

April – September 2024



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

out & about

Mersey Branch



Sefton Park, Liverpool



Social



Talks



Quizzes



Dining Out



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Meetings



Travel



Games



Walks



Coffee Morning
/Afternoon Tea



Please book



*Afternoon Tea at Victory Hall,
Saturday 21 September, we hope
you can join us!*

Hello Everyone

Welcome to this latest edition of the Out and About Diary and Newsletter.

As you will see, we are gearing up for a busy few months to make the most of the better weather (she said, fingers crossed!). I hope we will get to meet you at one or more of our events.

The only way to guarantee a place on any of our trips is to pay a non-refundable deposit. These are for trips and activities where we have to buy tickets or book transport advance. Each activity or trip where this applies is detailed in the diary part of this newsletter, under the specific event.

Don't forget the many benefits of being an Oddfellow, from our Care

Contact Details

General Enquiries:

mersey@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch Secretary: Margaret Hughes

Telephone: 0151 639 2777

Email:

margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: 12 Crescent Road,
Wallasey, Wirral CH44 0BQ

Social Organiser: Angela Murray

Telephone: 07912 605677

Email:

angela.murray@oddfellows.co.uk

Care and Welfare Officer:

Angela Jones

Telephone: 0151 425 2452



Left to right: Angela Murray, Social Organiser, Margaret Hughes, Branch Secretary, Angela Jones, Care and Welfare Officer

and Welfare offering, legal advice, dedicated Citizen's Advice and financial help of up to £750 cash grant in the event of a serious household emergency such as fire or flood. Please do not hesitate to contact me direct should you find yourself in need of any assistance, or would like more information on any of our benefits.

I hope you all have a brilliant summer!

Margaret Hughes, Branch Secretary

Hi Everyone,

Once again we've had a really busy 6 months and as always it's lovely to see so many Members old and new 'Out and About' enjoying friendship and new experiences! Check out all the photos and see if you can spot anyone familiar!

It was also brilliant to get everyone from both sides of the water to the City centre for our Christmas meal and this is something we will do again.

We've really taken on board our lovely Members suggestions for trips and visits this year and we plan to adopt a mix and match approach, so alternating between those local and further afield to keep costs down for everyone.

In September once again we will have lots on to celebrate Friendship Month but remember we don't have to wait till then, you are always free to bring along a friend to any of our events throughout the year – there is always a warm Oddfellows welcome guaranteed!

I look forward to seeing you all soon

Angela Murray, Social Organiser

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.

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 oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

OE/0521A6



Regular Get Togethers

Join us at any one (or all!) of our regular 'Get Togethers' for a cuppa and catch up plus lots more in a warm and welcoming environment. Each month there will be a different theme and fun and games are guaranteed!



Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend along. Worried about going along for the first time? Just give Angela M or Margaret a call and we will know to look out for you, remember you are only a stranger the first time you walk through the door.

Childwall

 10.30am  Members Free
Guests £2 (first visit free) 

**Fourth Monday
of the month**

Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY. Bus Routes 79, 79a.

22 April

27 May

24 June

22 July

27 August (due to Bank Holiday we will meet at Cabaret Lunch on the Tuesday instead of the Monday)

23 September

Upton

 1pm  Members Free
Guests £2 (first visit free) 

**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Victory Hall, 61 Salacre Lane, Upton, Wirral CH49 0TN. Bus Routes 418, 437.

17 April

15 May

19 June

17 July

21 August

18 September

Wallasey

 10.30am  Members Free
Guests £2 (first visit free) 

**First Friday of
the month**

Heart of Egremont, Guildford Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 0BP.

Bus Routes 411, 413 to King Street.

5 April

3 May

7 June

5 July

2 August

6 September

Regular Event

Wellbeing Walk with Richie the Ranger



We will be checking out Richie the Rangers monthly walks and joining in where we can. Please let us know if you would like to be included in receiving this information, as the walks change from month to month, and (as we found to our cost!) sometimes even the days.



Please contact Angela on 07912 605677 or angela.murray@oddfellows.co.uk or Margaret on 0151 639 2777 or margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk

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 Margaret by phone on 0151 639 2777 or email margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk

VA260423/v1



the Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

April 2024

TUES
09

Race Night at Childwall Abbey



6.30pm



Members £3
Guests £5
plus your stake



This event was so popular last year, we thought we would run it again. Come and join us for a flutter at our very own Grand National event. There will be races and games and is open to all our groups. As we are celebrating the Grand National, do feel free to don your best outfit for the occasion and you may even win a prize! All profits will be going to the Chairman's charity of the year, as yet to be announced. A minibus can be made available from the Wirral. Price will be advised when numbers known. Book by Tuesday 2 April. Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

SUN
21

Annual Celebration Lunch



12 noon



Members £29, Guests £35



Come and help us celebrate with our Chairman, Steve Code, as he finishes his second year in office. We will be having a three course meal in the sumptuous surroundings of the wonderful Oh Me Oh My Restaurant. Entertainment will be provided by the lovely violinist who entertained us so well last year.

There will be the usual fundraising games and laughter is guaranteed!



We are hoping that someone from the British Heart Foundation will be joining us so we can present them with the funds we raised throughout 2023, plus whatever we raise on the afternoon. There will be a choice of menu and you will need to select your options, so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come. The main entrance will be through the huge double doors on The Strand, up two or three steps, but for those with mobility issues, access can be made through the entrance on Water Street.

A £10 non-refundable deposit will be required to secure your place. Book by Friday 5 April. Oh Me Oh My Restaurant, West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RG. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

May

WED
22

Coach Trip to Beaumaris



10am



Members £25, Guests £28, including castle entry



For our first trip of the summer we are going to Beaumaris. Join us as we look around the castle, enjoy the Georgian architecture, arts and crafts shops, sea front and pier. You can either bring a picnic lunch or eat at one of the many cafés and restaurants along the way.

Price includes castle admission, but there is also the Court and Gaol House which costs an extra £5.50 for over 60s. Let us know if this is something you would like us to add and we will sort it out for you. Coach pick up will be at Upton Victory Hall on Salacre Lane and Woolton Village. Times to be confirmed once numbers known. A £10, non-refundable deposit will be required to secure your place. Book by Friday 3 May. Beaumaris Castle, Castle Street, Beaumaris LL58 8AP. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.



June

WED
05

Old Dock Tour



10am



£8.50



Ever wondered what's below your feet as you walk through Liverpool One? Come and join us as we explore the world's first commercial enclosed wet dock on this informative tour. You will see portions of the Old Dock rising more than 20 feet from the bed of the pool - which is a creek that gave Liverpool its name. There is a modern bridge and walkways that give you a great view. Meet at the Anchor outside the Maritime Museum. Please note that any wheelchair users must be able to self transfer to access part of the Old Dock. Make sure you wear some warm clothes as it can get chilly down there! We can then visit a local café for a warming cuppa and some lunch. The tour starts at 10.30am, so be sure to be there on time. A £5 non-refundable deposit will be required to secure your place. Book by Friday 17 May. Maritime Museum, Royal Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

June



FRI
21

In my Liverpool Home!



10.30am



TBC



Come and discover Hope Street, the two cathedrals and history galore! We will be doing a couple of guided tours but at the time of going to print, the prices are not available. We will be able to update you nearer the time and you can choose whether or not to participate in the guided tour if it is too expensive. You can always avail yourself with a brew in one or other of the cathedrals cafés. We will meet at the Ken Dodd statue in Lime Street's mainline station and all head off together. How tickled we will be! Book by Friday 21 June. Lime Street Station, 51 Lime Street, Liverpool L1 1JQ. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

July

SAT
13

Lancashire District Bowls Competition



9am



£22.50 approximately or £19.50 for non-bowlers.
Exact cost to be confirmed



Ever tried bowls? Want to give it a try, or just come and see what it's all about? This is your chance. Teams of two compete in a very friendly format of bowls. If you've never done it before, you are in good company and there will be help on hand for complete beginners. You never know, you might just find your new hobby! There are prizes on offer and there is always a good laugh to be had.



The cost of the mini bus will be £12, plus competition entry (last year it was £10.50 for bowlers and £7.50 for visitors). There is always a great buffet provided with both hot and cold snacks and cakes. We understand that the bar is very cheap as well!

We will be picking up from Upton Victory Hall on Salacre Lane at 9am and Woolton Village at 9.20am. Times will be confirmed nearer the event. Book by Friday 21 June. Garswood Hall Bowling Club, Nicol Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8LU. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

July

WED
24

Visit to Jodrell Bank



10am



Members £27
Guests £30



This was the most requested visit of all those polled at our regular meetings so, for your pleasure and delight, we hope you can join us as we venture forth into the unknown. Jodrell Bank is famous for its radio telescopes, which can detect radio waves emitted by astronomical sources in the sky. There are also indoor areas which house the permanent exhibitions about the history of Jodrell Bank, a Clockwork Orrery (a working model of the Solar System) and a science exhibition. The outdoor exhibits include two guided pathways and the Whispering Dishes. Ticket prices include admission to the site. We will be picking up at Upton Victory Hall at 10am and Woolton Village about 10.45am. A non-refundable deposit of £10 will be required to secure your place. Book by Friday 5 July. Jodrell Bank, Bomish Lane, Macclesfield SK11 9DW. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

August

FRI
16

Southport Flower Show



11am



Members £22.50, Guests £29



This year the Southport Flower Show is celebrating it's centennial. The focus is on health and wellbeing and the positive impact that flowers and gardening has on our daily life.

There will be plenty of places to sit and have a picnic lunch or a rest. The main areas are close to the bandstand and the arena. One of the most popular attractions are the gardens. These

are created and constructed in just under two weeks, ready for judging! There will also be the opportunity to purchase unique products from over 350 trade exhibitors. We will be meeting at Southport Train Station and making our way over together, which takes about 10 minutes. Book by Friday 12 July. Southport Railway Station, Southport PR8 1BE. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.



August

TUES
27

Cabaret Lunch



12 noon



As per
menu



As we aren't meeting on the Bank Holiday this month, we will be joining in with the Cabaret Lunch on the Tuesday instead. Come and enjoy a spot of lunch with live entertainment thrown in. What more could you want? Just let us know if you would like to come so we can book tables and all sit together. Book by Friday 9 August. Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY.

Contact Angela on 07912 605677.

September

SUN
01

Wirral Friendship Walk



11am



Free



Join us for the first of our Friendship Month events. Richie the Ranger will be taking us on an Oddfellows Exclusive Walk called Birkenhead, Ancient Monks to Modern Day. Discover the history, heritage and architecture of old Birkenhead, explore the beauty of Hamilton Square. We will also visit a Victorian shopping area, have a delightful riverside stroll and also visit the ancient Birkenhead Priory. Meet at Hamilton Square Railway Station, Birkenhead CH41 6DN at 10.45am. Book by Sunday 1 September. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

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



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

SUN

08

Casino Night!



6.30pm



£3 plus stakes



Welcome to Viva Las Childwall Abbey! Last year's Casino Night was such a success, we have decided to repeat it. Get your glad rags and best tux's out (or not!) and join us at the Roulette table, Blackjack and other games. All profits will be donated to our charity of the year. There will also be a buffet and the bar will be open for drinks. Booking is essential for catering purposes. A minibus from Upton Victory Hall can be arranged if there is enough interest, just be sure to let us know. Price will be confirmed when numbers known but will be between £7 and £10. Book by Friday 23 August. Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.



WED

11

Theatre Trip - Lost Soul 2



2pm



£20



Join us for a matinee performance of Lost Soul 2, a play by Dave Kirby, (who wrote Brick up the Mersey Tunnels). Smigger, Donna, Terry and Pat will take us from Scottie Road to Pontins Prestatyn, to Liverpool's over-40s Sunday night pub scene for endless laughter set to a 70s soul soundtrack.

There is an age advisory of age 14+ due to some strong language. We only have 30 tickets so it will be on a first come, first served basis. Please note this does not include a meal and the tickets are in the stalls. If the tickets are not sold, we will be able to return them before the deadline, but you do need to book early to not miss this one and ensure you get your ticket. Hence the early deadline for booking. Book by Friday 7 June. Royal Court Theatre, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool L1 1HL. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.





FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Invite a friend

SAT

21

Afternoon Tea at Victory Hall



3pm



Free



A Friendship Month favourite is back again. This year we are just doing the one bigger and better than ever afternoon tea, but there will be plenty of opportunity for games and entertainment by the wonderful Vox Community Choir. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends if they haven't met us before, they will be sure of a very warm welcome. There will be sandwiches, cakes and of course, scones. How do you do yours - jam or cream first?



All profits will be donated to our charity of the year and Rodda's Clotted Cream will be providing the jam and cream, which they send us for free to help us make more money for our charity. How good is that! There will be a minibus from Woolton Village if there is sufficient interest. Cost will be £7 to £10, depending on numbers. Book by Friday 6 September. Victory Hall, 61 Salacre Lane, Upton, Wirral CH49 0TN. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.

SUN

29

Liverpool Friendship Walk



11am



Free



Richie the Ranger will once again be putting on an Exclusive Oddfellows Walk for us. This time it will be based in Liverpool and is entitled Saints, Sinners and Holy Places. This is a walk that explores St Georges Plateau, William Brown Street, Lime Street and St Johns Gardens. Discover some amazing facts and features of this lovely area of our City. Meet between the Two Lions at St George's Plateau, St George's Hall, St George's Place, Liverpool L1 1JJ. Book by Friday 20 September. **Contact** Angela on 07912 605677.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun



Our Adventures

As our normal Monday meeting at Childwall fell on a Bank Holiday, everyone met for the Cabaret Lunch at the Childwall Abbey Hotel on the 29 August, launching our Friendship Month in style!

Picture above: Cabaret and Lunch enjoyed by all!

After an international flight of over twelve hours, everyone was eager to disembark as soon as we landed. However, we had a long taxi to the terminal and then a long wait for another plane to leave so we could taxi to the assigned gate. In spite of the flight attendant's announcement asking everyone to stay seated until the captain gave the signal that we were stopped, several passengers unlatched their seat belts and stood up to retrieve baggage from the overhead bins.

At that point the captain's voice came over the loudspeakers. "Ladies and gentlemen, as you might imagine, after such a long flight with hundreds of passengers, the lavatories are in terrible shape. If you would like to help us out, please stand to indicate your willingness to help clean them."

Everyone was seated immediately.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

When a kid says "Daddy, I want mommy" that's the kid version of "I'd like to speak to your supervisor".



West Kirby Walk

On Sunday 3 September, we went on an exclusive Oddfellows Tour of West Kirby with Richie the Ranger. This guy's knowledge of our area is

incredible and he keeps everyone entertained along the way. The weather was glorious and we all had a lovely morning's outing.



Taking a Well-earned break.

Casino Royale

On Sunday 10, we all got our gambling fix at Casino Royale, when Liverpool met Las Vegas! This was held at the Childwall Abbey Hotel, with games such as Roulette, Black Jack and Dare to Domino. A total of £308 was raised on the night – what a great achievement, so well done to all those who took part. The buffet and hot chips (potato, not plastic!) were also a welcome addition.



Place your Bets!



Enjoying a break.

I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.

Afternoon Tea



Afternoon Teas ready to be served – yummy!

Our first Afternoon Tea was held at Upton Victory Hall on Saturday 16 September. It was a packed event and we were royally entertained by the wonderful Vox Community Choir (I'm not biased just because I'm a member, honest! – Ed). With the jam and cream kindly donated by Rodda's Clotted Cream Company, we managed to raise £214 between this one and the Liverpool One, which was held on Saturday 23 September in Liverpool.



Liverpool Afternoon Tea - all gone!



Upton Afternoon Tea.

St Michael's Hamlet Walk

Our second exclusive Oddfellows Walk took place with Richie the Ranger at St Michael's Hamlet in Liverpool. The weather wasn't as kind to us that day,

with a little bit of rain around, but it didn't stop us from enjoying the walk and learning all about this hidden gem in the heart of Liverpool.



Soggy but happy!

Tatton Park

In December we took a coach to visit the wonderful Tatton Park Estate Christmas Trail. This year's theme was Alice in Wonderland and was so beautifully done.

We got to meet the Queen of Hearts who invited us to sample the tarts that the knave had stolen (and she'd managed to retrieve!) They were lovely.



The King of Hearts sharing the jam tarts!



Viewing the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Tatton Hall.

Artists Gallery

As you may be aware, there is an online art session with Oddfellows called Art Unscrewed, which takes place on a monthly basis. Dulcie Rowe talks us through how to recreate a well-known painting and it is all accomplished within an hour.

One of the regular attendees has kindly sent his work in, which I think you will enjoy as much as I did when I received them. I have taken the liberty of including one of my own. When I was young, my art teacher held up a drawing I had done of a house with the windows going round the side and told the class that this is NOT the way to draw a house. I completely lost confidence then and I was only 7 at the time.

It's taken me this long to pick up the courage to try again. If asked to colour something in it would stress me out – am I picking the right colours, will it look good enough. Just shows what effect a teacher can have on your life from an early age.

Why not join us online for Art Unscrewed. The next sessions will be on 26 March and 23 April. Visit www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810.



*Girl with a Red Balloon by Marg Hughes
(the caption reads 'There is always hope').*



Still Life by Keith Wike.



Fish by Keith Wike.



Field of Flowers by Keith Wike.



Shaggy Sheep by Keith Wike.

Doing The Unexpected!



Jean Dickie.

Have you done something in your later years that might 'shock' the younger generation and show your rebellious side? Our lovely Member, Jean Dickie, did just that.

In April 2023, at the young age of 83, she went with her Granddaughters to get her ears pierced. However, as it was a tattoo parlour, she decided it was time to take the bull by the horns (or the butterfly by its wings as it turned out) and she now sports a lovely blue butterfly on the inside of her left ankle.



And her butterfly tattoo.

Apparently Jean had been thinking about this for a few years, but finally took the plunge, much to her granddaughter's amusement.

"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The realist adjusts his sails."

Caption Competition

Last time we asked you to send your answers to what you think Jean is saying to Val in this photo taken on the trip to Llangollen. And the winner is... Val Rider as the only one who replied!



Will this fit in your Handbag Val?

Puzzle Time!

Cities of the World



N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	A	I	Y	B	C	U	T
M	G	V	C	V	I	E	N	N	A	I	H	A	J
I	A	G	U	A	N	G	Z	H	O	U	I	I	V
T	L	N	C	H	T	O	K	Y	O	T	C	A	A
X	P	D	I	E	E	I	G	I	A	N	A	H	T
I	A	U	E	L	C	M	S	C	J	U	G	G	I
N	R	B	X	S	A	T	C	A	I	R	O	N	C
E	I	L	L	I	A	B	M	U	M	M	A	A	A
O	S	I	O	N	C	L	O	N	D	O	N	H	N
H	S	N	B	K	D	E	L	H	I	R	I	S	C
P	K	U	L	I	H	B	E	I	J	I	N	G	I
C	L	O	K	I	V	A	J	K	Y	E	R	A	T
A	T	R	A	K	A	J	A	N	E	T	E	M	Y
Z	G	U	M	E	X	I	C	O	C	I	T	Y	S

(Answers on the page 27)

Beijing

Istanbul

Paris

Cairo

Jakarta

Phoenix

Chicago

London

Reykjavik

Delhi

Manila

Shanghai

Dublin

Mexico City

Tokyo

Guangzhou

Mumbai

Vatican City

Helsinki

New York

Vienna



General Knowledge Quiz

Questions 1 to 5 by Les Fitton and questions 6 to 10 by Paul Fitton
The answers are on the page 27

1. Which dinosaurs name means 3 horned face?
2. Which 4 stations are there in the game Monopoly?
3. Which number is between 2 and 3 on a dartboard?
4. How many holes are there in a tenpin bowling ball?
5. Alaska was purchased in 1867 by which country?
6. Jim Clark, Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart were all famous British racing drivers – but which other British driver was the first to win the Formula One World Championship in 1958?
7. What is a croque monsieur?
8. Who was Les Dennis' comedy partner in the early 1980s?
9. Which US group had a hit with 'Last Train to Clarksville' in 1966?
10. How many notes are there in an octave?



I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.



Knock knock
Who's there?
The Grammar police
The Grammar police Who?
The Grammar police whom!

Music Quiz

By Paul Fitton, North London Oddfellows

Answers on the page 27

1. What one word completes these song titles?

_____ River, Mellow _____ and _____ Submarine.

2. Fill in the gaps to make a Michael Jackson song.

Bronski _____ and ____ must be Love.

3. Who wrote the music for The Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore and The Mikado?
4. Name a Tom Jones hit song with a colour in the title. (There's a bonus point!)
5. How many symphonies did Beethoven write?
5, 9, or 237?
6. John Williams, Julian Bream, Segovia and Paco de Lucia are/were virtuosos on which musical instrument?
7. Name a band whose name is a palindrome, i.e. it reads the same backwards as forwards.
8. Which American composer wrote songs such as: Anything Goes, Night and Day, Begin the Beguine, I Get a Kick Out of You, Well, Did You Evah!, I've Got You Under My Skin, My Heart Belongs to Daddy and You're the Top.
9. Which 80s/90s pop/rap artist, who changed her name from a 1930s cartoon character to avoid copyright issues and had hits such as Hey DJ/I can't Dance, Doin' the Do and Where are you Baby, has just released her first album for 30 years?
10. Was Marc Bolan's Ride a White Swan a hit in the 1960s or 1970s?

As I watched the dog chasing his tail, I thought dogs are easily amused.
Then I realised I was watching the dog chase his tail.

My grandson made the mistake of telling me I was being overdramatic,
so I just changed the WIFI password. We'll see who's overdramatic
in about five minutes.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



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

Local Care and Welfare Support

We have a wonderful Care and Welfare Department who can help you out with convalescence or help at home after a stay in hospital, but if you are feeling lonely, don't forget that we have a local Care and Welfare Visitor, Angela, who is more than happy to phone you and have a chat. Just let Margaret know on **0151 639 2777** or email **margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk** your phone number and she will sort it out for you.

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**

Society-funded cancer research on track

The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.



Nur updating AMC last year

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student."

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer



Dr Tim Fenton

vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."

HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

Our fantastic four

Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.

George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

Jamie Messett

Loyal Lord Byron
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

**Charlotte Stevenson,**

Pride of Woolwich
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.

The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."



Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Striving for a greener future

The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO₂e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

Investing in futures

Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

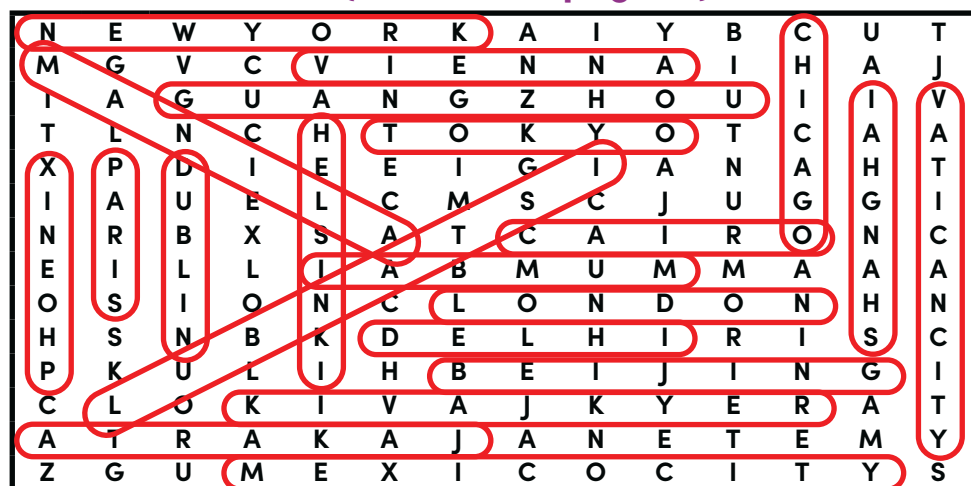
*T&Cs apply.

At a glance

April 2024

Fri 5	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Tues 9	Race Night at Childwall Abbey	6.30pm
Wed 17	Upton Get Together	1pm
Sun 21	Annual Celebration Lunch	12 noon
Mon 22	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

Cities of the World (Answers on page 19)



Answers (pages 20 and 21)

General Knowledge Quiz: 1. Triceratops. 2. Fenchurch Street, Marylebone, Liverpool Street and Kings Cross. 3. 17. 4. Three. 5. USA. 6. Mike Hawthorn. 7. A heated (grilled or fried) cheese or ham sandwich. 8. Dustin Gee. 9. The Monkees. 10. I think we can accept a few answers here. Eight, if you include Doh twice, 7 if you don't, or 12 if you include the 5 sharps and flats.

Music Quiz: 1. Yellow. 2. Beat It. 3. Arthur Sullivan (W S Gilbert wrote the words). 4. Green, Green Grass of Home, a number one in 1966 and for the bonus point, Black Betty in 2003. Golden Days (1973) didn't chart. 5. Nine. 6. Guitar. 7. ABBA, I'll accept a-ha. There are others too. 8. Cole Porter. 9. Betty Boo. 10. 1970s (October).

At a glance

May

Fri 3	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Wed 15	Upton Get Together	1pm
Wed 22	Coach Trip to Beaumaris	10am
Mon 27	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

June

Wed 5	Old Dock Tour	10am
Fri 7	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Wed 19	Upton Get Together	1pm
Fri 21	In my Liverpool Home!	10.30am
Mon 24	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

July

Fri 5	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Sat 13	Lancashire District Bowls Competition	9am
Wed 17	Upton Get Together	1pm
Mon 22	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
Wed 24	Visit to Jodrell Bank	10am

August

Fri 2	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Fri 16	Southport Flower Show	11am
Wed 21	Upton Get Together	1pm
Tues 27	Cabaret Lunch	12 noon

September - Friendship Month

Sun 1	Wirral Friendship Walk	11am
Fri 6	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Sun 8	Casino Night!	6.30pm
Wed 11	Theatre Trip - Lost Soul 2	2pm
Wed 18	Upton Get Together	1pm
Sat 21	Afternoon Tea at Victory Hall	3pm
Mon 23	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
Sun 29	Liverpool Friendship Walk	11am