



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

# events **diary**

## **Oswestry District**

**March - July 2019**



Oswestry Park



*Visit to Portmeirion and  
Porthmadog - Friday 19 July 9am*

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Oswestry District Events Diary. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

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 - we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

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.

## Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary



**Office Manager:**  
Lucie Byrne

**Branch Secretary:**  
Vivien Byrne

**Address:**  
23 Oswald Road,  
Oswestry  
SY11 1RB



**Telephone:** 01691 679016

**Email:**  
[vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk)

## Do you have a story or great photograph to share?

Please send us your news stories!  
Or perhaps a picture with a caption!  
Email, post, hand in, or telephone  
Samantha, (or any member of the  
Management Committee) We'd love  
to hear anything heart-warming,  
humorous, or simply very interesting!

## 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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810.

## EXTEND

### Exercise Class

**Every Monday afternoon, 2pm**

The Oswald Room,  
Memorial Hall, Oswestry

Whether you are recently retired or determined to improve your fitness level, EXTEND Exercise can help you to achieve this. EXTEND Exercise classes will always contain 20 minutes of seated exercise, but do not be discouraged as seated exercises can be very active. You will be very surprised at just how much active exercise can be performed whilst sitting in a chair. Suitable for all genders and across all ages. **Cost:** £3.



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## March 2019

**Tuesday 12 - Out for Lunch with Friends, 12.30pm**

Join your Friends for lunch at Knockin. Menu selection will be available when booking and pay on the day.

**Address:** The Bradford Arms, Knockin, Near Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8HJ. **Cost:** £9 per person.

Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



## April

**Monday 15 - Annual Meeting, 12.30pm**

Come to our Annual Meeting. A short business meeting, when the annual accounts are presented, a new Chairman installed then enjoy a tasty buffet lunch.

**Address:** The Festival Suite, Festival Square, Oswestry SY11 3EH. **Cost:** Free. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



# events diary

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## April

### **Wednesday 24 - Out for Lunch with Friends, 12.30pm**

Join your Friends for lunch, this time at Llanymynech. Menu selection will be available when booking and pay on the day. Book by Wednesday 17 April. **Address:** The Dolphin Inn, North Road, Llanymynech, Powys SY22 6ER. **Cost:** £12 per person. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



## May

### **Wednesday 1 - Coffee Morning, 11am**

Coffee Mornings are held in the Wilfred Owen Room at the Memorial Hall, Oswestry, usually on the first Wednesday of the month but check the diary for exact dates. **Address:** The Wilfred Owen Room, Smithfield Street, Oswestry SY11 2EG. **Cost:** Free. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



### **Friday 17 - Mystery Trip, 9am**

The first of our summer outings, inclusive of coach fare and lunch etc. These are always enjoyed by our Members, so book early. Book by Wednesday 8 May. **Address:** Collecting from Llanymynech through Oswestry and beyond., Llanymynech bus stop SY22 6ER. **Cost:** £25 per person. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



## June

## **Visit to the Botanic Gardens at Birmingham**

### **Wednesday 19 June, 9am**

Llanymynech bus stop, various points through Oswestry and beyond SY22 6ER

Visit the splendid botanic gardens, where there is so much to see. They are among the most attractive gardens of their kind in the country. Plenty to see and you could bring a packed lunch to eat outside or eat in the café. Book by Wednesday 12 June. **Cost:** £15. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.





# events diary

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## July

### **Wednesday 3 - Coffee Morning, 11am**

Coffee Mornings are held in the Wilfred Owen Room at the Memorial Hall, Oswestry, usually on the first Wednesday of the month but check the diary for exact dates. **Address:** The Wilfred Owen Room, Smithfield Street, Oswestry SY11 2EG. **Cost:** Free. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



### **Visit to Portmeirion and Porthmadog Friday 19 July 9am**

Llanymynech Bus Stop, through  
Oswestry and beyond SY22 6ER

Enjoy a visit to Portmeirion the wonderful Italianate village in Wales. After soaking up the wonderful atmosphere of the lovely village created by the architect Clough Williams Ellis and used as the setting for 'The Prisoner', we will end the day with a visit to Porthmadog. Book by Wednesday 10 July. **Cost:** £20. Contact Vivien Byrne on 01691 679016.



# Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Discover the best of  
Hampshire's Coastline  
with Oddfellows members  
and friends at the Sinah  
Warren Coastal Hotel.

Situated on Hayling Island,  
Sinah Warren is a large,  
comfortable hotel  
surrounded by elegant  
gardens and spectacular  
view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:  
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course  
evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from  
only £280 per person**

With evening entertainment,  
activities and use of  
leisure facilities.



To book call Warner's on **0330 1009 772**  
(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS

# Friendship and Social activities across the UK

At Oswestry District Oddfellows we put on a range social activities each month for us to enjoy together in friendship. We always welcome new people to come along and give us a try... No longer living in the Oswestry District? Why not check out the social activities being put on by the Branch nearest to where you are living...



Visit the Oddfellows Website ([www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)) and click on the events tab to search for local events. Alternatively, contact us, (details on the front page) and we can request that your local secretary gets in touch and sends you a copy of their Events Diary.

## Share the friendship – enjoy the rewards! Refer a Friend

Did you know that the Society runs a Refer a Friend scheme?

When the first friend you've recommended has joined, we'll send you a £10 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you. There are different reward levels, so you'd receive your next reward – £60 in Love2Shop vouchers – after recruiting five friends in total.\*

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at **[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)** or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

**Terms and conditions apply\*** The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit **[www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers)**.



**[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)**



**This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.**

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.

**Jane Nelson, CEO**

# Members of Distinction

**Whether through the old Portraits Scheme, or the recently launched Making a Difference Award – we love to recognise and celebrate members who go over-and-above in their support of the Society and its work.**

So thank you to three of Portraits 2018's final winners Gerald, Miriam and Adrian for everything you do for the Oddfellows. We appreciate it.



*Gerald Gordon Baxter  
Nene and Welland District*

**Meet Gerald, member of the Nene and Welland District, who was singled out for his long-standing support to the Society at many different levels – from local Branch through to International Conference.**

Some of Gerald's notable positions held over his seven decades as an Oddfellow include Noble Grand and Vice Grand

for his Branch, Provincial Grand Master for his District, 28 years' service as a District and Branch Trustee, as well as Past President (1988-1989) at East Anglia Group Conference.

Reflecting on his 71-year relationship with the Oddfellows, Gerald shared: "I liked the idea of what Oddfellowship stood for – Friendship, Love and Truth.

"We all need friends that we can turn to when we need them. There are times when we all need support and the Oddfellows has been there for me and my family."



*Miriam Witcomb  
Heart of England District*

**The Oddfellows is very fortunate to have people such as Miriam in its membership. She embodies the Society's humanitarian spirit through her commitment to helping others.**



Since joining in her 40s, Miriam has served as Noble Grand for Leigh and Knightly Branch, as well as Heart of England District Oddfellows Club President and Trustee.

However, what sets Miriam apart is her devotion to fundraising and volunteering. Year-round, she knits items to sell and organises regular tombolas to raise money for her Provincial Grand Master's chosen charities.

For over 20 years, she has provided fellow members with care and support in their times of need as Branch Welfare Officer.

In the words of her District Committee of Management, Miriam is 'a much loved member'. And as a Society, we couldn't agree more!

**Introduced to the Oddfellows by his father at age 16, Adrian's constant energy has kept him incredibly busy and active in his District and regional group conference.**

Since 2006, he has been a member of Beds and Bucks District Committee of Management, in which he serves as Trustee and second-time Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was during his tenure as Provincial Grand Master in 2009 that his career reached new heights – as he undertook a charity indoor skydive for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Other appreciated contributions include his time as Past Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands, Midland Group



*Adrian Taylor  
Beds and Bucks District*

Conference President and, while studying at university in Birmingham, attendance at monthly Branch meetings and District annual meetings.

Speaking about his time with the Oddfellows, he explained: "It provides excellent opportunities to be able to meet people at home and overseas. An example of this is when I travelled around Australia and New Zealand and visited Lodges in Brisbane and Wellington."

**Well done and thank you to all our members who've featured as portraits over the years. We can't wait to continue celebrating members who go the extra mile in supporting our Society through a Making A Difference Award.**



# On your marks, get set, parkrun

**There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.**

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk) and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer [www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events)



# 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 Vivien on **01691 679016** or email **[vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk)**.

## Oddfellows 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

# At a glance

Every Monday - **EXTEND Exercise class at Memorial Hall, Oswestry at 2pm**

## March 2019

<b>Tues 12</b>	Out for Lunch with Friends	12.30pm
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## April

<b>Mon 15</b>	Annual Meeting	12.30pm
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<b>Wed 24</b>	Out for Lunch with Friends	12.30pm
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## May

<b>Wed 1</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
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<b>Fri 17</b>	Mystery Trip	9am
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## June

<b>Wed 19</b>	Visit to the Botanic Gardens at Birmingham	9am
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## July

<b>Wed 3</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
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<b>Fri 19</b>	Visit to Portmeirion and Porthmadog	9am
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## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date!

If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at:



OddfellowsUK



## Do we have your email address?

Call us on **01691 679016** or email **vivien.byrne@oddfellows.co.uk**

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