

April - September 2026



the
ODDFELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Nene and Welland District



**Travel and
Trips**



**Arts and
Crafts**



Talks



Social



History



Coffee Morning



Dining Out



Walk



Games



Should your Friends become Oddfellows? By Barry Bedford

Maybe you are one of those people who feel a little shy being an Oddfellow? You enjoy your membership, and recognise the many benefits but don't go round telling your friends about us. But why not?

There's no point in hiding our light under a bushel and the truth is we are all part of a great organisation! It can financially offer us protection when we are ill or in difficulties, and provide us with friendship and real assistance when we need it most. As an Oddfellow we have nothing to be modest or shy about. Far from it - by persuading our friends to become members we will be doing them a very real favour, for think what being an Oddfellow means - they will be most welcomed and feel completely at home with the Oddfellows, just like you.



We need help so that we can reach more people in need so can you HELP spread the word? Why not start by showing them this Out and About? There is also a Refer a Friend Scheme that you could be eligible for if they quote your membership number when they join (terms and conditions apply). We look forward to welcoming new members.

Chairman's Welcome

By David Hitchcock

I feel very honoured to be your next Chairman and thank you all in advance for your support and help in the coming year.



Thanks to our social committee for scheduling a varied selection of events for our participation and enjoyment, please support as many events as possible. If you would like to suggest an event, please let us know what events you would like us to try and organise in the future.

Thanks to all our volunteers who help run our events (they know who they are), and to those of you who supply raffle prizes

and contribute to the Chairman's Charity. I have decided to continue supporting the Deepings Community Library during my year in office.

More volunteers are needed to help run events, to join our Committee of Management, or to take on the role of Welfare Officers or Telephone Befrienders. Succession planning is the lifeblood of our organisation, which is run by our members, for our members.

When your subs are next due for renewal, if you are able, please can you set up a Direct Debit, or pay by card with our membership services on freephone 0800 028 1810 due to our bank no longer allowing us to pay in cheques at the Post Office.

With all of us working together I hope we can make my first year as Chairman a happy and successful one.

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



We hope you can join us for our social events!

We would like to welcome you to our new Out and About Event's Diary.

Thank you to everyone who books on to events, it is really helpful to know who is coming, and lets us know when we have reached capacity. A full name and contact number are always useful as we can't always remember everyone's last names! If you're unable to attend please let us know, there may be someone on a waiting list who would appreciate being able to attend at the last minute.

Don't forget we are always happy to receive items for raffles, tombola's and surprise bingo.

If you'd like to receive the monthly newsletter via email please contact

Contact Details

District Secretary: Karen Earth

Telephone: 01778 342006

Email:
karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
57 Church Street, Market
Deeping PE6 8AN

us, otherwise there is always a copy on the noticeboard at the Hall for you to look at. There are also free national online events taking place regularly.

At the time of going to press we have not confirmed a menu or set price for our Annual Branch Lunch. This year it will be held on Sunday 13 September.

If you are interested in attending please let the office know so that we can give you this information as soon as we get it.

Your Help

We are always keen to hear ideas about possible events, venues or fundraising ideas from members that we can investigate. Please catch Christine, Jenny, Jean or Sarah at an event or get in touch with sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk

Where possible please can Standard and Extra Benefits members set up a Direct Debit payment for renewal of membership fees with our Membership team on (Freephone) 0800 028 1810.

Associates can set up standing orders or pay via bank transfer. Please contact Karen on 01778 342006 with any queries, as unfortunately this cannot be done through the membership team.

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 Jenny by phone on 07788 534290



www.oddfellows.co.uk

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Regular Events

Various Days

Pudding and Cake



6pm



Members £4, Guests £5 – Tasting only
Free for contributors



Why not come along and enjoy a wonderful range of home-made desserts and cakes. Whether you choose a favourite or a selection – the choice is yours. If you'd like to bring someone along, please do, otherwise just come along and enjoy! Don't forget to book your place beforehand and let us know if you have any dietary requirements.



Raffle for our Chairman's charity. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact David on 01778 347876.

Tuesday 5 May

Saturday 4 July, 3pm – Please wear red, white or blue to celebrate America's Independence Day

Tuesday 1 September

Lunch at the Hall



12.30pm



Members £6, Guests £7



Tuesdays

Join us at the hall for a lunch with friends. Come by yourself, meet friends here or invite a non member to come with you. Please remember to book at least 10 days before as spaces go quickly for this event (don't forget to tell us about any dietary requirements when booking). Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact David on 01778 347876.

7 April

2 June



Regular Events

Friendship Lunch

 12 noon for 12.30pm

 As per menu



Wednesdays

Every month (apart from May) we will be meeting at The Crown Inn, Surfleet to enjoy good food and company in this traditional pub. Make sure you book early and provide your menu selection. Food will be served at 12.30pm. The Crown Inn, 6 Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Spalding PE11 4AB. Contact Christine on 07714 096801.



15 April
17 June

15 July
19 August

16 September

Let's Do Lunch!

 12.30pm for 1pm

 Currently £9 main course, additional courses per menu



Wednesdays

Thorney Golf Club offer a fantastic menu for £9 (at time of going to press) for a main course (additional courses per menu). Events start at 12.30pm for 1pm food service. Bookings must be in at least 10 days before the meal, as requested by the venue. Unfortunately, they will be unable to accommodate any bookings after this time. Don't forget to keep a note of your food choices. Thorney Golf Club, English Drove, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0TJ. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



29 April
20 May

24 June
29 July

26 August
30 September

Regular Events

A Crafty Cuppa

🕒 10.30am

£ Donation for refreshments



Wednesdays

Come and join us for a crafting morning, a natter with friends and a cuppa. Bring your own projects: knitting, sewing, paper-craft etc, and have a relaxing time. Bring your friends or just come along for the company. Refreshments available for a donation to our Chairman's charity. Don't forget to book your place. Donation for refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Janice on 01778 560059.



8 April

10 June

12 August

Craft Club

🕒 10.30am

£ £4 includes refreshments
£6 for guests includes refreshments



Wednesdays

No diary would be complete without our very popular Craft Club! A different craft each time - everything you need is provided for you. Due to the popularity of this event booking is essential two weeks before as space is limited. There will be a raffle for the Chairman's charity. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Georgina on 01778 347876.

13 May

8 July

9 September



Regular Events

Museum Workshops

 10.30am
to 12 noon

 Members Only
Free



Did you know we are putting together an Oddfellows Museum above the main hall? Would you like to come and browse our archives? If so please let Christine know. Please note that there is a flight of stairs to climb (with handrails). Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Christine on 07714 096801.



Friday

24 April
26 June

31 July
28 August

25 September

Surprise Bingo!

 2pm

 £1 per book of 10 games
£5 for six books



Various Days

Why not join us for an afternoon of bingo fun? These sessions are open to all, so why not bring a friend? 10 games of bingo for the bargain price of £1 a book or £5 for a strip of six books, so why not play more than one book at a time? Donation for refreshments. Large print books are available on request. Winners of lines and full houses get to choose a bag containing a mysterious prize – who knows what you might be going home with. The sessions are informal and we have laughs along the way. There is a break half way for a chat with a cuppa and a piece of cake. Remember to book your place as this is a popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.

Thursday 23 April
Saturday 16 May

Thursday 25 June
Saturday 18 July

Thursday 20 August
Saturday 19 September

Coffee Morning

 11am

 Donations



Sundays

Come and support our coffee morning. Donations for refreshments will go to our Chairman's Charity of the Year, which is Deepings Community Library. Come by yourself or bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there! Open between 11am - 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

17 May
28 June

19 July
23 August

20 September

April 2026

SAT 11 Decade of Puddings

🕒 2.30pm



£ Members £4, Guests £5 - Tasting only
Free for contributors

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of Pudding and Cake (or The Cold Pudding Club as it was originally called). Book fast as there are limited spaces. Only bring homemade puddings to this special event please. Book now - let David/Georgina know what you are planning to bake. If you have any recipes/photos from the event over the last 10 years we would love to be able to display them on the night for others to see. Book by Friday 3 April. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact David on 01778 347876.

SUN 26 Plant and Seed Sale

🕒 11am

£ Donation



Come and grab some seeds or plants for the garden. If you have extra for us to sell why not drop some off on the



Thursday morning, before the bingo on Thursday 23 April? Donations for refreshments and the plants will go towards our Chairman's charity of the year. Come by yourself or bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you between 11am to 1pm. No need to book. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

SAT 18 Wacky Races

🕒 2.30pm

£ Members £12, Guests £15



Come and support our fundraising event for our charity of the year - Deepings Community Library. One bet per race provided in your entry fee, along with sandwiches and cakes. Become an owner for £1 and win a prize if they come in first place. Don't forget to bring some £1 coins with you for this and for the raffle. The overall winner will also win a prize. This is going to be a fun relaxed afternoon, why not invite some friends to join us? There will be the opportunity during the event to create a vehicle to race in the final race - all equipment will be provided for this. Please don't turn up before 2.15pm as there is another event at the venue before this one. Book by Monday 6 April. Coronation Hall, 16 Halfleet, Market Deeping PE6 8DB. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

May

SUN
10

Gluten Free Lunch



12.30pm



Members £10
Guests £12



Are you, or someone you know, either trying to eat gluten free, or having to eat foods free from gluten having being diagnosed as being either coeliac or gluten intolerant? Why not enjoy a meal with others without having to worry about gluten? May is Coeliac Disease Awareness Month. Why not exchange your favourite recipes with others, or ask for help in identifying products that are free from gluten? Food served at 1pm. Book by Friday 1 May. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



TUES
26

Brunch at The Fayre Spot



11am



As per menu



We will be hosting a brunch at The Fayre Spot. You can choose a hearty feast or something lighter. Book by Monday 11 May. Fayre Spot pub at The Cresset, Rightwell, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DX. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



THURS
28

Baytree Social



11am



As per menu



Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the garden centre and the chance to do some shopping, either before or after meeting Oddfellow friends in the main restaurant, which is near the big sandpit, at 11am for a drink and catch up. Baytree Garden Centre, High Road, Weston, Spalding PE12 6JU. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

June

FRI
12

The Café at Eventus



11.30am



As per menu



Meet at The Café at Eventus (food served at noon) for their Fish Day. Pre-book your food choice when booking your place. Book by Monday 1 June. The Café at Eventus, Eventus Business Centre, Sunderland Road, Market Deeping PE6 8FD. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



July

THURS 02 Afternoon Tea (City Lodge)



2pm



As per menu



For this year's City Lodge we are hosting an afternoon tea. We look forward to seeing you there. Please let us know your dietary requirements and sandwich choices when you book. The venue needs to know the food choices at least 10 days before, so booking quickly is essential. Food served at 2.30pm. Book by Monday 15 June. Fayre Spot pub at The Cresset, Rightwell, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DX. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



THURS 09 Degree Workshop



10.30am



Free



For members who would like to find out more about the traditional side of the Oddfellows, or if you are interested in coming on to the Committee of Management. There are two routes to be able to hold office (Chairman, Deputy etc.). Lectures gives you all the information you need to be a good Oddfellow in a less formal session, whereas Minor Degrees involve traditional and more interactive practices. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Christine on 07714 096801.

August

TUES 04 Getting Ready for Friendship Month



10.30am



Free



It would be greatly appreciated if you could spare half an hour or an hour to help with creating goody bags, wrapping books to raise funds for the charity of the year, writing out invites to enquirers, doing shredding, laminating, decorating the outside of the hall etc, to help us get ready for Oddfellow's



National Friendship Month in September. No need to book, just pop in to the hall. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

August

WED 05 The Café at Eventus



11.30am



As per menu



Meet at The Café at Eventus (food served at 12 noon) for their Pie Day. Pre-book your food choice. Book by Friday 24 July. The Café at Eventus, Eventus Business Centre, Sunderland Road, Market Deeping PE6 8FD. Contact Jenny on 07788 534290.



SAT 08 Foot and Hand Care Demonstration



2pm



Members £4
Guests £5



Suitable for both men and women. Discover some hints and tips about looking after your hands and feet, especially as you get older. Watch and listen to a step-by-step demonstration of a manicure and a pedicure. Join us for a fun afternoon among friends, cost includes refreshments. There will be a raffle (£1 a strip) to raise funds for the Chairman's charity (Deepings Community Library), so please bring some £1 coins with you. Book by Monday 3 August. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

SAT 15 Tiny Steps Petting Farm Visit



10.30am



OAP and children (2-17 years) £5, Adults £7



Join us at Tiny Steps Petting Farm in Thurlby for a private tour around the petting farm. Feed the animals and meet the famous wallabies who were featured on TV after their escape a few years ago. There are also alpacas to see and a younger children's play area. Check out the goat's animal enclosure that we have sponsored. Book by Monday 3 August. Tiny Steps Petting Farm, Parkwood Road, Thurlby PE10 0EL. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.



September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SUN 06 Forest School for Families

🕒 1.30pm

£ Members £5 per family
Guests £7 per family



Enjoy a family forest school experience with your children (and/or grandchildren). Includes craft activities run by the forest school leaders, drinks, biscuits (and if we are allowed a fire on the day - some toasted marshmallows). Must pre-book as there are limited spaces by Tuesday 1 September. Our Forest Garden, based at Swines Meadow Farm Nursery (left hand side of the car park), 47 Towngate East, Deeping St James PE6 8LQ. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.

TUES 08 Half Yearly Business Meeting

🕒 10.30am

£ Free



Our business meetings are open for all members to attend. If you would like to know more about the running of the Branch, ask questions regarding the Branch, or become actively involved in any aspect of the Branch, then please do join us. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Karen on 01778 342006.



SUN 13 Annual Branch Lunch

🕒 12.30pm

£ TBC



Come and join us for our annual lunch at Bourne Corn Exchange. Our raffle will raise money for the Chairman's charity - Deepings Community Library. Book by Monday 10 August with the office - please address any cheques to 'IOOFMUFs Nene and Welland District Lodge'. Bar available if you'd like to purchase your own alcoholic drinks. Please ask the Office for menu choices in June or July (menu hadn't been confirmed at time of going to print). We hope to include it in the monthly newsletter once we have it. If you can pay by bank transfer that would be great - please email the office for account details. Bourne Corn Exchange, Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF. Contact Karen on 01778 342006 or Sarah on 01778 342006.





SAT
26

Friendship Quiz and Afternoon Tea



Pit your wits against others in this traditional light hearted pub quiz. Enjoy an afternoon tea half way through, as well as taking part in a raffle to raise funds for our charity of the year - Deepings Community Library. This is our 'Friendship Month event' where we try and attract new members, hence the special cost for all. Payment required upon booking. Book by Wednesday 16 September. Coronation Hall, 16 Halfleet, Market Deeping PE6 8DB. Contact Sarah on 01778 342006.



Cancellations for food events

Please be aware that due to the increasing cost of food we can no longer absorb the extra cost of last-minute cancellations at food events.

If you cancel less than seven days before the event at an outside venue, or less than three days before an event at the Hall (or Coronation Hall), then you will

still be expected to pay. Unfortunately, you will not be able to book on to another food event until payment has been received from the missed event. Please remember to cancel with the event organiser.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this, on behalf of the District Committee of Management.



Chairman's Charity of the Year

(2005 – 2026)

The 2025/2026 Chairman's Charity of the Year raised £3,000 for Deepings Community Library. The cheque was presented on Saturday 31 January at the library's 10-year celebration of becoming a Community Library, while most of their volunteers were present.

The incoming Chairman, David Hitchcock has decided to continue supporting this Charity for his year in Office 2026/2027. We look forward to raising a similar amount with your support over the next year.



David and Janice presenting the 2025/2026 cheque to Deepings Community Library on behalf of the Outgoing Chairman, Barry Bedford.

The Branch is sponsoring one of the goat pens at Tiny Steps Petting Farm in Thurlby, which we are planning to visit in August (see events for further information).



What are Haven of Happiness, City or Welland?

By Christine Sargeant

I'm sure some of you will have heard the names before and the longer standing members will know instantly what they are and were. Before the Society went through more recent reorganisations, they were called Financial 'Lodges'.

They had their own assets and had to present their own accounts to the District. These "Lodges" had their own Committee of Management, Trustees, and Officers. The Officers were the Noble Grand (Chairman), Vice Grand (Vice-chair), Immediate Past Noble Grand (Immediate Past Chair) and Secretary. These Branches were also represented at District level, where some members would be elected to serve as District Officers, Trustees or members of the District Committee of Management, and elected members attended the Annual and Half Yearly District Meetings as 'Deputies'.

Obviously, this is quite different to how we now operate, but the changes have been gradual. Many of these Lodges became 'Unregistered Lodges' whilst those still holding their own assets became 'Registered Lodges', both still responsible to the District. A few years ago, Nene & Welland became a District Lodge, or Branch, with the 'Lodges' responsible to them becoming Social Branches, all assets were then held at the District Lodge.

Those of us who served as District Chairman (Provincial Grand Master)

several years ago will remember we had to visit every Lodge in the District and at that time there were many spread across the whole of the geographical area we cover, so it was time consuming but so interesting as you met so many different people, and you couldn't use the same speech twice as some people came to all of them!



Haven of Happiness, City and Welland Lodges are our three remaining Social Lodges which we are keen to keep in existence.

I have been Social Secretary of the Loyal Haven of Happiness Lodge for 20 years (a role I took on as a temporary measure) and am proud to say this is my mother Lodge as it is the one I was joined into.

This is just a tiny piece of the history of our Branch. We are in the process of developing a Museum at our office in Deeping which has so much more information and we hope to be able to open this by appointment in the near future. If you have anything interesting to share we'd love to hear about it. I am not the fount of all knowledge but if you want to hear more I'll try to help.

How can we all help each other?

Caring for our members is a fundamental part of the Oddfellows and over the years has helped so many members with different issues in so many ways. Due to the number and geographical spread of those members it would be impossible for the Care Team at Unity Office in Manchester to do this alone.

This is where the Branches like Nene & Welland come into play by having volunteers in the roles of Welfare Visitors and Telephone Befrienders who are all ordinary members like you and me. You might ask yourself what can we do to help? Well, we keep in touch and offer support to members who may need it because of age, illness, disability, isolation, bereavement, caring responsibilities or any number of other things.

We don't need specialist knowledge as those in these roles can get help and guidance from any number of sources including the Unity Care Team. Welfare Visitors can help people by meeting them face to face or talking to them on the phone. Telephone Befrienders help

by chatting to fellow members over the telephone.

What does it take to do this? You need empathy, patience, kindness, as well as being trustworthy, a good listener, non-judgmental and having a friendly personality. How many of you already phone others to make sure they're ok or just for a chat? If so you're already performing the role of a Befriender so why not formalise it and join the Branch's care team, we'd love to have you on board.

You will need a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, as obviously confidentiality and data protection are of the utmost importance, but we can organise this, and you will be given some training and guidance. What do you get out of it? The knowledge that you're helping others, but also it can help you too, as you can do this from home even if you can't get out yourself. Please, if you have just a bit of spare time, think about joining the Nene & Welland Care Team.

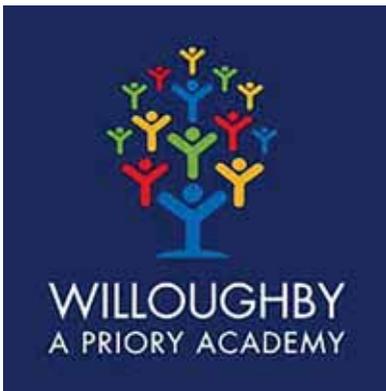
If you're interested contact me, Chris Sargeant on 07714 096801 or Karen Earth at the office on 01778 342006.





Nene and Welland Oddfellows are currently sponsoring Deeping St James CP School's Athletics Kit. We are also continuing to support the Pinchbeck boys Football Team (under 11's) with their new kit, where our name is easier to read.

Nene & Welland continues to sponsor an annual plaque at Willoughby Academy, a Special Needs school in Bourne, providing a Book Voucher to the winner each year.



A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services.

The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Friendship: the constant that carries us forward A message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship. Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate



2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards.

Meet your Nene and Welland Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



We would like to introduce you to our friendly Care and Welfare team who are here to help you.



**Christine
Sargeant**
07714 096801



Karen Earth
01778 342006



**Sarah
Hitchcock**
01778 342006



Jenny Collins
07788 534290

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Branch Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Karen Earth on **01778 342006** or email **karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk**.

National Oddfellows Helplines



As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.

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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs

Events at a glance

April 2026

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|-----------------|--|---------|
| Tues 7 | Lunch at the Hall, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 12.30pm |
| Wed 8 | A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall (Janice) | 10.30am |
| Sat 11 | Decade of Puddings, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 2.30pm |
| Tues 14 | Branch Meeting, Oddfellows Hall (Karen) | 10.30am |
| Wed 15 | Friendship Lunch, Surfleet, Spalding (Christine) | 12 noon |
| Sat 18 | Wacky Races, Coronation Hall (Sarah) | 2.30pm |
| Thurs 23 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Fri 24 | Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |
| Sun 26 | Plant and Seed Sale, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |
| Wed 29 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |

May

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Tues 5 | Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 6pm |
| Sun 10 | Gluten Free Lunch, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 12.30pm |
| Tues 12 | Branch Meeting, Oddfellows Hall (Karen) | 10.30am |
| Wed 13 | Craft Club, Oddfellows Hall (Georgina) | 10.30am |
| Sat 16 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Sun 17 | Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |
| Wed 20 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |
| Tues 26 | Brunch at The Fayre Spot, Bretton, Peterborough (Jenny) | 11am |
| Thurs 28 | Baytree Social, Weston, Spalding (Sarah) | 11am |

June

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| Tues 2 | Lunch at the Hall, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 12.30pm |
| Tues 9 | Branch Meeting, Oddfellows Hall (Karen) | 10.30am |
| Wed 10 | A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall (Janice) | 10.30am |
| Fri 12 | The Café at Eventus, Market Deeping (Jenny) | 11.30am |
| Wed 17 | Friendship Lunch, Surfleet, Spalding (Christine) | 12 noon |
| Wed 24 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |
| Thurs 25 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Fri 26 | Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |
| Sun 28 | Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |

Events at a glance

July

| | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| Thurs 2 | Afternoon Tea (City Lodge), Bretton, Peterborough (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Sat 4 | Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 3pm |
| Wed 8 | Craft Club, Oddfellows Hall (Georgina) | 10.30am |
| Thurs 9 | Degree Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |
| Wed 15 | Friendship Lunch, Surfleet, Spalding (Christine) | 12 noon |
| Sat 18 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Sun 19 | Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |
| Wed 29 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |
| Fri 31 | Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |

August

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| Tues 4 | Getting Ready for Friendship Month, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 10.30am |
| Wed 5 | The Café at Eventus, Market Deeping (Jenny) | 11.30am |
| Sat 8 | Foot and Hand Care Demonstration, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 2pm |
| Tues 11 | Branch Meeting, Oddfellows Hall (Karen) | 10.30am |
| Wed 12 | A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall (Janice) | 10.30am |
| Sat 15 | Tiny Steps Petting Farm Visit, Thurlby (Sarah) | 10.30am |
| Wed 19 | Friendship Lunch, Surfleet, Spalding (Christine) | 12 noon |
| Thurs 20 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Sun 23 | Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |
| Wed 26 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |
| Fri 28 | Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |

September - Friendship Month

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| Tues 1 | Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall (David) | 6pm |
| Sun 6 | Forest School for Families, Deeping St James (Sarah) | 1.30pm |
| Tues 8 | Half Yearly Business Meeting, Oddfellows Hall (Karen) | 10.30am |
| Wed 9 | Craft Club, Oddfellows Hall (Georgina) | 10.30am |
| Sun 13 | Annual Branch Lunch, Bourne Corn Exchange (Office) | 12.30pm |
| Wed 16 | Friendship Lunch, Surfleet, Spalding (Christine) | 12 noon |

Events at a glance

September - Friendship Month

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------|
| Sat 19 | Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall (Jenny) | 2pm |
| Sun 20 | Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall (Sarah) | 11am |
| Fri 25 | Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine) | 10.30am |
| Sat 26 | Friendship Quiz and Afternoon Tea, Coronation Hall (Sarah) | 2.30pm |
| Wed 30 | Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney, Peterborough (Jenny) | 12.30pm |

Business Meetings

Held on Tuesday at 10.30am.

Our business meetings are open for all members to attend. If you would like to know more about the running of the Branch, ask questions regarding the Branch, or become actively involved in any aspect of the Branch, then please do join us. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Karen on 01778 342006.

14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 11 August and 8 September (Half Yearly)

Contact Details

Georgina/David: 01778 347876

Janice/Barry: 01778 560059

Christine: 07714 096801

Jenny: 07788 534290

Office (Karen or Sarah): 01778 342006

Nene and Welland

Oddfellows office

Karen Branch Secretary email:

karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk

Sarah Admin Assistant email:

sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at  **OddfellowsNeneWelland**

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