

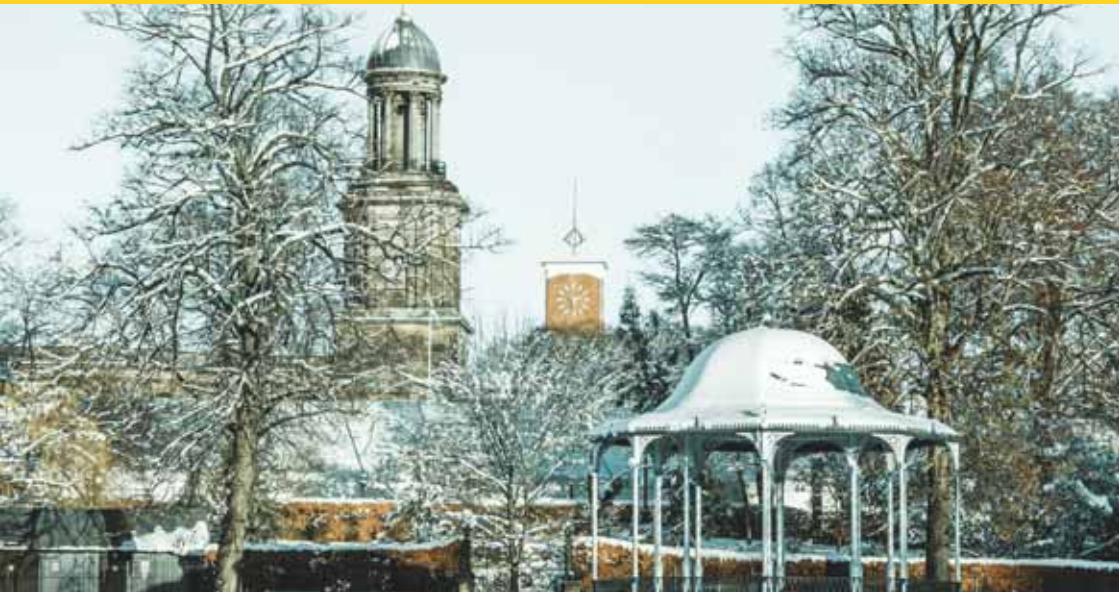
January - June 2026



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

out & about

Severn and Trent



A winter scene taken in The Quarry. It features the Bandstand and St Chads church with the clock tower in the distance, photo by Roger Chapman.



Music



Art/Crafts



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Trip to Chester Zoo – Thursday 21 May 2026, we hope you can join us!

Welcome to your combined Newsletter and Events Diary

This is your events diary and newsletter so if you have any ideas for items please send them in. Maybe you have a recipe, joke or celebration that you would like to share with other members? Why not write about a social event you've attended or send in photographs? All items will be gratefully received. We look forward to hearing from you.

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:

District Secretary:
George Brotherton

Address: 31 Avenue Road,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7EA

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07487 300449

Email:
george.brotherton@oddfellows.co.uk

Dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm your attendance.

More contact details can be found on page 18.

A bit about us...

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

Regular Events

Coffee Morning



10.30am



Pay your own drinks



**Fortnightly
on Thursday**

Come along and meet members of the Severn and Trent Branch for a coffee and chat, everyone welcome. Mere Park Garden Centre, Stafford Road, Newport TF10 9BY. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693, Janet on 01952 814377 or Christine on 07776 357409.



8 January

22 January

5 February

19 February

5 March

19 March

2 April

16 April

30 April

14 May

28 May

11 June

25 June

**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/1024SMALL

January 2026

February

SAT
17

Skittles with Fish and Chip Supper



7pm



Members £7
Guests £10



An evening of skittles with fish and chips to follow. Bar available at the Newport Bowling Club. Limited to 50 people 7pm to 10.30pm. Payments to Severn and Trent District. Please book by Thursday 8 January. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.



SAT
24

Burns Night Evening Function



8pm



TBC



An evening to celebrate Burns Night. Book by Saturday 3 January. British Legion, Church Street, Hartington, Buxton SK17 0AW. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Sandra on 07870 873576.

SUN
15

Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch Formation Anniversary Event



5pm



Free



Formation celebration event for the Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch. Book by Saturday 10 January. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.



February

THURS 26 Trip to Emma Bridgewater Pottery Factory



10am



TBC



Trip to Emma Bridgewater Pottery Factory. Coach leaves Newport bus station at

10am, returning approximately 4pm. Payment by Thursday 5

February. Cheques payable to 'Severn and Trent District'. Emma Bridgewater Pottery, Lichfield Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3EJ. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.



March

SAT 21 Race Night and BBQ with Fun Day Events



6pm



£10

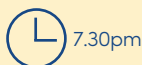


Fun day events with race night and BBQ at the British Legion. Book by Saturday 21 February 2026. Parwich British Legion, Parwich, Ashbourn DE6 1QJ. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.

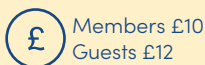


March

SAT 14 Wine and Cheese Evening with Quiz and Games



7.30pm



Members £10
Guests £12



Quiz at the bowling club in Newport with cheese, nibbles and wine Limited to 50 people book by Thursday 26 February. Cheques payable to 'Severn and Trent District'. Bar not open on this occasion. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.



March

SAT 28 District Annual General Meeting



Annual General Meeting for Severn and Trent District. All members welcome. Newport Parish Room, New Street, Newport TF10 7AX. Contact George on 01952 814377.

April

SUN 19 Sunday Lunch at Chapters Restaurant



Sunday lunch at this popular restaurant, meet at 12.30pm for 1pm sit down. Limit 60 people. Menus available in February payment by Thursday 2 April. Cheques payable to 'Severn and Trent District'. Chapters Restaurant, Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Newport, Shropshire TF10 9AT. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

April

SAT 25 St George's Day Parade



St George's Day Parade. Church service with after parade drinks and BBQ at the British Legion. Book by Saturday 28 March 2026. Parwich British Legion, Parwich, Ashbounre DE6 1QJ. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.



May

SAT 16 Mystery Tour



Mystery tour. Meet at the Sycamore Inn at 10am. More details to follow. Book by Saturday 18 April. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.

May

THURS
21

Trip to Chester Zoo



9.30am



Members £18
Guests £22



Trip to Chester Zoo. Coach leaves Newport bus station at 9.30am, returning approximately



6pm. Payment by Thursday 30 April. Cheques payable to 'Severn and Trent District'. Chester Zoo, Upton, Chester CH2 1EW. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.

June

SAT
27

Oddfellows Parade Parwich and Dinner - Wakes Week Event



9am



TBC



9am procession starts at Sycamore Inn, 11am church service, dinner after the parade at The Parwich Community Centre. Cost to be confirmed, for meal if booked and free parade and church service. Book by Saturday 30 May. Sycamore Inn, Parwich DE6 1QL. Contact George on 01952 814377 or Bill on 07713 743295.

June

SAT
20

Annual Bowls Competition



1pm



£3



Annual bowling competition at the bowling club in Newport. Teams of four and spectators welcome. Names required by Wednesday 6 May. Limited to 40 people. Bar open with refreshments. Entry fee £3. Book by Thursday 4 June. Newport Bowling Club, 24 Granville Avenue, Telford TF10 7DX. Contact Glynis on 01952 820693 or Christine on 07776 357409.



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 OddfellowsUK

Newport Branch, Fountain of Peace Branch

Fortnightly Coffee Mornings

Our fortnightly coffee mornings held at The Mere Park Garden Centre, have been a great success since being introduced some four years ago, attracting an average of 30 to 40 members. Resulting

in receiving numerous requests for information, from members of the general public as to who we are and what we stand for, some of which have resulted in new members joining the Society.

RHS Bridgewater

On Thursday 17 July, a group of 22 members boarded a coach to visit RHS Bridgewater at Worsley, where everyone had the opportunity to 'do their own thing' and stroll around the beautiful gardens.

The weather was mixed, but everyone was able to keep dry and the onsite café was available for teas, coffee and lunches.

The garden shop was a big draw, and many plants etc were purchased and stowed away in the coach to bring home.



Everyone had a super day out and we could not fault their management team on site, who looked after everyone. One to think about repeating in the future.

Llangollen

Our August event was our day trip to Llangollen with 30 members left Newport Coach Station for a pleasant journey to Llangollen, arriving so that the members had free time in the town to take a look round, having the opportunity to take a horse drawn boat cruise on the Llangollen canal, or if others preferred, take a train ride pulled by the steam train to Corbyn and



back going through the beautiful Welsh countryside. The river side walks were also very impressive and there were lots of cafes and shops to accommodate everyone. A good time was had by all.

Friendship Month

September was Unity's Friendship Month event, and the Newport Branch held an afternoon tea party at our local community centre. We had a wonderful response, with 50 members and non-members attending.

During the afternoon, our members enjoyed Paul Ray, who entertained everyone with his sleight of hand tricks, jokes and a sing song towards the end of the afternoon. A raffle was held, with the proceeds going to our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) appeal, which is going to be donated to The West Midlands Air Ambulance. A very well received and attended afternoon of enjoyment.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



District's Annual Dinner Dance

For our October event, the Branch joined in with the District's Annual Dinner Dance this year being held again at The Down Inn, where a total of 56 members from around the District sat down to a splendid meal and entertainment being provided by Martin Ross.

At this year's event, we had visitors from the Heart of England, North Wales & Chester

and Guernsey Districts as well as two members of the Board of Directors.

During the evening, a raffle took place, with £285 being raised, which is going to be presented to the West Midland Air Ambulance. Also a presentation was made to Director Peter Moulard, in recognition of him being elected to the Board of Directors at this year's Annual Conference being the Districts first ever board member (see page 12 for photos).



Members and guests enjoying the event.

Parwich Branch Loyal Laurel and Crown

Photo by Maccerr

The British Car Museum



Twelve members of the Laurel and Crown Branch visited the British Car Museum at Ambergate in May, spending most of the day looking at

over 150 cars that were on display, dating back to the 1900s to the present day. There were less than a dozen vehicles which had not been owned or driven.

It was a nostalgic day out for the members, which brought back many memories of motoring years gone by.

The day rounded off by calling in at The Greyhound Inn at Cromford on the way home for a couple of drinks, sitting outside in lovely sunshine.

Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact George by phone on 01952 814377 or email george.brotherton@oddfellows.co.uk

VA260423/v1



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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Annual Wakes Week

On Saturday 28 June the Laurel and Crown Branch took part in the Annual Wakes Week in the village, with the day starting off at the Sycamore Inn with the Opening Ode being Sang with about 60 Oddfellows joining the parade behind the Branch banner, and the Branch's three new standard flags with the Seaforth Highlanders Pipe Band heading the Parade.

During the parade, four stops were made for refreshments, supplied by local

residents before arriving at the Parish Church for their annual service. The parade then continued back through the village to the Village Community Centre, where 90 members and guests sat down to a four course meal.

This was followed by a visit to the Parwich Royal British Legion Club, before joining in with various activities and entertainment finishing off the day at around midnight. A great day out was enjoyed by all.



Fun Day and BBQ

On Saturday 13 September, the Branch held a 'Fun Day and BBQ', which was well attended attracting some 50 to 60 members and friends. The evening began by the members enjoying a BBQ meal before sitting down to a race night, where they could place their bets on their chosen horse. It was another good night that was enjoyed by all.





Presentation

It was with much pleasure that our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Glynis Tarr, presented to Peter Mouland a certificate from the Severn and Trent District, in recognition to Peter being elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Conference in May at Scarborough.

Peter is the first ever Board Member from this District since the District was formed. Since Peter became a member of the Society, he has held the position of Noble Grand, Provincial Grand Master and also being an Executive Member of the Midland Group Conference. Recently, he has also become a Trustee for the Severn and Trent District.



Welcome to our New Members

Susan Holford
Billy Upton
Robbie Edgecocy
Matthew Cope

Aidan Edgecox
George Woodcock
Elodie Cundy
Matthew Birch

Emma Statham
Susan Pye
Lee Crompton

Unity Mutual: A brand-new website and exciting Oddies member benefits

Unity Mutual, the financial arm of the Oddfellows, is delighted to have launched a brand-new website.

The fresh design reflects its updated brand identity, but more importantly, it has been built with accessibility and inclusion at its heart – a continuation of the Oddfellows' ethos.



Whether looking for information on savings, investments or life insurance, the new site is easier to use, clearer to navigate and designed so that everyone can get the most from it.

Unity Mutual has partnered with Recite Me to introduce a full suite of accessibility tools, allowing visitors to customise their browsing experience. These include a text-to-speech function, styling features and translation options, which ensure their online services are available to all –

including those who may face barriers due to disability, neurodivergence or limited English language ability.

James Gilliver, Chief of Operations at Unity Mutual, explained: “Accessibility is extremely important to us at Unity Mutual. Our new website reflects our promise to inclusivity, ensuring all customers can access information in the way that best meets their needs.”

“But it’s not just about accessibility. We’ve also worked hard to make our content clearer and more engaging, so you can feel confident in understanding your financial choices. Our aim is to empower you and your family to make informed decisions about saving for the future.”

An extra reason to take a look is that Oddfellows members can currently benefit from special Guaranteed Investment Bond rates, available exclusively through Unity Mutual.

To see the new website, its new accessibility features and for more information about its products and rates, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows, and discover how Unity Mutual can help build a brighter financial future.

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

This Friendship Month, we've been encouraging people to say 'yes' to trying new things, making new friends, and discovering all the brilliant things happening at our Branches throughout the nation.

It's safe to say, September 2025 has been another fabulous celebration of friendship. The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Friendship Month 2025 has once again demonstrated what the Oddfellows is all about, and I'm thankful of every single

person up and down the country who had been a part of it."

"Saying 'yes' to trying new things can be daunting, but you've all done an excellent job of showing how positive it is to be a part of friendship groups like ours. So, thank you for saying 'yes' to helping make your Friendship Month events a success, whether that's organising events, serving cups of tea, or simply making people feel welcome and comfortable. It all adds up to another wonderful Friendship Month."



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

Whether it's enhancing careers or highlighting fantastic people, the Oddfellows has a number of ways we can give our members a boost – but we can only do so if we hear about them.

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for two of our wonderful schemes are fast approaching – the Apprenticeship Educational Award and the Making a Difference Awards.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



Each year, the Oddfellows grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards, which consist of £250 per year for the duration of the apprenticeship.*

Eligible members must apply via their Branch. If you, or someone you know, has been an Oddfellows member for five or more years, which includes Young Oddfellows membership, and started or plan to start an apprenticeship in 2025, get in touch with your Branch Secretary.

The Branch's deadline for submitting applications for consideration is **Wednesday 31 December 2025**.

*Each case is reviewed on personal merit. For previous recipients' stories, details on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Making a Difference Awards



Want to shine a light on those special people at your Branch who go above and beyond? Every Branch has them, so make sure we hear about their brilliance.

Any member can nominate a fellow member, so if there are people at your Branch who make a difference, speak to your Branch Secretary to find out how you can nominate them.

The deadline for Branches to submit their shortlist is **Saturday 31 January 2026**, so get your nominations in as soon as possible so they can be considered.

To find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, the categories, nomination process and the prior winners, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

If you've missed these deadlines this time don't worry, just make a note for next year!

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 George on **01952 814377** or email **george.brotherton@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**

Branch Meetings

Social Branch meetings for the Fountain of Peace/Caradoc Branches
First Monday of the month (except April and May), 7.30pm, Free

Monthly Branch meeting for The Fountain of Peace and Caradoc Branches.
Newport Parish Rooms, New Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7AX.
Contact George on 01952 814377.

Monday 5 January

Monday 2 March

Monday 11 May

Monday 2 February

Monday 13 April

Monday 1 June

District Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 28 March, 2pm

Newport Parish Rooms, New Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7AX

District Management Meetings:

Saturday 10 January, 2pm

Newport Bowling Club, 25 Granville Avenue, Newport, Shropshire TF 10 7DX

Saturday 18 April, 2pm

Parwich Community Centre, Parwich, Ashbourne, Derbyshire

Saturday 26 July and Saturday 25 October

(Time and venue to be announced for both)

Branch Contact Details

Please remember we are here to help

Newport (Fountain of Peace)

George Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 814377

Church Stretton (Caradoc)

Gary Hughes

Telephone: 01694 723169

Parwich (Laurel & Crown)

Bill Whitfield

Telephone: 01335 390571

Hartington (Cavendish)

Sandra Hampson

Telephone: 07870 873576

Care & Welfare Officer:

Janet Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07974 809538

Social Events Organizers:

Glynis Tarr

Telephone: 01952 820693

Christine Williams

Mobile: 07776 357409

Social Media Officer:

Peter Moulard

Telephone: 07955 415634

District Secretary:

George Brotherton

Telephone: 01952 814377

Mobile: 07487 300449

Email:

george.brotherton@oddfellows.co.uk

At a glance

January 2026

Mon 5	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 8	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 10	District Meeting	2pm
Sat 17	Skittles with Fish and Chip Supper	7pm
Thurs 22	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 24	Burns Night Evening Function	8pm

February

Mon 2	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sun 15	Loyal Laurel and Crown Branch Formation Anniversary Event	5pm
Thurs 19	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Thurs 26	Trip to Emma Bridgewater Pottery Factory	10am

March

Mon 2	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 14	Wine and Cheese Evening with Quiz and Games	7.30pm
Thurs 19	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 21	Race Night and BBQ with Fun Day Events	6pm
Sat 28	District Annual General Meeting	2pm

April

Thurs 2	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Mon 13	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 16	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 18	District Meeting	2pm
Sun 19	Sunday Lunch at Chapters Restaurant	12.30pm
Sat 25	St George's Day Parade	9am
Thurs 30	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am

Parwich events highlighted in green, Hartington events highlighted in purple

At a glance

May

Mon 11	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 14	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 16	Mystery Tour	10am
Thurs 21	Trip to Chester Zoo	9.30am
Thurs 28	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am

June

Mon 1	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 11	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 20	Annual Bowls Competition	1pm
Thurs 25	Coffee Mornings at Mere Park Garden Centre	10.30am
Sat 27	Oddfellows Parade Parwich and Dinner - Wakes Week Event	9am

Parwich events highlighted in green, Hartington events highlighted in purple

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the **Refer a Friend** form available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk**



*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB