting Thai Square in Putney, which boasts one of the top best restaurant views in London with a 180-degree panoramic view. Please note that attendees will be expected to pay any service charges included in the final bill. The Branch will not pay this on your behalf. A £10 deposit will be required when booking by Friday 5 June. Thai Square, 2-4 Lower Richmond Road, Putney SW15 1JN. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



June

TUES 16 Lasting Power of Attorney made simple

L 2pm

£ Free



Today we will be joined by a representative from LPA Made Simple, who provide general help and advice for all the roles included in the Lasting Power of Attorney and it's future use. Light refreshments will be served, donations are welcomed. **Please note that the afternoon will begin at 2pm, late comers may not be admitted.** Oddfellows Lodge, 186 Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith W6 7DJ. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

FRI 19 Paddington The Musical

L 7pm

£ Members £79, Guest £90



Join us for a rather wonderful adventure. Hold on to your hats! Paddington The Musical is now playing in London's West End. Packed with show-stopping songs, dazzling choreography, mishaps and mayhem at every turn and of course, marmalade sandwiches - Paddington The Musical is based on the iconic characters from Michael Bond's books, with a story inspired by the award-winning 2014 film. Book by Friday 5 June. Savoy Theatre, Savoy Court, Strand WC2R 0ET. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.

FRI 26 Seven Nights Holiday to Warners Hotel Corton

L 10am

£ £1,072



Relax for a week at Warner Hotel Corton, Lowestoft, with clifftop views, nearby Southwold, evening shows, leisure activities, and seven nights in ground-floor chalets with breakfast and dinner. Return coach from Hammersmith included. Non-refundable £20 deposit; balance due by Friday 20 March. Members only. Warner Hotel Corton, 2 The Street, Corton, Lowestoft NR32 5HR. Contact Rosalind on 07421 140970.



This holiday is operated by a Warners Hotel. Your booking, and any subsequent changes to your trip, will be subject to the travel partner's terms and conditions. It's important that you read and understand them www.warnerhotels.co.uk/company/terms-and-conditions



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 lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 3 February, 7pm - 'Being Cheerful' with Nancy Radford

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/BeingCheerfulOddfellows>

Tuesday 24 February, 7pm - 'Hedgehogs - In Need Of Your Help' and 'Getting Connected' with Stephen Powles

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/HedgehogsOddfellows>

Tuesday 17 March, 7pm - 'An Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)'

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/BSLOddfellows>

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live 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.

Branch Secretary Barbara Moorhouse

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

OEA50723

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



Photos of past events...



Sunday Lunch with Blues Music at Boisdale Canary Wharf. Very good value!



We had a lovely meal after a spooky Halloween walk and were joined by one of our younger members, Oscar



Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch



A fantastic Christmas Lunch at The Lamb in Chiswick to round off the year



Barbara and Chris enjoying weird and wonderful cocktails at a Christmas networking event



A thought provoking evening at Magic Mike Live and some amazing dancing and acrobatics



A fantastic evening in the company of G4 at Westminster Hall

Photos of past events...



The house decorations at Waddesdon Manor were amazing



Waddesdon Manor



And so was the Lights Trail



A beautiful display at The Tower of London



A beautiful display at The Tower of London

Oddfellows Travel

Oddfellows Travel offer a selection of group holidays all hosted by an Oddfellows member.

Why not break up your diary with a short UK getaway with us?

Take a look at our upcoming holidays see www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

We'd love to have you along.



2026
bookings
now
available

For Oddfellows Travel questions and bookings, contact Emma Gorst 0161 214 4634 or travel@oddfellows.co.uk
www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

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

OTA6AD0126

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  OddfellowsUK

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

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 on **020 8741 5297**.

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

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 Guaranteed Investment Bonds and 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.

Find out more

Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

Events at a glance

In addition to our regular events, we are holding the **Weekly Watercolour Art Class** every Thursday, please see page 3 for full details.

March 2026

Tues 3	Healthy Homes	2pm
Sat 7	Monthly Meal - Modern British Cuisine	1pm
Mon 9	Guards Museum	11.30am
Wed 11	The Last Days of Pompeii: The Immersive Exhibition	12 noon
Tues 17	Social and Games Afternoon	2pm
Tues 24	Angels Costumes - Behind the Seams Tour	2pm
Fri 27	The Play That Goes Wrong	7.30pm

April

Tues 7	Social and Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 10	Monthly Meal - Pub Classics	6.30pm
Sat 11	Cinema and Champagne	5pm
Sun 19	ABBA Voyage	1pm
Tues 21	The History of Afternoon Tea	2pm
Fri 24	Savill Gardens and Boat Trip with Cream Tea	10am
Sat 25	Annual General Meeting	2pm
Mon 27	Lawyers' London: Courts of Justice and Inns of Court Walking Tour	2pm

May

Fri 1	Comedy at Soho Comedy House	7pm
Tues 5	Social and Games Afternoon	2pm
Wed 6	Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style	12 noon
Tues 19	The Real Wolf Hall - What really happened between Henry VIII, Cromwell and Anne Boleyn	2pm
Tues 26	Barts North Wing Tour	2.30pm
Wed 27	Monthly Meal - Brunch	12.30pm
Sat 30	Charles Dickens Walking Tour	2pm

Events at a glance

June

Tues 2	Social and Games Afternoon	2pm
Sat 6	Ultimate Pottery Experience - BYOB	5pm
Mon 15	Monthly Meal - Thai	7pm
Tues 16	Lasting Power of Attorney made simple	2pm
Fri 19	Paddington The Musical	7pm
Fri 26	Holiday to Warners Hotel Corton (Seven nights)	10am

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 social events, as well as supporting our members through a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for our members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

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 Rosalind on **07421 140970**
rosalind.earp@oddfellows.co.uk.

VA160423/v1

 **THE Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends. helping people
www.oddfellows.co.uk

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