

May - October 2025



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out* & *about*

## **Ipswich Branch**

**Make friends** with the Oddfellows



Travel



Games



Social



Meetings



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Online



Quizzes



Theatre



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



## Hello and welcome to your Summer Events Diary.

As you read this, the hall will have been completed and our new kitchen fully operational. It will be so good to once again have the use of our Oddfellows Hall. We can't thank you enough for your patience through the change of location with our events such as Kurling, Coffee Morning and Bingo. However, we are now back in our hall for all of these events.

Looking ahead to the summer, we have an excellent diary planned for you from interesting speakers such as Suffolk Neighbourhood police team, a day out to the Clacton Air Show in August and physical activity events such as the return of our Chair Exercise led by Active Lives and some summer walks to enjoy.

We are also kicking off a mini events diary around the county, initially in two locations: Woodbridge and Felixstowe. These events are open to all members, so if you are close by please drop in (you'll need to book) to our monthly Coffee Mornings in those locations. I'm really excited to be expanding our events into the wider branch area, and I hope to see

## Contact Details

**Branch Secretary:** Lynne Wyatt

**Email:**

[ipswich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:ipswich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Social Secretary:** Martin Lambert

**Email:**

[martin.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:martin.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Social Host:** Sherry Harrow

**Email:**

[sherry.harrow@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:sherry.harrow@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Social Host:** Teresa Marrable

**Email:**

[teresa.marrable@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:teresa.marrable@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Address:** 37 High Street,  
Ipswich IP1 3QH.

**Telephone:** 01473 251867



**OddfellowsIpswich**

many of you as we travel the beautiful county of Suffolk.

In closing, I'd like to also bring your attention to our annual Friendship Month in September, a month where we celebrate the impact friendships can have on our lives. You'll find some interesting and fun events being held and we hope you will bring a friend or two along to enjoy. There will be more information and updates as we approach Friendship Month and I am sure you will agree that we need to share the news about our wonderful Society, the best kept secret in Suffolk!

See you soon

**Martin**

# Weekly Events

## Activity Morning Kurling and Boccia



10.30am



Members £2.50, Guests £3.50



Every  
Thursday

Join us for some light exercise and a friendly competitive morning with plenty of laughs and friendly banter! Kurling is played with sticks and stones (no ice!) while Boccia is a seated version of boules. Refreshments are served. Hosted by Sherry. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.



## Zoom-In for Fun on Friday

Every  
Friday



7pm



Free

Online

It's FriYAY and time for our fun weekly Zoom on Friday. From bingo to beetle drives, quizzes to puzzles, there are so many games and so little time! Log in and join in as various hosts lead us in a variety of activities with fun being at the top of the agenda. Come and join this fun group made up of members from all four corners of our great nation. All welcome, member or not, and it's free! Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603. **Contact** Wendy on 07722 191437.



## Zoom-In for Live@5 Weekly Quiz

Every  
Sunday



5pm



Free

Online



Chase away those Sunday night blues by joining us for our weekly Sunday Zoom with friends. This is the quiz that's just for fun with no score keeping. They're simply to keep your brain ticking over and/or an excuse to get together and share a smile and a laugh. Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603. **Contact** Wendy 07722 191437.



# Regular Events

Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH.

## Crafty Fellows



2pm



Members £2, Guests £3



First Tuesday

Unleash your inner craftiness and join us at our new craft sessions on the first Tuesday of the month. Under the expert guidance of group leader Teresa, follow along and learn something new or bring your own craft and join in the chat. Refreshments included and all are welcome. Please note, in addition to the scheduled event pricing there may also be a minimal cost for any craft materials. This cost will be advertised nearer the event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Teresa or Lynne on 01473 251867.

3 June  
1 July

5 August  
2 September

7 October

## Zoom-In for Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat



10am



Free



Second Tuesday

What project will Teresa have for us this month? This is an online get-together making simple things to help our hand-eye coordination. We use materials which are easily available. Most importantly we have a laugh! To find out what materials you may need, call our office on 01473 251867. Zoom Meeting ID: 542 724 7603.

13 May  
10 June

8 July  
12 August

9 September  
14 October

## Bingo



10.30am  
or 2pm



Free entry with books available  
at a cost on the day



Monday or Tuesday

Eyes down for bingo! We may not be offering mega-prizes but we do offer fun, chat and laughter served with a nice cup of tea at half time. A winning formula. Books available on the day. All are welcome with refreshments served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.



Monday 12 May  
Tuesday 10 June

Monday 7 July  
Tuesday 12 August

Monday 6 October

# Regular Coffee Morning

## Coffee Morning at Honey + Harvey



10am



As per menu



First  
Tuesday

Join us for our monthly coffee morning at Honey + Harvey cafe in Melton, Woodbridge. Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good cuppa. Honey + Harvey are well renowned for their coffee and their fully trained baristas will carefully create the perfect cup every time. From lattes to long blacks, you won't be left disappointed. All are welcome for a coffee morning not to be missed. Book a week before the coffee morning. Honey + Harvey Melton, Unit 1 Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton IP12 1QT. **Contact** Martin on 01473 251867.

6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 2 September and 7 October

## Coffee Morning at Cookie Barista



10.30am



£5



Second  
Tuesday

Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good cuppa, so join us for a monthly coffee morning at Cookie Barista Felixstowe. Cookie Barista pride themselves on being based in Suffolk and supporting local with their coffee blended and roasted locally in Halesworth, Suffolk. In addition to a cup of coffee/tea made with love as part of your £5 entry, you will also be served a freshly baked (onsite) Cheese Scone. All are welcome for a coffee morning not to be missed. It's recommended that you book in advance a week before as numbers are sadly limited. Cookie Barista, 50 Hamilton Road, Felixstowe IP11 7AJ. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 9 September and 14 October

## Coffee Morning at Oddfellows Hall



10.30am



Members £2.50, Guests £3.50



Last Friday

Our popular coffee and chat mornings are mornings not to be missed. Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good cuppa (tea is also available!). All are welcome at our coffee and chat mornings and for £2.50 (£3.50 if you are a guest), you can have as many cups of coffee and biscuits as you like. Great value and a great time. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High St, Ipswich, IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Martin on 01473 251867.

30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August, 26 September and 31 October

# May 2025

## TUES 06 Members Meeting



1.30pm



Free



The Branch is managed by members for members. Our members meetings are an opportunity as a member to hear how the Branch is run and a chance to have your say on its direction, all while upholding some of the Oddfellows traditions. All members are welcome, and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.



## TUES 13 Out for Lunch at Man on the Moon Pub



12.30pm



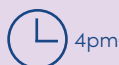
As per menu



Out for Lunch is one of the highlights of our diary. This month we pay a visit to, Man on the Moon pub in Palmcroft Road, Ipswich. The table is booked for 12.30pm, but please feel free to start arriving from 12 noon. Please note due to the event being very popular, booking is essential as menu choices and deposits are normally required. Book by Monday 14 April. Man on the Moon, 86 Palmcroft Road, Ipswich IP1 6QX. **Contact** Sherry on 01473 251867.



## SUN 11 VE Day Afternoon Tea



4pm



Members £5, Guests £7



Join us for a special afternoon tea to commemorate VE Day. There will be cakes, sandwiches and tea galore. All are welcome but in order to have enough cakes, booking is essential. Please book 14 days before the event by calling the office. Book by Monday 28 April. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.





# May 2025

WED  
14

## Speaker: The Secret Life of Plants

L 10.30am

£ Members £5  
Guests £7.50



Join us for a fascinating morning of growing your gardening knowledge as we dive into the secret life of plants. 'The Secret Life of Plants' explores some of the latest and most remarkable discoveries about the inner workings of plants. How do plants tell the time? How and why do plants communicate with one another? Did you know that some plants can generate enough heat to melt snow, whilst others nourish their young? These and other extraordinary stories from the secret life of plants makes for a fascinating talk that will enhance your enjoyment of the plants in your garden and in the wider countryside. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# June

SUN  
15

## Sunday Afternoon Tea

L 4pm

£ Members £5  
Guests £7



Our afternoon tea has all the ingredients needed to be a scrumptious afternoon. Join us for sandwiches and cakes galore and as many cups of tea as you can manage, along with warm smiles and stories to last the afternoon. Join us for this fun and popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. To ensure we don't run out of cakes, please book 14 days before the event by calling the office on 01473 251867.



FRI  
20

## An Afternoon of Wine Tasting

L 2pm

£ Members £12  
Guests £15



Join us for a relaxing Friday afternoon of wine tasting. Led by our (amateur) sommelier Kevin Marrable, who will guide us through a journey of wines to tickle the taste buds and to suit all budgets. A small selection of cheeses will be provided to complement the wine. A £5 deposit will be required upon booking. Please book via telephone Monday-Wednesday. Book by Friday 13 June. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin, Lynne or Kevin on 01473 251867.



# June

## MON 23 A Morning with the Ipswich Community Police Team



10.30am



Free



Join us for an informal meeting with the Ipswich Community Police Team. A real chance to put forward any questions to local Police Constables, while finding out more about local policing in Ipswich. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.



## MON 30 Out for Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



Out for Lunch is one of the highlights of our diary. The venue will be announced nearer the time so please contact event host Sherry on 01473 251867 for more information. Add yourself to our event mailing list to avoid missing any vital information. To add yourself email [martn.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:martn.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk). Please note due to the event being very popular, booking is essential as menu choices and deposits are normally required. Book by Monday 14 April.



## WED 25 Activity: Square Dancing



2pm



Members £4, Guests £5



Back by popular demand! Join us for a brilliant morning as square dancing makes a return to Ipswich Oddfellows. You'll need your dancing shoes as we do-si-do around the hall. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.





FRI  
04

## Beer Festival at The Food Museum, Stowmarket



12 noon



£4 single day entry,  
beers as per menu price



It's Friday, it's the summer, so why not join us for a fun afternoon at the Food Museum in Stowmarket as we take a trip to their annual beer festival. The Food Museum's popular beer festival in partnership with CAMRA returns for another celebration. Enjoy a range of delicious real ales, craft beers and ciders in the picturesque surroundings of the museum, with food also available. We'll meet together just outside the Food Museum at 12 noon and we'll leave when you've had enough or when the bar runs dry, whichever comes first. Book by Monday 30 June. Suffolk Food Museum, Iliffe Way, Stowmarket IP14 1SL. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

TUES  
15

## Members Meeting - Half Yearly Meeting



1.30pm



Free



The Branch is run by its members for members. This is your chance to hear how the branch is run and to have your say as well as upholding some of the Oddfellows traditions. Don't be shy, come and get involved. All members will be welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Lynne on 01473 251867.

FRI  
18

## Big Pub Nite In!



7pm



Members £4  
Guests £6



You know summer is just around the corner when our 'Big Pub Nite In' makes its long-awaited return to the events diary! Evenings enjoying the fine weather (we hope) with plenty of banter flying around is what you can expect from one of our 'Big Pub Nite In' evenings. These are evenings not to be missed and you don't even need to be a member to attend, so it's a great taster event if you've always wanted to give Oddfellows a go. Join us as we play landlord and allow you to BYOB while you play games and eat the snacks we've provided. All with stories to tell and smiles to share with friends old and new. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# July

MON  
21

## Activity: Walk Around Needham Lake



11am



As per menu



Join us as we head out for a nice summer walk around Needham Lake. Following our walk around the lake, we'll refuel by having a spot of tea and a slice of cake at the onsite café, the Duck and Teapot. Needham Lake is a popular nature reserve with river walks and woodland. It's located by the train station or you can use the bus to Stowmarket which stops along Needham Market High Street. The High Street is approximately five minute walk to the lake through the train station. If you need more information please just ask. You will need to book for this event, so we know who to look out for. To book, please call the office by Monday 14 July. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.



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TUES  
29

## Speaker: British Divers Marine Life Rescue



11am



Members £5  
Guests £6



British Divers Marine Life Rescue is a frontline charity responding to marine mammals in distress. They have been running for over 35 years and do a lot of work in The Wash area of East Anglia. They have over 1,000 volunteer Marine Mammal Medics country-wide, who act on behalf of the animal's best welfare interests. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# August

WED  
06

## Activity: Hop To It! - Ipswich Hare Walk 2025



1.30pm



Walk Free, Café  
cost as per menu



Join Teresa and Kevin on a gentle walk to discover the painted hares around Ipswich, finishing with a stop in a local café. We will be meeting outside the Tower Ramparts (Sailmakers) by Electric House, corner of Lloyds Avenue. How many of the 33 will we find? Electric House, Corner of Lloyds Avenue, Ipswich IP1 3HT. **Contact** Teresa or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# August

SUN  
10

## Sunday Afternoon Tea



4pm



Members £5  
Guests £7



Our afternoon tea has all the ingredients needed to be a scrumptious afternoon. Join us for sandwiches and cakes galore and as many cups of tea as you can manage, along with warm smiles and stories to last the afternoon. Join us for this fun and popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. To ensure we don't run out of cakes, please book 14 days before the event by calling the office on 01473 251867.

FRI  
22

## Clacton Air Show Trip



10am



Members £26, Guests £30



Join us for an exhilarating kickstart to our Friendship Month season as we head out with the Stowmarket Oddfellows to the Clacton Air Show. A day filled with breath-taking aerobatics, jaw dropping displays and thrilling performances set against the stunning backdrop of the Clacton Shoreline.



Elite Travel will pick us up from the Oddfellows Hall at 10am and will drop us off along the Clacton seafront allowing you the chance to simply sit back, relax and build up your anticipation for what promises to be a brilliant day by the sea with friends. Book your seat now and join us for an Oddfellows day out. Included in the cost is travel to and from Clacton. Book by Friday 1 August. Clacton Sea Front, Clacton CO15 1FS. **Contact** Sherry on 01473 251867.

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# August

TUES  
26

## Sea Shanty Workshop



10.30am



Members £8  
Guests £10



Join us for a fun interactive sing-song morning with Stuart Green. Stuart will lead us through a variety of activities ranging from, an illustrated talk on the history of the sea shanty, to discovering the relevant maritime language used on ships, and often used as part of the song lyrics. We'll also investigate how modern shanties are written with a historical narrative, using one of Stuart's own songs as an example! This promises to be a fun interactive morning full of audience participation. No singing ability necessary, this is a fun sing-song, not a choral masterpiece! Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
01

## Friendship Month Out for Lunch



12.30pm



As per  
menu



Out for Lunch is one of the highlights of our diary. The Venue will be announced nearer the time so please contact event host Sherry on 01473 251867 for more information. Add yourself to our event mailing list to avoid missing any vital information. To add yourself email [martin.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:martin.lambert@oddfellows.co.uk). Please note due to the event being very popular, booking is essential as menu choices and deposits are normally required. Book by Tuesday 26 August.

FRI  
05

## Friendship Month Big Pub Nite In!



7pm



Members £4  
Guests £6



Come and enjoy an evening with the Oddfellows. A night full of banter and laughs is what you can expect from one of our 'Big Pub Nite In' evenings. These are evenings not to be missed and you don't even need to be a member to attend, so it's a great taster event if you've always wanted to give Oddfellows a go. Join us as we play landlord and allow you to BYOB while you play games and eat the snacks we've provided. All with stories to tell and smiles to share. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
08

## Friendship Month Bingo



10.30am



Books available  
on the day



Eyes down it's bingo! We may not be offering mega-prizes but we do offer fun, chat, and laughter! A winning formula. Entry is free with books available on the day. All are welcome with refreshments served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry on 01473 251867.

MON  
15

## Speaker: SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire The Bloodrunners



10.30am



£3 Donation



Join us for an insightful morning with the SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire - The Bloodrunners!

Since 2011, the volunteers of SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire The 'Bloodrunners', have been providing a completely free-of-charge essential service to our local NHS hospitals, Air Ambulance Services, Hospices, Human Donor Milk Banks and vulnerable patient, by transporting blood, blood products, patient blood samples, medicines, medical equipment and donated human milk! All are welcome, booking not essential and refreshments will be served after the presentation. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.



TUES  
16

## Members Meeting



1.30pm



Free



The Branch is managed by members for members. Our members meetings are an opportunity as a member to hear how the Branch is run and a chance to have your say on its direction, all while upholding some of the Oddfellows traditions. All members are welcome, and refreshments will be served. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Lynne on 01473 251867.

# September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES  
23

## Coffee and Craft at Pennikkity Pots



10.30am



£12



Come along and 'express yourself' by painting your own bowl or plate for you to keep or even give as a gift! Refreshments will also be available at additional cost. Pennikkity Pots, 1 Crown Anchor Mews, Tower Ramparts, Ipswich IP1 3DJ. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.



TUES  
30

## Friendship Month Beetle Drive with a Twist



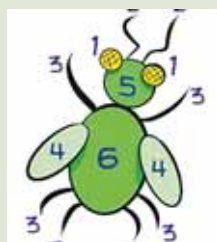
10.30am



Free



Join us for our friendship beetle drive with a twist. Never played beetle? It's really easy and it's a great way of



breaking the ice and getting to share smiles and jokes with friends or with someone you've just met. It's a free event, but we'd like you to book so we can make sure we have enough cakes! As mentioned previously, don't forget it is Friendship Month, so please do round up your friends and bring them along. I'm sure they'll thank you for it. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Martin or Lynne on 01473 251867.

FRI  
26

## Friendship Month Coffee and Chat Morning



10am



Free



Our popular coffee and chat mornings are mornings not to be missed. Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, it's always nice to do it over a good cuppa (tea is also available!). All are welcome at our coffee and chat mornings as it's Friendship Month it's free, so you can have as many cups of coffee and biscuits as you like surrounded by friends. Great value and a great time await. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Martin on 01473 251867.





# October

## SUN 12 Sunday Afternoon Tea



4pm



Members £5  
Guests £7



Our afternoon tea has all the ingredients needed to be a scrumptious afternoon. Join us for sandwiches and cakes galore and as many cups of tea as you can manage, along with warm smiles and stories to last the afternoon. Join us for this fun and popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. To ensure we don't run out of cakes, please book 14 days before the event by calling the office on 01473 251867.

## WED 22 Speaker: Phoenix Birds of Prey Rescue



11.30am



Members £10  
Guests £12



Phoenix Birds of Prey Rescue will be 'swooping' in for a visit as they discuss how they started and the work they currently do in the rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured wild British birds of prey. We'll even be joined on the morning by several wild birds (i.e owls) allowing you to see these magnificent animals up close. A morning not to be missed. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Lynne on 01473 251867.

## WED 15 Speaker: Medical Detection Dogs



10.30am



£2 Donation



Join us for a special presentation on medical detection dogs. Come and learn how they train these brilliant animals to detect the odour of human disease with the aim of developing faster, more efficient and less invasive diagnostics that lead to better patient outcomes. Medical detection dogs are at the forefront of the research into the fight against cancer and other life-threatening diseases, including Parkinsons disease and bacterial infections. Bio detection dogs are trained to find the odour of those diseases in samples such as urine, breath and sweat. The work has the potential to benefit millions. An interesting morning awaits. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. Call the office 01473 251867 to book by Monday 8 October.



# October

FRI  
31

## Coffee and Chat Morning Home-made Crafts in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice



10am



Members £2.50  
Guests £3.50



Come along to our coffee morning and do some early Christmas shopping at our sale of home-made crafts in aid of our Chairman's charity, St Elizabeth's Hospice. All are welcome at our coffee and chat mornings and for £2.50 (£3.50 if you are a guest), you can have as many cups of coffee and biscuits as you like. Great value and a great time. Homemade crafts priced on the morning at additional cost. Oddfellows Hall, 37 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH. **Contact** Sherry or Martin on 01473 251867.

## Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

### You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Lynne by phone on  
**01473 251867** or email [lynne.wyatt@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:lynne.wyatt@oddfellows.co.uk)

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THE  
**oddfellows**  
SINCE 1810  
making friends, helping people

[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

# A year in the life of a Chairman



**I retired from my social commitments in October 2023, but little did I realise that I would get carried away with my role as Chairman of the Branch throughout 2024.**

My duties included chairing business meetings and attending Trustees meetings, supporting staff and keeping abreast of news from Manchester head office. Further afield, I attended the Oddfellows Brass Band concert in Sheringham in August and the Norwich District Lunch and visited the Isle of Wight Branch.

I hosted Sunday lunch for members and friends at the Belstead Brook Hotel in September and I was honoured to be supported by members from Norwich, Bury St Edmunds and North Wales. It was a fun event despite the split-level dining area!

I am delighted to report that Teresa Marrable, as a member of the Regional Committee has been voted in as President for 2025-26. I plan to be able to support her in this role, especially at the Summer

BBQ in Stowmarket on June 22nd. Look out for details and get your tickets early.

Also, praise is due to Teresa for being selected to serve on one of the national committees. However, my favourite part of the year has been running events to support my charity.

We launched the Smarties challenge in April, held a Race Night in June, a bring and buy in September, hosted a Sunday lunch at Belstead Brook, with raffle and competition quiz, table top sale, quiz and chips, Christmas lunch with raffle, and finally the afternoon tea at Fred. Olsen House.

I am indebted to certain members who sold items for the fund - cakes, jewellery and greetings cards.

I mustn't forget the bucket which has been in the Hall all year to collect odd change. I was overwhelmed when it was opened. It contained £87.

I have been blown away with the support I have received and WE (and I stress WE) have reached a grand total of £1800. I can't thank you enough. Your generosity is amazing.

I hand over the reins to Ian Hayles, who is familiar to the role of Chairman. He has my support for the ensuing year as I step into the office of Past Chairman. I congratulate Sherry Harrow on taking on the mantle of Deputy Chairman. I wish them both best wishes as the new Oddfellows year begins.

# Event Round Up

## East Anglian Air Ambulance - November



Twenty Oddfellow members all came together as Peter Harrison from the East Anglian Air Ambulance gave us an insightful and excellent presentation on the lifesaving charity work.

Peter went through the history of how the EAAA came to be, how the service has evolved over time, which included the current operation of the EAAA. Did you know the charity needs around £20 million a year to provide the lifesaving work?!

Despite near arctic conditions outside, everyone inside had a brilliant warming morning learning more and raising funds for a lifesaving work of the EAAA, managing to raise £50 for the charity. The 45 minute presentation flew by and the members in attendance all had questions which Peter was only too happy to answer. The event was closed by a cuppa, some delicious cake and a good chat between the members and our speaker.

## Signing Choir - December

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our yearly visit from the Ipswich Signing Choir. Each year, while the choir may get smaller, the festive cheer they bring gets bigger. In December, we had the biggest

turn out of members (over 40!) to support the event. It really is a special afternoon and we hope the choir will continue to visit us for many years to come.



## Christmas Meal - December

57 members enjoyed our Christmas lunch at Chefs' Whites restaurant in December. This is Ipswich New College's training restaurant and the branch has been attending Christmas lunches there for over 20 years, which is a testament to how much our members enjoy this annual event.

The students' and staff provided a lovely meal and it was interesting to see the students work. A festive table-top quiz provided entertainment between courses. The prize-laden raffle raised £197 for the Chairman's charity, which was RNLI Sheringham Lifeboat Fund.

## Afternoon Tea with Fred Olsen - January 2025

Ipswich members received an invitation to enjoy afternoon tea at the head office of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. This was in recognition of the long-standing partnership between the Company and, Oddfellows. The afternoon was attended by 30 members who enjoyed a delicious



spread, a presentation of cruising with Fred. Olsen, a fun quiz and a raffle.

All proceeds of the event went towards the Chairman's charity, Sheringham Lifeboat.

Travelling together is one of the benefits of Oddfellows membership whether it be a day-trip, a short break or a cruise.

## Annual General Meeting - February

In February we held our annual AGM and this was followed by us coming together to eat and celebrate friendship with fish and chips, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Set in our temporary location of Castle Hill Community Centre, 42 Ipswich Oddfellow members heard how 2024 went, allowing them key insight into the management and direction of the branch. The meeting also had the installation of the officers for 2025 and we welcome our new Chairman Ian Hayles.

## Regular Events

### Out for Lunch



Our regular lunch group has been back to some of their favourite haunts over the last six months. There is always a good attendance and happy atmosphere. This year we will be trying out some new venues (the March event filled up within two weeks of being advertised!) and once the hall is back up and running, we hope to have another jacket potato session (which is always popular).

### Bingo

2025 saw bingo being held at Museum Street Methodist Church in Black Horse Lane, due to the ongoing works in the hall.

Although the venue is slightly smaller, it made the event all the more cosy, but we had to change the rules of the game slightly due to it being held in a church! We also threw in a couple of games of Hoy!



### Coffee Morning

We didn't have a coffee morning in December as the hall had to be cleared ready for commencement of the building work in January, so the first coffee morning at our new temporary venue of Museum Street Methodist Church on Black Horse Lane was in January. It was a morning thoroughly enjoyed by a large number of members with a fun quiz



being held at the end, some of the answers sending the crowd into fits of laughter. Our coffee mornings are a fun popular event that return to the hall in April, so if you've ever fancied stopping by the hall for a cuppa you'll find a warm welcome.



## Kurling

Kurling continues to be a popular weekly event held every Thursday morning. We hold regular intergroup competitions in addition to our Team Red v Team Blue weekly competitive games. At half time we always stop for tea, coffee, cake and a good chat. The morning closes after half time refreshments with a game or two of Boccia which is a great game that always gets people laughing.



## Online Events

ZOOM-IN for the virtual Oddfellows community. Do you realise there's a whole new circle of friends to be made across the miles? To be made across the country without even leaving your house?

Since April 2020, friends have gathered for a Sunday quiz Live@5. Nothing competitive, just for fun. We'll be celebrating 5 years in April. That's a lot of questions, but more importantly many

friendships made. We rarely ask for your score, but you can tell us if you'd like to.

Since May 2020, we introduced Fun on Friday - an hour of games and puzzles to keep your brain active. Nothing difficult and often quite bizarre! How many different versions of "Beetle" have we invented? You'd be surprised! Zingo, a simple bingo-style game played with cards, has become a national treasure and Zoomers love it!

Once a month (mainly second Tuesday at 10) we host 'Busy Fingers' with simple paper craft projects. It's very informal. We enjoy a chat and laugh while we fold, cut, and stick. Whether you live in Aberdeen or the Isle Wight; North Wales or Norfolk and anywhere in between, you'll receive a warm welcome.

We always make time for one another, whether offering support or sharing good news. The best bit is that we laugh, joke and tease all in good humour.

We'd love more of our Branch members to join us and it's easy to do. You will need to access the Zoom website ([zoom.us](https://zoom.us)) or download the app. Then enter our ID number 542 724 7603. If you need help PLEASE ask. You don't have to attend every session, and if you don't like it you can leave at the click of the mouse.

Once you've mastered it the 'week's your oyster' with other Branches offering simple exercises, art classes, talks, sing-along, coffee mornings and more quizzes. You'll be welcome wherever Zoom takes you.

Make friends from the comfort of your own home - its great medicine!

Wendy Atkins (Ipswich Zoom Co-ordinator)



## Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

**In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.**

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

### Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



### Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

### Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

### Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

### Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

### Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

### Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)

# Trio receive university funding

**Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.**

## Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

## Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

## Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

## Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

# Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



## With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

### April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

### Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

### August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

### Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub)  
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products\* visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows)

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

\*Terms and conditions apply

# 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 Lynne Wyatt on **01473 251867** or email **[ipswwich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:ipswwich.branch@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

# At a glance

## Regular Events

Every Thursday	Activity Morning – Kurling and Boccia	10.30am
Every Friday	Zoom-in for Fun on Friday	7pm
Every Sunday	Zoom-in for Live @ 5 Weekly Quiz	5pm

## May 2025

<b>Tues 6</b>	Woodbridge Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Tues 6</b>	Members Meeting	1.30pm
<b>Sun 11</b>	VE Day Afternoon Tea	4pm
<b>Mon 12</b>	Bingo	2pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
<b>Tues 13</b>	Felixstowe Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 13</b>	Out for Lunch at Man on the Moon Pub	12.30pm
<b>Wed 14</b>	Speaker: The Secret Life of Plants	10.30am
<b>Mon 19</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Fri 30</b>	Coffee and Chat Morning	10am

## June

<b>Mon 2</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Tues 3</b>	Woodbridge Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Tues 3</b>	Crafty Fellows	2pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
<b>Tues 10</b>	Felixstowe Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 10</b>	Bingo	2pm
<b>Sun 15</b>	Sunday Afternoon Tea	4pm
<b>Mon 16</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Fri 20</b>	An Afternoon of Wine Tasting	2pm
<b>Mon 23</b>	A Morning with the Ipswich Community Police Team	10.30am
<b>Wed 25</b>	Activity: Square Dancing	2pm
<b>Fri 27</b>	Coffee and Chat Morning	10am
<b>Mon 30</b>	Out for Lunch	12.30pm



# At a glance

## July

<b>Tues 1</b>	Woodbridge Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Tues 1</b>	Crafty Fellows	2pm
<b>Fri 4</b>	Beer Festival at The Food Museum, Stowmarket	12 noon
<b>Mon 7</b>	Bingo	10.30am
<b>Tues 8</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
<b>Tues 8</b>	Felixstowe Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 14</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Tues 15</b>	Members Meeting – Half Yearly Meeting	1.30pm
<b>Fri 18</b>	Big Pub Nite In!	7pm
<b>Mon 21</b>	Activity: Walk Around Needham Lake	11am
<b>Fri 25</b>	Coffee and Chat Morning	10am
<b>Mon 28</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Tues 29</b>	Speaker: British Divers Marine Life Rescue	11am

## August

<b>Tues 5</b>	Crafty Fellows	2pm
<b>Wed 6</b>	Activity: Hop To It! – Ipswich Hare Walk 2025	1.30pm
<b>Sun 10</b>	Sunday Afternoon Tea	4pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Tues 12</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
<b>Tues 12</b>	Bingo	2pm
<b>Fri 22</b>	Clacton Air Show Trip	10am
<b>Tues 26</b>	Sea Shanty Workshop	10.30am
<b>Fri 29</b>	Coffee and Chat Morning	10am

## September – Friendship Month

<b>Mon 1</b>	Friendship Month Out for Lunch	12.30pm
<b>Tues 2</b>	Woodbridge Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Tues 2</b>	Crafty Fellows	2pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	Friendship Month Big Pub Nite In!	7pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Friendship Month Bingo	10.30am
<b>Tues 9</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am

# At a glance

## September – Friendship Month

<b>Tues 9</b>	Felixstowe Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 15</b>	Speaker: SERV Suffolk and Cambridgeshire The Bloodrunners	10.30am
<b>Tues 16</b>	Members Meeting	1.30pm
<b>Tues 23</b>	Coffee and Craft at Pennikkity Pots	10.30am
<b>Fri 26</b>	Friendship Month Coffee and Chat Morning	10am
<b>Tues 30</b>	Friendship Month Beetle Drive with a Twist	10.30am

## October

<b>Mon 6</b>	Bingo	2pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	Woodbridge Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Tues 7</b>	Crafty Fellows	2pm
<b>Sun 12</b>	Sunday Afternoon Tea	4pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Zoom: Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat	10am
<b>Tues 14</b>	Felixstowe Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Wed 15</b>	Speaker: Medical Detection Dogs	10.30am
<b>Mon 20</b>	Activity: Chair Exercise Session with Active Lives	10.30am
<b>Wed 22</b>	Speaker: Phoenix Birds of Prey Rescue	11.30am
<b>Fri 31</b>	Coffee and Chat Morning – Home-made Crafts in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice	10am

**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)

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