

September - December 2026



the
ODDfELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Bristol Branch

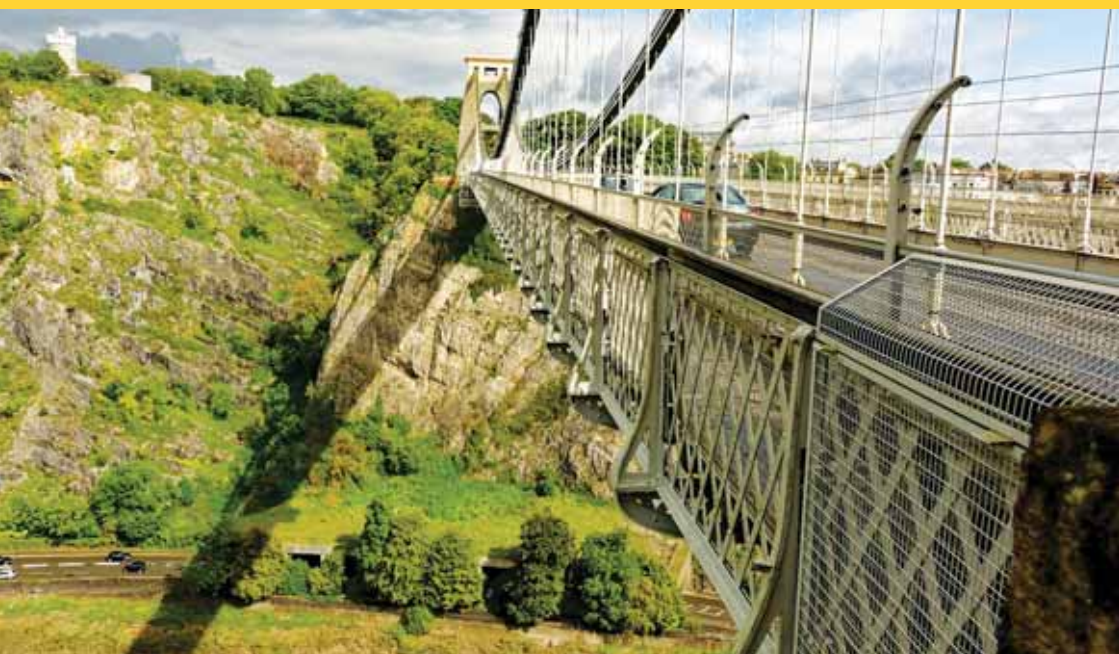


Photo Credit – Steve Pickering.



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining Out



Meetings



Talks



Social



Quiz



Avon Valley Railway Cream Tea - Sunday 27 September

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

Contact Details

District Secretary:
Gemma Gallagher

Address:
2430-2440 The Quadrant,
Aztec West, Bristol BS32 4AQ

Telephone:
07777 923729

Email:
gemma.gallagher@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser:
Demi Trotman

Telephone: 07722 010120

Email:
demi.trotman@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

Roll and Relax Afternoon



2pm



Free,
Refreshments
available to
purchase



First Monday of the month



Looking for a fun and friendly way to spend an afternoon? Come along to our regular roll and relax afternoon, where great games and even better company are guaranteed! Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just fancy a casual game and a chat, there'll be something for everyone - from classic favourites to new discoveries. Each month we'll try a different game - from beetle drives to Scrabble and everything in between! Bring your competitive spirit (or just your sense of humour!) and enjoy a laid-back atmosphere with plenty of laughs. All ages and abilities welcome. No experience needed - we'll help you get started. Perfect for meeting new people and catching up with friends. Come roll the dice and make some memories with us! Our first session will feature the game Rummikub. Booking is a must by Monday 24 August 2026. Henfield Village Hall, Ram Hill, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS36 2TZ. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.

7 September

5 October

2 November

7 December

Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath



10am



From £1 per
cup/slice



First Wednesday of the month



Join us at our regular Henfield Hall coffee morning, which takes place on the first Wednesday of the month. At just £1 a cup/slice, it is great value and a lovely social event. There is also a raffle, which includes three good 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.

2 September

7 October

4 November

2 December

Regular Events

Cuppa and Chat in Yate



10.30am



As per menu



Second Wednesday of the month



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. All are invited to join us and guests can enjoy 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.

9 September

14 October

11 November

9 December

Coffee Morning in Kingswood



10.30am



First drink free,
then cost as
per menu



Third Wednesday of the month



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 can 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 are invited to join us and 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.

16 September

21 October

18 November

16 December

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at **OddfellowsBristol**

Regular Events

Cuppa and Chat in Oldland



10.30am



As per menu



Fourth Wednesday of the month



All are welcome at 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 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.

23 September

28 October

25 November

Bingo



7pm



Approx £12



Every Thursday



Eyes down for an evening of fun at our regular bingo night. You can be sure of a warm welcome at our bingo night in association with Cadbury Heath Social Club. Tickets cost around £12 for five games. The bar will be open for refreshments. Cadbury Heath Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. If you'd like more information and to book your place, just contact Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07722 010120.

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

Bingo & Bites



Second Friday of the month



Join us for a great afternoon of light-hearted fun! Come along to Winterstream Farm for a delicious lunch, followed by a few games of Bingo. Bring your friends and enjoy good food, games, and great company. We can't wait to see you there! Vantage Office Park, Old Gloucester Rd, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS16 1GW. Simply contact Demi at demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or on 07722 010120 to reserve your place.

11 September

9 October

13 November

11 December

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, see contact details on page 2.



www.oddfellows.co.uk

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September - Friendship Month

FRI **04** Lunch at the Moorend Spout

 12.30pm

 As per
menu



With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks - The Moorend 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. Booking is a must by Friday 28 August. The Moorend Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.



WED **09** Cuppa and Chat in Swindon

 11am

 Free



Come along to our bi-monthly cuppa and chat sessions at The Bakers Arms in Swindon.



This is an informal get together and a lovely opportunity to come along, make new friends and see what the Oddfellows is all about. Why not come along and join us? Some of our lovely members even stay and enjoy a spot of lunch afterwards. The Bakers Arms, Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7RE. Contact Gemma on 07777 923729.

FRI **18** Friendship Month Speed Friending

 2pm

 Free



At Oddfellows, making new friends is at the heart of everything we do, so we're thrilled to celebrate Friendship Month this September - a whole month dedicated to friendship, connection and community! To mark the occasion, we're delighted to invite members and guests to a fun and relaxed 'Speed Friending Afternoon'. Whether you're looking to meet new people, catch up with familiar faces, or simply enjoy some good company, this is the perfect opportunity to come along and get involved. Join us at Cadbury Heath Social Club for a sociable afternoon filled with friendly conversation, laughter and new connections. Enjoy refreshments from the bar, complimentary nibbles and plenty of opportunities to mingle in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is welcome - members and non-members alike, so why not bring a friend along and help us make this Friendship Month our best one yet? Free to attend. Complimentary nibbles provided. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Friday 4 September. Cadbury Heath Social Club, 16 Cadbury Heath Road, Cadbury Heath, Bristol BS30 8BX. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
25

Fish and Chips at The Bakers Arms



12 noon



As per
menu



Why not join us for our new regular fish and chips lunch at the Bakers Arms, Swindon? Come along for a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon, catch up with friends old and new. Enjoy a delicious lunch in warm and welcoming surroundings. Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, you'll be assured of a friendly welcome and good company. With prices starting from just £6.99 for a small fish and chips, this is a great opportunity to enjoy a tasty meal without breaking the bank. Places are expected to fill quickly, so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment. We look forward to seeing you there for good food, great company, and plenty of chat! Book by Friday 11 September. The Bakers Arms, Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7RE. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.

SUN
27

Avon Valley Railway Cream Tea



3.30pm



£27



All aboard for a delightful journey departing from Bitton Station, travelling the full length of this scenic line through picturesque countryside, and enjoying a traditional cream tea served in style. Join us as part of our Friendship Month celebrations. As places for this special event are limited, early booking is strongly recommended. Book by Friday 28 August. Avon Valley Heritage Railway, Bitton Station, Bath Road, Bitton BS30 6HD. To reserve your place, please contact Demi on 07722 010120.

Image by Geof Sheppard - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=42605748>

October

TUES
20

Afternoon Tea at Studley Grange



2pm



Members £24.99
Guests £25.99



Join us for a spot of afternoon tea at the delightful Studley Grange Garden and Leisure Park. Who doesn't love an afternoon tea? Especially when it is in such a fantastic setting! Join us and then why not enjoy a wander around the Butterfly Park if you fancy a bit of exercise! All places must be booked and paid for in advance. Studley Grange Garden Centre, Hay Lane, Wroughton, Swindon SN4 9QT. Please book your place with Demi on 07722 010120 by Friday 25 September 2026.

FRI
30

Lunch at the Moorend Spout



12.30pm



As per menu



With indulgent food and a great variety of drinks - The Moorend 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. Booking is a must by Friday 23 October. The Moorend Spout, 1 Union Street, Nailsea BS48 4BB. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.



MON
26

Sea Shanty Workshop



7.30pm



Members £10
Guests £15



Join Stuart Green to deliver his exceptional sea shanty workshop to us here in Bristol! The workshop is suitable for all ages and is designed to teach a little history of shanties, and should be lots of fun. You can even sing along! The aim is to maximise involvement so that everyone can engage with the nature of the shanty ethos - singing together as a group. This is a fun singsong, not a choral masterpiece and no singing experience is necessary! Booking for this event is a must and it is sure to be popular, so book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at just £10 per person for members and £15 for guests. Cost includes a hot drink to loosen up your vocal cords! Book by Monday 12 October. BAWA Health & Leisure, 589 Southmead Road, Bristol BS34 7RF. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.



November

TUES

03

Folded Book Workshop



11am



Members £5
Guests £7



Come along to our craft morning and make your very own folded book candle. Learn the art of book folding and create a beautiful keepsake to adorn your mantelpiece. All materials will be provided as well as

clear instructions and tutorial given by our Social Organiser, Demi. Booking is a must and this event is sure to be popular, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Tuesday 20 October. Warmley Community Centre, The Penny & Vowles Room, 20 Deanery Road, Bristol BS15 9JB. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.



THURS

05

Visit to Concorde Museum



11am



TBC



Join us for a fascinating visit to the Aerospace Bristol Concorde Museum, home to the iconic Concorde aircraft. Bristol played a pivotal role in the design and manufacture of this world-famous supersonic airliner, making the city an important part of aviation history. Come along for an engaging tour and discover the story behind this remarkable engineering achievement. Celebrate the innovation, skill, and ambition that helped create one of the greatest manufacturing masterpieces of the modern age. Don't miss this unique opportunity to get up close to a true icon of British engineering! Concorde Museum, Hayes Way, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5BZ. For more information and to book your place, contact Demi on 07722 010120.



November

WED
11

Cuppa and Chat in Swindon



11am



Free



Come along to our bi-monthly cuppa and chat sessions at the Bakers Arms in Swindon. This is an informal get together and a lovely opportunity to make new friends and see what the Oddfellows is all about. Some of our lovely members even stay and enjoy a spot of lunch afterwards. The Bakers Arms, Beechcroft Road, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7RE. Contact Gemma on 07777 923729.

FRI
27

Fish and Chips at The Bakers Arms



12 noon



As per menu



Why not join us for our new regular fish and chips lunch at the Bakers Arms, Swindon?



Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with friends old and new in warm, welcoming surroundings. Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, you'll be assured of a friendly welcome and great company. With prices starting from just £6.99 for a small fish and chips, it's an affordable way to enjoy a tasty meal and good conversation. Places may fill quickly, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Book by Friday 13 November. Contact Demi on 07722 010120.

SAT
28

Bristol District Annual Dinner Dance



6.30pm



£40



It's time for our flagship event of the year, you won't want to miss. We'd absolutely love you to join us for our Annual Dinner. This year's dinner is once again taking place at the Mercure The Grange Hotel in Winterbourne. Entertainment on the evening will be provided by the excellent and hugely popular Frankie Johns. The evening will also include a raffle with all proceeds going to the RNIB. This is an excellent opportunity to get together with friends, old and new, in a beautiful setting and enjoy a sumptuous meal. Why not make it a weekend and take the opportunity to stay overnight for a fraction of the normal bed & breakfast price. (See page 12 for menu). For detail and to reserve your ticket please contact Demi on demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk or 07722 010120. Event Contact: Mrs Demi Trotman, 07722010120, demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk

Annual Dinner Menu



STARTERS

Curried parsnip soup, finished with crisp apple shards and a swirl of chive cream
(NGCI) (VE)

Wild boar & plum pâté, caramelised onion chutney and toasted rye bread

Prawn and crayfish cocktail, bloody Mary inspired Marie Rose
Sauce for a vibrant twist on a classic



MAINS

Roast breast of turkey, sage and cranberry stuffing and chipolata

Oven-roasted fillet of salmon, glazed with honey and Dijon mustard, accompanied by
confit onion (NGCI)

Cumin butternut squash & lentil wellington, a blend of cumin-spiced squash and lentils
wrapped in golden pastry (VE)

All above served with roast potatoes, parsnips, carrots and sprouts



DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas pudding, warm brandy sauce (VE)

Vanilla cheesecake, mulled winter berries (V)

Raspberry & White Chocolate Roulade (NGCI) (V)

Important information including our new Branch Correspondence Address

The start of 2026 has brought some changes for us here in Bristol.

One of the biggest changes is the change of correspondence address for our District. We are now able to share with you our new, and permanent correspondence address, it is:

Bristol Oddfellows

**2430-2440 The Quadrant
Aztec West
Bristol
BS32 4AQ**

Please send all correspondence, including Dental and Optical Claims to this address and remove any other addresses you may have for us.

Another huge change has been our Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS), Kelly Armfield, left us after almost 10 years in the role.

We are so excited to introduce you to our fantastic new Prov CS, Gemma Gallagher. Gemma has been an excellent addition to our branch and we know she is going to fit right in. Check out Gemma's introduction later in this events diary.



Paying for Events

To help us manage bookings and payments more efficiently, please note that we are no longer able to accept cash payments for events.

All event bookings must be paid for in advance. Payments can be made by:

- BACS Transfer
- Credit or Debit Card using our new card reader
- Cheque

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions regarding payment methods, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Get the most out of your membership

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



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

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

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

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

Find out more about the benefits and support available

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

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

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



the Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Introducing our new Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS) Gemma

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new Provincial Corresponding Secretary. Since joining the Oddfellows, I've been met with such a warm and thoughtful welcome, and I want to say how much I appreciate the kindness shown to me so far.

Outside of work, I'm a proud mum of three. My eldest has recently qualified as a Primary School teacher, my eldest son is studying Computer Security at Cardiff University, and my youngest - at seven years old - most definitely keeps me on my toes! They each bring their own kind of joy, chaos, and pride into my life.

My work background is just as varied: I co-owned an independent ladies' boutique in Bristol for ten years, worked as an Operations Manager in a GP surgery, and spent the last four years in a local primary school. These experiences have given me a broad understanding of people, communication, and community - all of which I'm excited to bring into this role.



I'm really looking forward to getting to know our members and being here to support you with any enquiries.

Working alongside Demi and the Committee,

I'm committed to keeping communication clear, approachable and supportive, while helping to build on the strong foundations and successes already in place within the Branch.

I'm genuinely excited for the opportunity to serve in this role and to contribute positively to everything we continue to achieve together.

I work flexible part-time hours and as a result response times may vary, however if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My contact details are:

Tel: 07777 923 729

Email: gemma.gallagher@oddfellows.co.uk



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.

Give someone a great start in life **for only £10!**



**It's never too early to start
making friends for life.**

We laugh as we learn together and give each other a helping hand through the ups and downs of growing up. That's what being a Young Oddfellow is all about.

If you have a family member aged 17 or under, and would like them to experience the friendship and support of the Oddfellows, we'd love to welcome them.

There are lots of great reasons* to join Young Oddfellows – to find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/young-oddfellows

**As a parent, grandparent or guardian,
you can join them online or ask your
Branch Secretary for an application form.**



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

***Terms and conditions apply to membership and financial benefits.
Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions**

Branch Meetings

Please see below for information on all future 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 and Leisure, Southmead Road, Bristol BS34 7RG from 7.30pm and all members are invited to join us.

Monday 27 October

Monday 24 November

Monday 15 December

Half-yearly summoned meeting date – all members are invited to join us

Monday 28 September – 7pm See accompanying letter included with your events diary for more information

Cuppa and Chat Sessions in Swindon

Meetings will run from 11am to 12 noon in the The Bakers Arms, Upper Stratton, Swindon SN2 7RE.

Wednesday 9 September

Wednesday 11 November

Wednesday 13 January 2027

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.

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**

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this autumn!

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

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

Member models

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

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

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

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



Spreading the word

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

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

How you can help

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

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

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

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

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

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



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

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

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

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

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

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shining examples

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

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

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

It's never too early to talk about money

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



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

Passing on more than money

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

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



Don't wait to save

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

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

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

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

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

September - Friendship Month

Wed 2	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Fri 4	Lunch at the Moorend Spout	12.30pm
Mon 7	Roll and Relax Afternoon	2pm
Wed 9	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Wed 9	Cuppa and Chat in Swindon	11am
Fri 11	Bingo Bites at Winterstream Farm	12 noon
Wed 16	Kingswood Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Friendship Month Speed Friending	2pm
Wed 23	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am
Fri 25	Fish and Chips at The Bakers Arms	12 noon
Sun 27	Avon Valley Railway Cream Tea	3.30pm

October

Mon 5	Roll and Relax Afternoon	2pm
Wed 7	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Fri 9	Bingo Bites at Winterstream Farm	12 noon
Wed 14	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Tues 20	Afternoon Tea at Studley Grange	2pm
Wed 21	Kingswood Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 26	Sea Shanty Workshop	7.30pm
Wed 28	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am
Fri 30	Lunch at the Moorend Spout	12.30pm

November

Mon 2	Roll and Relax Afternoon	2pm
Tues 3	Folded Book Workshop	11am
Wed 4	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Thurs 5	Visit to Concorde Museum	11am
Wed 11	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Wed 11	Cuppa and Chat in Swindon	11am
Fri 13	Bingo Bites at Winterstream Farm	12 noon
Wed 18	Kingswood Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 25	Cuppa and Chat in Oldland	10.30am

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

November (continued)

Fri 27	Fish and Chips at The Bakers Arms	12 noon
Sat 28	Bristol District Branch Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm

December

Wed 2	Coffee Morning in Coalpit Heath	10am
Mon 7	Roll and Relax Afternoon	2pm
Wed 9	Cuppa and Chat in Yate	10.30am
Fri 11	Bingo Bites at Winterstream Farm	12 noon
Wed 16	Kingswood Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Lunch at the Moorend Spout	12.30pm

Oddfellows Online Events

Wellbeing webinar with Dr Anna Machin

Tuesday 13 October, 7pm

Join Dr Anna Machin for another insightful wellbeing webinar. This webinar will offer expert advice on how to be proactive about finding friendship in later life.

To register, type this link into your browser: tinyurl.com/AnnaMachin3

More Ghostly Tales to be Told

Tuesday 27 October, 7pm

Get ready for Halloween with another fascinating evening of stories and poems by Dr Ann Featherstone, a retired university lecturer, teacher and writer who has appeared on numerous BBC programmes and documentaries.

To register, type this link into your browser: tinyurl.com/MoreGhostlyTales



See all our online events at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events