



the
ODDFELLOWS
making friends, helping people

Summer/Winter 2022
www.oddfellows.co.uk

The Birmingham District Newsletter and Events Diary

Gentle Reminders

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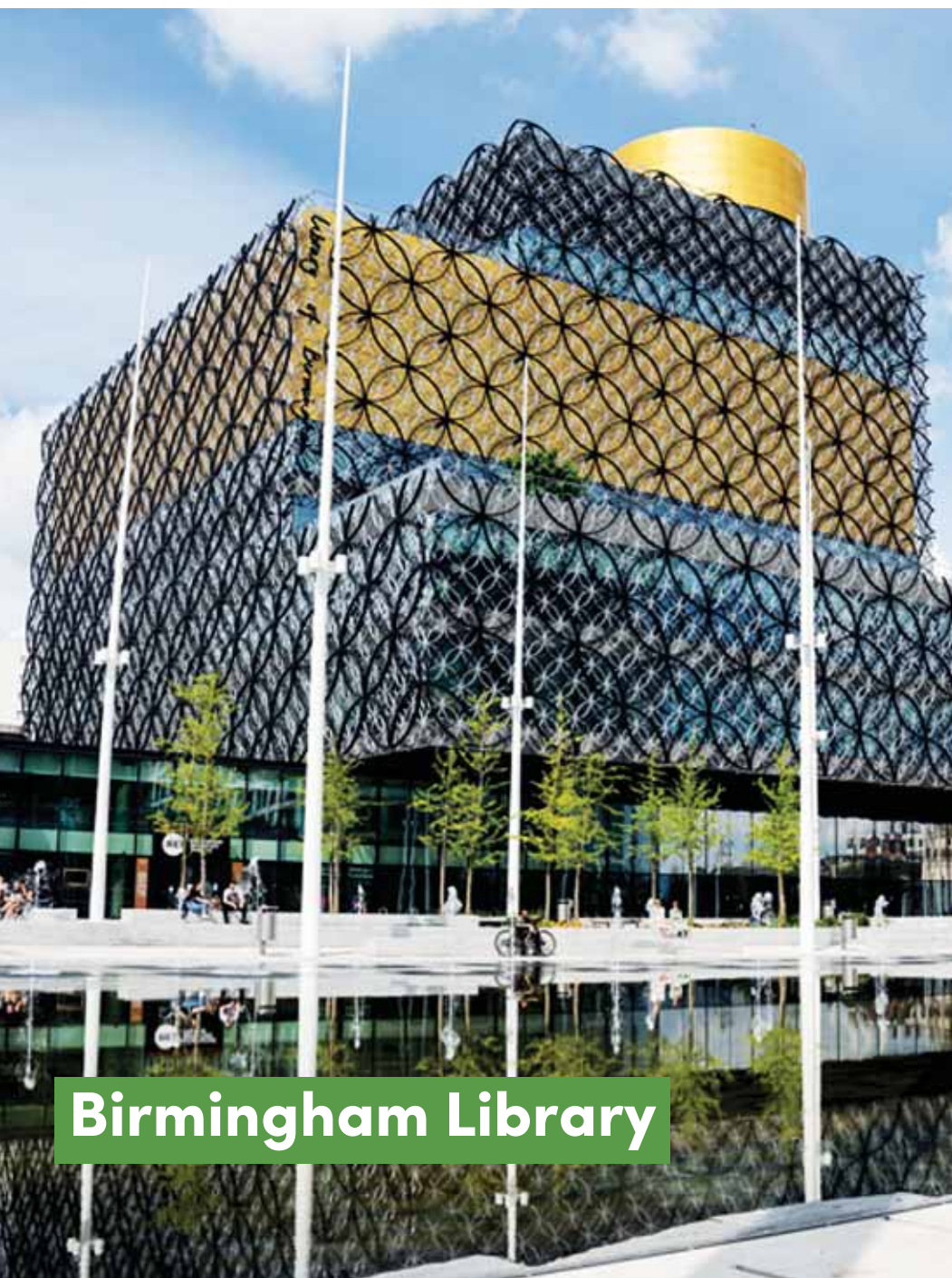
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Someone new to meet...

Hello! My name is Amy Lyness and I am a new Social Organiser joining the Birmingham Oddfellows. I will be setting up new groups within the Birmingham District in the areas of Bromsgrove, Dudley, Harborne and West Bromwich. I have a passion for arranging events and am looking forward to bringing some new activities to the district for you to enjoy, and also build some new friendships at my groups.

I have lots of ideas on what I would like to offer our members, but I would also love to hear of any ideas you have for activities you would like to see on offer in our District. Also any venues in these new areas that you think would be a great

place for us to meet. I am currently researching venues in Bromsgrove and West Bromwich. If you are local to these areas it would be good to know of any hidden gems you have spotted.

Please do send me an email at amy.lyness@oddfellows.co.uk or call/message me on 07360 631 338 with your suggestions and ideas they will be gratefully received,

Look forward to meeting you soon!



How to contact your Branch

Secretary: Liz Blackhurst

Address:

73 Bradbury Road,
Olton,
Solihull
B92 8AF

Telephone: 0121 707 5626

Email:

elizabeth.blackhurst@oddfellows.co.uk

Our New Year Lunch 2022

Thankful that Covid did not disrupt our plans to get together. We met for our usual District Lunch to welcome in the New Year on Saturday 15 January at the Masons Arms, Solihull.

A little too noisy for our liking but I think the raffle made up for it! All received a prize in the chocolate raffle and were treated to even more chocolate from Diana as she was celebrating her birthday.



A letter from a member 'A Christmas Story'

Names have been changed to protect privacy

Just before Christmas you were kind enough to send me an extra benefit award towards my glasses so I went to the bank to pay it in.

On the counter was a large teddy bear and customers were invited to pick a name and make a donation to charity. I didn't particularly want to win so I picked Joseph. Whoever heard of a bear called Joseph?

I won the bear.

Over another lonely lockdown Christmas the bear sat in front of the window and kept me company. I offered him to a friend who was having a bad time but his picture was enough to make her smile.

I worried that the bear would feel unloved.....

The week after Christmas a friend and her severely autistic teenage son came to visit. While Maureen and myself sat in the kitchen and she told me tales of his new nightmare puberty behaviour;



Jaydon stayed in the other room and was good as gold drawing and singing to his new best friend - you guessed it - Joseph the bear.

So now the bear has gone to live with a loving family and Jaydon has renamed 'him' Josie 😊

Thanks to the Oddfellows.

Marian

Gentle Reminders

- Members are welcome to come along to our events and bring their guests, just get in touch and let us know you are coming, members who do this can be notified if there are any changes.
- Cheques made payable to The Oddfellows must be sent to Head Office M3 3WB.
- Please keep your claim forms safe as postage costs increase it places strain on the District to send out extras. Claim forms are sent out to benefit members when they join and when they renew. Remember to include your membership number on all items sent to the District or Head Office please.
- Please continue to look out for one another. Sadly we do not yet have a well being home visitor in place so please bring members who are struggling to the attention of the District secretary, Liz Blackhurst, 0121 707 5626.



Want to get involved? Just let us know

Our Society is run by members for members

At Birmingham Branch we're always looking for help with social events, care support, and the running of the Branch.

This can just be as a one off or regular help such as friendly face to welcome at the evening or afternoon events, help preparing teas/coffees, welcoming speakers. Or even being a part of our social committee and Committee of Management helping with organising events and activities for us and running the Branch.

Can you help us by?

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at the evening or afternoon hall events
- Helping preparing teas/coffees
- Being the volunteer host at the pub meals and other external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Preparing a class or activity for us
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor
- Joining the Committee of Management

Is there an activity you want to do with friends we are not currently running?

We encourage all members to put on events for other members and friends to join them on. Would you like to help run a new event like a book club, singing group, dancing or cinema group or a one off walk in the country or coffee morning? All volunteers will be helped and supported by the office team to help put on and promote the events.

Committee of Management

Days of social distancing may be thankfully over but the committee still needs to meet to keep the Birmingham Oddfellows going.

If you can lend a hand to serve on the committee, sparing four hours a month please contact Liz to discuss: 0121 707 5676



Whats new...

New Groups in the Birmingham District

We have two new groups which we launched in June 2022. Our new Social Organiser, Amy, is heading up these new groups. We would love to invite you all to come along for some fun and friendship at these new sessions.

We are running a table top games session in Harborne on the second Monday of the month and a fun quiz session in Dudley on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Our next session in Harborne Monday 11 July, 11am - 12.30pm

Green Man
2 High Street
Harborne
Birmingham
B17 9NE



Our next session in Dudley Tuesday 26 July, 11am - 12.30pm

Toby Carvery
Burnt Tree Island
Tipton
DY4 7UE



There will be more fun in September as it is Friendship Month - join us for the prize draw competition, and Oddfellows raffle and other treats for members and guests.

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Please contact Amy on **07360 631 338** or email **amy.lyness@oddfellows.co.uk** if you would like more information and book your place. We hope you will enjoy these new groups and appreciate your support in spreading the word to make these successful and enjoyable for many members.

Online Monthly Quiz

We are now running a monthly quizzing session on Zoom - called Quiz Fun with Brum!

Get your thinking caps on, have a pen and paper to hand and log in to join us for an hour of fun quizzes, brain teasers, games and chat in our Zoom session.

New Zoom Meeting Id
Code: 985 163 7526

The quiz is held at 4pm on the second Tuesday of each month - a warm welcome awaits you from Amy, our social organiser.

Fun in Mere Green

Our lovely Oddfellow ladies of Mere Green have a great time on Tuesday mornings. All that's missing are some lovely Oddfellow's men to complement our socials!



True or False Questions

Answers on page 7

1. South America is larger than Antarctica
2. Little Gem is a variety of apple
3. There are 206 bones in the human body
4. Extreme superstition of the number 13 is known as triskaidekaphobia.
5. The British army has four Guards regiments
6. The 'Belfast News Letter' is the UK's oldest surviving newspaper
7. Antisepsis was discovered in 1865 by Alexander Fleming
8. It is generally accepted that the 30th wedding anniversary is celebrated with a gift of Ruby
9. Only female ducks quack
10. The Thames is the longest river in the UK

Spot the Difference (Answers on page 8)

There are five differences in these images
Can you spot them all?



Our Birmingham Oddfellows Facebook Page

Did you know we have our own Facebook page for the Birmingham District? If you are on Facebook then head over to our page and give us a Like (and share if you want to be extra kind!). You will then get updates not only for our Birmingham activities but also on national Oddfellows news – sharing details on trips out and tips on how to make the most of your membership.

Be part of our online community and join in with our Tuesday Teasers and Friday Fun posts – we'd love to see your responses on these!

Here's here to find us:
www.facebook.com/oddfellowsbirmingham

New Groups Coming Soon to the Birmingham District

We are currently working on setting up two more new groups in Bromsgrove and West Bromwich, and will post on our Facebook page as soon as they are up and running.

What activities/groups would you like to see in these areas? Cuppa and chats, card games, quizzes, lunch, walks? Let us know if you have any ideas on what you would like to see in our District by contacting Amy on 07360 631 338 or email amy.lyness@oddfellows.co.uk.

Oddfellows is for our members and we would love to hear what you want from our groups.

Meetup

For those of you who want to venture out into Birmingham City Centre, enjoy meeting diverse people of varying age ranges, like exploring new cultures and trying new venues, look up Birmingham Oddfellows Meet Up on the website: [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com).

We aim to have a meet up at least once a month and hope to make the most of the summer weather by getting out and about.

All our socials

Cuppa and Chat

Looking to meet new people and make new friends? Then come and join us at these informal monthly socials, we guarantee you a warm welcome. Oddfellow members receive a free* drink, non-members, you receive a free drink, after which you are very welcome to continue to attend, just fund the cost of your cuppa. Please always call to book your place. Members are also advised to follow the Covid safe guidelines of the venues they attend.

*Oddfellow members can attend as many groups or events as they wish and have up to two free drinks a month.

As always, please call, text or email to book your place at these events. Contact Liz on 0121 707 5626 or Amy on 07360 631338 for more information.

Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat

First Wednesday of the month at 11am

Coffee #1, 13-15 Alcester Road, Kings Heath High Street, Kings Heath B14 7JJ

6 July	7 September	2 November
3 August	5 October	7 December

Aldridge Games, Cuppa and a Chat

First Thursday of the month, 11am

Morrisons Aldridge, 15 Anchor Road, Walsall, WS9 8AB

4 August	6 October	
1 September	3 November	1 December

Mere Green Cuppa and Chat

Third Tuesday of the month at 11.15am

The Old School House, Mere Green Road, Mere Green, Sutton Coldfield B75 5BL

19 July	20 September	15 November
16 August	18 October	20 December

Solihull Cuppa and Chat

Third Thursday of the month at 2pm

The Royal British Legion, 18 Union Road, Solihull B91 3DH

21 July	15 September	17 November
18 August	20 October	15 December



Harborne Table Top Games Session

Second Monday of the month at 10.30am

Green Man, 2 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NE

11 July	12 September	14 November
8 August	10 October	12 December



Dudley Quiz Time

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 11am

Toby Carvery, Burnt Tree Island, Tipton DY4 7UF

26 July	27 September	22 November
23 August	25 October	



Caption the Image Competition



Send in your caption to go with this image. The caption that our new Chairman, Lynne Watts, finds the funniest will be the winner.

Terms and Conditions for Spot the Difference Competition

- The competition is not open to employees of Oddfellows or Committee members.
- The competition is open to all other Oddfellows but limited to one entry per person.
- Scan and email the image competition or return in the post with your name and membership number to: 73 Bradbury Road, Solihull, B92 8AF.
- There is no age limit, however, if you are under 18 please include your date of birth along with your answer.
- Competition deadline is Saturday 10 September.
- The winner will receive £10.
- The winner may be expected to have their photograph taken for press or promotional purposes and their name published in Oddfellows newsletters and Facebook.
- The decision of the Committee of Management for the District is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The name of the prize winner will be available by sending a self-addressed envelope to: Liz Blackhurst, 73 Bradbury Road, Solihull, B92 8AF.
- Entry to the competition will be deemed to constitute acceptance of these terms and conditions.

True or False Answers (from page 4)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. True | 6. True - 1737 |
| 2. False - it's a lettuce | 7. False - it was Joseph Lister |
| 3. True | 8. False - it's Pearl |
| 4. True | 9. True |
| 5. False - it has five | 10. False - it's the Severn |

Interested in helping us?

If you are interested in helping us as a volunteer, or just would like more information on getting more involved, call Liz on **0121 707 5626**, or email **elizabeth.blackhurst@oddfellows.co.uk**

Spot the Difference Answers

From page 5



Why not become
**an Oddfellows
pen pal friend?**

With so many of us staying safe in our homes, how would you like to write a letter to another member and become a Penfellow? If the answer is yes, get in touch.

Contact Elizabeth on
0121 707 5626 or
elizabeth.blackhurst@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Brass

If you love a Brass Band then look out for Oddfellows Brass who may be coming to Solihull in June next year, if there is enough interest. Contact Liz for more information please: 0121 707 5626.



Introduce the Oddfellows to someone you know

Refer a friend today

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

*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



Our Branches raised a magnificent £151,000 for charitable causes in 2021!

Congratulations to our Branches and their members for a tremendous fundraising achievement in 2021. Helping struggling communities and those in need is something the Oddfellows has been doing for over two centuries. And despite the pandemic, last year was no exception.

Branches and their members raised over £151,000 to support causes close to their hearts, a figure up on 2020's already significant total of £145,700.



West London Branch

The generosity of our members and Branches, especially at such times where household budgets are becoming increasingly tight and unpredictable, is incredible.

“I feel immensely proud to represent such a caring bunch of people, those who don't hesitate to help a neighbour in need.

“For those who receive support, it's not just about the financial help, it's knowing that their situation is acknowledged and that there are people out there who care and listen.”



South East Lancashire Branch

Fifth generation Oddfellow, Society historian and South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Branch member, Paul Eyre, reflects on the tradition of local giving.

He said: “For many years, it has been fairly common practice for the Provincial Grand Master of a District to choose a charity to support during their year of office, with funds being raised by raffles, donations or other fundraising activities.”

Oddfellows CEO, Jane Nelson, added: “It always astounds me when we look at the collective yearly fundraising figure.



Concord Branch

Fundraising for Ukraine



The Society is collecting donations to support the work the Red Cross is doing in Ukraine. The Red Cross is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC),

which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response.

In some areas in Ukraine, water, electricity, and phone connectivity have been affected. Many people are taking cover from the shelling in basements and bomb shelters, but are going without the most basic supplies, like food and water.

Any donations will be used to reach people in urgent need, If you would like

to contribute, cheques should be made payable to “The Oddfellows”, and sent to:

**Ukraine Support
The Oddfellows
Oddfellows House
184-186 Deansgate
Manchester, M3 3WB**

The Society has already pledged £10,000 from central Funds in support of this appeal.

Access to expert legal help

From day one of membership, all members have access to the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme.*

We hope it's something you never have to call on, but if you do it gives you access to the expert help of our appointed solicitors should you need to make a claim for medical negligence, a personal injury, or an employment dispute which is at pre or tribunal stage. It also covers your family members for personal injury and medical negligence cases.

Help with a medical negligence claim

Medical negligence is when a healthcare provider – NHS or private – has failed in their duty to take care of you and you have suffered an injury. This could be, for example, that you've been given a wrong drug, they've made a mistake during a treatment, or failed to diagnose your condition, or made a wrong one.

Matthew Heap, a Solicitor and Partner at CL Medilaw (www.clmedilaw.co.uk), which is one of the Society's approved solicitors, further explained: "Some people get in touch with us and they know the exact point at which they feel they've been failed. For others, it's less clear-cut, but they know that somewhere along the line, the care they've received has fallen short of medically-acceptable standards.

"Knowing how to raise your case, and to be heard, can be daunting when you don't know the process, have the contacts, or legal knowledge. "But the support that's available through the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme can help you to get the answers you need and, hopefully, the compensation you deserve."

Who can make a claim?

You can bring the legal action yourself or, as the executor or next of kin, on behalf of someone who has died because of medical negligence, or on behalf of a family member if that person is unable to take action themselves because they don't have capacity.

Oddfellows members and their family can receive Legal Aid Scheme support as long as the accident, incident or issue happened while you were a member and you have remained a member since that time.

You must start your legal claim within three years from the date that you either realised you'd been injured or when the incident occurred. For children, this three-year time limit doesn't start until the child's 18th birthday.

If you're looking to make a claim on behalf of someone close to you because they don't have capacity, such as they're unable to manage their own affairs or have a mental disability, then the three-

year time limit doesn't apply, unless they recover from this incapacity.

"Taking legal action for compensation is a way to try and secure the support that you now need and deserve – financial or medical. The Oddfellows and CL Medilaw will have your back every step of the way," added Matthew.

How to apply for the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme

The first step is to call the Care and Welfare Helpline for a non-committal conversation. If you wish to move forward, you'll need to fill in an Oddfellows Legal Aid application form. The Care and Welfare Helpline number can be found on your membership card or by calling **0800 028 1810**.

Further information

Read this article in full at:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-to-make-a-claim-for-medical-negligence

The Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme:
www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/legal-aid-scheme

*Terms and conditions apply to all financial benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Read the full list of Oddfellows member benefit terms and conditions at www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs or call Membership on 0800 028 1810.

Member-only offers from Unity Mutual

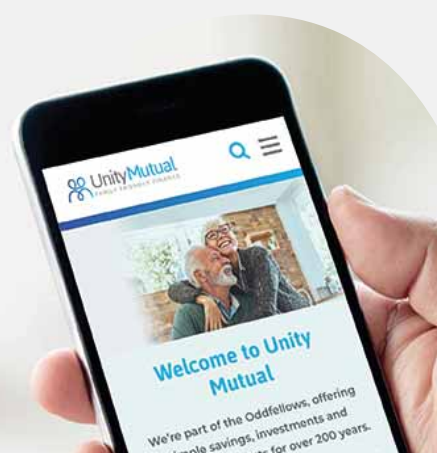
Unity Mutual is the Society's financial services brand and they've created a dedicated section on their website to share special deals and rates that are only available to Oddfellows members.

Unity Mutual's current member-only deal, launched in spring 2022, is a 5 Year Guaranteed Investment Bond with a special fixed rate of 1.75% annual interest, which equates to 9.06% over the full term. It also

offers a guaranteed return on your savings and 100% capital protection. The minimum single investment per member is £1,000.

They're only accepting a limited number of applications, however, so this product will be offered to Oddfellows members on a first-come, first-served basis.

*T&Cs apply.



To find out more, or view their full range of savings, investment and protection products, call **0161 214 4628** or go to **www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows**

Unity Mutual
FAMILY FRIENDLY FINANCE

*To view Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bond terms and conditions, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib. If you're in any doubt about whether any Unity Mutual product is right for you, it's a good idea to talk to an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). You can find a local financial advisor by visiting www.unbiased.co.uk. You may need to pay for a financial advisor's help, so make sure you ask them about their fees first.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

OE/0521A6

New to the Oddfellows?



Join us at one of our online new member welcome events

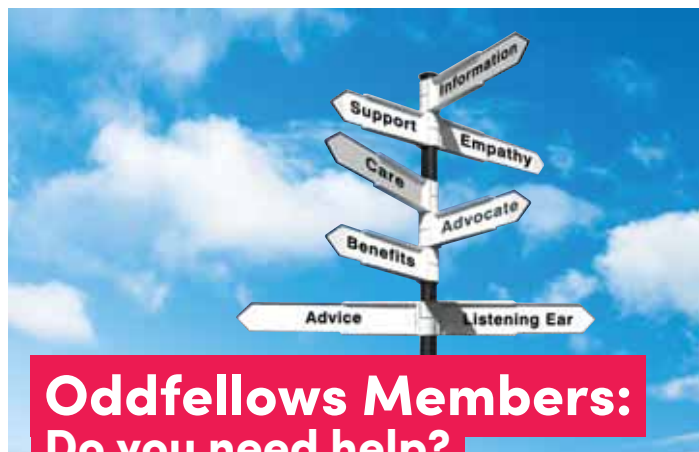
Weds 13 July, 1.30pm

Tues 18 October, 7pm — Weds 19 October, 1.30pm

For further information visit:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome

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



Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?

None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact

Liz on **0121 707 5626** or email

elizabeth.blackhurst@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@manchestercab.org

Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.



*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 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.

At a glance

July 2022

Wed 6	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Mon 11	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Tues 19	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am
Thurs 21	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 26	Quiz Fun - Dudley	11am

August

Wed 3	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Thurs 4	Aldridge, Games, Cuppa and a Chat	11am
Mon 8	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Tues 16	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am
Thurs 18	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 23	Quiz Fun - Dudley	11am

September - Friendship Month



Thurs 1	Aldridge, Games, Cuppa and a Chat	11am
Wed 7	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Mon 12	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Thurs 15	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 20	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am
Tues 27	Quiz Fun - Dudley	11am

October

Wed 5	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Thurs 6	Aldridge, Games, Cuppa and a Chat	11am
Mon 10	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Tues 18	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am
Thurs 20	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 25	Quiz Fun - Dudley	11am

November

Wed 2	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Thurs 3	Aldridge, Games, Cuppa and a Chat	11am
Mon 14	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Tues 15	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am
Thurs 17	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 22	Quiz Fun - Dudley	11am

December

Thurs 1	Aldridge, Games, Cuppa and a Chat	11am
Wed 7	Kings Heath Cuppa and Chat	11am
Mon 12	Table Top Games Session - Harborne	10.30am
Thurs 15	Solihull Cuppa and Chat	2pm
Tues 20	Mere Green Cuppa and Chat	11.15am