

April - September 2026



O^{the} Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Events & News

Worcester Branch



Photo by Damian Karpiński on Unsplash



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION



Easter Bonnet Competition Stanley Baldwin Branch - Tuesday 7 April.

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Worcester District Oddfellows Events & News.

As a local District 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 a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you, your family and your friends to

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Carol Pratt

Telephone: 07503 468524

Email: carol.pratt@oddfellows.co.uk

Address:

256 Bath Road, Worcester WR5 3ES

attend any of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

If any member has an interesting story they would like to share with our members, please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming months.

**Carol,
Branch Secretary**

Regular Event

Ten Pin Bowling



10am



£5



Come and join us for a game of ten pin bowling. Bowl Extreme, Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester WR3 7SN. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

14 April

14 July

12 May

8 September

9 June

**Second Tuesday
of the month**



Coffee Mornings



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for a coffee and a chat. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Cherry Lane - Barnett Hill,
Worcester Road, Clent, Barnett Hill,
Stourbridge DY9 0EE.

20 May

22 July

23 September

Webbs Garden Centre, Worcester
Road, Wychbold, Worcester WR9 0DG.

22 April

17 June

19 August

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

April

TUES
07

Easter Bonnet Competition Stanley Baldwin Branch



Who can make the best Easter bonnet? Why not join our Easter bonnet parade? There will be a prize for the best bonnet. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
13

Try Your Luck at Curling



Never curled? Why not join us and give it a go? We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided.



St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.

MON
27

The Price Is Right Fernhill Heath Branch



Do you think you have a good idea of the cost of everyday items? If so, come and try your luck! Who knows, you may win a prize. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



May

TUES
05

Bingo Stanley Baldwin Branch



A firm favourite with Oddfellows, prizes to be won. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. Elizabeth Mills



Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

May

MON
11

Picture Quiz



2.15pm



Free



How many objects can you find in our pictures? We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.



THURS
28

Committee of Management Meeting



2pm



Free



Committee members only. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Carol on 07503 468524.



June

TUES
02

Whist Drive Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



Do you enjoy a game of cards? If so, why not join us for a game of Whist. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
08

A Talk on Madresfield



2.15pm



Free



A talk by Marguerite Collins on Madresfield the true Brideshead. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.



Photos by Philip Halling, CC BY-SA 2.0

June

MON 22 Countdown Fernhill Heath Branch



You've seen it on the TV, why not join us and have a go yourself? We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



July

TUES 07 Quiz Stanley Baldwin Branch



Time to get those thinking caps on for one of Kath's famous quizzes. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will



be provided. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

July

MON 13 A Meal at The Retreat



If you enjoyed our New Year meal at The Retreat, why not join us again? Book by Monday 8 June. The Retreat, Woodbury Lane, Norton Worcester WR5 2PT. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.



MON 27 Annual Day Trip - Fernhill Heath Branch



Details are yet to be confirmed, but keep this date free. Book by Monday 22 June. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



August

TUES
04 **How many in a Matchbox?**
Stanley Baldwin Branch



How many items can you get in a matchbox? We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
10 **A Talk from Troop Aid**



We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.

TROOP AID
supporting our injured troops

MON
24 **Horse Racing**
- Fernhill Heath Branch



Place your bets with our resident bookie, Jeff. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



THURS
27 **Committee of Management Meeting**



Committee members only. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Carol on 07503 468524.

September - Friendship Month

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

TUES
01

Harvest Supper Stanley Baldwin Branch



7pm



Free



It's Friendship Month, so why not invite a friend to join us for a lovely harvest supper. We will be holding a raffle. Book by Tuesday 4 August. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
28

Name That Tune Fernhill Heath Branch



12.15pm



Free



How's your knowledge on music through the ages? Why not come along

and test yourself. Who knows, you may win a prize. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON
14

An Afternoon of Live Entertainment



2.15pm



Free



It's Friendship Month, so why not invite a friend or neighbour to join us for an afternoon of live



entertainment by Carole and Malcolm Brown. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Heather on 07418 047897.



Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

Charitable Donations

Every year, the Provincial Grand Master chooses a charity to which the District makes a donation. Last year (2025), Brother John Bradley chose Worcester Heart Support Group to which a donation of £250 was made.

The management committee also agreed to make a donation of £250 to each of the following charities; Midland Air Ambulance, IFRC's Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal, as well as £250 to the Oddfellows Society charity H.A Andrews Fund. A Total of £1,000.



If any member has a local charity that they would like to be considered for a donation at the end of the year, please send details of the charity to the Secretary Carol Pratt, see contact details on page 2.

New Branch Secretary, Carol

I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Branch Secretary for Worcester District Oddfellows, having started in the role on Sunday 1 March. I am looking forward to getting to know members over the coming weeks and months.

I've lived in Worcester for the past 26 years, although I originally grew up in the Vale of Evesham. I've spent the last 30 years working in charity management, governance and fundraising, most recently serving as Chief Executive of a local Citizens Advice.

I recently stepped back from that role to spend more time supporting my

family, and I'm delighted to now be taking on this new position.

I'd like to say a sincere thank you to Sandra and the management team for such a warm welcome and for their support as I settle in and learn the role.

I am really looking forward to working with everyone and supporting the District in the months ahead.



Carol

Social Events 2025/2026

Annual Lunch

On Sunday 5 October 2025. 55 members, guests from other Districts and friends enjoyed a lovely three-course lunch at Worcestershire County Cricket Club. Our guest speaker was Deputy Grand Master, Sister Debbie Jex.



Remembrance Service

Several of our members attended the Service of Remembrance at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 9 November 2025, where our Provincial Grand Master Brother John Bradley lay a wreath on the War Memorial at Worcester Cathedral.



Christmas Lunch

On Monday 15 December 2025, 32 members enjoyed a fabulous carvery lunch at the Bluebell Farm restaurant.



New Year Lunch

On Monday 12 January 2026, 31 members celebrated the New Year with a meal at The Retreat, Norton, Worcester.



Pantomime

Sunday 25 January 2026, several members attended the Monday Night Club Panto at the Civic Centre in Stourport on Severn. This year's performance was Puss in Boots, which was followed by a lovely fish and chip supper at Riverside Fish and Chip Restaurant, Stourport-on-Severn.




100 Club 2026

Date	No.	£10	No.	£5
September 2025	32	Delia Holliday	40	Simon Loynes
October 2025	35	David Lancaster	8	Jean Birbeck
November 2025	72	Wendy Taylor	29	Anita Hill
December 2025				
£50	60	Elsie Prescott		
£25	37	Ken Link		
£15	79	John Wilson		
£10	45	Maureen Matthews		
£5	8	Jean Birbeck		

Date	No.	£10	No.	£5
January 2026	81	Ian Woodcock	27	Christopher Hales
February 2026	72	Wendy Taylor	63	Justine Pruszyński

The 100 Club is organised and operated solely by Worcester Branch Oddfellows. Full terms and conditions are available from the Branch on request. By participating, entrants confirm they are aged 18 or over and agree to be bound by the terms. The Branch reserves the right to amend, suspend, or cancel the draw where necessary to ensure fair conduct and compliance with applicable rules.

Celebrations 2026



May

Margaret Tolley will be celebrating her 80th Birthday

Therese Giles will be celebrating her 70th Birthday

Chris Parsons will be celebrating his 80th Birthday


August

June Potter will be celebrating her 90th Birthday

Pat Turner will be celebrating her 90th Birthday

Paul Wilson will be celebrating his 70th Birthday

Stuart Heavens will be celebrating his 60th Birthday



September



Susan Nixon will be celebrating her 80th Birthday

Elsa O'Neil will be celebrating her 80th Birthday

Paul Denham will be celebrating his 80th Birthday

July

John Broad will be celebrating his 80th Birthday

Obituaries 2025/2026 - In Loving Memory

Memories comfort you for memories are treasures
that time cannot destroy

Mr John W Drew

Mrs Jean Luty

Mr Don Parker

Mrs Olive Hardman

Mrs Gladys Callow

Mrs Beryl Cambridge

Mrs Margaret Bradley

Mrs Mary Parry

Mr Bernard Manton

Mrs Jessie Joyner



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 contact Sandra on **01905 422591** or email **sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

Thousands raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts by Oddfellows branches

The Oddfellows has donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

Essential supplies

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.

Pam Casey, spokesperson for the Oddfellows, said: "When communities are devastated by disasters of this scale, the need for swift and compassionate support is critical. We are incredibly proud of our branches for coming together to raise these funds.

"Every contribution helps people to access shelter, food, and vital services as they begin the long process of rebuilding.



"Supporting this appeal reflects the very best of Oddfellowship – standing alongside others in times of greatest need."

The Oddfellows extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the appeal and helped make this support possible.

Find out more

Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa

You can also learn more about how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

To find out how you can get involved with fundraising initiatives Oddfellows branches are conducting locally, speak to your Branch Secretary.

Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



Will Stevenson
Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham’s Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: “Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me.”

Will also hasn’t mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that’s one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given “the breadth of Geography and its wide application”.

Emma Corbin
Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

“I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications,” she said. “I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available.”

Emma too hasn’t decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

“It’s an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics,” Emma added.

More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards.

2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

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

Social Events at a glance

April 2026

Tues 7	Easter Bonnet Competition - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 13	Try Your Luck at Curling	2.15pm
Tues 14	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 22	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 27	The Price Is Right - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

May

Tues 5	Bingo - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 11	Picture Quiz	2.15pm
Tues 12	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Weds 20	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 28	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm

June

Tues 2	Whist Drive - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 8	A Talk on Madresfield	2.15pm
Tues 9	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 17	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 22	Countdown - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

July

Tues 7	Quiz - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 13	A Meal at The Retreat	12 noon
Tues 14	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 22	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 27	Annual Day Trip - Fernhill Heath Branch	9.30am

August

Tues 4	How many in a Matchbox? - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 10	A Talk from Troop Aid	2.15pm
Wed 19	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 24	Horse Racing - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm
Thurs 27	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm

Social Events at a glance

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Harvest Supper - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Tues 8	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 14	An Afternoon of Live Entertainment	2.15pm
Wed 23	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 28	Name That Tune - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

**Learn, have fun,
and stay in touch
from home**

We've online events for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.



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

OEW/1024SMALL

Committee of Management

Committee of Management Branches are responsible for their own business activities and administration. This is done through a **Committee of Management** supported by the Secretary.

Attendance at this event is for Committee of Management members only, unless agreed in advance with Sandra Loynes.

Volunteering

If you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities here at Worcester Oddfellows, including joining the Committee of Management please contact Sandra Loynes for more information.

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.

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