

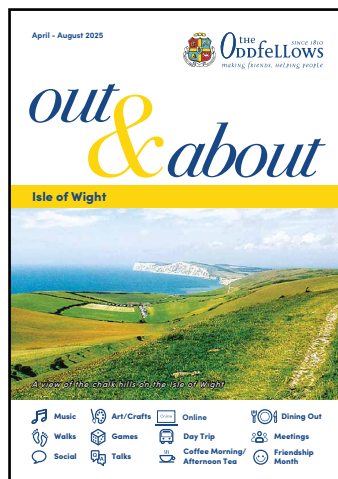
Southampton and Isle of Wight (Vecta Branch) Out & About

Please scroll down to the first page for Southampton Out & About
and page 29 for Isle of Wight (Vecta Branch) Out & About

Please scroll to page 1 or click
the link below
[Southampton Out & About](#)



Please scroll to page 29 or click
the link below
[Isle of Wight \(Vecta Branch\)
Out & About](#)



April - June 2025



the
ODDfELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Southampton



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Film



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Shopping



*Swing Unlimited Big Band at The Concorde Club, Eastleigh
Southampton District
Wednesday 30 April*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Southampton District Out and About Events Diary.

An amazing 130 events are planned for 2025. This is already 40% up on last year and we plan to organise even more for later on this year. Our events include live acts, days out, speakers, games, quizzes and crafting to name but a few. Almost all involving food, of course!

Events run weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. When the good weather arrives there will be a Sunday strolling group with lunch too. The Roving coffee mornings are so popular we now run three a month across the District and have just launched a Roving Out to lunch, currently monthly, but it could increase if it proves popular. We are also concentrating on launching more events in the area East of Southampton this year. Oh

Contact Details

Southampton District Branch

Social Secretary:

Yvonne Kiley-Fuller

Address: 41 Spitfire Way, Hamble-Le-Rice, Southampton SO31 4RT

Telephone: 07977 306978

Email:

yvonne.kiley-fuller@oddfellows.co.uk

Southampton District Branch

Secretary: Peter Cawte

Address: 66 Copse Avenue, Farnham, Surrey GU9 9EA

Telephone: 01252 312643

Email:

peter.cawte@oddfellows.co.uk

Part-time workers: the best time to ring is during the week between 10am and 4pm but if there is no reply please do leave your name, telephone number and a short message.

Find us on Facebook:

f Southampton Oddfellows

yes, and Oddfellows Brass are back in November.

We are proud to offer you the opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. I hope we meet at an event soon.

With very best wishes, Yvonne

Introducing the Social Team

We now have a team of four organising events across the Southampton District Branch area. We work/volunteer part time so you may need to leave a message. All of us are looking for volunteers to help host just one or two events each year. For coffee mornings and lunches it would only involve being at the venue to meet people and ensure they have someone to chat with. Please contact Yvonne if you can help.

Colour coded index for social events:

Southampton District

Yvonne Kiley-Fuller
07977 306978



Lord Nelson Branch

Dennis Clay
07752 406566



Oswald Branch

Terry Rendle
02380 360109



Princess Royal Branch

Brian Hopper via Peter
Cawte 01252 312643



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

Everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you, your family and your friends to attend any events that appeal. All are welcome and we like to think we can ensure you have an enjoyable time. Let us know you are coming and we'll look out for you. Hopefully, after attending our events you will see the benefits of joining our caring organisation. Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support.

Please Note

Photography will take place at each of our events to be used across Oddfellows' website, social media platforms, adverts and promotional material. Please let a member of staff or the photographer know if you would prefer not to be in any of these images.

Regular Events

Evening Meal and Social in Stubbington

Lord Nelson Branch

Third Monday of the month



6pm



As per menu



Enjoy a pub meal and a social catch-up with friends. Followed by a social get together with games, quizzes and raffles at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Bus stop: Carisbrooke Avenue. Book one day in advance. The Crofton, 48 Crofton Lane, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3QF. Contact Dennis on 07752 406566.

19 May

16 June

Coffee Morning in Gosport

Lord Nelson Branch

Second Wednesday of the month



10.30am



As per menu



Come along to our monthly coffee morning at Claire's at Bury House, 10.30am to 1pm. Open to members and non-members, everyone welcome. Bus stop: Bury Road or War Memorial Hospital. Claire's at Bury House, Thorngate Hall, Bury Road, Gosport PO12 3QX. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

14 May

11 June

District Meeting and Speaker

Princess Royal Branch

First Wednesday of the month



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for our regular monthly meeting, followed by refreshments and our guest speaker. Please let Peter know you are coming. Totton & Eling Community Centre, Library Road, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RS. Contact Peter on 01252 312643.



7 May

4 June

Afternoon Social Event

Oswald Branch

First Thursday of the month



1pm



Free



Please come and join us for our monthly social. Chat with friends and enjoy a different social activity each month. Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton SO19 7QR. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

1 May

5 June



April 2025

THURS
24

Roving Coffee Morning at Silversprings, Fareham Southampton District



10.30am



As per menu



Chit chat and a brew with old friends and new. Menu available for food. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. No nearby bus stop. Silversprings Garden Centre, Fontley Road, Titchfield, Fareham PO15 6QX. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



THURS
24

Quiz and Cuppa, Sarisbury Green Lord Nelson Branch



2pm



£4 plus drinks 50p



New event and venue! Quiz and a cuppa; games, raffles and laughter to entertain you. Booking essential via Dennis Clay on 07752 406566. Bus stop: Sarisbury Green. Sarisbury Green Community Centre, The Green, Sarisbury Green, Southampton SO31 7AA. Contact Dennis on 07752 406566.



WED
30

Swing Unlimited Big Band at The Concorde Club, Eastleigh Southampton District



8pm



£20



Amazing live music at The Concord Club. 'Swing Unlimited Big Band'. A night at the movies. Booking essential. Contact Yvonne if transport is required. Bus stop: Concord Club. The Concorde Club, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9HQ. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



May

THURS
01

Afternoon Social and HIOWAA Speaker at Festival Hall Oswald Branch



Hear a talk by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA), who were our Chairman's charity for 2024. We will be presenting a cheque for the funds raised by raffles. Light refreshments provided. Bus stop: Knighton Road. Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton SO19 7QR. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

WED
07

District Meeting followed by Rose Road Association Speaker at Totton Princess Royal Branch



Following our business meeting, join us for an evening meetup and guest speaker - Rose Road Association. Refreshments provided. Please let Peter know you are coming. Bus stop: Salisbury Road. Totton and Eling Community Centre, Library Road, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RS. Contact Peter on 01252 312643.



THURS
08

Roving Coffee Morning at The Chapel, Cafe and Shop, Totton Southampton District



This is our first visit to The Chapel and we are looking forward to you joining us. Menu available for food. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Hammonds Green. The Chapel, Cafe & Shop, Church of the Cross, 12 Hammonds Green, Totton SO40 3HG. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

WED
14

Coffee Morning at Claire's, Gosport Lord Nelson Branch



Join us once again for a cuppa and a catch up with old friends and new. Menu available for food. Everyone welcome. Bus stop: Bury Road or War Memorial Hospital. Claire's at Bury House, Thorngate Hall, Bury Road, Gosport PO12 3QX. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



May

FRI 16 Roving Out to Lunch at Rising Sun near Winchester Southampton District

 12.30pm  As per menu 

A local village pub run by local people nestled in the heart of Colden Common and recommend by our members. Great food, great drink, and great company for lunch! Booking essential. Bus stop: Main Road or Spring Lane. Book by Friday 9 May. Rising Sun Colden Common, 27 Spring Lane, Colden Common, Winchester SO21 1SB. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

MON 19 Evening Meal and Social at The Crofton, Stubbington Lord Nelson Branch

 6pm  Meal as per menu £4 for games 

Enjoy a pub meal and a social catch-up with friends. Followed by games, quizzes and raffles at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Booking essential for the meal. Bus stop: Carisbrooke Avenue. Book by Friday 16 May. The Crofton, 48 Crofton Lane, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3QF. Contact Dennis Clay on 07752 406566.

WED 21 Roving Coffee Morning at The Alma Inn, Lower Upham Southampton District

 10.30am  As per menu 

Another new venue recommended by our members! Come and try it. Menu available for food. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Upham Street. The Alma Inn, Alma Lane, Upham, Lower Upham SO31 1HE. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



SAT 17 Lunch and Entertainment with The Trevor Rice Trio Band at Festival Hall Oswald Branch

 1pm  Members £10.50 Guests £13 

Brighten your Saturday lunchtime with music from 'The Trevor Rice Trio



Band'. Lunch to follow. Booking essential via Terry Rendle on 02380 360109. Bus stop: Knighton Road. Book by Friday 9 May. Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton SO19 7QR. Contact Terry on 02380 360109.

May

THURS
22

Roving Coffee Morning at Harvester Staunton Arms, Rowlands Castle Southampton District



10.30am



As per menu



An opportunity to chew the cud over a brew or two! Menu available for food. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Staunton Arms. Harvester Staunton Arms, 1 Whichers Gate Road, Rowlands Castle PO9 6BB. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

WED
28

Cinema Visit, Fareham Southampton District



TBC



As per film



Calling all cinema buffs! Meet at Reel Cinema, Fareham to watch our chosen film. Booking required. Please contact Yvonne to check the event goes ahead. Bus stop: Fareham Bus Station. Book by Wednesday 21 May. Reel Cinema Fareham, 3 Vannes Parade, Fareham PO16 0BX. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



June

WED
04

District Meeting followed by David Bailey: Wildlife Wanderings Speaker at Totton Princess Royal Branch



7.30pm



Free



Award winning wildlife photographer, David Bailey joins as our guest speaker following our regular monthly meeting. Refreshments provided. Bus stop: Salisbury Road. Please let Peter know you are coming. Totton and Eling Community Centre, Library Road, Totton, Southampton SO40 3RS. Contact Peter on 01252 312643.

THURS
05

Afternoon Social: Play Your Cards Right at Festival Hall Oswald Branch



1pm



Free



Play Your Cards Right. How will Terry compare with the legendary Bruce Forsyth? Could you be one of his lovely assistants! Laughter definitely on the books... Light refreshments provided. Bus stop: Knighton Road. Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton SO19 7QR. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



June

FRI 06 The Garden Show at Broadlands, Romsey Southampton District

 10am

 £10.20/£8.50 over 60



Meet at The Garden Show at Broadlands, Romsey at 10am



and take in the delights with fellow horticulturally loving members. Event closes at 5pm. Free parking. Booking essential. Please note proof of eligibility is required for concessions. www.thegardenshows.com/broadlands/buy-tickets/ Book by Friday 30 May. Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GG. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

WED 11 Coffee Morning at Claire's, Gosport Lord Nelson Branch

 10.30am

 As per menu



Join friends old and new for a tea or coffee. Menu available for food. Everyone welcome. Bus stop: Bury Road or War Memorial Hospital. Claire's at Bury House, Thorngate Hall, Bury Road, Gosport PO12 3QX. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



THURS 12 Horse Racing at Newbury by Coach Oswald Branch

 10am

 Members £30, Guests £35



With heart-pounding moments and the summer sunshine (hopefully!), what more could you want? Back by popular demand, bring family and friends for a day trip to the horse races at Newbury by coach. Spaces limited so early booking is essential. Contact Terry Rendle on 02380 360 109. Depart 10am/return 7.30pm from Festival Hall. Free parking at the hall. Costs includes coach and entrance. Book by Thursday 5 June. Depart/Return – Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton, Hants SO19 7QR. Contact Terry on 02380 360109.



June

THURS
12

Roving Coffee Morning at Otter Garden Centre, Lymington Southampton District



10.30am



As per menu



Enjoy a tea or coffee at this lovely garden centre. Menu available. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Otter Garden Centre. Cafe Function Room, Otter Garden Centre, Milford Road, Everton, Lymington SO41 0JD. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



MON
16

Evening Meal and Social at The Crofton, Stubbington Lord Nelson Branch



6pm



As per menu



Enjoy a pub meal and a social catch-up with friends. Followed by games, quizzes and raffles at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Bus stop: Carisbrooke Avenue. Book one day in advance via Dennis Clay on 07752 406566. Book by Sunday 15 June. The Crofton, 48 Crofton Lane, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3QF. Contact Dennis on 07752 406566.



WED
18

Roving Coffee Morning at The Two Brothers, West End Southampton District



10.30am



As per menu



Following a record breaking attendance last year we return to our local Sizzling pub. Bring a friend and let's crack the record! Menu available. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Chartwell Green Shops. The Two Brothers, Town Hill Way, West End, Southampton SO18 3NN. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

FRI
20

Roving Out to Lunch at The Forge, Waltham Chase Southampton District



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a real country pub experience at the Forge in Waltham Chase. Another new location recommended by members. Booking essential. Bus stop: The Black Dog or Sandy Hill. Book by Friday 13 June. The Forge, Winchester Road, Waltham Chase, Southampton SO32 2HS. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



June

SAT

21

Saturday Pub Lunch at The Old Ship, Lee-on-the-Solent

Lord Nelson Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join friends old and new for a lovely pub lunch. Booking essential via Dennis Clay on 07752 406566. Bus stop: Inn By The Sea. Book by Monday 16 June. The Old Ship, 54 Marine Parade East, Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 9BW. Contact Dennis on 07752 406566.



WED

25

Cinema Visit, Eastleigh Southampton District



TBC



As per film



Calling all cinema buffs! Meet at Vue Cinema, Eastleigh to watch our chosen film. Booking required. Please contact Yvonne to check the event goes ahead. Bus stop: The Swan Centre. Book by Wednesday 21 May. Vue Cinema, Swan Centre, Eastleigh SO50 5SF. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



THURS

26

Roving Coffee Morning at The First Post, JD Wetherspoon, Cosham Southampton District



10.30am



As per menu



Enjoy a tea or coffee with friends old and new. Menu available. Everyone welcome with a complimentary drink on your first visit. Bus stop: Wayte Street. The First Post - JD Wetherspoon, 42 High Street, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 3AG, Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.



June

SUN
29

Annual Picnic in the New Forest Princess Royal Branch



12 noon



£5



Come and join friends old and new with our annual picnic at a private venue in the New Forest. Booking is essential. Full address provided on booking. Plenty of parking. No nearby bus stop. Book by Wednesday 4 June. New Forest Picnic, Plaitford, Near Romsey SO51. Contact Peter on 01252 312643.



Date for your diary in July

WED
16

Away Day to Bognor Regis by Coach Oswald Branch



10am



Members £20, Guests £25



Bring family and friends for a day trip to the seaside resort of Bognor. Play crazy golf, sample fish and chips on the pier, laze on the beach or simply stroll along the promenade. Spaces limited so early booking is essential.

Contact Terry Rendle on 02380 360109. Depart 10am/return 7.30pm from Festival Hall. Free parking at the hall. Book by Wednesday 9 July. Depart/Return - Festival Hall, Merryoak, Merryoak Road, Southampton, Hants SO19 7QR. Contact Terry on 02380 360109.



Dates for your diary...

August

THURS
28

Blue Funnel 3 River Cruise with Fish and Chips Lunch Oswald Branch



11.45am



Members £30, Guests £35



Meet at Town Quay at 11.45am for three hours river cruise and lunch. Take a tour of Southampton Harbour, home of the cruise ships as well as visiting the Hamble, historic home of yacht building and the Itchen which leads you into the Test. A meal and drink are included in



the ticket price. Only 25 tickets available. Early booking is essential. Contact Diane Sparkes on 02380 463334. Boat departs 12.15pm and returns 3.15pm at Town Quay, Terminal 2 SO14 2AQ. Bus stop: Platform Tavern Parking, Town Quay, Triangle Car Park, Mayflower Car Park and Gloucester Square Car Park. Most car parks are now pay by phone or card. Book by Thursday 5 June. Town Quay Terminal 2, Hythe Ferry Berth, Southampton SO14 2AQ. Contact Diane on 02380 463334.

November

SAT
01

Oddfellow Brass Band Concert, Near Bitterne Oswald Branch



2pm



Members £10, Guests £12



Come follow the band! The Oddfellows Brass Band will be coming to town for one day and one day only! Join us for an unforgettable event. Enjoy some of the classics songs you will all know. Refreshments will be available. Plenty of seats, so please spread the word and bring family and friends too. Booking is



essential. Free parking at the hall. Bus stop: Peartree Church. Book by Saturday 25 October. Pear Tree Church Hall, 80 Pear Tree Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO19 7RT. Contact Yvonne on 07977 306978.

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 13 May, 10am – Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603

Tuesday 10 June, 7pm – Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538. Password: 616704.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Yvonne Kiley-Fuller

Our Thanks to Barbara

I know you will all want to join me in thanking Barbara Jackson for her many years of outstanding service and dedication to Southampton District. Hopefully, now she has retired as Provincial Corresponding Secretary, we will see her at even more social events. We all wish her many years of happy retirement.



Car Share

Many of our members tell us they would like to attend our events but have no transport. Please contact Yvonne on 07977 306978 if you have spare seats and are able to give someone a lift. It would be so kind and helpful...



Junior Members

Don't forget about our junior membership, we hold family friendly events throughout the year, and at Christmas time all junior members receive a gift voucher. For more information about our junior membership contact Peter Cawte or Yvonne Kiley-Fuller.



Join the Southampton District Strollers

We now have a keen group of members showing an interest in short walks with maybe a lunch to follow, preferably at weekends. So, as the sun continues to shine and Spring brings out the birds

and the butterflies, might you also be interested in sharing our friendly company for an enjoyable stroll in the countryside? If so, please contact Diane Sparkes on 02380 463334.



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 Peter on **01252 312643** or email **peter.cawte@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@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.

***Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and are solely responsible for all advice they provide.**

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**

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

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
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Branch Meet Ups and Contacts

Southampton District

The Southampton District Branch meet monthly at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Totton & Eling Community Centre, Library Road, Totton SO40 3RS.

Our large District ranges from Downton in the New Forest, north to Stockbridge, includes Winchester and then east to Chichester and all of the coast from Chichester Harbour to Milford-on-Sea. We hold a variety of events for all our members to attend. Each Branch has a social organiser and if you are interested in finding out more about helping us please contact Yvonne on 07977 306978 or email yvonne.kiley-fuller@oddfellows.co.uk

District Secretary:

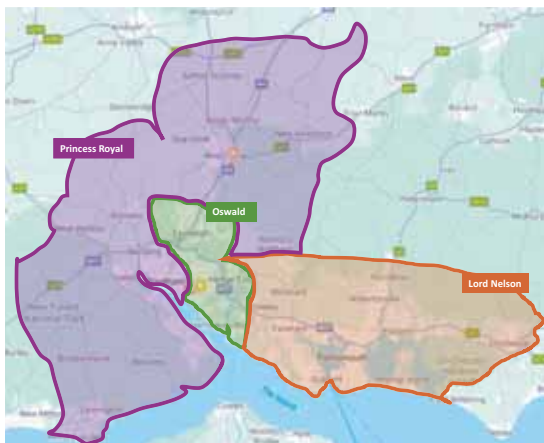
Peter Cawte

Telephone: 01252 312643

District Social Organiser:

Yvonne Kiley-Fuller

Telephone: 07977 306978



Note: Vecta (Isle of Wight) events are now in a separate diary. Ask your Branch Secretary or go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events to see them.

Lord Nelson

Lord Nelson Branch meet monthly every third Monday at 6pm for a meal followed by a social including games, quizzes and raffles at 7.30pm in The Crofton, 48 Crofton Lane, Stubbington PO14 3QF.

Social Organiser:

Dennis Clay

Telephone: 07752 406566

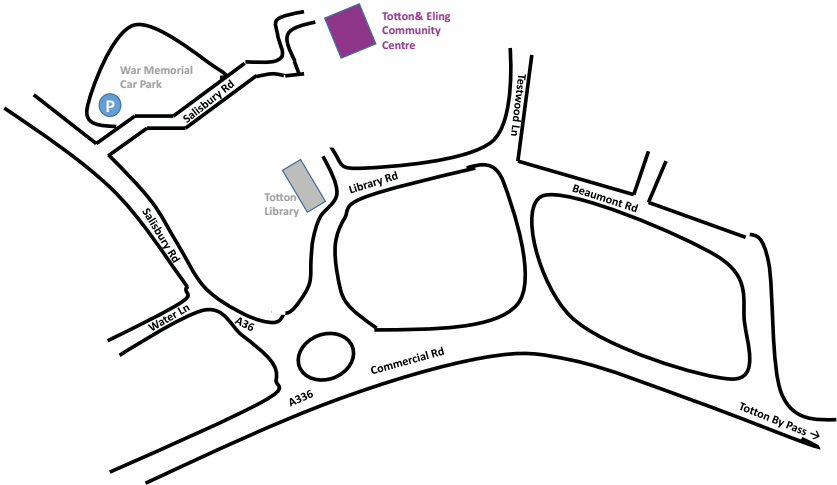


Branch Meet Ups and Contacts

Princess Royal

Princess Royal Branch meet monthly every first Wednesday at 7.30pm for a District meeting and speaker in Totton & Eling Community Centre, Library Road, Totton SO40 3RS.

Social Organiser:
Brian Hopper via
Peter Cawte
Telephone: 01252 312643



Oswald

Oswald Branch meet monthly every first Friday at 1pm for a social and activity in the Festival Hall, Merryoak Road, Bitterne, Southampton SO19 7QR.

Branch Social Organiser:
Terry Rendle
Telephone: 02380 360109



At a glance

April 2025

● Thurs 24	Roving Coffee Morning at Silversprings, Fareham (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Thurs 24	Quiz and Cuppa, Sarisbury Green (Lord Nelson Branch)	2pm
● Wed 30	Swing Unlimited Big Band at The Concorde Club, Eastleigh (Southampton District)	8pm

May

● Thurs 1	Afternoon Social and HIOWAA Speaker at Festival Hall (Oswald Branch)	1pm
● Wed 7	District Meeting followed by Rose Road Association Speaker at Totton (Princess Royal Branch)	7.30pm
● Thurs 8	Roving Coffee Morning at The Chapel, Cafe and Shop, Totton (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Wed 14	Coffee Morning at Claire's, Gosport (Lord Nelson Branch)	10.30am
● Fri 16	Roving Out to Lunch at Rising Sun near Winchester (Southampton District)	12.30pm
● Sat 17	Lunch and Entertainment with The Trevor Rice Trio Band at Festival Hall (Oswald Branch)	1pm
● Mon 19	Evening Meal and Social at The Crofton, Stubbington (Lord Nelson Branch)	6pm
● Wed 21	Roving Coffee Morning at The Alma Inn, Lower Upham (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Thurs 22	Roving Coffee Morning at Harvester Staunton Arms, Rowlands Castle (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Wed 28	Cinema Visit, Fareham (Southampton District)	TBC

June

● Wed 4	District Meeting followed by David Bailey: Wildlife Wanderings Speaker at Totton (Princess Royal Branch)	7.30pm
● Thurs 5	Afternoon Social: Play Your Cards Right at Festival Hall (Oswald Branch)	1pm
● Fri 6	The Garden Show at Broadlands, Romsey (Southampton District)	10am
● Wed 11	Coffee Morning at Claire's, Gosport (Lord Nelson Branch)	10.30am
● Thurs 12	Horse Racing at Newbury by Coach (Oswald Branch)	10am

At a glance

June

● Thurs 12	Roving Coffee Morning at Otter Garden Centre, Lymington (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Mon 16	Evening Meal and Social at The Crofton, Stubbington (Lord Nelson Branch)	6pm
● Wed 18	Roving Coffee Morning at The Two Brothers, West End (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Fri 20	Roving Out to Lunch at The Forge, Waltham Chase (Southampton District)	12.30pm
● Sat 21	Saturday Pub Lunch at The Old Ship, Lee-on-the-Solent (Lord Nelson Branch)	12.30pm
● Wed 25	Cinema Visit, Eastleigh (Southampton District)	TBC
● Thurs 26	Roving Coffee Morning at The First Post, JD Wetherspoon, Cosham (Southampton District)	10.30am
● Sun 29	Annual Picnic in the New Forest (Princess Royal Branch)	12 noon

Interested in volunteering?

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- 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 Peter by phone on
01252 312643 or email peter.cawte@oddfellows.co.uk

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The Oddfellows
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



the **Oddfellows**
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Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.

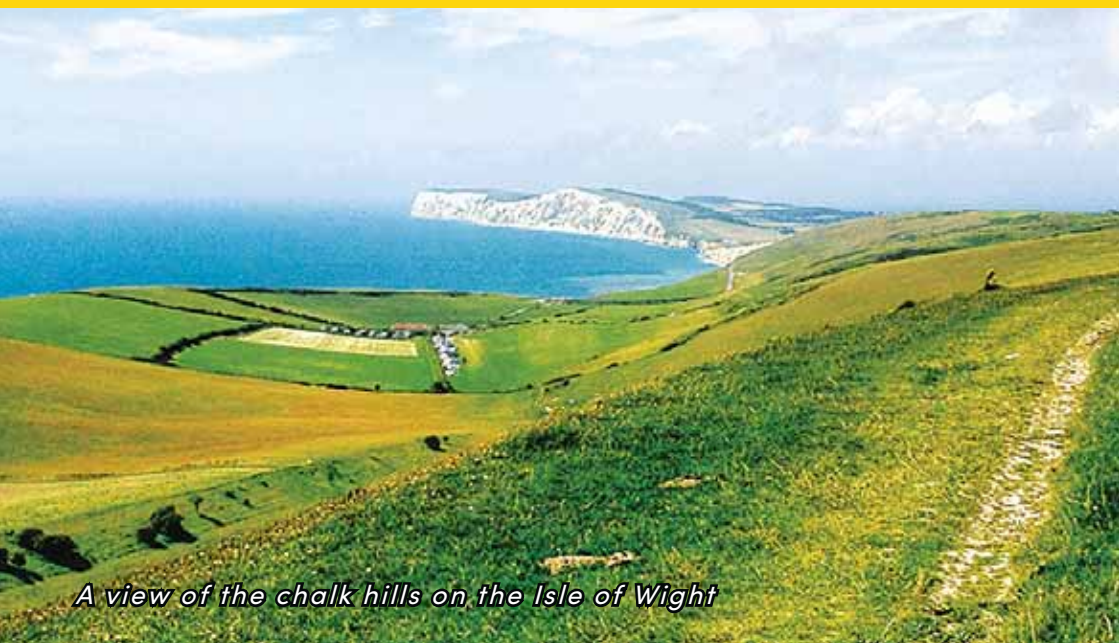
April – August 2025



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

out & about

Isle of Wight



A view of the chalk hills on the Isle of Wight



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Friendship
Month



Cream Tea at Godshill – Monday 14 July, we hope you can join us!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Isle of Wight Branch Out and About. Members of the Branch 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 – all are welcome and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary:

Maretta Heap

Address: 20 St Thomas Square,
Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG

Telephone: 01983 523115

Email:

maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk

Penny-Sue Wolfe

Email:

penny-sue.wolfe@oddfellows.co.uk

Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

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

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Regular Events

Dates can be found on the at a glance section

Monday Music Musing on Zoom

First and third Monday
of the month



3pm



Free



Online



A relaxing afternoon of music, poetry, storytelling etc. Come along and contribute or just listen. We usually have a wide variety of performers from all over the country. Email for a link or join using: Zoom Meeting ID: 420 044 9988. Password: 942052. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.

7 April

5 May

2 June

7 July

4 August

21 April

19 May

16 June

21 July

18 August

Mindfulness

First Monday
of the month



2pm



Members £2, Guests £4



An afternoon of relaxation and self care. Join us for seated meditation, journalling and a different mindfulness exercise each month. Open to all. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue on 01983 523115.



7 April

2 June

7 July

4 August

Coffee Morning and Book Club, Ryde Library

Third Tuesdays



10.30am



Donation to Living Well Group
for drink and biscuits



Join us at the 'Living Well' Coffee Morning in Ryde Library on the third Tuesday of each month. Make some new friends and meet up for a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit.

We also have a book club for those who would like to take part. Take a book away to read and discuss it with others, the following month. Everyone reads the same book - chosen and supplied by the library staff. Ryde Library, 101 George Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2JE. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.



15 April

20 May

17 June

15 July

19 August

Contact Marettta on 01983 523115 for more details

Regular Events

Dates can be found on the at a glance section

Coffee Morning at Ryde Library



**First Wednesday
of the month**

Come and meet new friends in the library. Enjoy a cuppa, cake, some friendly conversation and find out what other events are on offer with Oddfellows on the Isle of Wight. Ryde Library, 101 George Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2JE. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.



2 April

7 May

4 June

2 July

6 August

Cards Afternoon



Various Wednesdays

Join us for a friendly game of Whist, Cribbage or Hearts, with cake and a cuppa. Please book in advance and say which game you prefer. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.



23 April

21 May

18 June

16 July

13 August

Lunch at 50+ Shanklin



**Last Wednesday
of the month**

We are joining 50+ for lunch, meeting at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The menu will be available nearer the time. Please note that it is very important to book by the previous Monday and also most important to cancel if you can't get there. 50+ Age Concern, 106 Regent Street, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 7AP. Contact Penny-sue on 01983 523115.



30 April

28 May

25 June

30 July

27 August

Contact Marettta on 01983 523115 for more details

Regular Events

Dates can be found on the at a glance section

Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club



12.30pm



Cost of lunch
plus £1 for guests
playing cards



Join us for lunch and/or a friendly game cards. Please book in advance and say whether you would prefer to play Hearts, Whist or something else. Conservative Club, 40 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1XB. Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

9 April

7 May

4 June

2 July

30 July

27 August

Crafty Coffee Morning



10.30am



Members £2, Guests £4



Come for coffee and bring a craft or a hobby to share, if you like. A chatty gathering where you can learn a new skill or share your knowledge and useful tips. Or just come for coffee and a chat, of course! Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

4 April
2 May

16 May
30 May

13 June
27 June

11 July
25 July

8 August
22 August

Coffee Morning with Optional Dance



11am



Members £2, Guests £5



Join us for a cuppa and a chat. There will also be optional line dancing, provided by Carol McGuire, who runs dancing classes in the hall. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

11 April
25 April

9 May
23 May

6 June
20 June

4 July
18 July

1 August
15 August

29 August

Contact Maretta on 01983 523115 for more details

Regular Events

Dates can be found on the at a glance section

Darts at the Binstead Arms



2pm



Cost of food and drink



Join us for a very friendly game of darts at the Binstead Arms (used to be the Fleming Arms). Binstead Arms, Binstead Hill, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 3RD. Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

Various Fridays



18 April

16 May

13 June

11 July

22 August

Online Games



3pm



Free



The games afternoon that started during lockdown but stayed with us, as it is such good fun! Link up with friends from across the country for a chatty hour or so to enjoy some easy quizzes and games. Zoom Meeting ID: 420 044 9988. Password: 942052. Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

**Last Friday
of the month**



25 April

30 May

27 June

25 July

29 August

Games Afternoon



2pm



Members £2, Guests £4



Come join us for an afternoon of board gaming and laughter! Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue on 01983 523 115 Contact Maretta on 01983 523115.

**Various Wednesday
(except August)**



**30 April
14 May**

**11 June
25 June**

**23 July
Thursday 21 August**

Regular Events

Dates can be found on the at a glance section

Quiz



Every other Sunday

Join our team for a fun quiz at the Porter Club in Shanklin. No prizes just a bit of fun! There is a small admission to the club, unless you are a member of the Porter Club, no food but there is a bar. A very friendly and welcoming little club in Lake. The Porter Club, 77b Sandown Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 9LE. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.



13 April
27 April
11 May

25 May
8 June
22 June

6 July
20 July
3 August

17 August
31 August

April 2025



Annual General Meeting, then Games



Annual General Meeting. Refreshments provided. Followed by games. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue or Marettta on 01983 523115.



Easter Craft and
Fun Morning



10.30am



Members £3
Guests £4



Come join us for a morning of Easter themed crafting and treats. Michelle's popular flower making will return to make daffodils and other spring flowers. Easter treats. Bring a decorated Easter Bonnet for the chance to win a prize! Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue on 01983 523115.

April 2025

MON
28 **Ten Pin Bowling**



2pm



£9 for two games
and a drink



Anyone can have at a go at ten pin bowling in Ryde. 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 anyone to get involved. The cost for two games includes a hot drink and there is plenty of time to chat and get to know people. Ryde Superbowl, The Pavilion, The Esplanade, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2EL. Contact Marettta on 01983 523115.



May

MON
12 **World Food - Chinese Tasting Menu**



12.30pm



Members £12
Guests £14



Come join us for an afternoon of sampling the delights of Chinese food. There will be themed decorations, tasters of green tea and Jasmine tea as well as Chinese takeaway dishes to try. Join in on the chopstick challenge! Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue on 01983 523115.

June

MON
09 **Overlord D-Day Tea Dance**



1pm



Members £5
Guests £8



A 1940s tea dance to celebrate D-Day Operation Overlord. 40s music and dance with sandwiches, cake and refreshments. Come dressed in 40s style clothes as the best dress lady and the best dressed gent will each win a prize. Tickets only, so booking essential. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue or Marettta on 01983 523115.



July

MON
14

Cream Tea at Godshill



10.30am



Free



Come for a wander around Godshill looking at the shops, free themed garden and have refreshments if you wish. Meet in the car park by The Old Smithy shop and tea room. The Old Smithy, High Street, Godshill, Isle of Wight PO38 3HZ. Contact Penny-sue or Marettta on 01983 523115.



August

MON
11

Cream Tea and Boat Game



2pm



Members £2
Guests £4



Cream tea in the hall with the Boat Game. Can you pick the winning boat? Children and grandchildren welcome to come and help throw the dice and move the boats. Unity Hall, 20 St Thomas Square, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1SG. Contact Penny-sue or Marettta on 01983 523115.



Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun.

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

Interested in volunteering?

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- Organising events as part of a social committee
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THE **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

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.

f OddfellowsUK

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

On Tuesday 13 May 10am, Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat.

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603

Tuesday 10 June 7pm, Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538 Password: 616704

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Maretta Heap, Branch Secretary

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– big brand offers and savings



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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

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
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit 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 Maretta on **01983 523115** or email **maretta.heap@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@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.

***Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and are solely responsible for all advice they provide.**

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

EDCWA50223

At a glance - see pages 3-7 for more regular event info

April 2025

Tues 1	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Wed 2	Coffee Morning in Ryde	10.30am
Fri 4	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 7	Mindfulness	2pm
Mon 7	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 9	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm
Fri 11	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 13	Quiz	8pm
Mon 14	Annual General Meeting, then Games	2pm
Tues 15	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Fri 18	Easter Craft and Fun Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Darts at the Binstead Arms	2pm
Mon 21	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 23	Cards Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 25	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Fri 25	Online Games from the Isle of Wight	3pm
Sun 27	Quiz	8pm
Mon 28	Ten Pin Bowling	2pm
Wed 30	Games Afternoon	2pm
Wed 30	Lunch at 50+ Shanklin	12 noon

May

Fri 2	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 5	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 7	Coffee Morning in Ryde	10.30am
Wed 7	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm
Fri 9	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 11	Quiz	8pm
Mon 12	World Food - Chinese Tasting Menu	12.30pm
Wed 14	Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 16	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 16	Darts at the Binstead Arms	2pm
Mon 19	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm

At a glance - see pages 3-7 for more regular event info

May

Tues 20	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Wed 21	Cards Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 23	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 25	Quiz	8pm
Wed 28	Lunch at 50+ Shanklin	12 noon
Fri 30	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 30	Online Games from the Isle of Wight	3pm

June

Mon 2	Mindfulness	2pm
Mon 2	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 4	Coffee Morning in Ryde	10.30am
Wed 4	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm
Fri 6	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 8	Quiz	8pm
Mon 9	Overlord D-Day Tea Dance	1pm
Wed 11	Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 13	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 13	Darts at the Binstead Arms	2pm
Mon 16	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Tues 17	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Wed 18	Cards Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 20	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 22	Quiz	8pm
Wed 25	Lunch at 50+ Shanklin	12 noon
Wed 25	Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 27	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 27	Online Games from the Isle of Wight	3pm

July

Wed 2	Coffee Morning in Ryde	10.30am
Wed 2	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm
Fri 4	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 6	Quiz	8pm

At a glance - see pages 3-7 for more regular event info

July

Mon 7	Mindfulness	2pm
Mon 7	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Fri 11	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 11	Darts at the Binstead Arms	2pm
Mon 14	Cream Tea at Godshill	10.30am
Tues 15	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Wed 16	Cards Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 18	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 20	Quiz	8pm
Mon 21	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 23	Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 25	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 25	Online Games from the Isle of Wight	3pm
Wed 30	Lunch at 50+ Shanklin	12 noon
Wed 30	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm

August

Fri 1	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 3	Quiz	8pm
Mon 4	Mindfulness	2pm
Mon 4	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Wed 6	Coffee Morning in Ryde	10.30am
Fri 8	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 11	Cream Tea and Boat Game	2pm
Wed 13	Cards Afternoon	1.30pm
Fri 15	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Sun 17	Quiz	8pm
Mon 18	Monday Music and Musing on Zoom	3pm
Tues 19	Coffee Morning and Book Club at Ryde Library	10.30am
Thurs 21	Games Afternoon	2pm
Fri 22	Crafty Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 22	Darts at the Binstead Arms	2pm
Wed 27	Lunch at 50+ Shanklin	12 noon
Wed 27	Lunch and/or Cards at the Conservative Club	12.30pm
Fri 29	Coffee Morning with Optional Dancing	11am
Fri 29	Online Games from the Isle of Wight	3pm
Sun 31	Quiz	8pm