

July - December 2025



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

# out & about

## Cleveland and Durham Branch



*Branch Chairman, Michael Neary greeting Joy, Margaret and Honor as they arrive for Burns Night Supper*



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Holiday



Quiz



Dining Out



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

# Dear Readers

Welcome to the latest edition of your Out and About



Hello everyone and welcome to our much awaited Events Magazine. I wonder if the Out and About title is really appropriate as we have many members who sadly are unable to enjoy the events that many of us attend. Never the less they do assure me that they really enjoy receiving the magazine and look forward to see what we have been up to since the last edition.

With this in mind we have tried to offer some new activities which may enable members of all ages to join us whenever possible. In the meantime, please enjoy the (hopefully sunny

summer days ahead) because all too soon we are fast heading towards the Autumn and Winter months. So take care and stay well everyone.

**Kind Regards**  
**Margaret**

\*Please note new enclosed Booking Form for events



The winner of the last quiz was Sister Edith Neary. We value any contributions received for entry into the newsletter which helps make it the success it is.

**David Smith**

## 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. To find out more visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call **0800 028 1810**.

# Food with Friends

**The Tall Ships, Middle  
Warren Local Centre  
Mulberry Rise  
Hartlepool TS26 0BF**

**1 July**

**5 August**

**2 September**

**7 October**

**4 November**

**2 December**

The food with friends group have moved to a new venue for their monthly lunch. We now meet at 12 noon in the Tall Ships on the first Tuesday of every month. The menu is varied, from a child's meal for those with a small appetite, to a three course menu for less than £12, plus a varied choice à la carte. We are a friendly group of about 25 members and friends of all ages and welcome newcomers each month.

For further details contact Sue on 07547 499692 before the preceding Sunday.



# Contact Details

**For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:**

**District Secretary  
Cleveland and Durham**

David Smith



43 Landseer Drive,  
Billingham, Cleveland  
TS23 3GF

**Telephone:**

01642 655685

**Email:**

david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk

**Social Secretary**

Margaret Wells



Clover Cottage  
Palace Row  
Hart Village  
Hartlepool  
TS27 3AY

**Telephone:** 01429 599323

**Mobile:** 07864 730910

**District Chairman  
(Provincial Grand  
Master):**

Ian Snowdon

**Telephone:**

07769 754764



**Luncheon Club Organisers**

**Cleveland:** Sue Davies

**Telephone:** 07547 499692

**f OddfellowsClevelandDurham**

# Regular Event

## New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall



12.30pm



£4



Come and join the fun with a little effort and no skill required, but guaranteed to brighten your day. Includes tea or coffee and biscuits. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323.

Every Thursday



## 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 David by phone on 01642 655685 or email [david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk)

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# Thornton Hall Gardens Fundraising Day

**Wednesday 16 July 2025,  
Pick up at Historic  
Quay 9.30am**

We have visited this fabulous garden previously and once again, Sue Manners, the owner, is supporting Great North Air Ambulance. Afternoon will be spent in Northallerton for retail therapy (market day).

**Cost: £30**

to include admission and the cost of the coach

*Thornton Hall Cottages  
Staindrop Road  
Darlington  
DL2 2NB*

**Call Margaret for more  
information on  
07864 730910**



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# July 2025

MON  
14

## Branch Meeting

⌚ 11am

£ Free



Committee only meets at 11am. Good Intent meets at 1pm. District Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

# August

FRI  
15

## Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) Charity Choir Concert with Hartlepool Male Voice Choir

⌚ 6.30pm

£ £10



We welcome Hartlepool Male Voice Choir to entertain us with their wide repertoire of songs under the direction of David Gibson. Tea or coffee and bar. Proceeds to Great North Air Ambulance Blackhall Community Centre, Hesleden Road, Blackhall Colliery, Hartlepool TS27 4LG. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
08

## Branch Half Yearly Summused Meeting

⌚ 11am

£ Free



Committee only. Meets at 11am. Good Intent meets at 1pm. District Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

MON  
15

## Humber Wolds Luncheon in memory of Howard Cole

⌚ 10am

£ £22



Meet at the Fox and Rabbit, Pickering for lunch.



For those that wish, there will be an opportunity to visit Pickering Market. If there is sufficient demand we will arrange a coach to take us there. Cost: Coach will be provided if sufficient interest at £22 per person plus cost of food. The Fox and Rabbit, Whitby Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7NQ. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



## Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) **Charity Ladies Day**

**Thursday 7 August 2025,  
12 noon for 12.30pm**

We return to the ever popular venue of Hardwicke Manor Hotel, where we have hosted this event for a number of years. This year's charity will be in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance and it has always sold out within days of our tickets being available. Three lunch courses, followed by entertainment from Mea Deen, a local singing artiste.

Menu choice will be available at the time of booking. Cost £30 includes lunch. Places will be limited to 60 persons. Vegan or vegetarian options available.

**Cost: £30 including lunch**

*Hardwicke Hall  
Manor Hotel  
Hesleden Road  
Blackhall Colliery  
Hartlepool  
TS27 4PA*

**Call Margaret for more  
information on  
07864 730910**



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# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT  
20

**Macmillan Fundraising  
Coffee Morning**



10.30am



£5



**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Time for coffee, tea, biscuits, cake and raise some much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

THURS  
25

**Take the Biscuit  
at Hart Village Hall**



12.30pm



Members £4  
Guests £5



Do you really know your Fig Roll from your Jaffa Cake?

You are invited to come along for

an afternoon of fun and guess work.

Everyone will be given samples of well known biscuits from well known Supermarkets. Place the biscuit with the company and look forward to prizes for the winners. 'Biscuits of course'. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



# October

**Coach Outing to  
Boundary Mills Retail  
Shopping Outlet at  
Shiremoor**

MON  
27



10am



£17 coach  
fare



A visit to the big retail outlet with fashion, homewear, gifts and a restaurant. Boundary Mills Factory Outlet, Park Lane, Shiremoor, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE27 0BS. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



THURS  
30

**New Event - Friendly  
Get Together**



12.30pm



Free



An opportunity to meet with friends old and new to enjoy each others company with tea, coffee and savoury delight. Why not drop in and bring a friend to our new event. Look forward to seeing you. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.







# Halloween Event

**Friday 31 October 2025,  
6pm**

Join us for a wicked good time  
and fancy dress is encouraged.  
(bring your own drink).

**Cost: Members £8, Guests £10**

cost including spooky food/tea/coffee  
(vegetarian option available if booked)

*Saint Joseph's Church  
Saint Paul's Road  
Hartlepool  
TS26 9EY*

**Call Margaret for more  
information on  
07864 730910**



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# November

MON  
10

## Branch Meeting

🕒 11am

£ Free



Committee only meets at 11am. Good Intent meets at 1pm. District Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.

## 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.

THURS  
27

## Christmas Party/ Santa Beetle Drive

🕒 12.30pm

£ Members £6  
Guests £8



We had 'Snowman Beetle Drive' last year. So it is time for everyone's favourite Santa to make an appearance. Come along and enjoy the fun, to kick start the festivities. Prizes for winners. Refreshments for everyone. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 07864 730910.



## 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.

f OddfellowsClevelandDurham





# Oddfellows Brass

## Pre-Christmas Charity Concert

**Saturday 29 November 2025,  
2pm**

Once again we look forward to receiving our dear friends, Oddfellows Brass, under the direction of John Davis, who have travelled all the way from Leicestershire to perform for us this special pre-christmas performance.

We are fundraising for the  
Great North Air Ambulance.

**Cost: £10**

*Blackhall Community Centre  
Hesleden Road  
Blackhall Colliery  
Hartlepool  
TS27 4LG*

**Call Margaret for more  
information on  
07864 730910**



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## Kingussie Scottish Highland Pre-Christmas Break

**Sunday 14 December 2025,  
Time TBC**

We will spend five days and four nights, bed, breakfast and evening meal. Depending on the weather, we will venture to wherever we can.

Please don't contact Cairngorm Travel direct unless requested to do so.

**Cost: £249 per person**  
**Single supplement £20 per person, per night.**

*Duke of Gordon  
Hotel Newtonmore  
Road Kingussie  
PH21 1HE*

**Call Margaret for more  
information on  
07864 730910**

Please understand the terms and conditions of the holiday operator before booking. The Oddfellows cannot be held responsible for any bookings made, please speak to the Branch for further details.



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# Forthcoming Events

## British Normandy Memorial Coach Tour

**Monday 8 June 2026**  
**5 days, 4 nights**

**Through Euro Tunnel  
into France to Hotel  
L'Esperance in Lisieux**



Step into history with our unforgettable British Normandy Memorial Coach Tour. This immersive 5-day, 4-night journey will take you through the Euro Tunnel into the heart of Normandy, where you'll stay at the welcoming Hôtel L'Espérance in the beautiful town of Lisieux. This is more than just a trip – it's a chance to honour the bravery of those who gave everything on the beaches of Normandy.



Discover stories of courage as you walk in the footsteps of heroes. Our guided tour to the British Normandy D-DAY Memorial offers a moving and powerful experience that brings the past to life. From moments of reflection to stunning coastal views, you'll gain a deep connection to one of the most pivotal events in world history – all while enjoying comfortable travel and excellent hospitality.

Secure your place today for just £100 – only 40 spots are available.

**Cost: £550 sharing, £710 single**

**includes Bed/Breakfast/Evening Meal. Tour to British Normandy D-DAY Memorial. £100 secures booking. 40 places only.**

*Please understand the terms and conditions of the holiday operator before booking. The Oddfellows cannot be held responsible for any bookings made, please speak to the Branch for further details.*



# Photos from recent events!...



*Major Graeme Hall (ret) M.B.E with lovely wife Lorna.*



*John and Tony checking last minute details before escorting the Haggis and Piper on our traditional Burns Night Supper.*



*Phyl, Thomas, Edna, ready to celebrate Burns Night.*



*Nick Hubbard and guess who, yes Michael Neary, who need no excuse to get into the spirit of Saint Patrick's Supper.*

# Photos from recent events!...



*Morning coffee in the Sunshine at Raby Castle. Ann, Alan, Dot, Bill enjoying morning coffee before the castle tour.*



*Just the place for a photoshoot! Members at the Castle Gates looking forward to the tour.*



*Nigel taking his role very seriously during the bingo.*



# Alexander Lee Powerlifter



**Our member Alexander Lee is a power lifter, who despite being in his ninth decade, continues to break powerlifting records. He has recently set 2 new world records for his age category. On March 2 he competed in the Drug-Free Powerlifting competition, where he lifted 112.5 kilos in the unequipped bench press, beating the existing record by 15 kilos. In the equipped bench press, he lifted 127.5 kilos, surpassing the previous record by 25 kilos.**

In addition to his own success, Lee has trained 12 British Champions, seven of which went on to compete internationally. Among them is powerlifter-turned gladiator Karanjeet Kaur Bains, who

he trained while she was at Durham University. Alexander, a former British gymnastics champion, transitioned to weightlifting at 17 and by 19 he became a British Champion. After stepping away from competition in 1974 for training to be a teacher, he returned 20 years ago to focus on bench pressing.

Over these years he has broken 12 world records. Despite health concerns, including complications from a coronary bypass, Alexander remains determined to compete. His achievements have been recognised by the Drug Free Powerlifting, so solidifying his status as a record breaking athlete still at 80 years of age.



## My Pram!

**It was 1979 and we had just moved to our new house in Southgate, London, and surprise surprise, new house, new baby.**

We were so thrilled. So of course I needed a pram for the new arrival.

Poor Mohamed had to be convinced as in Cairo the streets were so busy they didn't have many prams or buggies!

There was an amazing Pram shop in Southgate and so many prams on offer. I took Mohamed to help me choose my chariot for our baby. He was quite bewildered. I tried the Silver Cross Prams but they were a bit too low for me.

Then I spotted a brown Marmet pram. It was perfect, but even in those days it cost £400. It was not only higher than the others, it came apart so I could put it in the car to take to Gloucester when I visited my parents.

In those days we didn't have safety belt for children, so Amira used to be put in the pram in the back of the car for the journey! What would the health and safety police have to say about that these days? In those days we were superstitious about bringing the pram home until the baby had safely arrived. So when Amira arrived, my first cockney baby delivered at St Bartholemews Hospital, Mohamed accompanied by my mum went to pick



up the pram and filled it with celebratory drinks ! My mum, even when she was confused with Dementia would still relate to this story. The pram then went on to carry many babies. Amira, Shireen and Tareq in London and also lent to a friend for her baby.

When we left London I wanted to bring the pram with me. Mohamed couldn't understand my attachment.

I must have been psychic!! Because along came our little surprise Nadia.

When my first grandson was born I found a brown bag and sunshade for the pram on Ebay. I was so pleased.

The pram then journeyed on to carry all 7 grandchildren and is still going strong. Whenever I take the pram out people always comment on how lovely it is and how they remember their prams.

**Carol El-Menabawey.**

## Members Remembered

**Susan Mary Forrest  
Sheila Dew**

**Miriam Anderson  
George Railton Bateman**

## Words of Inspiration

*As I live each day  
May I do my part  
To make a difference  
To touch one heart  
May it be my goal  
To encourage one mind  
And inspire one soul*

**Provided by  
Alan Smith**

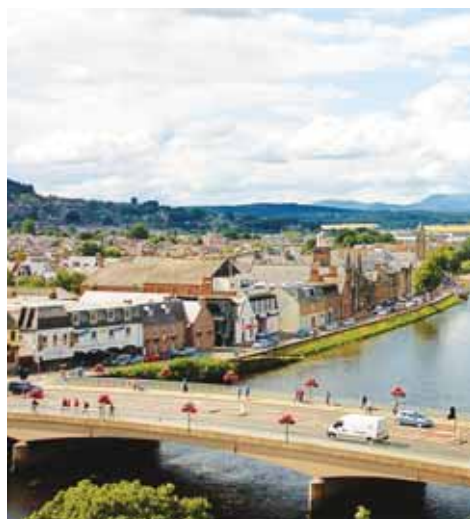
## New Members

**John Wilkinson  
Sheila Wilkinson  
Nina Barker  
Allan Gurney  
Margaret Coulthard  
Hilary Coogan  
Elaine Shirkey  
Malcolm Shirkey  
Celia Dicken  
John Dicken  
Jacob Parsons**

# Highland Adventure

**Monday 7 April was bright and sunny as 38 Oddfellows and friends gathered at Hartlepool Historic Quay to meet the coach and our lovely driver, Steve, to start the 5 day adventure to the Scottish Highlands and Spey Valley.**

First stop was Moffat where a selection of refreshments were taken, not to mention a few tops, jumpers and jewellery too! Obviously not slow in getting the holiday off to a good start. From Moffat we continued our journey through some splendid Scottish scenery arriving late afternoon at our hotel in Kingussie just in time for a quick change before dinner and entertainment. On day two after a hearty breakfast people enjoyed free time in the village. Some chose to go for a local walk while others went on a train journey to Inverness.



*Inverness photo by Matthias Bethke.*



*Royal Yacht Britannia - Edinburgh.*

The weather was glorious, warm and sunny, so many took advantage of that to relax on the terrace enjoying a few games with friendship and fellowship. Wednesday was an early start as the destination that day was the Royal Yacht Britannia. Again we passed through some stunning scenery on our journey but the star of the day was Britannia. Everyone who went thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was made all the more vivid with the excellent audio guide giving an interesting insight into life on board for the late Queen and her family.

The quarters below deck were remarkable. How the crew operated in such confined spaces is miraculous but you were left with the impression that despite that it was one big happy family. Most people ended their tour with a visit to the café where

a very pleasant time was enjoyed having wine or fizz and food of varying sorts. On our return journey we were treated to cocktails or gin or pimm's plus snacks from our intrepid leader Margaret. All this made a delightful addition to an already memorable day. We even got to keep the glasses! Thank you so much Margaret.



*Strathspey Steam Railway.*

A fine sunny day greeted us again on Thursday as we made our way to the Strathspey Steam Railway. This Heritage railway attraction was a real treat. The train passed over moorland, through woodland with lovely views to the Cairngorms and the River Spey. The line goes from Aviemore to Broomhill via a wonderful heritage station at Boat of Garten. Upon return we enjoyed a few hours free time in Aviemore before returning to our hotel for our last evening meal and entertainment.

On our last evening we were piped into the dining room by a lone piper which was a real treat.



*Cairngorms.*

Tartan table runners and candelabra completed the scene so our final evening was a lovely way to end our 5 day Scottish adventure.



Friday dawned and after fond farewells by the hotel staff we were waved off for our journey back south of the border. We had an enjoyable few hours at a garden centre near Carlisle before beginning the final leg of our journey home. Thanks must go to Margaret for her organisation and never ending enthusiasm. I think it is safe to say that an enjoyable time was had by all!

**Nina Barker**

# Leslie Forrest

**Leslie was born in Middlesbrough in 1912 and died in 1992, not quite making his 80th birthday. My dad spent all his working life with GPO on installation of tele-communications e.g. erecting/repairing telegraph poles/cables before the age of mechanical pole machines.**

He married Elizabeth in 1942 and had three sons (Douglas, Stuart & Stephen) all are life members of Oddfellows.

He was elected President of the Yorkshire Group in 1974/75 and was extremely proud of his achievement. He was a member of the Brave & Faithful Lodge in Middlesbrough, his wife was also in the Lady Bell Lodge in Middlesbrough.

**Article by his son,  
Stuart Forrest, our Life Member**



*Leslie Forrest Yorkshire Group  
Conference President.*

## Visit to Masonic Hall, Hartlepool

**20 plus members attended the Masonic Hall at the invitation from Masonic Members to learn the history. We were greeted by Martin Slimmings, Ian Snowdon and Ian Burton.**

The magnificent Masonic Hall was really beautiful and has obviously been so well preserved throughout the decades.

We had a most informative and knowledgeable talk from Martin

and Ian who are rightly proud of their long standing involvement with the Order.

Following a video presentation on the past and present activities of the Masons a most grateful audience enjoyed tea/ coffee and chocolate biscuits.

Everyone agreed the afternoon had flown by and we extend the warm thanks to everyone involved in a hugely memorable occasion.

## Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



**For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.**

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

## Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

**Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.**

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."





# Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

## Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

## Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

## Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

## Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

## Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

# Incredible total raised for good causes



*Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.*

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

**Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.**

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

**Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back)**

## Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



**In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.**

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

# Eagle-Eye Quiz

Why not have a go at winning £25 in Marks & Spencer vouchers\* in our Eagle-Eye Quiz? All you need to do is find the answers to our eight questions below, which can be found throughout this newsletter. So get reading and spotting!



Send your answers, along with the name, address and contact number to david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk by **Thursday 31 July**. You can also enter by post: David Smith, 43 Landseer Drive, Billingham TS23 3GF. The competition is open to Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows members only. Good Luck!

## Questions

1. What is the new venue for Food with Friends?
2. Which choir is performing at Blackhall Community Centre in August?
3. Who is the Director of Music for that choir?
4. Which charity are we fundraising for in September at the Village Hall?
5. Which musical are we going to see in October?
6. Where is the theatre it is being performed at?
7. Which retail outlet are we visiting in October?
8. Which Brass Band is visiting us in November?

### \*Competition Terms and Conditions

- Entry to the competition is automatic on submission of the required information. We will not share your details with any other party. Only one entry per person. No cash alternative is available. The competition is managed and fulfilled by Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows Branch (the Promoter), 43 Landseer Drive, Billingham TS23 3GF.
- The competition will close on Thursday 31 July at 23.59 hours. The draw will take place shortly afterwards.
- The winner will be notified by email or phone within four weeks of the close of the competition. The Promoter, on receipt of a stamp addressed envelope, will provide details of the winning entry.
- The promoter has the right to publicly disclose the name of the winner. The decision of the Promoter on any matter relating to these rules shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

# Meet your Cleveland and Durham

## Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you  
Care, Advice and Support



**We would like to introduce you to our friendly Welfare Visitor team who are here to help you.**



Margaret Wells



David Smith

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings and would like a visit for a cup of tea and a chat?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone?

Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

*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.*

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring David Smith on **01642 655685** or Margaret Wells on **01429 599323**.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/)**

# Branch Meetings

The Committee of Management Meetings are held at 11am followed by the Good Intent Social Branch at 1pm to discuss future Social Events. This is followed by the District Business Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are invited to attend the Good Intent Branch and the District Business Meeting.

## Monday 14 July

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

## Monday 8 September - Half Yearly Summoned Meeting

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

## Monday 10 November

Hart Village Hall, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

## Say *yes* to friendship in September

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

**All welcome**



To see what's on and find out  
more about Friendship Month  
visit **[www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)**

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



## Do you have a story or great photograph to share?

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

# At a glance

## July 2025

<b>Tues 1</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 3</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 10</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Mon 14</b>	Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Weds 16</b>	Thornton Hall Gardens Fundraising Day	9.30am
<b>Thurs 17</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 24</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 31</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm

## August

<b>Tues 5</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) Charity Ladies Day	12 noon
<b>Fri 15</b>	Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) Charity Choir Concert with Hartlepool Male Voice Choir	6.30pm

## September - Friendship Month

<b>Tues 2</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 4</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Branch Half Yearly Summoned Meeting	11am
<b>Thurs 11</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Mon 15</b>	Humber Wolds Luncheon in memory of Howard Cole	10am
<b>Thurs 18</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Sat 20</b>	Macmillan Fundraising Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Take the Biscuit at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm

## October

<b>Thurs 2</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 9</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm

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

# At a glance

## October

<b>Thurs 16</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Coach Outing to Boundary Mills Retail Shopping Outlet at Shiremoor	10am
<b>Thurs 30</b>	New Event - Friendly Get Together	12.30pm
<b>Fri 31</b>	Halloween Event	6pm

## November

<b>Tues 4</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 6</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Mon 10</b>	Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Thurs 13</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 20</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 27</b>	Christmas Party/Santa Beetle Drive	12.30pm
<b>Sat 29</b>	Oddfellows Brass Pre-Christmas Charity Concert	2pm

## December

<b>Tues 2</b>	Food with Friends at The Tall Ships	12 noon
<b>Thurs 4</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 11</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm
<b>Sun 14</b>	Kingussie Scottish Highland Pre-Christmas Break	TBC
<b>Thurs 18</b>	New Age Indoor Kurling at Hart Village Hall	12.30pm

**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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events)

OE/1024SMALL