

May - August 2026



THE ODDFELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Bristol Branch



Photo Credit – Steve Pickering.



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining Out



Meetings



Talks



Social



Quiz



Live Music with Tim Pitman's Premium Show - Saturday 20 June.

Welcome to the latest edition of Bristol Oddfellows Out & About

Inside you'll find local and national Oddfellows news, information about our events, and plenty of useful information about your membership – so do have a read and keep it somewhere handy.

We have lots of great events coming up and we'd love to see you at one soon. All our events are open to everyone, so feel free to bring a friend or family member along.

Branches across the country also host a wide range of free online events, giving you the chance to enjoy friendship from the comfort of your own home. You can check out the latest online events on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/

Contact Details

Social Organiser:

Demi Trotman

Telephone: 07722 010120

Email:

demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk

Remember, you can always find details of Branch events, member benefits and the latest Oddfellows news on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk.

Everyone is welcome at most Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend events that take your fancy - we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Regular Events

Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath



10am



From £1 per cup/slice



Join us at our regular Henfield Hall monthly coffee morning, which takes place on the first Wednesday of the month. From just £1 a cup/slice of cake it is great value and a lovely social event. There is also a raffle which includes meat prizes. Henfield Village Hall, Ram Hill, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS36 2TZ. Please let Demi know on 07722 010120 or email demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk if you'd like to attend or to request more information.

6 May

3 June

1 July

5 August



First Wednesday of the month

Cuppa and Chat in Yate



10.30am



As per menu



Join us for a cuppa and chat at our Yate coffee morning. This regular informal event takes place on the second Wednesday of the month and everyone is welcome. Pop in and enjoy a cuppa on us while catching up with friends, old and new. Please note Oddfellows members can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee on us and non-members are welcome to a complimentary drink on their first visit. Located in the popular Yate Shopping Centre, there is ample free parking at the centre. Bolero Lounge, 34-36B West Walk, Shopping Centre, Yate BS37 4AX. Contact Demi on 07722 010120 or email demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

13 May

10 June

8 July

12 August



Second Wednesday of the month

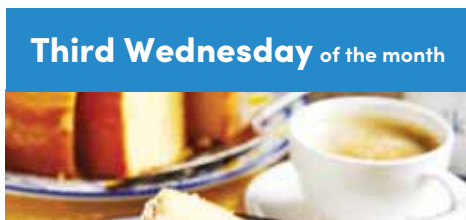
Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at [OddfellowsBristol](https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsBristol)

Regular Events

Coffee Morning in Kingswood

 10.30am  As per menu 



We'd love you to join us for our regular coffee morning at the Ravenna Coffee Bar in Kingswood. Hosted by Karen, one of our lovely Social Team. You'll always be sure of a warm welcome. Pop in and say hello, catch up with friends and make some new ones on the third Wednesday of the month. All members are invited to join us and your guests can enjoy a complimentary drink on their first visit. Ravenna Coffee Bar, 91 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8LJ. For more information just contact Demi on demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120.

20 May

17 June

15 July

19 August

Cuppa and Chat in Oldland

 10.30am  As per menu 



We'd love for you to join us for our regular coffee morning at the new venue of The Crown and Horseshoe in Oldland Common. Pop in and say hello, catch up with friends and you could even enjoy a slice of cake on the fourth Wednesday of the month. All members are invited to join us for a cuppa and guests can enjoy a complimentary drink on their first visit. Crown & Horseshoe, 7 North Street, Oldland Common, Bristol BS30 8TU. For more information just contact Demi on demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120.

27 May

24 June

22 July

26 August

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 social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Regular Events

Fish, Chips and Bingo



What's included? Delicious fish and chips A few exciting games of bingo. A refreshing soft drink (1/2pt or can) all for just £15 per person! Bring your friends and enjoy good food, games

and great company. We can't wait to see you there! Book seven days in advance. Cadbury Heath Sport and Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. Simply contact Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07722 010120 to reserve your place.



Second Friday of the month

12 June

10 July

14 August

Please Note

There is no Fish, Chips and Bingo in May. Apologies but we are unable to hold the event in May but it will return as normal in June.

Save the Dates!

We are delighted to be able to provide you with details of some of our exciting upcoming events...

Friendship Race Night - Saturday 19 September

Our Friendship Month Event this year will be a Race Night and will take place on Saturday 19 September, so save the date and look out in the next events diary for more details.

Annual Dinner Dance - Saturday 28 November

Our Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 28 November at The Mercure The Grange Hotel in Winterbourne. Tickets are priced at just £35 per person for members, for a three-course meal, followed by tea and coffee and entertainment and £40 per person for non-members. We also have a reduced rate for bed and breakfast, simply contact Demi for more information.

May 2026

WED 13 Meet Up at The Old Coffee Station Café

🕒 2pm

£ From £2



Join Bob Cross our Chairman for a lovely informal get together

over a cuppa at this lovely café in Blagdon. All members can

enjoy their first drink for just £2. The Old Coffee Station Café, The Old Firestation, Blagdon, Bristol BS40 7RA. Spaces are limited, so please book with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 8 May.



FRI 22 Lunch at The Moored Spout

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks, The Moored Spout has everything you need to enjoy a great catch up with friends. Why not join us for our regular event in Nailsea? Places are limited, so they will be allocated on a first come first served basis, book early to avoid disappointment. The Moored Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB.

Booking is a must, please book your place with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120 by Friday 1 May.

TUES 19 Lunch at The Hollybush Country Inn

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



We'd love for you to join us for lunch at this absolute gem of a pub. Our Social Organiser Demi and her husband recently visited and their first thought was that our friends at Oddfellows would love it here! So here we are, come and join us for a lovely lunch with friends.



Booking is a must as places are limited and are sure to fill up quickly. As always, places are not guaranteed until payment has been received. Book by Sunday 10 May. The Hollybush Country Inn, 29 Bath Road, Bridgegate, Bristol BS30 5JP. Book in the usual way with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07722 010120.

June

SAT
20

Live Music with Tim Pitman's Premium Show



8.30pm



£15



We are proud and excited to present to you an evening of entertainment with Tim Pitman and special guests! This show will take you on an amazing journey through many different genres of music and priced at just £15 per person the event is sure to be a huge hit. Book early to avoid disappointment. Cadbury Heath Sport and Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. Please contact Demi for tickets or for more information on 07722 010120 or email demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk by Sunday 31 May.



MON
22

Guest Speaker to talk about Medical Detection Dogs



7pm



Free



We have managed to secure a talk about Medical Detection Dogs and how this fantastic charity has been training dogs to save lives using their amazing sense of smell. Bio Detection Dogs are trained to detect even the tiniest smells associated with diseases

like cancer, Parkinson's and bacterial infections. This excellent charity has the potential to save thousands more lives and transform the future of disease detection. Neil Smart, from the charity is going to join us from 7pm to tell us more and he may even have an assistance or ambassador dog with him! We'd love for you to join us to learn about this amazing charity and show our support for such a worthwhile charity. Entry is free but collection buckets will be available on the evening. BAWA Healthcare and Leisure, 589 Southmead Road, Bristol BS34 7RG. Please book your place with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120 by Monday 15 June.



June

TUES 23 Coffee Morning in Nailsea



Come along and say hello, catch up with old friends and make some new friends. You are all warmly invited to join us for a catch up at the lovely Coffee 1 café in Nailsea. All members can enjoy their first drink for just £2. Book by Friday 19 June. Coffee 1 in Nailsea, 1b Somerset Square, Nailsea BS48 1RP. For further information simply email Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

July

FRI 10 Lunch at The Moored Spout

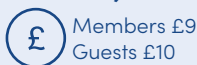


With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks, The Moored Spout has everything you need to enjoy a



great catch up with friends. Why not join us for our regular event in Nailsea? Places are limited, so they will be allocated on a first come first served basis, book early to avoid disappointment. The Moored Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB. Booking is a must, please book your place with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120 by Friday 3 July.

THURS 23 Chairman's Charity Visit to Shoemakers Museum, Street



Join us for an enjoyable visit to the recently opened museum, where you will have



the opportunity to explore the fascinating history of Clark's Shoes. The day will also include time to browse the wide range of shops at Clark's Village. This visit will be hosted by Bob Cross. The cost is £9 per person for members (and £10 for guests), which includes a £1.50 donation to RNIB, as well as entry into a mystery prize draw. Please note that booking and payment must be completed by Thursday 9 July. Clark's Village, Street, Somerset BA16 0BB. To reserve your place, contact Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

August

FRI
07

Chairman's Charity Skittles Night



7pm



£5 - all proceeds to RNIB



We warmly invite you to attend and support Bob's charity fundraising event in aid of the RNIB. The evening will be informal and enjoyable. Guests are welcome to participate in the skittles games or simply relax and watch. The event will conclude with a traditional round of 'Killer'. Prizes will



be awarded for both the highest and lowest scores and a raffle will take place during the evening, with all proceeds going to the RNIB. Nailsea Social Club, 15 Chapel Barton, Nailsea BS48 2ED. As this event is expected to be popular and places are limited, we kindly ask that you reserve your place by Friday 31 July by contacting Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

SAT
22

Chairman's Lunch



12 noon



£10



We'd love to invite you to join us Chairman's lunch. This is the perfect opportunity for us to extend the hand of friendship and thank you all for your commitment to the Oddfellows by offering you a lovely two-course lunch, followed by tea or coffee for the amazing cost of just £10 per person. Look out in this diary for the menu!



The lunch will be held in the Wessex Suite at Hanham Community Centre. A raffle, with proceeds going to RBIB will be held following lunch. You can be sure of a warm welcome and a great meal with friends. There will be a bar operating, where all guests can purchase drinks. Booking is a must and numbers are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment! Hanham Community Centre, Wessex Suite, 118-124 High Street, Hanham BS15 3EJ. Please book your place with Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07722 010120 by Saturday 1 August.

August

WED
26 Coffee Morning in
Nailsea



11am



From £2



Come along and say hello, catch up with old friends and make some new friends. You are all warmly invited to join us for a catch up at the lovely Coffee 1 café in Nailsea. All members can enjoy their first drink for just £2. Book by Friday 21 August. Coffee 1 in Nailsea, 1b Somerset Square, Nailsea BS48 1RP. For further information simply email Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk.

Bookings and Cancellations

We kindly encourage early booking for all events to avoid disappointment. Please note that, where charges apply, full payment must be made in advance. A place at an event will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

Please be advised that cash payments can no longer be accepted at events (with the exception of Bingo). Payments may be made via BACS, cheque, or card using our card reader.

Outdoor Events

All outdoor events are subject to weather conditions. It is essential that you book in advance for all events and provide up-to-date contact details, enabling us to notify you promptly of any changes or cancellations.

Calling all Volunteers

If you have some spare time you can offer to support an event, we are always looking for volunteers. Whether it's to welcome attendees, host events or help to organise something. Why not get involved and help us out at an event? The more volunteers we get the more events we can hold in more areas. It's that simple.

Life members, Widow Members, Associate members and National members

Don't forget, if you have opted for the benefits package you are entitled to make a claim following a visit to the dentist or optician.

A transition update from your Committee of Management

As many of you know, Kelly, our dedicated Provincial Corresponding Secretary, made the difficult decision to step down in February. Over the past nine years, Kelly has been at the heart of the Bristol District's daily operations, and her contributions have been invaluable. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and wish her every success in the next chapter of her journey.

Following Kelly's departure, we advertised the Provincial Corresponding Secretary role and were thrilled by the response - over 50 outstanding applicants! After meeting with some exceptionally strong candidates in April, we are delighted to announce that we have extended an offer to Gemma, whose energy, experience, and enthusiasm truly impressed us.

Gemma is as excited as we are to join the team, and we can't wait for you all to meet

her. She is poised to be a fantastic asset to the district, and we know she will help us continue building on our success.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon - we look forward to officially welcoming Gemma to the Bristol District in May!

In the meantime, should you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Demi Trotman at 07722 010120 or demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk. Demi has been handling both the Provincial Corresponding Secretary role and her responsibilities as Social Organiser. Please note that, as she balances these two roles, there may be a slight delay in processing payments. However, we assure you that all payments will be processed as promptly as possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition period.

Important Notice About Claim Requests!

Please note that Benefit Claim requests asking for payment by cheque will take longer to process than normal. Due to a number of cheques going missing in the post, we now require all cheques to be countersigned in person before being issued. As a result, cheque payments will be made monthly.

For faster processing, we recommend choosing payment by BACS (bank transfer), as these payments are completed weekly and will reach you much more quickly. If you have a claim and would like us to transfer the money directly to your bank account simply put the details on your claim form and we will arrange payment.

A message from Kelly



I just wanted to say a big thank you for all of the good luck messages and best wishes that I have received.

It was a really hard decision for me to leave the role as I have loved being the branch secretary for Bristol for the last nine years. I am still going to be a member so hopefully I will get to see some of you at events in the future.

Also thank you for the beautiful charm bracelet that I was presented with at the summoned meeting, it was so thoughtful and very much appreciated. I haven't spent the vouchers yet but knowing me, it will be on another pair of trainers (just don't tell my husband)!

Thank you, for being such wonderful members – I will miss you all.

Young Talent on Display!

Young Oddfellow Raianne devoted over 24 hours to create an incredible artwork on the back of her School Leaver's Shirt - and the result is simply breathtaking! Her creativity, and attention to detail shine through in every brushstroke.

Her grandmother Jean, along with all of us here at Bristol Oddfellows couldn't be prouder. The resulting artwork is a testament to her hard work and artistic flair. What a great way to celebrate this milestone in such a personal and unique way.

Well done, Raianne - your creativity truly inspires!



A Heartfelt Thank You for Supporting MND Association

As many of you know, Catherine Ovenden selected the MND Association as her charity of choice during her year in office. We were all deeply moved by the overwhelming generosity and support extended to this incredibly deserving cause.

At our recent Annual Summoned Meeting, Catherine had the honour of presenting Sarah Armstrong from the MND Association with our impressive donation. Sarah was truly grateful to receive the contribution on behalf of the charity, and it's clear that your collective efforts will make a lasting impact.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to each and every one of you who participated in and supported our fundraising events. On behalf of



Catherine Ovenden with Sarah Armstrong from MND Association.

the Bristol District, we also extend our warmest congratulations to Catherine for her dedication and hard work throughout the year. She should be immensely proud of what she has achieved, and we certainly are!



Our District Officers: Catherine Ovenden Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman), Helen Cross Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Deputy Chairman), Bob Cross Provincial Grand Master (Chairman).

Introducing Bob Cross, Our Newly Elected Chairperson

We are delighted to announce that Bob Cross was elected as the Provincial Grand Master (Chairperson) for the Bristol District at our recent Annual Summoned Meeting in February. As he embarks on his term, Bob has selected the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) as his charity of choice.

RNIB is the UK's leading sight loss charity. They offer practical and emotional support to blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers. They raise awareness of the experiences of blind and partially sighted people and campaign for

change to make the society more accessible for all. They want to change our world so there are no barriers to people with sight loss.

The RNIB plays a crucial role in supporting individuals affected by sight loss, and we are proud to back this deserving cause. With your continued support, we are confident that we can make a meaningful impact for those in our community living with visual impairment.

We look forward to working together to raise awareness and support for this important initiative.

Online events you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home...

Talks, coffee mornings, exercise classes, quizzes, fun & games and much more

Visit oddfellows.co.uk/events

Need help to attend an online event?

Just give your local Social Organiser or Branch Secretary a call or email events@oddfellows.co.uk

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A message from Bob Cross

I am honoured to be your Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) of the Bristol District for the ensuing year. Although it is my second time as Chairman it still fills me with trepidation to arrange and carry out a year's set of events and the Chairmanship of our Committee of Management meetings.

However, the pleasurable side of this is meeting members and non-members not only in the Bristol District but all over the country.

Last time I was Chairman I collected for a local animal charity but due to the ongoing issues I have had with my eyes I resolved to commit any fundraising I am lucky enough to achieve and this will be donated to the RNIB – Royal National Institute for the Blind.

I have over the past year or so had after cataract surgery of first the left eye (December 2024) then the right eye (December 2025) with issues after each op. It has made me realise that not all ops are smooth running and cataract ops cannot be taken for granted.

In your reading of this you will no doubt agree with me that eyesight is not a 'given'

and the RNIB are there for everyone affected by sight loss and they support blind and partially sighted people face the future with confidence by providing practical and emotional support.

Any help that you can give by contributing to my fundraising will be gratefully received. I will be running raffles at most events and also running an on-going Red and Green Christmas raffle which will be drawn at the Bristol Branch Meeting on Monday 23 November 2026 – ask me for details or a ticket when you see me.

Over the last year or so I have met a great many healthcare professionals concerned with eyecare and I know they, as well as I will be, very grateful for any support you can give.

I hope you will support my fundraising efforts as this will make a big difference in supporting the work done by the RNIB.

One last thing, the RNIB collect used postage stamps (including foreign stamps) so I would ask you all to keep and pass on to me any stamps you get – please cut them off with at least ½ inch (1 cm) around the stamp.

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



Update from your Committee of Management regarding changes to Coffee Morning

For some time, we have been pleased to offer members a complimentary cup of tea or coffee at three of our four monthly coffee mornings. While we have been delighted to provide this benefit, it has represented a considerable cost to the district.

Due to the increasing costs associated with running the coffee mornings, we have had to make the difficult decision to discontinue the provision of complimentary drinks. However, we remain committed to supporting our coffee mornings and will continue to subsidise them significantly. Going forward, members will be asked to contribute £2 towards the cost of their drink.

This still represents excellent value, as the average retail price of these drinks is

approximately £3 to £3.95 (depending on the venue).

We hope you will understand the need for this change as we work to manage rising costs responsibly while continuing to provide excellent service, support to our members, and strong value for money.

Further to this change, the venue of one of our regular coffee mornings will be changing with immediate effect. We have really enjoyed visiting Cadbury Heath Social Club for our monthly coffee mornings, and Sam and Neil Watts have always been extremely warm and welcoming to us but sadly, due to other commitments, they are no longer able to accommodate us. Look out for details of our new location in the events section!

Bristol District
Chairman's Lunch 2026
Saturday 22 August, 12 noon for 12.30pm
The Wessex Suite, Hanham Community Centre,
Hanham, Bristol BS15 3EJ



Our Provincial Grand Master is once again delighted to host a lunch for members, and you are warmly invited to attend. This year, the event will take place in August. While the meal can no longer be offered free of charge due to rising costs, it remains heavily subsidised and continues to represent excellent value for money.

Menu

Braised Steak Chasseur, served with New Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables (vegetarian option available on request)

*Followed by a choice of Traditional Trifle,
Banoffee Pie, or Cheese and Biscuits*

Tea or Coffee to conclude

All of this is available for the exceptional price of just £10 per person.

This popular event is expected to fill quickly, and places are limited. Early booking is therefore strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

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 Demi on **07722 010120** or email **demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

Oddies autumn getaway to Llandudno

Join us as we take a trip to Llandudno, North Wales, on an Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows members and guests will take in some breathtaking scenery during a four-night stay at the Hydro Hotel from Saturday 26 September to Wednesday 30 September 2026.

From £369 per person, half board, the price includes coach pick up and drop off from locations across the South East via Reading, or a self-arrival option.



Outstanding natural beauty

Two optional day trips are included in the price of the holiday.

On day two, you'll head by coach to the Isle of Anglesey, where the entire coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll call at the seaside town of Beaumaris with its mix of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

On day four, the second day trip will head to Caernarfon, home to Wales' most famous castle and a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. Afterwards, you'll venture into the Snowdonia National Park, calling at Llanberis, situated at the foot of Mount Snowdon, and Porthmadog.

Relax in great company

We'll be organising some group drinks and times to dine together during the stay, and enjoying the hotel's evening entertainment, but your days will be largely free to plan as you please.

The hotel has a large entertainment suite with a dance floor and entertainment most evenings, and there are sun lounges and a games room with a snooker table.

You'll also find spectacular views over the bay or over the town to the Snowdonia mountain range from many of the hotel's bedrooms and from its Looking Glass Bar.

Interested in joining us?

This group holiday is open to any members and their guests and will be hosted by our Oddfellows Travel coordinator and South East Lancashire Branch member, Emma Gorst.

For any enquiries, and to find out how to book, get in touch with Emma by calling **0161 214 4634**, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk.

Please read and understand Alfa Travel's terms and conditions before booking at www.alfaholidays.co.uk/booking-conditions.

Support with fundraising and donations

Donating to good causes is a cornerstone of Oddfellowship, and symbolises what it is all about – helping to improve lives through friendship and support.

It's a thread that runs right through every Branch of the Society. Whether it's members dropping some spare change into a collection at a coffee morning, or the HA Andrews Memorial Fund supporting cutting-edge medical research projects, it all adds up and contributes to that ethos.

Branch donations add up to huge 2025 total



Reading Oddfellows donated £4,300 to Camp Mohawk

Oddfellows branches and members are avid fundraisers. In 2025, more than £148,000 was handed over to a huge range of wonderful causes throughout the country.

Beneficiaries included schools, charities for people with special needs, animal sanctuaries, causes to improve health conditions, lifeboat and air ambulance

charities, and one branch provided the funds required to buy state-of-the-art medical equipment.

As well as handing over funds, many members bought and collected for foodbanks, including tinned goods and other long-life foods, toiletries and further everyday items.

To find out how you can get involved with Branch fundraising initiatives, speak to your Branch Secretary.

£10,000 raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts

The Oddfellows recently donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.



Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa.

HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipient announced

In October 2025, representatives of the Oddfellows visited the impressive facilities at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to present a cheque for £67,068 to Prevent Breast Cancer, courtesy of our HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

The money will fund an innovative breast cancer prevention research project for two years.

Carried out by University of Manchester PhD student Anthony Wilby and Dr Hannah Harrison, the project is aiming to discover alternative preventative breast cancer therapies for pre-menopausal women.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which was set up in 1971 to back UK-based medical research projects and organisations, has donated over £1.1m

since its launch. Head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the Fund, including previous recipients.

The very best of Oddfellowship

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey (pictured below at MCRC), said: "The work the Oddfellows does for charities and good causes always astounds me. It reflects the very best of Oddfellowship and it makes me incredibly proud.

"Donating to good causes, no matter how big or small, or how much we can contribute, can make a huge difference. Our efforts might well have saved a life, put some food on a young family's table, or simply have made someone's day a little brighter.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. You're all a huge credit to yourselves and the Society."



For more on how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Spring clean your finances for the new tax year

The start of the new tax year on Monday 6 April might sound like an event reserved for accountants, but at Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's a time everyone can make the most of.

Here are some simple ways to spring clean your finances and get on top of your money for the tax year ahead.

Make the most of your ISA

Every adult receives a fresh £20,000 ISA allowance at the beginning of each tax year, so if your savings are lying dormant, why not move them somewhere your interest is protected from tax?



For those comfortable with investment risk, the Unity Mutual Stocks and Shares Flexible ISA* offers potentially higher growth than traditional Cash ISAs (capital is at risk).

Guaranteed returns, less hassle

If you have a lump sum sitting idle or an investment coming to maturity, a Unity

Mutual Fixed Rate Bond* provides a predictable, low-effort option. Simply deposit your money for a set term to secure a guaranteed return.

Even better, Oddfellows members benefit from preferential rates on our 2, 3, and 5-year Bonds.

Make savings work harder

With many banks still offering low rates, a quick comparison is essential to ensure your money is working for you. Even moving savings to a higher-interest account with your current provider can significantly boost your balance over the year.

Find out more

Unity Mutual has over 200 years of experience managing Oddfellows members' funds, and our friendly team is on hand to help you navigate the year ahead. Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

**Terms and conditions apply to all products. With stocks and shares, your investment can go down as well as up meaning your capital is at risk.*

New tax year, new scams

Stay vigilant against common scams such as fake HMRC tax rebates or urgent payment requests for 'unpaid tax'. While these communications can look genuine, always verify them by going directly to the official government website.

At a glance - See pages 3, 4 and 5 for regular events info

May 2026

Wed 6	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Wed 13	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Wed 13	Meet Up at The Old Coffee Station Café	2pm
Tues 19	Lunch at The Hollybush Country Inn	12.30pm
Wed 20	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Fri 22	Lunch at The Moorend Spout	12.30pm
Wed 27	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am

June

Wed 3	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Wed 10	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 12	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Wed 17	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Sat 20	Live Music with Tim Pitman's Premium Show	8.30pm
Mon 22	Guest Speaker to talk about Medical Detection Dogs	7pm
Tues 23	Coffee Morning in Nailsea	11am
Wed 24	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am

July

Wed 1	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Wed 8	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 10	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Fri 10	Lunch at The Moorend Spout	12.30pm
Wed 15	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am
Wed 22	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am
Thurs 23	Chairman's Charity Visit to Shoemakers Museum, Street	2pm

August

Wed 5	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Fri 7	Chairman's Charity Skittles Night	7pm
Wed 12	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 14	Fish, Chips and Bingo	12 noon
Wed 19	Coffee Morning in Kingswood	10.30am

At a glance - See pages 3, 4 and 5 for regular events info

August

Sat 22	Chairman's Lunch	12 noon
Wed 26	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am
Wed 26	Coffee Morning in Nailsea	11am

Online Events....

Remember to keep your eyes peeled for the weekly online events listings which get emailed out every Friday. If you do not currently receive these then just let Demi (demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk) have your email address and she will add you to the circulation.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you who has come along to an event. We are always on the lookout for new things to do. If you have any ideas or

requests for things to do going forward then please just let me know at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07722 010120.

Also, if you have some spare time you can offer to support an event we are always looking for volunteers. Whether it's to welcome attendees, host events or just help out in general. Why not get involved and help us out at an event? The more volunteers we get the more events we can hold in more areas. It's that simple.

Branch Meetings

Please see below for information on meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2026

We'd love all members, both new and old to join us. Why not come along and learn a little bit more about us?

Branch Meetings in Bristol

Meetings will be held at the BAWA Healthcare & Leisure, Southmead Road, Bristol BS34 7RG on Monday from 7.30pm and all members are invited to join us.

No meeting in May	24 August - Half Yearly	26 October
22 June	Summoned at 7pm -	23 November
27 July	earlier time	14 December
	28 September	

Cuppa and Chat sessions in Swindon

Meetings will run on Wednesday from 11am - 12 noon and will take place at The Bakers Arms, Upper Stretton, Swindon SN2 7RE.

13 May	8 July	9 September	11 November
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