

July - December 2025



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

South Wales District Dosbarth de Cymru



South Wales District visit to the ICC exhibition centre, February 2025



Film/
Movie



Crafts



Quizzes



Music/
Concert



Walk/
Activities



Talks



Travel



Social



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Games



Dining Out



Margam Castle Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 15 November

Croeso aelodau De Cymru. Welcome South Wales Members,

As soon as one diary is published, it is time to start planning the next.

The past six months have been full of highlights, please see our review at the rear of the diary. It has been a wonderful journey with our members. It is an absolute delight seeing members reconnect, welcoming new members and seeing friendships forming. Our regular meets continue to grow and it is a pleasure to see friends travel from all over South Wales to catch up with each. The past few months we also had the pleasure of welcoming members who visit us from other districts.

As we look ahead, this new diary will cover Friendship Month in September and dare I say it - Christmas!

Our regular events will continue, however unfortunately, we have postponed the Mumbles coffee morning due to low attendance. I hope we can revisit in the future. We will be trying out a new venue in St Mellons.

Contact Details

District Secretary: Sarah Johns

Telephone: 029 20488585

Mobile: 07563 638244

Email:

sarah.johns@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows House, 19
Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA

Social Organiser: John Marvelley

Telephone: 07563 638245

Email:

john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk

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New Venue 'Swansea'

From July we will be meeting at our new venue in the Grand Theatre, Swansea.

The range of events will include garden centres, open gardens, historical sites, meals out etc.

New!

This year we will be entering a Christmas tree at the Margam Park, Christmas tree festival. The theme will be 'friendship' all creative ideas are welcome. See 15 November 2025

New! Other events that will be featured but not yet advertised

Swansea - Indoor Bowls, Craft sessions, Game sessions; A return to Penderyn Whisky distillery in Swansea (November), Tredegar House at Christmas (Celebrating 500 years of Christmas). Your local knowledge is important, so if there is anything happening near you please let me know.

As the diary is printed far in advance, other events will be planned as and when they become available so it is really important we can keep in touch.

At Oddfellows House, the weekly craft sessions, the monthly film club and the new history club will continue. The history club welcomes all that are keen on history whether local/social history, family history, a particular period in history. We will also be having talks from historians. As part of the history club we will be working on the history of the South Wales Oddfellows. If you have any interesting stories, memories or artefacts that may be relevant to the project please get in touch.

Keeping in Touch

As members we are mainly spread across South Wales from The borders in Monmouthshire to Haverfordwest and beyond. It is therefore important that we are able to keep in touch with you to update on any news or changes.

Email: I send out a weekly email to update you all, if you wish to receive the newsletter please email me:

john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk. You are able to unsubscribe at any time. I also send out any local community, local council information that may be useful to yourselves.

Social Media: We also have the SouthWales Oddfellows facebook page, which is regularly updated.

WhatsApp group: We also have a South Wales Oddfellows WhatsApp Group, if you wish to join please contact me.

Volunteers and Social Committee

As we are rebuilding connections throughout South Wales if you are interested in supporting by becoming a volunteer and being part of a Social Committee, please do let me know. Together we can make a difference.

Welfare

Please do reach out to Sarah, District Secretary or myself if you have any concerns or challenges that we can support you with.

I would like to send a special thanks to all those that have helped with ideas for Activities, to all the members that are able attend events, and to those that keep in touch through other means. Our distances may be far but our bonds are strong!

Dymuniadau gorau i chi gyd.
Best wishes to you all.

John

Regular Events

Did you know with the South Wales District we currently cover over 80 miles from Monmouthshire to Carmarthenshire and whilst we may not be local to you, we have set up six regular meets throughout that hopefully you maybe able to access. We also have members who travel to several of our meets, which help them forge new friendships and explore different areas.

All our venues are vetted to ensure they offer us a warm welcome, and where possible we use local independent businesses. So, if you haven't been to one of our meets please do get in touch. Don't forget our weekly craft sessions in Oddfellows House, Cardiff plus our monthly film club and history club.

Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Cost of drinks, lunch as per menu



Third Monday

Held on the third Monday of the month, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Glan Afan Coffee Co, 56A Station Road, Port Talbot SA13 1LZ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

21 July
18 August

15 September
20 October

17 November
15 December

Get Crafty with the Oddfellows



1.30pm



Members Free
Guests £2 donations



Every Tuesday

Join Sarah for an afternoon of crafts, chat and refreshments at Oddfellows House. All abilities are welcome, we are here to support you on your crafting journey. This is the chance to meet and chat with other like-minded people. Do you have a UFO - an Un-Finished Object? Then you are in good company, we have a few and we would like to finish them. Do you need help, then maybe a fellow crafter can guide you. This isn't just knitting, it's for any portable craft; calligraphy, painting, decoupage, please do join us. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



Regular Events

Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Cost of drinks, lunch as per menu



**First
Wednesday**

Join us in our new venue for our monthly coffee morning, a great opportunity to meet up with friends. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Parking: There is a pay and display car park opposite The Grand Theatre, also the Quadrant Multi storey car park is a 10 minute walk away. The Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, Swansea SA1 3QJ. Contact John on 07563 638245.



**2 July
6 August**

**3 September
1 October**

**5 November
3 December**

Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Cost of drinks, lunch as per menu



**Second
Wednesday**

Join us for our monthly coffee morning, a great opportunity to meet up with friends. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. The Ashburnham Hotel, Ashburnham Road, Pembrey SA16 0TH. Contact John on 07563 638245.

**9 July
13 August**

**10 September
8 October**

**12 November
10 December**

Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff



11am



First hot drink free, then cost as per menu



**Third
Wednesday**

Join us in Central Cardiff for our monthly luncheon. A great opportunity to meet up with friends. The Prince of Wales is next door to the Cardiff Interchange bus hub and a few minutes from Cardiff Central. For the gents interested in attending a monthly lunch, please contact John. Prince of Wales - JD Wetherspoons, 81-83 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1FA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

**16 July
20 August**

**17 September
15 October**

19 November

17 December
(Venue to be confirmed)

Regular Events

Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Cost of drinks, lunch as per menu



**Last
Wednesday**

Held on the last Wednesday of the month*, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. *Except December, the meet up will be held on Monday 22 December. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. Scoop Barry, 11 Paget Road, Barry Island CF62 5TQ. Contact John on 07563 638245.

**30 July
27 August**

**24 September
29 October**

**26 November
Monday 22 December***

Film Club, Cardiff



1.30pm



Members Free, Guests First session free, then £2 donation



First Thursday

Join us at Oddfellows House for our monthly film club. Refreshments available, there will be popcorn! Open to members and non-members. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

**3 July
7 August**

**4 September
2 October**

**6 November
4 December**

History and Social Club



12.30pm



Members Free, Guests First session free, then £2 donation



Third Thursday

Join us for our monthly history and social club at Oddfellows House. We will be looking at history projects – The History of the Oddfellows in South Wales, Family History, Local History etc..., or if you have a particular interest. We will also be inviting guest speakers along. If history is not an interest, we have a wide range of games, so please do come along for a cuppa and a chat amongst friends. You are welcome to arrive from 12.30pm and you would be welcome to bring some lunch etc. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

**17 July
14 August**

**11 September
16 October**

**20 November
11 December**

Regular Events

Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Cost of drinks, lunch as per menu



First Friday

Held on the first Friday of the month*, join us for our monthly chat and catch up with friends. A great way to meet locally and find out about recent Oddfellows news, general banter in great company. If you wish to stay for lunch please let us know. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm

welcome in a safe environment. *Except Friday 4 July, the meet will be held on Friday 11 July. Coffee at 12, 12 Derwen Road, Bridgend CF31 1LH.

Contact John on 07563 638245.



11 July
1 August

5 September
3 October

7 November
5 December

July 2025

WED
23

Meolfryn, National Garden Open Scheme - Garden Tour and Lunch



11am



£10



Join us for our first visit to a National Open Garden Scheme. We will be visiting Moelfryn, set in 1/3 acre on a Welsh hillside. The eco-friendly garden has much to discover. A great way to be inspired whether you are a well

seasoned gardener or new to gardening. On the day we will be given a tour followed by tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes. Please inform us of any allergies/intolerances. The site is dog friendly - on leads. Accessibility: There are sloping paths and some steps due to the different levels. There is seating and shelter also on each level. If you just wish to sit in the courtyard, you can still view the gardens. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Transport: Car share, recommended. All monies raised go to charity. Book by Thursday 17 July. Moelfryn, Llandeilo Road, Castel y Rhingyll, Gorslas, Llanelli SA14 7LU. Contact John on 07563 638245.

August

SAT 02 Summer Luncheon by the Sea

🕒 12.30pm 💷 As per menu 🍴🍷

Join us at The Rok restaurant, Bracelet Bay in Mumbles. Enjoy a fabulous meal with amazing views of the lighthouse and the bay. If we can meet from 12 noon. Parking: Pay and display parking available. Dogs: Unfortunately dogs are not permitted. Book by Friday 18 July. The Rok, Bracelet Bay, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4JT. Contact John on 07563 638245.



September

THURS 04 Friendship Month Film Club

🕒 1.30pm 💷 Free, Donation £2 😊

As part of our Friendship Month campaign, we will be hosting a special film club that honour friendship and how through life our friendship needs may change. Therefore, join us at Oddfellows House to meet friends and enjoy a movie together. Keeping with cinema tradition, there will be hot dogs, popcorn and ice-cream. Refreshments provided. Book by Thursday 28 August. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON 08 One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair

🕒 11am 💷 Free 🗣️🗣️

Pop along to see us at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea for the One Stop Shop Community Engagement Fair. We will be there from 11am to 1pm, come and say hi and find out about the benefits of joining the Oddfellows. There will be over 40 organisations promoting their work within communities. The National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3RD. Contact John on 07563 638245.

Say *yes* to friendship in September

ALL
WELCOME

September is Friendship Month, an opportunity to recognise the importance of 'Friendship' and how through life our friendship needs change. Join us for our special Friendship Month coffee morning, a great opportunity to meet the South Wales Oddfellows. If this is your first time attending one of our events you can be assured of a warm welcome in a safe environment. A great way to meet like minded folk.

Wednesday 3, 10.30am

Swansea Friends

The Grand Theatre, Singleton Street,
Swansea SA1 3QJ

Friday 5, 10.30am

Bridgend Friends

Coffee at 12, 12 Derwen Road,
Bridgend CF31 1LH



AS PER
MENU

Wednesday 10, 10.30am

Burry Port Friends

The Ashburnham Hotel, Ashburnham
Road, Pembrey SA16 0TH

Monday 15, 10.30am

Port Talbot Friends

Glan Afan Coffee Co, 56A Station
Road, Port Talbot SA13 1LZ

Wednesday 24, 10.30am

Barry Island Friends

Scoop Barry, 11 Paget Road, Barry
Island CF62 5TQ

Say *yes* and
come along

For more information contact

John on 07563 638245 or email
john.marvelley@oddfellows.co.uk

f SouthWalesOddfellows

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



www.friendshipmonth.com

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT 13 Celebrating Friendship Month with South Wales District



Let's join together to celebrate the South Wales District, this one off special mystery event will be advertised shortly. The location is listed as Oddfellows House, however all will be revealed soon! Book by Friday 15 August. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

Save the Date

THURS 18 South Wales Oddfellows Open Day, Cardiff



The Oddfellows, South Wales District invite you to our Open Day, come and learn about the work of the Oddfellows since our founding in 1810. Step back in time and discover our history within South Wales. Meet our members, and join us for refreshments. Book by Monday 1 September. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



WED 17 Friendship Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff



Join us in Central Cardiff for our friendship luncheon. A great opportunity to meet up with friends. The Prince of Wales is next door to the Cardiff Interchange bus hub and a few minutes from Cardiff Central. Prince of Wales - JD Wetherspoons, 81-83 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF10 1FA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

THURS 25 ST Mellons Friendship Group Meet



Join us at a new meet for Friendship Month. Milk and Sugar is based on the Eastern Business Park. The



coffee bar is spacious, on the ground floor with parking. If your local to the area, please do call in and join us for a cuppa and a chat. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome. Milk and Sugar, Eastern Business Park, St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 5EA. Contact John on 07563 638245.

October

FRI
10

BBC Cymru Wales, Studio Tour



12.30pm



TBC



Step into the future of broadcasting at BBC's newest and most advanced studios. Ever wondered how sound effects are added to your favourite podcasts? Or what it's like to read the news? Join our friendly guides for an exclusive behind-the-scenes award-winning tour of BBC Cymru Wales. Visit our state-of-the-art television and radio studios to discover the secrets of making a BBC programme and follow in the footsteps of some of Wales' famous faces. BBC Central Square has received a coveted Visit Wales Gold Award for the quality of its tours.

On your journey you will: Visit one of the largest BBC newsrooms, packed with cutting-edge technology including augmented reality, virtual reality and robotic cameras. Take a sneak peek at TV galleries and other broadcast facilities. Each walking tour will last approximately 90 minutes. As a live and working broadcast centre, no two tours are the same, so every visit will be unique. Please book via John, immediately to save disappointment. Tickets sell fast and payment will need to be made as soon as possible. Please note: Date may change. Book by Friday 15 August. BBC Cymru Cardiff Studios, 3 Central Square, Cardiff CF10 1FT. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

WED
22

Say Cheese! Luncheon at Ty Caws Cheese Shop and Bar



12.30pm



TBC



For all the cheese lovers, join us at Ty Caws for a taste sensation of British cheeses and charcuterie platters with an introduction from Owen Davies, proprietor, cheese maker and international cheese judge. Included in the price will be a discount towards a Christmas order. Ty Caws, is situated in Castle Arcade. Book by Wednesday 8 October. Ty Caws, 28 Castle Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1BW. Contact John on 07563 638245.

October

TUES
28

Get Crafty with the Oddfellows - 2Wish Fundraiser



1.30pm



Free,
Donation £2



Join Sarah and Fran for an afternoon of crafts, chat and refreshments at Oddfellows House. This special session will be a fundraiser for the 2Wish charity. All abilities are welcome, we are here to support you on your crafting journey. This is the chance to meet and chat with other like-minded people. Do you have a UFO – an Un-Finished Object? Then you are in good company, we have a few and we would like to finish them. Do you need help, then maybe a fellow crafter can guide you. This isn't just knitting, it's for any portable craft; calligraphy, painting, decoupage, please do join us. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

November

MON
03

One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair



11am



Free



Pop along to see us at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea for the One Stop Shop Community Engagement Fair. We will be there from 11am to 1pm, come and say hi and find out about the benefits of joining the Oddfellows. There will be over 40 organisations promoting their work within communities. The National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3RD. Contact John on 07563 638245.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at **f** SouthWalesOddfellows

November

SAT
15

Margam Castle Christmas Tree Festival



10am



Free



New this year – the South Wales Oddfellows will be entering a Christmas tree for the Margam Christmas Tree Festival. Our tree will represent friendship and the benefits of being an Oddfellow, see below for further

information. How you will be involved – anyone wishing to support by helping create the design and tree decorations please contact John, or you may wish to go along and see the finished tree and all the other trees. It's an exciting project to be involved with! More information will follow.

Margam Country Park Community Christmas Tree Festival is held between Saturday 15 November to Sunday 30 November. In partnership with The Friends of Margam Park Margam Country Park is pleased to be organising a Community Christmas Tree Festival. This special event aims to bring park groups, community groups, schools, businesses, visitors... together making a beautiful festive display for all to enjoy. The festival will be staged in Margam Castle and will be open to visitors to enjoy from Saturday 16 November through to Sunday 1 December. Visitor entry to the festival will be by donation. Margam Park, Abbey Road, Margam SA13 2TJ. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

December

MON
01

One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair



11am



Free



Pop along to see us at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea for the One Stop Shop Community Engagement Fair. We will be there from 11am to 1pm, come and say hi and find out about the benefits of joining the Oddfellows. There will be over 40 organisations promoting their work within communities. The National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3RD. Contact John on 07563 638245.

December

WED
03

Swansea Friends Festive Meet and Lunch



10.30am



As per
menu



Let's start December with a festive gathering in Swansea. Book by Friday 14 November. Location will be confirmed closer to the time. Contact John on 07563 638245.

THURS
04

Christmas Film Club, Cardiff



1.30pm



Members Free, Guests First session free,
then £2 donation

Join us in Oddfellows House for our monthly film club. Refreshments available, there will be popcorn! Open to members and non-members. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

WED
17

Festive Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff



11am



As per
menu



Our last formal meet of the year, so let's celebrate in Cardiff with a festive lunch. Book by Wednesday 26 November. Location to be confirmed. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.

TUES
23

Festive Craft and Games Session, 2Wish Fundraiser



1.30pm



TBC



With two sleeps to go, come along to our festive craft session. Make those last minute decorations or presents. There will be a Christmas raffle, all monies raised will be for the 2Wish charity. For those not into crafts, we will have a selection of games available. Join us for a lovely festive gathering. All welcome. Oddfellows House, 19 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0AA. Contact Sarah on 07563 638244 or John on 07563 638245.



Adolygiad De Cymru

South Wales

Review

2025 started off with a large gathering of South Wales Members in Swansea for a New Years Lunch, including some Junior members. Some Members travelled 60 miles to meet friends. We certainly love travelling about in South Wales, we then travelled to Newport to see the amazing Titanic Exhibition.

Throughout the past six months, our regular meet ups go from strength to strength, we relaunched the monthly Cardiff meet as Ladies Who Lunch with one or two Laddies. We were also delighted to welcome members from other districts.

The craft sessions are a weekly highlight for some with wonderful creations being made, we also use some of our craft sessions to raise funds for '2Wish Cymru'.

Other highlights include our Film Club, Social afternoons, a visit to Margam Castle (we won't mention the spooky tales), Celebrating St David's Day with our own Nessa, and the very poignant VE day 80th Celebrations where some of our Committee and members stepped back in time with 1940's fashion.

St David's Day Celebrations





In memory of Marian Lewis, one of life's diamonds!



Titanic Exhibition



Crafting Flowers



VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations





Member's Story

Linda Jagers

My Oddfellows journey started about 20 years ago. My husband and I would go to friendly meetings, during that time I had a brush with breast cancer and went for convalescence. I have always said I would not have recovered as well as I did without that time away.

We stopped going to meetings when my husband's dementia meant he could not drive. We were delighted in February 2023 to be invited to the relaunch coffee morning in Swansea which we could do by bus, these trips were the highlight of his life until his passing last August.

I joined the board of management last year and this year I got a really grand title, Deputy Provincial Grandmaster. I have written this to encourage more people to find the comfort I found amongst friends as well as to encourage more women to



join the board and help with forward planning of this wonderful society.

Note from John Marvelley, Social Organiser. Linda brings a wealth of knowledge, Determination, energy and a great sense of fun, not to mention a great collection of wigs and outfits that liven up our meets. Never a dull moment!

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.

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

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.”

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 John Marvelley
telephone: **07563 638245** email: **john.marvelley@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**

EDCWA50223

At a glance

July 2025

Mon 21	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 22	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 23	Meolfryn, National Garden Open Scheme - Garden Tour and Lunch	11am
Tues 29	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 30	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

August

Fri 1	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 2	Summer Luncheon by the Sea	12.30pm
Tues 5	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 6	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat at The Grand Theatre	10.30am
Thurs 7	Film Club, Cardiff	1.30pm
Tues 12	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 13	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 14	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Mon 18	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 19	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 20	Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff	11am
Tues 26	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 27	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

September - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 3	Celebrate Friendship with the South Wales Oddfellows in Swansea	10.30am
Thurs 4	Friendship Month Film Club	1.30pm
Fri 5	Friendship Month Bridgend Friends	10.30am
Mon 8	One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair	11am
Wed 10	Friendship Burry Port Friends	10.30am
Thurs 11	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Sat 13	Celebrating Friendship Month with South Wales District - Save the Date	10am

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Mon 15	Friendship Port Talbot Friends	10.30am
Tues 16	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 17	Friendship Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff	11am
Thurs 18	South Wales Oddfellows Open Day, Cardiff	11am
Tues 23	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 24	Friendship Barry Island Friends	10.30am
Thurs 25	ST Mellons Friendship Group Meet	2pm
Tues 30	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm

October

Wed 1	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat at The Grand Theatre	10.30am
Thurs 2	Film Club, Cardiff	1.30pm
Fri 3	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 7	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 8	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Fri 10	BBC Cymru Wales, Studio Tour	12.30pm
Tues 14	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 15	Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff	11am
Thurs 16	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Mon 20	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 21	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 22	Say Cheese! Luncheon at Ty Caws Cheese Shop and Bar	12.30pm
Tues 28	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows - 2Wish Fundraiser	1.30pm
Wed 29	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

November

Mon 3	One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair	11am
Tues 4	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 5	Swansea Friends, Cuppa and Chat at The Grand Theatre	10.30am
Thurs 6	Film Club, Cardiff	1.30pm
Fri 7	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 11	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm

At a glance

November

Wed 12	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 15	Margam Castle Christmas Tree Festival	10am
Mon 17	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 18	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 19	Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff	11am
Thurs 20	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Tues 25	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 26	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am

December

Mon 1	One Stop Shop, Community Engagement Fair	11am
Tues 2	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 3	Swansea Friends Festive Meet and Lunch	10.30am
Thurs 4	Christmas Film Club, Cardiff	1.30pm
Fri 5	Bridgend Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 9	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 10	Burry Port Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Thurs 11	History and Social Club	12.30pm
Mon 15	Port Talbot Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 16	Get Crafty with the Oddfellows	1.30pm
Wed 17	Festive Ladies Who Lunch, Cardiff	11am
Mon 22	Barry Island Friends, Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Tues 23	Festive Craft and Games Session, 2Wish Fundraiser	1.30pm

**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

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The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
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