

April - September 2026



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

Events & News

Making Friends in Coventry Godiva



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Online



Theatre



Film



Meetings



Quiz

Welcome to our latest combined Newsletter and Events Diary

It is early January as I sit here writing this introduction and we are experiencing one of the coldest snaps with temperatures down to minus six locally and much lower further afield. I don't know about you but in weather like this I just want to put on another layer, get as close to the fire as possible and hibernate.

I know that I am not the only one to feel like this and bearing this in mind we host regular on-line social events all year round so that you can still get your social fix without braving the elements - no matter how cold, hot, wet or scorching it is. We are not IT experts by any stretch of the imagination, but have been using Zoom for a number of years now and on a variety of different devices. If you would like to give it a try but don't know where to start, then give us a ring and we will try our best to get you up and running. I should add that Zoom is free of charge.

On a more positive note, looking forward to longer days, lighter nights and warmer temperatures, we have put together a varied social

Contact Details

For details about membership and the wide range of benefits available please contact:

Secretary: Christine Luckett
Address: Oddfellows House,
2 Queen Victoria Road,
Coventry CV1 3JH

Telephone: 02476 632900 or
07974 362077

Email:
christine.luckett@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Co-ordinator Jan Lewis
Telephone: 07579 766208
Email: jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

calendar for you for the period April to September; it incorporates some old favourites and some new venues too. We rely on your feedback and suggestions to ensure that we are meeting your needs, so please do get in touch with your comments and ideas. Contact details are to be found in the yellow box on this page.

In the meantime, to paraphrase a well-known Saturday night TV strapline 'Keep on Socialising!'

Christine Luckett
Branch Secretary

A bit about us.....

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.

Regular Zoom Events

Coffee and a Chat!



11am



Free



Online



Second Friday of
the month

If you would like a relaxed cuppa and something to smile about within the comfort of your own home, then come along and join one of our monthly Zoom coffee mornings. We have regular visitors from all over the country and from abroad too. Pull up a chair, pour that drink and maybe open a sneaky packet of biscuits too. Contact Jan at jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk for the link to join.



10 April
8 May

12 June
10 July

14 August
11 September

Trivia Quiz



7pm



Free



Online



Third Wednesday
of the month

Each month, Coventry Oddfellows hosts a fun quiz, covering a variety of subjects to test and challenge you. The quiz is run over a number of rounds, giving everyone the chance to find their strengths, and weaknesses! In order to participate, please email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk for the link to join.



15 April
13 May

17 June
15 July

19 August
16 September

Diary reminders for each of the above events will be posted on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsCoventry>), along with any additional information: For instance, some of the quizzes may have a particular theme, so the super-keen amongst you may want to do a bit of research beforehand!

Regular Events

Coffee Club at Oddfellows House



11am



£1.50 per cup



Come and join our friendly group for a chat in our offices in the centre of Coventry. We're close to the railway station and on the main bus thoroughfare. Coffee, tea and biscuits are all on offer, as well as friendship and a bit of banter! Everyone is welcome, but do let us know that you intend coming by contacting Chris or Jan one week prior to the event. Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

Various Monday
of the month



11 May
22 June

20 July
21 September

Learn, have fun,
and stay in touch
from home

Our online events
are here to stay



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

OEM/1024A6

April 2026

WED 01 Coffee with Friends at Gud Luck Café, Cheylesmore

🕒 11am 💷 First drink free, then as per menu ☕

Come and join us for a chat and a jolly get together at this new venue. Your first drink is on us, so what's not to like? Don't be shy, give us a try! Book by Monday 23 March. Gud Luck Café, 6 Quinton Parade, Cheylesmore CV3 5HW. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



WED 22 Annual General Meeting

🕒 7pm 💷 Free 👥

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm at Oddfellows House. Come and join in the discussion. Booking is essential for catering purposes as a light meal will be provided. Book by Friday 17 April. Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

May

FRI 17 Dine Around at The White Lion, Allesley

🕒 7.30pm 💷 As per menu 🍴

Originally a family home, then a shop, The White Lion has been a fully licensed pub restaurant since 1835. The menu is full of hearty favourites and country pub classics which are sure to warm the cockles of your heart. Book by Monday 13 April. The White Lion, Hawkes Mill Lane, Coventry CV5 9FQ. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



FRI 01 Coffee with Friends at The Badger's Kitchen

🕒 11am 💷 First drink free, then as per menu ☕

The morning coffee (or tea) is always better when shared with friends and we would love for you to join our sociable group. So, come along for a natter and find out about the many varied events that we run. Your first cup of coffee is on us! If the fancy takes you, you can always take a leisurely walk around the Warwickshire Wildlife Centre to make a day of it, take in the fresh air and spot any wildlife. Book by Monday 27 April. Badgers Tea Rooms, Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

May

TUES 26 Dine Around at The Old Smithy



The Old Smithy is a firm favourite of ours. It really is a very cosy pub and has a great atmosphere, along with a varied menu. All are welcome to join us, but booking is essential by Friday 22 May. The Old Smithy, 1 Green Lane, Church Lawford, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9EF. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



June

THURS 25 Dine Around at The Bulls Head, Brinklow



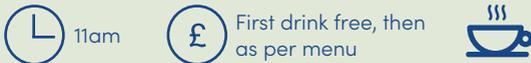
The Bulls Head is located in Brinklow, the home also of 'The Tump', as it is referred to locally.



Is it the remains of a Norman motte and bailey castle? Is it the burial place of Brynca? It has never been excavated so we will never know, but one thing is for certain and that is that you will work up a healthy appetite if you go for a walk up 'The Tump'. Come and join us for an enjoyable evening and some great food. Book by Friday 19 June. The Bulls Head, Coventry Road, Brinklow CV23 ONE. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

June

THURS 04 Coffee with Friends at Astley Book Farm and Coffee Shop



Freshly ground coffee, speciality teas, cold drinks and a range of milkshakes are all on offer here as well as a great selection of cakes. When you have had your fill, you can then browse the 75,000 or so books that are held in stock. Don't forget, your first cuppa is on us! Everyone is welcome. Book by Friday 29 May. Astley Book Farm & Coffee Shop, Astley Lane, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 ONE. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



July

WED 01 Coffee with Friends at Farmers Fayre



11am



First drink free, then as per menu



This month we are visiting the Farmers Fayre where they have over 500 lines of local or British produce in the adjacent shop.



From sausages to soup, cheeses and chutneys, freshly baked bread and cakes. We bet you won't leave without purchasing something! So, come and join us for a chat and get together, then browse to your hearts content! Everyone is welcome and your first cuppa is on us. Book by Thursday 25 June. Farmers Fayre, National Agricultural Centre, Avenue M, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

WED 29 Dine Around at The Millpool



7.30pm



As per menu



We get together every month for a relaxed meal and the Millpool is one of our favourites. The food is home-made, the prices are reasonable and the laughter and camaraderie get thrown in free of charge! Do come and join us - everyone is welcome. Book by Thursday 23 July. The Millpool, Hipswell Highway, Coventry CV2 5FR. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



SAT 25 Midland Group President's Dinner Dance



6.30pm



TBC



We will be meeting at 6.30pm for dinner at 7pm with carriages at midnight.

Further details including the menu and options on accommodation can be obtained from the District Office. Book by Tuesday 30 June. Quality Hotel Coventry, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9BA. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



August

TUES
04

Coffee with Friends at Malt Kiln Farm Shop



11am



First drink free,
then as per menu



This farm shop has a butchers counter, a deli counter and an extensive pick your own area for seasonal fruit and vegetable. To find out what is available, check out their website nearer the time: www.maltkilnfarmshop.co.uk. Have a wander around and then come and join us for a coffee and a chat; your first cuppa will be on us.



We're a friendly bunch that gets together every month and like to try different venues, so if you have any suggestions for future meet ups, do let us know. Book by Wednesday 29 July. Malt Kiln Farm Shop, Stretton-under-Fosse CV23 0PE. (Go to the website what3words.com and input: Awkward.Depth.Goes to find the farm shop). Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

SAT
15

Summer Barbecue



6pm



Free



Join us for a summer barbecue in the grounds of Oddfellows House. Bring your own meat and drink; we will provide the salads, sauces and bread rolls. Everyone is welcome, but do let us know if you're coming for catering purposes. Book by Monday 10 August. Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



September - Friendship Month



TUES
01

Coffee with Friends at C3, Cheylesmore



11am



First drink free,
then as per menu



A new venue for us! On their website they boast that C3 is where quality meets affordability, so come along and give us your opinion! Your first cuppa is on us and everyone is welcome. Book by Thursday 27 August. C3 Café, Cheylesmore Community Centre, 111 Arundel Road, Coventry CV3 5JL. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



THURS
17

Lunch at Hogans



12 noon



As per
menu



Hogans Bar and Bistro has been a family run restaurant for over 35 years. Its cosy atmosphere, along with great value home-made food and excellent service, is the reason we keep going back.

You won't be disappointed! So, come and join us for a bite to eat and meet some new faces. Book by Friday 11 September. Hogans Bar & Bistro, John Reay Golf Centre, Sandpits Lane, Keresley, Coventry CV7 8NJ. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

September - Friendship Month

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

THURS
24

Ten Pin Bowling



7pm



Cost of bowling



Anyone can have a go at ten pin bowling. Whether you prefer to play seriously, or just for fun with bumpers, or even from a wheelchair or using a ramp to hold the ball, there is a way for everyone to get involved. So, come along and join us for a fun, sociable and only slightly competitive few hours. Book by Friday 18 September. Tenpin Coventry, Crosspoint Business Park, Olivier Way, Coventry CV2 2SH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



WED
30

Dine Around at The Rose and Castle



7.30pm



As per menu



A warm welcome awaits you at the Rose and Castle on the outskirts of Coventry. The



pub prides itself on home-cooked food and a great atmosphere. It is one of our favourite venues and has never let us down! Come and see what earns its rave reviews and have a laugh with our sociable group at the same time. Everyone is welcome. Book by Friday 25 September. The Rose and Castle, Main Road, Ansty, Coventry CV7 9HZ. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

Join the conversation @ OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at

f OddfellowsCoventry

Friendship: the constant that carries us forward A message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship. Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate



Talented trio win Educational Awards

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

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

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

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

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

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

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



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

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

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

Will Stevenson
Pride of Woolwich Branch

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



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

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

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

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

Emma Corbin
Worcester Branch

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



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

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

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

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

More about our Educational Awards

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

2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

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

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

Where to start?

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

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

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

Start saving

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get in touch

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

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

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

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

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 Christine on **024 76632900** or email **christine.luckett@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**

At a glance

April 2026

Wed 1	Coffee with Friends at Gud Luck Café, Cheylesmore	11am
Fri 10	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Wed 15	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 17	Dine Around at The White Lion, Allesley	7.30pm
Wed 22	Annual General Meeting	7pm

May

Fri 1	Coffee with Friends at The Badger's Kitchen	11am
Fri 8	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Mon 11	Coffee Club at Oddfellows House	11am
Wed 13	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Tues 26	Dine Around at The Old Smithy	7.30pm

June

Thurs 4	Coffee with Friends at Astley Book Farm and Coffee Shop	11am
Fri 12	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Wed 17	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Mon 22	Coffee Club at Oddfellows House	11am
Thurs 25	Dine Around at The Bulls Head, Brinklow	7.30pm

July

Wed 1	Coffee with Friends at Farmers Fayre	11am
Fri 10	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Wed 15	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Mon 20	Coffee Club at Oddfellows House	11am
Sat 25	Midland Group President's Dinner Dance	6.30pm
Wed 29	Dine Around at The Millpool	7.30pm

August

Tues 4	Coffee with Friends at Malt Kiln Farm Shop	11am
Fri 14	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Sat 15	Summer Barbecue	6pm
Wed 19	Trivia Quiz	7pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Coffee with Friends at C3, Cheylesmore	11am
Fri 11	Coffee and a Chat!	11am
Wed 16	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Thurs 17	Lunch at Hogans	12 noon
Mon 21	Coffee Club at Oddfellows House	11am
Thurs 24	Ten Pin Bowling	7pm
Wed 30	Dine Around at The Rose and Castle	7.30pm