

September 2026 - February 2027



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

# *out & about*

## Heart of the West District



*Torquay Marina - Jackie Milan*



Walks



Theatre



Day Trip



Dining Out



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



History

## Dear Members and Friends welcome to our Out and About Events Diary

It's Sam here! For those of you that don't already know I am now the Social Organiser for Heart of the West Branch. I took over from Tara in May and I have loved getting to meet many of you at our regular events. I am really excited to bring you my first edition of Out and About. It's been a whirlwind couple of months and I've planned in plenty to keep us busy as we go through the autumn and winter months. This edition covers September to February, with our regular events, some repeat activities such as sailing and pottery due to popular demand and some new talks and activities for the curious minds. I will have the opportunity to add in extra activities as I become aware of them including some free talks and events that pop up locally. The best way for me to keep you in the loop is by having an email address for you. If you haven't been receiving my weekly email and you'd like to be kept up to date with all things Oddfellows Heart of the West then please get in touch so I can update your details in our system. If you don't have access to email do you have a friend or family member that can receive them for you and maybe print them off so you don't miss out?

A little bit about me. I'm a Devon girl, born in Brixham; I travelled around before settling back here in Torquay. I love being active and outdoors. I'm a keen sea swimmer and I run Sea Swim



## Contact Details

**Secretary:** Julia Street  
**Telephone:** 07881 836294  
**Email:**  
[julia.street@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:julia.street@oddfellows.co.uk)

Julia is our Branch Secretary and is responsible for the day to day running of our Branch, monthly accounts, Care & Welfare claims, meeting minutes and administration.



**Social Organiser:**  
Sam  
**Telephone:**  
07909 499703  
**Email:**  
[sam.wyton@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:sam.wyton@oddfellows.co.uk)



For more information call Sam.

Torquay in my spare time. I have a lovely rescue dog from Romania called Lola who I love walking with – she was just about three months old when we took her on, she'll be 7 in December! She's a bit of a mix – a big dog on little legs – imagine collie/corgi . A real character! I have a garden which I am creating into a wild space for nature! Sometimes I think it's a good reflection of me! I have run my own businesses including Berry Head Café in the early 2000s, as well as working for the National Trust for a number of years. And now I am here in the Oddfellows and loving every minute!

I hope to meet more of you as we go through the year and please feel free to reach out, if I can be of help in any way. (Details above).

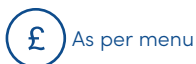
**Sam**

# Regular Events

## Coffee and a Catch Up



11am



As per menu



The first Monday of every month, we'll be waiting to greet you and hear all your news. A great chance to make new friends and bring along some of the ones you already have! Pop upstairs and join us for a relaxed but friendly welcome. Austins Coffee Shop, Courtenay Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2DU. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**7 September 2026, 5 October 2026, 2 November 2026, 7 December 2026, 4 January 2027, 1 February 2027**

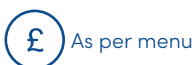
### First Monday of the month



## Teacup Meet Up



11am



As per menu



We meet the last Monday of the month. Come alone or bring a friend or three and find out why we are one of the best friendship groups on your doorstep! Join the fun, join the group, make friends and get more out of life. Anchorage Hotel & Spa, Aveland Road, Babbacombe, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3PT. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**28 September 2026, 26 October 2026, 30 November 2026, 25 January 2027, 22 February 2027**

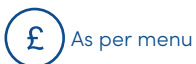
### Last Monday of the month



## Tea at 2!



2pm



As per menu



Join us for Tea at 2 on the second Tuesday of every month. Ross's delicious cakes, toasties, scones and sandwiches make this a tempting regular treat. Please

note: This is now a member-led event, so please contact Tara to confirm it's going ahead, or check the Members' WhatsApp Group for updates. Indulgence Tearooms, 40 Devon Square, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2HH. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**13 October 2026, 10 November 2026, 8 December 2026, 12 January 2027 9 February 2027**

### Second Tuesday of the month



# Regular Events

## Wednesday Waffle



11am



As per menu



### Last Wednesday of the month



Join us upstairs in the John Lewis café – The Place To Eat in Exeter. We meet the last Wednesday of each month. A great chance to meet new friends and bring along some of the ones you already have. An informal, relaxed meet-up for friendship to develop. Look out for our banner and our smiles! John Lewis, 1 Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**30 September 2026, 28 October 2026, 25 November 2026, 27 January 2027**

## Meet, Eat, Repeat



12 noon



As per menu



Join us for our regular lunch club. The same time, but a different venue on the third Thursday of each month. A great chance to eat somewhere new with a group of friendly people. Spaces are limited. A £10 deposit secures your space – no exception on this and a pre-order may be needed the week before. Once the pre-order has been submitted, no refunds can be issued. Book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

### Third Thursday of the month



**17 September 2026** – The Barn Owl, Aller Mills, Aller Road, Kingskerswell TQ12 5AN. Book by Monday 7 September 2026.

**15 October 2026** – Three Degrees West, Oddicombe Beach, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3LB. Book by Monday 5 October 2026.

**19 November 2026** – Angels, 49 Babbacombe Downs Road, Babbacombe, Torquay TQ1 3LP. Book by Monday 9 November 2026.

**17 December 2026** – Hare and Hounds, Torquay Road, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot TQ12 5HH. Book by Monday 7 December 2026.

**21 January 2027** – Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 6RQ. Book by Sunday 11 January 2027.

**18 February 2027** – The Sandygate Inn, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3PU. Book by Sunday 8 February 2027.



# Regular Events

## Bookfellows



2pm



Pay for what  
you order, buy  
the copy of your  
book



Love reading and having a lively discussion? Or maybe you'd like to try reading a wider selection, broaden your taste and not sure where to start

- this group can support and inspire you! Our Bookfellows group is an informal and sociable group that likes to read a variety of books. They meet every six weeks at The Grand Hotel at 2pm. They choose a different book each six weeks and then come back and share their thoughts on it - a lively discussion is always had! The coffee and cake on offer is also enjoyed! Grand Hotel, Sea Front, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 6NT. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**Various Tuesdays at 2pm**



**22 September 2026, 3 November 2026, 15 December 2026, 26 January 2027**

## Backgammon Club



2pm



Members £1,  
Guests £2



Come and enjoy a game of Backgammon with our members at the Anchorage Hotel & Spa. This member-led club takes place every second Monday of the month at 11am and every fourth Thursday at 2pm. If you have never played, don't worry one of our group will be able to show you how to play. It's a great game to play. It's open to all and refreshments are available to purchase at the hotel bar. Anchorage Hotel & Spa, Aveland Road, Babbacombe, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3PT. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

**Second Monday at 11am and  
Fourth Thursday at 2pm**



**Mondays at 11am**  
**14 September 2026**  
**12 October 2026**  
**9 November 2026**  
**14 December 2026**  
**11 January 2027**  
**8 February 2027**

**Thursdays at 2pm**  
**24 September 2026**  
**22 October 2026**  
**26 November 2026**  
**28 January 2027**  
**25 February 2027**

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES  
08

## Tea at 4! Friendship Month Special



4pm



As per menu



Oddfellows is taking over Indulgence Café in Newton Abbot for our friendship afternoon tea! Ross is opening up his lovely café just for us, so bring your friends and enjoy a cream tea or some lovely home-made cake at our Tea at 4! You pay for what you order and this event is open to all as we would like to meet as many new people that are curious about our organisation and may like to join us. We may even have some goody bags for you to take home. There is no need to book but if you'd like to reserve a goody bag let Sam, our Social Organiser know you are coming. There may be some vouchers to use on the day (to be confirmed). Indulgence Tearooms, 40 Devon Square, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2HH. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

MON  
14

## Talk on Agatha Christie by Victoria Dowd



2pm



Members £10  
Guests £15



Victoria Dowd is an award-winning and bestselling British crime writer, highly noted for her background as a former criminal defence barrister!



She is going to talk to us about Agatha Christie and her links to Dartmoor. This should be a really interesting talk with lots of local links for us to ponder over. There will also be the opportunity to purchase her books. This event runs from 2pm to 3.30pm. Book by Wednesday 9 September 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council - Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

WED  
16

## Theatre Trip: Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap



2.30pm



£31.50



Agatha Christie's legendary murder mystery - 'The Mousetrap' is bringing its 75th anniversary tour to the Princess Theatre. A thrilling 'whodunnit', where seven strangers are snowed in at a remote country guesthouse, only to realize a murderer is in their midst. This touring production has been praised for its suspense, witty humor and brilliant pacing. Princess Theatre, Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5EZ. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.



MON  
21

## The Seal Project Talk Friendship Month Special



11am



As per menu



For Friendship Month we will be having a talk from Sarah Greenslade, founder of the Seal Project charity, which came about after she had a chance encounter with a baby seal in Shoalstone Pool very early one morning several years ago. The charity now monitors and supports the seal population across South Devon. Come along and see what they are all about. We are known as the friendly society; meet some of our members, make some new friends, enjoy a free talk and enjoy fabulous cakes and coffee. The more the merrier. No need to book! Anchorage Hotel & Spa, Aveland Road, Babbacombe, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3PT. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

WED  
23

## Sailing Opportunity



10.30am  
& 1pm



Trial £15,  
Full £30



Due to popular demand, we're delighted to offer this experience again. Enjoy a two-hour sailing session with experienced instructors, with the opportunity to sail weekly if you enjoy it. See the bay from a different perspective, with a good chance of spotting seals and even dolphins. Places are limited to just five people per session. Sessions are available in the morning (10.30am to 12.30pm) and afternoon (1pm to 3pm). The Disabled Sailing Association welcomes people with a range of conditions, including visual or hearing impairments, mobility issues, anxiety and depression. Any relevant condition must be disclosed on the form provided to the captain, but no medical evidence is required. **Trial Sail (£15 per person)** Available for Full Members or Sail Supporters accompanying a friend or family member. Ideal for first-time sailors wishing to try the experience. **Full Membership Sail (£30 per person)** For those who have already completed a trial sail. Membership allows solo sailors or with their supporters to continue sailing throughout the season. Book by: Monday 14 September 2026. Disabled Sailing Association, Beacon Quay, Torquay TQ1 2BG Contact: Sam on 07909 449703.

# October

THURS  
01

## Talk by Dr Kevin Dixon - At Your Convenience!



1pm



Cost of refreshments or donation



Dr Kevin Dixon presents 'At your convenience': Torquay's 'lav' affair with the smallest room in the house'. We all use them, but we often don't talk about them! And when we do talk about them, we call them by many different names. What did we do before they were invented and how did the private and public toilet evolve? Join us for a light-hearted talk on the evolution of the lavatory. This talk will last 40 minutes - there will then be tea or coffee and a chance to have a guided look around St Luke's Church with Dr Kevin which is wonderfully colourful. Book by Thursday 24 September 2026. St Luke's Church Hall, St Luke's Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5NX. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

MON  
19

## Patrick Jervis - Cabaret Singer



11am



£8



Patrick is a Torbay based singer with many years of performing under his belt. He sings a wide range of songs from 50s/60s right through to the current day, so come along and enjoy some music, sing along if you like - request your favourite song even! Come along for a happy singing start to the week! This activity lasts an hour. Book by Monday 12 October 2026. St Joseph's Church, 96 Queen Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2ET. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

FRI  
23

## First Aid Workshop



10am



Members £10  
Guests £15



Kate Burton, an experienced First Aid Trainer, will cover essential first aid skills, including CPR, using an AED (automated external defibrillator) and helping an unconscious but breathing casualty. This practical session will boost your confidence in dealing with everyday emergencies. No exam or certificate, just valuable knowledge and experience. Book by Friday 16 October 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council, Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.





# November

MON  
09

## Moths Talk by Barry Henwood



2pm



Members £10  
Guests £15



Barry Henwood is a national expert on moths and their larvae and is the Devon recorder for moths. Barry will be giving an illustrated talk on his lifetime's study of these fascinating and beautiful creatures. Come along and enjoy this wonderful sharing of knowledge! Book by Monday 2 November 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.



MON  
16

## Chair Exercise and Fall Prevention



11am



£5



Tom Croker Of JStep is going to lead us in a seated group movement session that helps to build strength, confidence and independence. Jstep works in partnership with the NHS and supports those who face barriers to daily movement, whether it's due to mobility issues, long-term health conditions or the risk of falling. This is a perfect session to start the week with! Come along and see what it's all about. St Joseph's Church, 96 Queen Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2ET. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

THURS  
12

## Wool Spinning Workshop



2pm



Members £10  
Guests £15



Anna Leatherdale, passionate about wool, hand-spins and dyes fleece from local sheep farmers using natural dyes. Join her to learn how sheep's fleece is prepared and spun into yarn. Using carding techniques and a drop spindle, you'll be introduced to the art of hand spinning and discover the role of wool and flax in our local history. You'll also create something to take home. Book by: Thursday 5 November 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council, Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact: Sam on 07909 449703.

# November

THURS  
26

## Digestive Health Talk with Kirsty Hale



1.30pm



Members £10  
Guests £15



Kirsty Hale is a registered Nutritional Therapist and former Riverford recipe developer. She is passionate about helping people enjoy eating well, supporting their digestive health, staying active and independent as they get older. Kirsty believes that good nutrition should be practical and enjoyable. Her website is [www.kirstyhale.com](http://www.kirstyhale.com)\* if you want to have a peruse. She will take questions beforehand and answer them on the day. Book by Monday 16 November 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council – Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

\*The Oddfellows is not responsible for the content, accuracy, or availability of external websites linked from our publications, emails, or website. Inclusion of a link does not imply endorsement of the website or its contents.

# December

THURS  
10

## Christmas Wreath Making



10am



Members £30  
Guests £35



Come along and make a beautiful Christmas wreath to hang on your door! Francesca Shaw is a highly talented creative artist who specialises in natural and bespoke designs. She will coach us through the process and by the end of the two hours you will have your own masterpiece to take home with you. These wreaths are all natural and environmentally friendly and so can be used as a bug hotel in the months following Christmas and if you don't have a garden I'm sure you know someone who does! Book by Tuesday 1 December 2026. Kingsteignton Town Council – Mary Hall Suite, Rydon Road, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot TQ12 3LP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

# December

THURS  
17

## Christmas Meal at Hare and Hounds



12 noon



As per  
menu



Our regular lunch club will be upgraded this month to our Christmas party. This is one not to be missed. A lovely opportunity to celebrate Christmas with all of your Oddfellow friends. Spaces are limited. A £10 deposit secures your space – no exception on this and a pre-order will be needed. Once the pre-order has been submitted, no refunds can be issued. Book early to avoid disappointment by Monday 7 December 2026. Hare and Hounds, Torquay Road, Kingskerswell, Newton Abbot TQ12 5HH. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

# January

THURS  
14

## Torquay Museum Behind the Scenes Tour



10am



£10



Dr Kevin Dixon will be giving us a guided tour of the Torquay Museum. Book by Wednesday 7 January 2027. Torquay Museum, 529 Babbacombe Road, Torquay TQ1 1HG. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

TUES  
26

## Swifts Talk by Alistair Whybrow



1.30pm



Members £10  
Guests £15



Alistair Whybrow is a passionate conservationist whose focus is on 'who is going to save the swift?'



Swifts have declined by over 50% in the last 20 years and in 2022, they were added to the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern, with a risk of going extinct as a breeding species in Britain. Kingsteignton has about 30 pairs left and these need help if they are to survive. Alistair will talk about the work he has been doing and what we can do to help. Not to be missed! Some proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to support Swift conservation work. Book by Wednesday 21 January 2027. St Joseph's Church, 96 Queen Street, Newton Abbot TQ12 2ET. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.

# February

WED  
10

## Visit to Bygones and Local Lunch



10am



£12.50



Come and take a stroll back in time at Bygones. This is a popular, independent, family-run museum in St Marychurch, Torquay. It features over 2,000 genuine historical artifacts spanning multiple floors, including a life-size Victorian street, a massive 28 foot model railway, a WWI trench and a 1940s/1950s shopping arcade. The attraction is spread across three floors and features several immersive, highly detailed sections including a life-size Victorian street! Please note - there is no lift in this building, however, even if you aren't able to climb stairs there is still plenty to see on the ground floor and a concession will be organised to reflect this. Please get in touch with Sam if you have questions about this. For those that want to extend the day out there are plenty of café options locally to enjoy a spot of lunch together. Book by Monday 8 February 2027. Bygones, Fore Street, St Marychurch, Torquay TQ1 4PR. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.



# February

WED  
17

## Pottery Workshop



1.30pm



Members £20  
Guests £25



Explore the medium of pottery in a 2.5 hour workshop, led by Verran Townsend, who has many years of experience teaching ceramics. Everyone will be able to have a go at both throwing a pot on the potter's wheel and hand building (for example, creating a small cup or bowl, a tile, or a small sculpture). At the end of the session, choose to take your items home straight away (the clay will still be soft), or the studio can finish your work off for you (trimming the bases of thrown pieces, bisque firing the work, applying a glaze of your choice). There is an additional charge for this service (cost to be confirmed). We hope to have a grand reveal three weeks later and a coffee and cake in the café for anyone that can make it! Book by Friday 12 February 2027. Mansion House, Mansion Pottery Studio, 36 Fore Street, Totnes TQ9 5RP. Contact Sam on 07909 449703.



## Recruitment Runners Up

The Branch were awarded a runner up cup for the highest percentage increase in recruiting new members for the year 2025 for the Southern Group Conference area and was presented at the SGC in April.

# 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 Julia on **07881 836294** or email **julia.street@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.

**Visit our website page at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care) for care and welfare information**



# Get the most out of your membership

As well as making friends and meeting new people, the Oddfellows offers a wide range of benefits to members.



From advice and financial aid through to travel opportunities, we provide a helping hand to make life a little easier. With your standard benefit membership, for £25 a year\*, you have access to:

- Local social events
- Money saving partner offers
- Care and Welfare Helpline and local support
- Dedicated Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Convalescence and Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Benevolence Grants
- Member referral rewards scheme
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Access to group holidays and travel discounts
- Educational and Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

If you're an extra benefit member, your £35 a year membership\* enables access to additional benefits of:

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

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## Find out more about the benefits and support available

You'll find more information about member benefits in your member handbook. You can also call **0800 028 1810** 9am-5pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-4pm Fri, or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits)

To make sure you receive our monthly emails for updates on benefits and offers, just email us with your full name, postcode and membership number (if you know it): [membership@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:membership@oddfellows.co.uk)

\*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services. For full details, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions), or call us on 0800 028 1810.



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

## Members take centre stage

**Look out for some familiar faces this autumn!**

Throughout October and November, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

### Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



### Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and in upcoming print editions of Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

### How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement) to find out more.

## Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

### Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

### Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,  
Susan Williamson, John Mann  
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

### Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, including previous years' winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).



## It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

### Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



### Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA\*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

### Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits.

Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



a proud part of the Oddfellows

To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk) or call 0161 214 4650.

\*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.



# At a glance

## September 2026 - Friendship Month

|                 |                                               |         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Mon 7</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up                         | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 8</b>   | Tea at 4! Friendship Month Special            | 4pm     |
| <b>Mon 14</b>   | Backgammon Club                               | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 14</b>   | Talk on Agatha by Victoria Dowd               | 2pm     |
| <b>Wed 16</b>   | Theatre Trip: Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap | 2.30pm  |
| <b>Thurs 17</b> | Meet, Eat, Repeat at The Barn Owl             | 12 noon |
| <b>Mon 21</b>   | The Seal Project Talk                         | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 22</b>  | Bookfellows                                   | 2pm     |
| <b>Wed 23</b>   | Sailing Opportunity                           | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 24</b> | Backgammon Club                               | 2pm     |
| <b>Mon 28</b>   | Teacup Meet Up                                | 11am    |
| <b>Wed 30</b>   | Wednesday Waffle                              | 11am    |

## October

|                 |                                               |         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Thurs 1</b>  | Talk by Dr Kevin Dixon - At Your Convenience! | 1pm     |
| <b>Mon 5</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up                         | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 12</b>   | Backgammon Club                               | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 13</b>  | Tea at 2!                                     | 2pm     |
| <b>Thurs 15</b> | Meet, Eat, Repeat at Three Degrees West       | 12 noon |
| <b>Mon 19</b>   | Patrick Jervis - Cabaret Singer               | 11am    |
| <b>Thurs 22</b> | Backgammon Club                               | 2pm     |
| <b>Fri 23</b>   | First Aid Workshop                            | 10am    |
| <b>Mon 26</b>   | Teacup Meet Up                                | 11am    |
| <b>Wed 28</b>   | Wednesday Waffle                              | 11am    |

## November

|                 |                                      |         |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Mon 2</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up                | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 3</b>   | Bookfellows                          | 2pm     |
| <b>Mon 9</b>    | Backgammon Club                      | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 9</b>    | Moths Talk by Barry Henwood          | 2pm     |
| <b>Tues 10</b>  | Tea at 2!                            | 2pm     |
| <b>Thurs 12</b> | Wool Spinning Workshop               | 2pm     |
| <b>Mon 16</b>   | Chair Exercise and Fall Prevention   | 11am    |
| <b>Thurs 19</b> | Meet, Eat, Repeat at Angels Tea Room | 12 noon |
| <b>Wed 25</b>   | Wednesday Waffle                     | 11am    |

# At a glance

## November - continued

|                 |                                        |        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Thurs 26</b> | Digestive Health Talk with Kirsty Hale | 1.30pm |
| <b>Thurs 26</b> | Backgammon Club                        | 2pm    |
| <b>Mon 30</b>   | Teacup Meet Up                         | 11am   |

## December

|                 |                                   |         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Mon 7</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up             | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 8</b>   | Tea at 2!                         | 2pm     |
| <b>Thurs 10</b> | Christmas Wreath Making           | 10am    |
| <b>Mon 14</b>   | Backgammon Club                   | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 15</b>  | Bookfellows                       | 2pm     |
| <b>Thurs 17</b> | Christmas Meal at Hare and Hounds | 12 noon |

## January 2027

|                 |                                            |         |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Mon 4</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up                      | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 11</b>   | Backgammon Club                            | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 12</b>  | Tea at 2!                                  | 2pm     |
| <b>Thurs 14</b> | Torquay Museum Behind the Scenes Tour      | 10am    |
| <b>Thurs 21</b> | Meet, Eat, Repeat at Livermead Cliff Hotel | 12 noon |
| <b>Mon 25</b>   | Teacup Meet Up                             | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 26</b>  | Swifts Talk by Alistair Whybrow            | 1.30pm  |
| <b>Tues 26</b>  | Bookfellows                                | 2pm     |
| <b>Wed 27</b>   | Wednesday Waffle                           | 11am    |
| <b>Thurs 28</b> | Backgammon Club                            | 2pm     |

## February

|                 |                                        |         |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Mon 1</b>    | Coffee and a Catch Up                  | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 8</b>    | Backgammon Club                        | 11am    |
| <b>Tues 9</b>   | Tea at 2!                              | 2pm     |
| <b>Wed 10</b>   | Visit to Bygones and Local Lunch       | 10am    |
| <b>Wed 17</b>   | Pottery Workshop                       | 1.30pm  |
| <b>Thurs 18</b> | Meet, Eat, Repeat at The Sandygate Inn | 12 noon |
| <b>Mon 22</b>   | Teacup Meet Up                         | 11am    |
| <b>Thurs 25</b> | Backgammon Club                        | 2pm     |