

August 2025 - January 2026



O^{the} **DD**fellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & *about*

Border Counties District

Covering Wem, Whitchurch, Malpas and Shrewsbury



Photo of The Square, Shrewsbury by Gnesener1900



Shopping



Day Trip



Dining Out



Meetings



Walks



Games



Social



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Talks



Quiz



*Wem Branch Christmas Party –
Sunday 7 December, we hope
you can join us!*

Welcome to the latest edition of the Border Counties District Newsletter and Events Diary

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

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area. Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or call **0800 028 1810**.

Contact Details

**Social Secretary and
Wem Branch Secretary:**
Isabel Sherlock

Telephone: 01939 200673
Email:
isabel.sherlock@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser:
Belinda Pemberton
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Address: Oddfellows Rooms,
1 Talbot Development,
High Street,
Wem SY4 5AA

District Secretary: Rose Hall
Email:
rosemary.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

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Regular Event

Coffee Morning



Pop along to the Wem Meeting Room for a warm drink and welcome. Every Thursday morning when the meeting rooms open from 10am-12pm all year round. 1 Talbot Development, High Street, Wem SY4 5AA. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673.

Every Thursday



Say *yes* to friendship in September

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

All welcome



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

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Booking and Cancellations

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

August

TUES 19 Social and Coffee Morning at The Old Piggery Café, Prees

 10.30am

 As per menu



Please join us for a relaxed social at The Old Piggery near Prees train station. This is an interesting venue as it is next door to the Grocott Heritage Centre featuring some local history. We encourage you to bring friends/family, who do not need to be members, so that they can experience our welcoming society. Cost as per menu, following the first complimentary free drink. Lunch is available if you wish to extend your visit. Book by Thursday 7 August. The Old Piggery Café Brookdale, Station Road, Prees, Whitchurch SY13 2DW. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.

October

TUES 21 Fish and Chips Supper

 6.30pm

 As per menu




Fish and chips supper to be held at the Wem meeting room. Open to non-members also. Choice of menu. Pay on the night. Complimentary drinks provided. Book by Tuesday 14 October. 1 Talbot Development, High Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5AA. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.



September - Friendship Month

THURS 18 Macmillan Cancer Charity Event, Coffee Morning and Grand Draw

 10am

 £3 entry for cake and a drink



Come along to our main fundraiser for the year. This year we are donating all proceeds to the Macmillan Cancer charity. We also hold a raffle to maximise the amount raised for such a worthy cause. This is always a popular event with delicious cakes and hot/cold refreshments available. We actively encourage members to bring along non-members to share this experience together. 1 Talbot Development, High Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5AA. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER


MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

November

SUN 16 Sunday Lunch at The White Lion, Ash Magna

 12.30pm

 As per menu



Join us for a repeat visit to the successful, community-owned public house in Ash, near Whitchurch. The White Lion is a beautiful, award-winning, friendly and inviting country pub nestled in the picturesque village of Ash Magna. We actively encourage you to bring along friends and family, including non-members, to experience the social gatherings of our welcoming branch. Choose from the extensive menu on the day. Enjoy a glass of complimentary wine, available on the table. Book by Friday 7 November 2025. The White Lion, Ash Magna, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 4DR. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.

January 2026

TUES 27 Pizza Night!

 6.30pm

 As per menu




A repeat of our well attended pizza night event. Join us for good food and friendship. Open to members and non-members. Choice of drinks available. Book by Thursday 15 January 2026. 1 Talbot Development, High Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5AA. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.



December

SUN 07 Wem Branch Christmas Party

 12.30pm

 As per menu



Our annual Christmas celebration and gathering for both members and non-members. This is always a popular and festive gathering at The Old Rectory. This is a handsome, grade II venue set in 3.5 acres of walled gardens and rolling lawns. A Christmas toast will be made during the meal. A charity draw will be held following the lunch. Donations always welcome. Book by Thursday 20 November 2025. The Old Rectory, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5UA. Contact Isabel on 01939 200673 or Belinda on 01948 841006.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events
are here to stay



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

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Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Isabel on 01939 200673
or email Isabel.Sherlock@oddfellows.co.uk

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THE ODDFELLOWS
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I'm astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

"It's what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people's welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must."

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

"We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future."

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 Isabel on **01939 200673** or email **Isabel.Sherlock@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@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**

At a glance

Every Thursday

Coffee Morning

10am

August 2025

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October

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November

Sun 16 Sunday Lunch at The White Lion, Ash Magna 12.30pm

December

Sun 7 Wem Branch Christmas Party 12.30pm

January 2026

Tues 27 Pizza Night! 6.30pm

Branch Meetings

Wem and Malpas Meetings

Joint Wem Branch and Malpas Branch to be held every quarter ie February, May, August and November on second Tuesdays in those months. Starting at 2pm at The Wem Meeting Rooms.

If it is your first time attending please contact the numbers below, as they may be changes due to inclement weather etc.

Contact

Isabel Sherlock on 01939 200673 for The Wem Branch and
Rose Hall on 01948 663888 for The Malpas Branch.