

April - September 2023



O^{the} Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Events & News

Worcester Branch



River Walk in Worcester



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Join us for our city centre treasure trail – Monday 10 July

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Worcester District Oddfellows Events Diary and Newsletter.

As a local District of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them.

We are basically a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you, your family 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.

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Sandra Loynes

Telephone: 01905 422591

Email:
sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk

Address:
3 Windsor Avenue,
Worcester WR2 5LZ

If any member has an interesting story they would like to share with our members please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Yours fraternally
Sandra

Branch Secretary
Worcester District Branch

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

Regular Event

Ten Pin Bowling

**Second Tuesday
of the month**



£3.80 for two games and a hot drink and biscuits



Come and join us for a game of ten pin bowling. Bowl Extreme, Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester WR3 7SN. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



Tuesday 9 May

Tuesday 13 June

Tuesday 11 July

Tuesday 12 September

Coffee Mornings



10.30am



As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and a chat, contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Wednesday 19 April (First drink free)

Wednesday 21 June

Wednesday 16 August

At Apple Barn Restaurant,
The Valley Evesham, Evesham
Bypass (A46), Evesham WR11 4DS.

Wednesday 17 May (First drink free)

Wednesday 19 July

Wednesday 20 September

At Cherry Lane – Barnett Hill,
Worcester Road, Clent, Barnett Hill,
Stourbridge DY9 0EE.

Introduce the Oddfellows to someone you know

Refer a friend today

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



*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

April

MON 03 Beetle Drive



2.15pm



Free



This is a dice game to see who can build a Beetle the fastest, there will be prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



TUES 04 Easter Fun and Games (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7pm



Free



Why not join us for an evening of fun and games with an Easter theme. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON 24 Table Top Games - (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12.15pm



Free



We will be playing a selection of games like Frustration and Uno, so come and join the fun. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

May

TUES 02 King's Party and Quiz (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7pm



Free



We will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III with a party and a quiz, so why not come and join in the celebrations. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



May

MON 15 Play Your Cards Right (Fernhill Heath Branch)

🕒 12.15pm

£ Free



You've seen it on the TV, so why not come along and have a go yourself, there are prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



June

MON 12 My life in the Metropolitan Police

🕒 2.15pm

£ Free



A talk by Philip Rails on his life in the Metropolitan Police. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



MON 19 Bingo (Fernhill Heath Branch)

🕒 12.15pm

£ Free



Who doesn't love a game of bingo? Lots of prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



June

TUES 06 Beetle Drive (Stanley Baldwin Branch)

🕒 7pm

£ Free



A dice game to see who can build a beetle first, there will be prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

July

TUES
04

Fish and Chips Night (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



Britain's favourite take away, who doesn't like fish and chips? We will be holding a raffle. Book by Tuesday 6 June. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
24

Annual Day Trip



Details for the day trip are to be finalised, we will update you as soon as arrangements have been completed. Book by Monday 19 June. Locations to be confirmed. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



MON
10

City Centre Treasure Trail



How well do you know Worcester? There will be two routes to choose from depending on mobility, but if you would like



to join in but choose not to walk then Serena will take you to the café for a cuppa whilst you wait for the treasure hunters to return. Book by Monday 12 June. Worcester City Centre, Crown Gate car park, Worcester WR1 2LA. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.

August

TUES
01

Bingo (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



Rishi's Den number 10; two little ducks 22; top of the shop 90. How many other bingo calls do you know?



Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

August

MON
14

Play Your Cards Right

⌚ 2.15pm

£ Free



You've seen it on TV now come and have a go yourself, lots of prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



MON
21

Whist Drive
(Fernhill Heath Branch)

⌚ 12.15pm

£ Free



Do you enjoy a game of Whist? If so, come along and join us. There will be a prize for the gent and lady with the highest scores.



Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
05

Horse Racing Night
(Stanley Baldwin Branch)

⌚ 7pm

£ £1



Do you enjoy the excitement of a horse race? Why not join us for an evening of fun and have a little

flutter on your favourite horse. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle.

Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



September

MON
11

An Afternoon of Musical Entertainment



2.15pm



Free



Why not join us for an afternoon of musical entertainment by the one and only Steve Bishop. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Serena on 07951 981324.



MON
25

The Price Is Right (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12.15pm



Free



Do you think you have a good idea as to the cost of everyday item? if so come and try your luck, who knows you may win a prize. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



October

SUN
01

Annual Lunch



12 noon



TBC



Our annual lunch this year will be at St Andrews Town Hotel. Book by Friday 15 September. St Andrews Town Hotel, St Andrews Drive, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 8AL. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



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.

Worcester District Annual Lunch

Sunday 2 October 2022

This year's Annual Lunch was held at St Andrews Town Hotel, Droitwich. Guests from Beds & Bucks, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Deeside, Derby, Heart of England, North Gloucestershire and the Vale of York joined our own members to celebrate our Districts 180th anniversary.



Our guest speaker Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman) Barbara Needham and her consort Peter Needham (Past Chairman) wrote to say how much they had enjoyed their time with us and asked that their thanks be given to our members for the generous donation to Barbara's charity Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and the bottle of whiskey presented to Peter.

Once again the Tombola went down very well and raised £206 towards our charities for the year.



Service of Remembrance at Worcester Cathedral

Sunday 13 November 13 2022



For many years we have been honoured to have been invited to take part in the service of remembrance at Worcester Cathedral.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic we were not able to attend in 2020 or 2021 so it was lovely to have been invited back this year, several members attended and enjoyed a carvery lunch at the Toby Inn, Bath Road, Worcester following the service.



Provincial Grand Master Neil Maclean waiting to lay wreath on memorial alongside other dignitaries

In memory of those we have lost 2022/23

*Memories comfort you for memories
are treasures that time cannot destroy*

Barbara Deakin
Fay Watkins
N.T Bishop

Robert Thorne
Mary Mayall



New Year Lunch

Monday 9 January 9 2023

What a great start to the New Year! 33 members attended a 2 course lunch at the Toby Inn, Bath Road, Worcester where the service, food, drinks and the company were excellent.



Charitable Donations

Every year the Provincial Grand Master chooses a charity to which the District makes a donation, last year 2022, Neil Maclean chose Midlands Air Ambulance to which a donation of £150 was made.

The Committee of Management also agreed to make donations to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal, Hearing dogs for Deaf people, Pancreatic Cancer (Worcester Ukulele bands charity of the year), MNDA (Motor Neurone Disease Association) this was our guest speakers charity of choice at our Annual Lunch, as well as £150 to the Oddfellows Society



charity HA Andrews Fund, a total of £1,000. If any member has a local charity that they would like to be considered for a donation at the end of the year please send details of the charity to the Secretary Mrs Sandra Loynes, 3 Windsor Avenue, St Johns, Worcester WR2 5LZ.

100 Club

Due to sad news of Marion's passing, just before the September Draw, her winnings were passed to her son to be donated to her charity of choice.

Date	No.	Name	Amount
September 2022	70	Marion Rawlinson	£10
September 2022	48	Neil Maclean	£5
October 2022	28	Diane Drinkwater	£10
October 2022	18	Gladys Callow	£5
November 2022	48	Neil Maclean	£10
November 2022	34	Margaret Henchcliff	£5
December 2022	40	Ken Link	£50
December 2022	71	Malcolm Russell	£25
December 2022	62	David Millward	£15
December 2022	60	Jim Potter	£10
December 2022	9	Ewan Bilboe	£5
January 2023	42	Jeff Loynes	£10
January 2023	21	Mary Drinkwater	£5
February 2023	26	Rosemarie Drinkwater	£10
February 2023	7	Roy Bilboe	£5

How Things Have Progressed

By Jill Smith

What a lot of changes in lifestyle, ways of doing things and adapting to new technology have happened in my life.

I think of how I was taught in school to touch type (Keys shielded by a screen) and how I had to learn shorthand writing with a view to a Secretarial career when I left school at the age of 16, and compare it with today's curriculum which is so changed.

Starting as a junior shorthand typist and progressing over the years with the help of the Prudential typing pool that rewarded you with an increase in salary for passing a speed typing test.

The technology changed – electric typewriters, then one with a screen where you could check the content and alter words before printing onto paper. No more Tippex to correct mis-spellings! Then computers, spell checking appeared and documents could be saved and altered before being printed out on a separate printer.

Back to night school to learn all about this new technology. Being a “temp” you were expected to know how to use these new gadgets. Then came the computer games for home enjoyment so a computer in the house was a necessity. More and more programmes were developed for office use (accounting and email etc.). Additional learning to be done.

In retirement the computer became a way of communicating with family and friends. Social media (Facebook) appeared.



Then came mobile phones! Lovely to be able to contact people whilst away from home especially in emergency situations (car breakdowns). These then turned into cameras and mini computers.

What next? I think I will now leave future technology to the younger generation.

**Join the conversation
@OddfellowsUK**

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

 **OddfellowsUK**

 **OddfellowsUK**



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 Sandra on **01905 422591** or email **sandra.loynes@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**

Thank you for keeping each other's spirits lifted

When you're going through a tough time, joy can frequently feel in short supply.

Despite the challenges and upsets we've faced as a nation this past year, it has been reassuring to see so many instances of our members coming together to enjoy each other's company. When I look at our Facebook pages and see the comfort you give each other, and the happiness being cultivated, it never fails to make me smile.



I've been an Oddfellow for 27 years, which compared to many members is no time at all. However, over time you notice what brings us together as members and makes us such a powerful, collective force. We've a desire to make the most of our situation, and to improve the lives of those around us. And that is so special. There's a lot happening at the moment and so much of it is out of our control. But there is one thing we can influence – our wellbeing – by adding more mini-moments of peace or happiness into our days.



Please stick on some music that makes your heart sing. Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Bake something to share. Try something new. And, of course, make sure you pop one of our socials in your diary. Joy is infectious. You only need to share a smile to witness this. Even if you don't know them, they're likely to smile back and feel happier for it.

We've been sowing the seeds of friendship and support for over two centuries now, and I know I can count on you to continue to do this.

I know a little extra dose of happiness won't solve all our problems, but it will help us to cope with them better, and hopefully create a positive 'Oddies' chain reaction with those around us. We've been told to brace ourselves for difficult economic times, so I also want to remind you that we are always here and ready to help where we can. Thank you again for all that you do and for being such wonderful examples of Oddfellowship.

I wish you, your family and all those you care for good health, happiness and fortune for 2023.

**Yours always in friendship,
Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows.**

Help with the cost of living

It's a worrying time for everyone with rising household bills, food price inflation and dramatic increases in fuel costs. However, now is always the best time to seek guidance with maximising income, coping with bills and debts, and seeking help with mental and physical health issues.

Our colleagues from the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line have shared information on help available, and ways in which we can alter our behaviour to save money.

Speak to your local council

Some people can access support from the “Household Support Fund” (also known as “welfare assistance”). Check your local council website to find out if you're eligible.

Budget your outgoings

Having a very clear picture of where your money is spent can help you identify any unnecessary spends, or highlight an opportunity to cancel or find a better deal on subscriptions.

Create a meal plan

Make a list of everything in your cupboards before writing a shopping list to avoid purchasing items you may already have tucked away.

Check your benefits

Some people may be entitled to unclaimed benefits or more than they currently receive. Check <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> or contact the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line.

Sell your spares

It's never been easier to get rid of unwanted clothes, toys or unused items. Use websites such as eBay or Vinted to make a little money from items which would otherwise be sat around your home.

Be scam aware

There has been a huge increase in the number of scams happening, so be vigilant and if you're ever unsure, speak to a friend, family member, or the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line for their input.

Other help available (qualifying criteria applies)

Such as the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme, £150 Council Tax rebates, £650 Cost of Living Payment, £150 disability Cost of Living Payment and up to a £300 pensioner cost of living payment. Plus more help to be announced for 2023.

If you are worried about the cost of living, and would like more information, please call the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line. The number can be found on the back of your membership card or call Membership on 0800 028 1810.

HA Andrews Memorial Fund



Representatives from the Oddfellows visited the Centre for Cancer Immunology to present the first installment of funding from the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund and discover how it will support developments in cancer research.

Immunology is a ground-breaking development in the fight against cancer. It offers less invasive treatment for patients, and the results so far are extraordinary.

The Centre, which opened at Southampton General Hospital in 2018, and is funded entirely by donations, is the most recent beneficiary of a gift from the HA Andrews Memorial Fund. The Fund will provide three years of support for a talented PhD student, Nur Zainal, whose research will focus on a specific gene which can potentially be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Guernsey Oddfellows member, Eric Ferbrache, nominated the project for funding after learning about the Centre's work when it initially opened.

He said: "I personally think it is such a worthwhile project, and the research they are doing around how we can use our body's immune system to better treat different types of cancers is a great advancement. I'm so pleased that it was chosen for the most recent round of funding."

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology at the University of Southampton, said: "Our proposal to study the role of RNA editing in cancer cells was selected from amongst a list of 27 submitted from different universities across the UK. We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Guernsey Oddfellows, who supported our application to the HA Andrews Memorial Fund."

Jane Nelson, CEO at the Oddfellows, said: "Sadly, many of our members and their families have been affected by cancer, which is why we are proud to support this incredible research with the HA Andrews Fund. Anything we can do to help the efforts to find a cure is hugely important to us."

We recently received a kind thank you note with a beautiful picture from His Majesty King Charles III, and wanted to share it with you.

When we heard about the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Society sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Oddfellows and its members.



Unity Mutual – here for you

At Unity Mutual, we believe looking after your finances shouldn't feel scary. It should feel achievable to anyone in any circumstance. Whether you're interested in a deposit on your dream home, saving to give your grandchildren a great start in life, or wanting to leave a little something to loved ones should the worst happen, we're here to help you achieve it.

We have a range of savings and insurance products that could work for you, such as a Junior ISA or Child Tax Exempt Savings Plan, which can offer your child, grandchild, niece or nephew a great head start into adulthood that will mean the world.

Or our new Over 50s Life Insurance Plan, so that when the time comes (hopefully a long time from now), the people you love

are taken care of. Visit our website: www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows or call our friendly team on **0161 214 4628** for more information and the terms and conditions that apply to each product.

Keep a look out for the next Society News, where we will feature our individual products in more detail as part of our 'Introducing Series'.



 **Unity Mutual**
FAMILY FRIENDLY FINANCE

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

Social Events at a glance

April 2023

Mon 3	Beetle Drive	2.15pm
Tues 4	Easter Fun and Games - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Wed 19	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 24	Table Top Games - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

May

Tues 2	King's Party and Quiz - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Tues 9	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 15	Play Your Cards Right - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm
Tues 16	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm
Wed 17	Coffee Morning	10.30am

June

Tues 6	Beetle Drive - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 12	My life in the Metropolitan Police	2.15pm
Tues 13	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 19	Bingo - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm
Wed 21	Coffee Morning	10.30am

July

Tues 4	Fish and Chips Night - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 10	City Centre Treasure Trail	2.15pm
Tues 11	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 19	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 24	Annual Day Trip	9am

August

Tues 1	Bingo - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 14	Play Your Cards Right	2.15pm
Wed 16	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm
Mon 21	Whist Drive - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 5	Horse Racing Night - Stanley Baldwin Branch	7pm
Mon 11	An Afternoon of Musical Entertainment	2.15pm
Tues 12	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Wed 20	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 25	The Price Is Right - Fernhill Heath Branch	12.15pm