



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

events **diary**

Oswestry District

September 2018 – January 2019



View of Trevor and Ruabon Mountain



Christmas Lunch at Sweeney Hall Hotel - Thursday 6 December

Welcome to the summer/autumn edition of the Oswestry District Events Diary. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy - we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place - by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary



Office Manager:
Lucie Byrne

Branch Secretary:
Vivien Byrne

Address:
23 Oswald Road,
Oswestry
SY11 1RB



Telephone: 01691 679016
Email:
vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk

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 Samantha, (or any member of the Management Committee) We'd love to hear anything heart-warming, humorous, or simply very interesting!

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. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

September - Friendship Month

EXTEND

Exercise Class

Every Monday afternoon, 2pm

The Oswald Room,
Memorial Hall, Oswestry

Whether you are recently retired or determined to improve your fitness level, EXTEND Exercise can help you to achieve this. EXTEND Exercise classes will always contain 20 minutes of seated exercise, but do not be discouraged as seated exercises can be very active. You will be very surprised at just how much active exercise can be performed whilst sitting in a chair. Suitable for all genders and across all ages. Cost: £3 to include a hot or cold drink.



**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Wednesday 5 - Coffee Morning in the Wilfred Owen Room, 11am

Get together with friends on Market Day between 11am and 12.30pm, you can shop at the Country Market downstairs. Coffee (or tea) and cake in the lovely room on the first floor. The room is named in honour of Oswestry's renowned WWI Poet. Slimming World are open all day in the hall too. **Cost:** Free. Contact Vivien on 01691 679016.



Monday 10 - Branch Meeting, 2pm

Open to all members. **Address:** Branch Office, 23 Oswald Road, Oswestry SY11 1RB. Contact Vivien on 01691 679016.

Wednesday 12 - Lunch at The Mile End Golf Club, 12.30pm for 1pm

We have been here before, and we liked it so much we are going again. (Choice of four main courses and two desserts: Menu available from Branch office and cost is £12.95 to include coffee and chocolate mint).



events diary

November

Wednesday 7 - Coffee Morning in the Wilfred Owen Room, 11am

Get together with friends on Market Day between 11am and 12.30pm, you can shop at the Country Market downstairs. Coffee (or tea) and cake in the lovely room on the first floor. The room is named in honour of Oswestry's renowned WWI Poet. Slimming World are open all day in the hall too. **Cost:** Free. Contact Vivien on 01691 679016.



Monday 12 - Branch Meeting, 2pm

Open to all members. **Address:** Branch Office, 23 Oswald Road, Oswestry SY11 1RB. Contact Vivien on 01691 679016.

December

Christmas Lunch at Sweeney Hall Hotel

Thursday 6 December, 12.30 for 1pm

Sweeney Hall Country House Hotel and Restaurant, Oswestry SY11 1AU

Sweeney Hall is a Boutique Hotel and Restaurant, set in a country house with sweeping views of the stunning Shropshire Countryside. Located just outside the market town of Oswestry in North West Shropshire. Join us for our traditional three course Christmas lunch in this splendid setting. (Menu and cost to be confirmed nearer the time).



forthcoming events

January 2019

Wednesday 9 - Coffee Morning, 11am

Open to all members. **Address:** The Memorial Hall. Contact Vivien on 01691 679016.



Friendship and Social activities across the UK

At Oswestry District Oddfellows we put on a range social activities each month for us to enjoy together in friendship. We always welcome new people to come along and give us a try... No longer living in the Oswestry District? Why not check out the social activities being put on by the Branch nearest to where you are living...



Visit the Oddfellows Website (www.oddfellows.co.uk) and click on the events tab to search for local events. Alternatively, contact us, (details on the front page) and we can request that your local secretary gets in touch and sends you a copy of their Events Diary.

Share the friendship – enjoy the rewards! Refer a Friend

Did you know that the Society runs a Refer a Friend scheme?

When the first friend you've recommended has joined, we'll send you a £10 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you. There are different reward levels, so you'd receive your next reward – £60 in Love2Shop vouchers – after recruiting five friends in total.*

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

Terms and conditions apply* The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers**.



www.oddfellows.co.uk



Turkey & Tinsel Warner's Nidd Hall

From £235
per person
(Standard room)

17 – 21 December 2018, 4 nights, Half board
Warner's Nidd Hall Country Hotel, North Yorkshire.

Enjoy this glorious hotel set in 45 acres of superb gardens and grounds. Relax in the leisure club complete with heated indoor pool and have fun with fantastic daytime activities. Located just a short distance from the lovely town of Harrogate.

All holidays are booked through third party travel companies and terms and conditions apply. Holidays are open to Oddfellows members and their guests only. For more information ask the reservations team when booking.

To book call Warner's on 0330 100 9772
and quote **ODDFELLOWS** (Holiday reference 4259744)



the
Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Our volunteers are magic!



We're incredibly fortunate to have an army of talented member volunteers. They don't just make the difference to our Society, they are the difference. This edition of *Society News* is in their honour.

Meet Arthur MacTier, member of the Heart of England District and one of four members selected for a special mention as part of the Society's 'Portraits' scheme this year.

Arthur's signature mirth and magical manner is infectious. The Society cherishes such members, who share their upbeat sense of character in their daily interactions with our members, and in the more formal work they do.

Arthur joined the Oddfellows in 1999 and has contributed on many levels in officer roles, on the Committee of Management and as Branch and District Chairman (notwithstanding his very important role as Friday lunchtime Barman and President for the Heart of England District's Oddfellows Club).

Being active and involved has been an important part of Arthur's membership experience. He explained:

"The best thing about volunteering is meeting up with members and the joy that comes from socialising with them.

"I would recommend volunteering in the Oddfellows to anyone – in fact I'm trying to recruit people to help with the bar and kitchen as we speak!"

Arthur's talents are wide-ranging – he has published three books on humour and one on card magic and achieved Associate Membership of the Inner Magic Circle.

Take a bow, Arthur – magician, family man and one of life's good guys.

Mutuality in action – shaping

One role which is considered the pinnacle of volunteering experiences in the Oddfellows is that of Grand Master or Society Chairman. The year-long role culminates in chairing the Society's AGM, known as the Annual Movable Conference, or AMC for short.

If dealing with business and helping to run things excites you, then you might want to consider putting yourself forward to join your Branch management committee. If you're already doing this, how about becoming a Deputy at next year's AMC, or even a Director on the Society's Board? There is a process to be able to take on

these roles, but information and support is available if you're interested. Contact your Secretary or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/society-involvement to find out more.

We want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Tony Lockett, our now Immediate Past Grand Master, for his sterling job of chairing our recent conference in Llandudno. He made keeping over 250 deputies in check look effortless!

"The conference is a great opportunity for our members to shape the future of the Society," explains Tony. "That's what being part of a mutual, fraternal organisation is all



Grand Master, Tony Lockett, wreath laying at the War Memorial



Fancy dress on Saturday evening



Action from the Roy Harper Bowls Competition



Deputy listening to conference debates



Conference in session

our future

about. We're run by our members for the benefit of our members. And it's not just the Oddfellows that benefit – because the things we do also have a positive impact on the wider community.

“The conference is a great opportunity for our members to shape the future of the Society.”

“Thankfully, it's not all work and no play! Making friends and helping people is what we do best, so socialising is a big part of conference. It's been great looking through the photographs. It's clear to see from the selection here that a lot of fun was had by all!” added Tony.



Over 250 delegates attended

There are many ways to volunteer with us –

we'd love to hear from you. Contact your Branch Secretary or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering to find out how you can bring some magic to the Society.

A few words from Bill Henchliff, our new Grand Master (Chairman)...

Other than being appointed Grand Master (obviously), what was your conference highlight?

The highlight for me was the acceptance of the Governance Clause which helps us to shape our future strategic direction.



What is the most important issue you look to influence during your year in office?

As with most past Grand Masters, I would like to encourage recruitment and retention of members – it's crucial that we remain positive in our recruitment.

What's the most important piece of advice you've been given by past post holders about becoming Grand Master?

Enjoy your year in Office because it goes so quickly.

What's your first official engagement after conference?

My first official engagement was to attend the Midland Group Conference Reunion night after our annual conference.

If you have the necessary qualifications and you are interested in standing for election as a Director, there will be a training day to find out more on Monday 8 October. To book a place email jane.nelson@oddfellows.co.uk

Looking after you — front-line help when you need it

Our Branch Welfare Visitors give us a lot to be proud of. They're amazing. We've over 300 across the country, who each provide support for our members when they need a helping hand. Last year they were in touch with those needing support on more than 14,500 occasions.

It's no mean feat to be by the side of members as they deal with life's challenges. And their role is even more remarkable when you consider most of our Branch Welfare Visitors are volunteers. Sensitivity, compassion, resourcefulness and patience are just a few of the skills they share with the Society – day-in, day-out.

Branch Welfare Visitors support members by keeping in touch through visits,



phone calls and writing letters. It involves befriending and helping them access any practical support or benefits they may need.

One Branch Welfare Visitor doing just that is Brenda Lowe (pictured), who you may recognise from the recent care booklet. She shared her views on how rewarding the role can be:

"To me, the role of Welfare Officer gives me the chance to do the very things that Oddfellows are about – making friends and helping people. I enjoy meeting and getting to know people. Yes we are there to offer support when people are ill or incapacitated, but often it is regular contact either by phone or visits that can make the person feel they matter."

You may have met or spoken to your own Branch Welfare Visitor, but not every Branch has enough volunteers – so we're always on the lookout for help.

Sound of interest?

If you think you've got what it takes and would enjoy the role, then we'd love to hear from you. Training and on-going support is provided. To find out more contact your Branch Secretary or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/careers



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 Vivien on **01691 679016** or email **vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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, 9am - 5pm, Friday, 9am - 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

Every Monday – EXTEND Exercise class at Memorial Hall, Oswestry at 2pm

September – Friendship Month

Wed 5	Coffee Morning in the Wilfred Owen Room	11am
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Wed 12	Lunch at The Mile End Golf Club	1pm
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November

Wed 7	Coffee Morning in the Wilfred Owen Room	11am
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December

Thurs 6	Christmas Lunch at Sweeney Hall Hotel	12.30pm for 1pm
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forthcoming events

January 2019

Wed 9	Coffee Morning	11am
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business meetings

Regular meetings held throughout the year those booked for the duration of this diary are Monday 10 September and Monday 12 November held at Branch Office 23 Oswald Road, commencing at 2pm.

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:



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

Do we have your email address?

Call us on **01691 679016** or email **vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk**

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