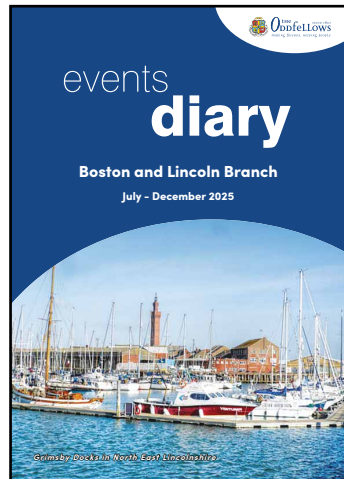


Boston and Lincoln Event Diary and The LINKS Newsletter

Please scroll down to the first page for Boston and Lincoln Events Diary and page 13 for Boston and Lincoln The LINKS Newsletter

Please scroll to page 1 or click
the link below

[Boston and Lincoln
Events Diary](#)



Please scroll to page 13 or click
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[Boston and Lincoln
The LINKS Newsletter](#)





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

events **diary**

Boston and Lincoln Branch

July - December 2025



Grimsby Docks in North East Lincolnshire



Annual Lunch – Sunday 12 October

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary for Boston and Lincoln Branch.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them.

We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from eating out to trips out.

Contact Details

Branch Secretary:
Debra Cunningham

Address:
9 Priory Road, Fishtoft, Boston,
Lincolnshire PE21 0RA

Telephone: 01205 358217

Email:
debra.cunningham@oddfellows.co.uk

f [OddfellowsBostonLincoln](#)

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 and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

A bit about us

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. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

A message from the Social Co-ordinators

Dear members,

Please do read through this Diary of Events. If you have not attended an event with us before you will be most welcome, we would love it if you were able to join us. As social organisers we try our best to produce a varied programme of events and we look forward to seeing more of you take part. For those of you who attend regularly, we thank you.

If anyone has difficulty in finding transport to get to the events, you have only to contact one of the Coordinators and they will do their best to find lift share/someone

to assist you. We look forward to meeting even more of our members.

Boston Social Organiser

Derek Green - Newsletter Editor
51 Camelot Gardens, Boston,
Lincolnshire PE21 9RP.

Telephone: 01205 367434

Lincoln Social Organisers

Eileen Lake
14 Chiltern Road, Lincoln LN5 8SD.

Telephone: 01522 544447

Mary Daulton
27 Woodfield Avenue, Lincoln LN6 0LJ.
Telephone: 01522 823676

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

OE/1024A6

You must book your place on our social events as they may be subject to change. Other social events are available locally, search online at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

July 2025

Tuesday 1 - My Poetic Life, 7pm

Please come along and enjoy an evening with Beverley Balough, who will entertain us with her amusing poems and stories about her life. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Wednesday 2 - Games Afternoon, 2pm

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of dominoes, there will be prizes to be won! Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available along with the lucky draw and raffle. **Cost:** £1.50 for members and £2 for guests. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Angela's

Wednesday 23 July, 2pm

Angela's, Pode Lane, Old Leake, Boston PE22 9NB

Our yearly visit to see our friend Angela. This is a wonderful afternoon sitting in the beautiful garden with a cream tea and chatting amongst friends. Family and friends are most welcome to join us. Book by Tuesday 9 July. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



August

Tuesday 5 - Sing Along with Joe , 7pm

Come and join us for a sing along with the wonderful Joe Morton. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



August

Wednesday 6 – Quiz, 2pm

Time to get the thinking caps on, it's quiz time! Will it be one of Derek's or Debbie's? Either way it will be a fun filled afternoon. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle and the lucky draw. **Cost:** £1.50 for members and £2 for guests. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Wednesday 13 – Dine Around at the Centurion, 11.45am

Come and join us for lunch at the Centurion where there is a wide choice of food. Family and friends are invited to join us. Cost as per menu. **Address:** Centurion, Newark Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8LB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Wednesday 20 – Dine Around at The Spirit of Endeavour, 12 noon

We are going to our favourite venue The Spirit of Endeavour, we cannot resist the value for money, lunches two meals for £13.50. Please bring along a friend or family member for good food and company. Book by Wednesday 6 August. Cost as per menu. **Address:** The Spirit of Endeavour, Marsh Lane, Boston PE21 7QS. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



September – Friendship Month

Tuesday 2 – Talk By Neil Timm, 7pm

Neil Timm will be joining us to give a talk illustrated with slides on the Nation's Garden Scheme – Gardens in Lincolnshire. Family and friends are most welcome. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER

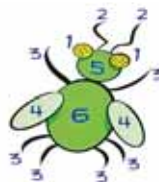


To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

September – Friendship Month

Wednesday 3 – Beetle Drive, 2pm

It's back! This fun loving game is enjoyed by the young and not so young, so come along and see what all the excitement is about. Refreshments available as well as a raffle and the lucky draw. **Cost:** £1.50 for members and £2 for guests. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Thursday 11 – Autumn Walk in Boutham Park, 10.30am

Join us for a stroll to see the changing colours of the leaves in Boutham Park, then enjoy coffee and cake in the café. Please meet in the car park on Hall Drive. **Address:** Boutham Park, 55 Hall Drive, Lincoln LN6 7SW. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Image by Oliver Mills and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Friends in the Garden

Wednesday 17 September, 2pm

District Office, 9 Priory Road,
Fishtoft, Boston PE21 0RA

Once again Debbie is inviting members, friends and family to celebrate Friendship Month in the garden, there will be refreshments and (weather permitting) a few games, so please join us for a fun filled afternoon. Book by Wednesday 3 September. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Half Yearly Meeting

Saturday 27 September, 11am

District Office, 9 Priory Road, Fishtoft, Boston PE21 0RA

All members are welcome to attend if possible, so that our full support can be given to the Branch Committee team, who work so hard throughout the year for the benefit of their members. Members attending for their first time will be made especially welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Book by Saturday 20 September. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

October

Wednesday 1 - Talk by Headway, 2pm

Ann-Marie from the charity 'Headway' will be joining us to tell us more about the work they do with people with brain injuries. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle and the lucky draw. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Tuesday 7 - Harvest Thanksgiving, 7pm

Please bring along a contribution of harvest produce for us to auction, all proceeds will go to the Chairman's chosen charity 'The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance'. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Annual Lunch

Sunday 12 October, 12 noon

Wings Meadow, Freiston Road,
Boston PE21 0JH



Our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)

Derek Green would like to invite members, family and friends to join him for a buffet lunch. There will be a raffle with the proceeds going to his chosen charity 'The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance'. Donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. Book by Wednesday 1 October. **Cost:** £10 per person for members and £15 per person for guests. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

Thursday 16 - Dine Around at Pennells Garden Centre, 12 noon

Lunch at Pennells Garden Centre with friends and a great selection of food to choose from, then after lunch why not have a bit of a browse around the garden centre? Cost as per menu. **Address:** Pennells Garden Centre, Newark Road, Lincoln LN6 9NH. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



November

Tuesday 4 - Beetle Drive, 7pm

Join us for a game of beetle drive, a game causing lots of fun and laughter, there will be small prizes for the winner of each game. Refreshments and a raffle will be available.

Address: Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Wednesday 5 - Make your own Bingo, 2pm

Can you pick the lucky numbers? Please come along and join us for a fun filled afternoon of bingo with a difference. Refreshments will be served along with a raffle and the lucky draw. **Cost:** £1.50 for members and £2 for guests.

Address: Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Pausa Café

Wednesday 19 November, 2pm

Dunelm, Alban Retail Park,
Swineshead Road, Boston PE21 7NN

Come along for a pre-Christmas mince pie and coffee at this lovely café, then afterwards enjoy a wander around the store for those Christmas gifts, it's never too early for Christmas shopping! Book by Wednesday 5 November. Cost as per menu. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



December

Tuesday 2 - Christmas Party, 7pm

Christmas has begun, please bring a plate of food to share and a wrapped gift to the value of £3- £4 for Santa to distribute (please mark if specifically for a male). Tea or coffee will be served along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447 or Mary on 01522 823676.



Christmas Afternoon

Wednesday 3 December, 2pm

Wings Meadow, Freiston Road,
Boston PE21 0JH

Please come along with family and friends to our fun filled Christmas afternoon, why not wear something Christmassy, a prize will be given for the best outfit. Please bring a wrapped gift to the value of £4 to £5 for Secret Santa. There will be refreshments provided, a raffle and the lucky draw. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



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 Debbie by phone on 01205 358217 or email debra.cunningham@oddfellows.co.uk

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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.



the **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
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Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

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.

At a glance

July 2025

Tues 1	My Poetic Life	7pm
Wed 2	Games Afternoon	2pm
Wed 23	Angela's	2pm

August

Tues 5	Sing Along with Joe	7pm
Wed 6	Quiz	2pm
Wed 13	Dine Around at the Centurion	11.45am
Wed 20	Dine Around at The Spirit of Endeavour	12 noon

September - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Talk By Neil Timm	7pm
Wed 3	Beetle Drive	2pm
Thurs 11	Autumn Walk in Boultham Park	10.30am
Wed 17	Friends in the Garden	2pm
Sat 27	Half Yearly Meeting	11am

October

Wed 1	Talk by Headway	2pm
Tues 7	Harvest Thanksgiving	7pm
Sun 12	Annual Lunch	12 noon
Thurs 16	Dine Around at Pennells Garden Centre	12 noon

November

Tues 4	Beetle Drive	7pm
Wed 5	Make your own Bingo	2pm
Wed 19	Pausa Café	2pm

December

Tues 2	Christmas Party	7pm
Wed 3	Christmas Afternoon	2pm

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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



the
Oddfellows
MAKING FRIENDS, HELPING PEOPLE

SINCE 1810

Spring/Summer 2025 | Issue 40

www.oddfellows.co.uk

The LINCS Newsletter

News and views from your local friendship group

Boston Oddfellows War Memorial

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Lincoln Branch Event

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Looking Back To Christmas

Page 3



Capital of the Fens Annual Lunch



Lincoln Branch Event



Boston and Lincoln Dine Around

A Warm Welcome to all members and friends

Welcome to your Spring/Summer 2025 Edition of 'The Lincs'

A big welcome to your 40th edition of the Boston and Lincoln Branch of Oddfellows newsletter. Included with this newsletter is your events diary for the next six months. Please keep it handy for you to see our future events, some of which may require early booking dates for catering purposes so that you won't miss out.

As your Editor, I welcome any contributions for your Newsletter especially photographs as it helps me to put together a more interesting magazine for you all, many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition but

please do keep them coming, perhaps holiday photographs or a celebration you may have held, poems, recipes, and not forgetting the odd joke or two it really would help. Also, your ideas for events to be included in future Events Diaries for us all to enjoy. Items can be sent to my home address The Editor, 51, Camelot Gardens, Boston. PE21 9RP or via email to greenderek@talktalk.net

My sincere regards to you all.

Yours in Friendship

Derek (Editor)



Boston Oddfellows War Memorial

On Saturday 30 October, a tablet in memory of 38 members of the Boston District who fell in the great war was unveiled with fitting ceremonial at the friendly societies hall Boston. The tablet of white marble with lead lettering is placed on the outer wall of the hall in Bridge Street. Traffic was stopped during the unveiling ceremony at which Brother C Fairweather Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) presided.

The Hymn 'O' God, Our Help in Ages Past' was sung and the Reverend J Beanland Vicar, Holy Trinity, Skirbeck, offered prayer. Brother TRS Noble, Provincial Corresponding Secretary of Nottingham Trent District Oddfellows in unveiling the tablet, said they desired to pay a tribute of respect to their departed brothers, whose lives had been sacrificed for their King and country and the protection of their liberties. They wished to express sorrow for their loss and to show that they cherished their memory. Having performed their sad duty to their lamented brothers, let them cherish in remembrance their sacrifice, virtues and imitate as far as possible, whatever was praiseworthy in their character and conduct.

The Union Jack which draped the memorial was then withdrawn and the tablet was disclosed to view. The Mayor of Boston (Mr W Porter, JP) said he was glad to have the opportunity of taking part in the ceremony. 'The Last Post' and the National Anthem was sung (found in your editors' archives), the year is not known.



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  **OddfellowsBostonLincoln**

Looking Back To Christmas

Lincoln Branch's Christmas Party featured enjoyable food, and entertainer Joe Morton sang lots of Christmas songs for everyone to join in and enjoy. It was also much appreciated that good old Santa was able to be there to distribute a wrapped Christmas Gift to all who were present. The Raffle was held, and the usual refreshments were made before everyone went home tired and happy.



Boston Branch was joined by Lincoln members wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats. Everyone chose a present from the Secret Santa bag and received a made-up Christmas Tea Box which Debbie had prepared for them to take home and enjoy. Derek had devised a Christmas Quiz and there were joint winners Audrey and Jane who each scored 32 points out of a possible 45. There were then three games of pick your own Bingo Numbers of which winners were Alison,



Debbie and Irene preparing Tea Boxes.

Sugar and Jane. All those present were entered into the free Lucky Draw and the winner was Edmund.



Concentrating on Christmas quiz.



Capital of the Fens Annual Lunch

Boston Branch members attended the annual lunch of the Capital of the Fens District Branch hosted by Sister Lynne Quibell, Provincial Grand Master (Chairman). Lovely food was enjoyed at the usual excellent venue. Guest speaker

Georgia Kelly, Regional Fundraising and Relationship Manager of Kidney Research gave an in-depth presentation of their work. The raffle proceeds raised £125 and will be donated to Kidney Research.

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):
District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):
District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):
Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family.

Boston Branch

Choose your numbers for bingo was held in February

Fun and excitement were had all the way and four separate games were played. Four lucky winners on this occasion were Glynis, who won twice as well as Carol and Debbie each winning with their chosen numbers. Alan joined us for his very first visit and was so impressed with the friendship he received that he decided to become a benefits member of the Branch. Refreshments were served followed by the usual raffle in aid of our Chairman's charity and the Lucky Draw was won by Alison. Pictured below is our youngest junior Oddfellow Harry enjoying the refreshments during the break.



Saint Barnabas Talk

Fiona gave an interesting talk to members on the work this worthy charity does throughout Lincolnshire. The charity supports those affected by life-limiting and terminal conditions, including Hospice and at-home support, a bereavement helpline and Dementia support. All questions asked by members at the end of Fiona's presentation were comprehensively answered. Fiona thanked the Boston Branch for inviting her and the cheque she received as a donation.

Branch Officers Visit Lincoln Branch

Newly elected officers for 2025 pictured below right to left: Sister I Green, Brother DR Green, Sister G Kirkham. Visited Lincoln Branch when the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance attended and gave a talk to a gathering of 27 members, detailing the history to the present day of helicopters and services provided. We learnt that at present each call-out costs £4,000 and yearly costs of £13 million.



At any point in Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire the air ambulance can arrive within 20 minutes both day and night. The service is run entirely by public donations. Branch Officers pictured were present at this meeting to

give thanks to all for donations which were made over the previous year towards her chosen charity, which was 'Riding for the Disabled'. Following the impressive presentation the raffle was drawn and refreshments were served.

Lincoln Branch Event

Sarah brought along and displayed her bottles and vases which she makes for charity. Sarah also demonstrated how she does it. All members were given a glass jar to decorate so they could perhaps offer it to a friend as a gift. It appears that the results were amazing. Members also enjoyed refreshments, and the usual raffle was drawn. Thanks to Keith for the report and photos (Editor).



Boston Branch Dine Around

Boston and Lincoln's members attended our Dine Around at Dobbie's Garden Centre on a beautiful March afternoon. Following a lovely lunch and our usual Lucky Draw of which our winner on this occasion was



Margaret, we were able to stroll around the store or outside to view the enormous stock of garden plants and other outdoor requirements in the beautiful sunshine.



Boston and Lincoln Dine Around

Nineteen members attended and warmly welcomed our new member who had joined us. After the excellent meal, the Lucky Draw was made in aid of our Chairman's charity - 'Riding for the Disabled', it turned out that Chairman Irene was drawn as the winner. If your Editor had known he was being photographed with his great-grandson our youngest junior member Harry sharing Maggie's pudding, then we would have smiled.



First Contribution (My Jokes)

I got my wife to help me put some posts in the ground for our new fence, so I gave her the new hammer and I said, "When I nod my head, you hit it". I don't remember much after that! Zzzz...

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher told her that it was practically impossible for a whale to swallow an entire human being because even though it's a very large mammal, its throat was very small. The little girl stated that her friend Bubble was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human, it was a physical impossibility. The little girl said, "When I go to heaven, I will ask Bubble about this". The teacher said, fuming, "What if Bubble went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you can ask her!"

Lincoln Branch Talk

Sixteen members attended a comprehensive talk given by Laurence White, an experienced leather worker, specialising in restoration for museums to re-creating leather goods from the past. His work has included preserving Roman shoes that were found in an archaeological dig. On display were animal skins as used by stone age man and samples of leather and its various uses from Roman times and through the First and Second World Wars, through to modern day fashion designs. A very interesting and informative talk on history of leather uses. Usual refreshments followed and the raffle ended another entertaining evening.

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.

Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol. Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”



Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz. “The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal and Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates. They also celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you’re due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake ‘not to be missed’ deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites. Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common.

Avoid these traps by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation. If an offer

seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you’re dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual’s range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows
For more information call 0161 214 4628.
*Terms and conditions apply

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational

Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.



He plans to follow his studies with a charterhip while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

"I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies," he said.

"I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award."

Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: "It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

"My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I'll get a rich understanding of both and I'm looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields."

Meet your Boston and Lincoln Care and Welfare Team



The Oddfellows looking after you Care, Advice and Support

Welfare Officers for Lincoln Branch are Eileen Lake and Mary Daulton pictured on the left, and for Boston Branch Irene and Derek Green pictured right.



**Eileen Lake and
Mary Daulton
Lincoln Branch
Care Team**



**Irene and
Derek Green
Boston Branch
Care Team**

Any members who are not well are visited by Welfare Officers to see if any help can be given by their branch. We visit members in their own homes, and those who are in a residential or care home and, also members

who may be sick and in hospital. All information given during visits is entirely confidential. Sometimes members have more serious problems or illnesses which can be passed on to our Care Department at our Head Office in Manchester if the member agrees to this. This is just one of the many benefits which all members are entitled to with Oddfellows membership.

All our Welfare Visitors receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are when they visit.

Members or a member of their family can arrange a visit by getting in touch with our Secretary Debra Cunningham, whose contact details can be found in your Events Diary. Your Welfare Officers wish all members well, but should you need us we are here for you.

National Oddfellows Helplines



As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.

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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our 'Looking After You' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs

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