

October 2024 - March 2025



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

out & about

South East Lancashire District



Darwen - Market Hall and Parliament Street



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Theatre



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Cinema



Bowling



Walks



Christmas Lunch in Bury - Wednesday 18 December 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Lancashire Branch Events Diary. Members of the Branch 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. 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.

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.

Contact Details

For details about membership and the wider range of benefits available please contact:

Branch Secretary: Sheila Kendall

Address: 10 Broadstone Close,
Prestwich
Manchester
M25 9QA

Telephone: 0161 773 3138

Email:
sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk

For more details about any of the events listed contact:

Social Organiser: Claire Rose

Telephone: 07564 641909

Email:
claire.rose@oddfellows.co.uk

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. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.

Weekly Events

Craft & Coffee Morning, Bury



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



A two hour session where we have a chat over tea or coffee and cakes whilst painting or crafting. There will be various resources provided, but you can bring your own projects if you wish, for example knitting, crochet, sewing, model making, artwork, sketch book, etc. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



Every
Monday

Coffee Morning Meet Up, Bury



11am



As per menu



Members meet here weekly (on Wednesday and Friday) at 11am to catch up over a cuppa and a bite to eat for those feeling peckish. All are welcome to join us to relax and enjoy good company and make new friends at this popular local café. Just the place to take a break from shopping at Bury's famous market. Find the details in this booklet or give Claire a call. Coffee Creations, Millgate Shopping Centre, 2 Union Arcade, Bury BL9 0QF. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.



Every Wednesday
and Friday

Thursday Friends, Bury



12 noon



See below



The Thursday Friends meet every Thursday from 12 noon to 2pm. Bring some lunch and enjoy a bite to eat together whilst chatting and laughing with each other and then finish the afternoon with a few games of dominoes. Cost: The first meeting is free, however subsequent weeks will be £1 to join. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.

Every
Thursday

Weekly Events

Thursday Online Quiz & Games Night

Every
Thursday



Every week we team up with other branches to bring you a quiz and games night via Zoom. Just for fun, why not put your general knowledge to the test and join in the games with us with friendly members from up and down the country? Zoom Meeting ID: 883 9960 6393. Not sure how to access Zoom? Just give Claire a call on 07564 641909 for some support - It is super easy we promise!



Fun on Friday Social Walshaw Cricket Club

Every
Thursday



Do you enjoy playing cards, pool, darts and dominoes? This new group meet every Friday at Walshaw Sports Club in Tottington, Bury. Come along and join us for a great end to the week. Tea or coffee are included and the bar is open should you want to buy a drink. Walshaw Sports Club, Sycamore Road, Tottington BL8 3EG. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

Monthly Events

Line Dancing, Bury

First
Tuesday



No need for a partner: Bring your two left feet for a great session of Line Dancing with a qualified teacher. The emphasis is on fun, not technical skills so, come along and don't be shy, you will be amongst friends. Light refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.

1 October 2024
5 November 2024

3 December 2024
7 January 2025

4 February 2025
4 March 2025

Monthly Events

Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn

First Tuesday



11.30am



£8 for two games



We bowl during the months of October to March where you can join us for a bit of fun, it doesn't matter if you have never bowled before. Pre-booking is essential for this event (one week before event). Why not join us for lunch at a local venue afterwards. Tenpin Blackburn, Peel Leisure and Retail Park, Mayson Street, Blackburn BB1 1DG. Contact Chris on 07711 376280 or Joan on 07414 816521.

1 October 2024
5 November 2024
3 December 2024

4 February 2025
4 March 2025

Social Club, Blackburn

Second Tuesday



12 noon



Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for a friendly afternoon with our speaker or games in good company. Buffet lunch and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon to 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

8 October 2024
12 November 2024
10 December 2024

14 January 2025
11 February 2025
11 March 2025

Scrabble Club, Bury

First and Third Tuesday



1pm



Members £2
Guests £3



New for 2024, why not join us for this new group? We meet every first and third Tuesday of the month to play a game of Scrabble. Everyone welcome to join in, even if you have never played before! Your first visit is free. Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

1 October 2024
15 October 2024
5 November 2024
19 November 2024
3 December 2024
17 December 2024

7 January 2025
21 January 2025
4 February 2025
18 February 2025
4 March 2025
18 March 2025

Dine Around, Blackburn

Fourth Tuesdays



12 noon



As per menu



Why not join us for a trip out to a charming country pub? There are some delicious meal options and special offers. Various restaurants, see main diary for details. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Linda on 01254 264391. Book seven days in advance.

22 October 2024
26 November 2024
28 January 2025,

25 February 2025
25 March 2025

Monthly Events

Social & Coffee Morning, Wigan



10.30am



Members Free
Guests £2



First
Thursday

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Held on the first Thursday of the month, friends come together for friendly chatter and laughs over a cuppa and a biscuit. Adjacent to bus station and close to railway station. Limited parking by permit. Easily accessible for all. Wigan Stars, Hallgate House, Frank Street, Wigan WN1 1HP. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

3 October 2024
7 November 2024

5 December 2024
6 February 2025

6 March 2025

Social Lunch, Wigan



12 noon



Members £3.50
Guests £4.50



First
Thursday

Why not join us for a spot of lunch followed by a few games of dominoes or cards. Lots of chatter and laughs to be had and a warm welcome is to all. The venue is next to Wigan Bus Station and is easily accessible to all. Contact Claire to let us know if you have any specific dietary requirements and come and join us. Book two days in advance. Wigan Stars, Hallgate House, Frank Street, Wigan WN1 1HP. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

3 October 2024
7 November 2024

5 December 2024
6 February 2025

6 March 2025

Dine Around, Bury



12.30pm



As per menu



Second
Tuesday

A chance to catch up with old friends and new at local restaurants close to Bury Town Centre. All venues have been tried and tested by our members, so you can be sure of good food, enjoyed in good company. Various restaurants, see main diary for details. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909. Book five days in advance.

8 October 2024
12 November 2024

10 December 2024
14 January 2025

11 February 2025
11 March 2025

October 2024

MON
07

Walk Around Jackhouse Nature Reserve, Oswaldtwistle

L 11am

£ Free



The Nature Reserve is a beautiful green area in the heart of Hyndburn. It has been part of local life for many years with generations of residents and dogs walking round the ponds and wandering through the woods with easy walking on good paths. The walking



group meet on the first Monday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walkers with mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or who are seriously unfit should contact the walk organisers. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Usually meet at Blackburn Bus Station. Times sent out nearer the time. Book by Tuesday 24 September 2024. Blackburn Bus and Coach Station, Blackburn BB1 5AX. Contact Chris on 07711 376280 or Joan on 07414 816521.

TUES
08

Dine Around - Number Ten Bistro, Bury

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Join us for a tasty lunch at this cosy Bistro in Bury Town Centre. Plenty of tasty treats to choose from and plenty of chatter to enjoy. Book by Friday 4 October 2024. Number Ten Coffee Shop and Bistro, 10 Crompton Street, Bury BL9 0AD. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.

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 and payments are non-refundable. We have the right to cancel any events.

October 2024

TUES
08

Blackburn Social Club – Guest Speaker Pinnys Pots Talk and Demonstration of Paper Folding and Pottery



12 noon



Members £4, Guests £5



Join us for a friendly afternoon with our speaker or games in good company. Buffet lunch and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon til 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



FRI
11

Valli'd Reason – The Story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons



7pm



£9.50



If you enjoy the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, why not come and join us for this tribute act to this fabulous group?



Drinks available to purchase from the bar. Payment on booking is essential and tickets are limited. Book by Friday 4 October 2024. Fishpool Liberal Club, Nelson Street, Bury BL9 9HX. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

TUES
15

Third Tuesday Social – Bury – Pie, Peas and Bingo



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for this fun and friendly social evening and enjoy a slice of tasty pie with peas and a few games of bingo. Book by Tuesday 15 October 2024. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



October 2024

THURS
17

Dine Around - The Boars Head, Standish

🕒 12 noon

£ As per menu



A firm favourite among our members, this cosy, friendly pub offers a warm welcome and good, home-cooked food. Just make sure you leave room for dessert! Book by Thursday 10 October 2024. The Boars Head, Wigan Road, Standish WN6 0AD. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES
22

Dine Around - Café Retreat Blackburn

🕒 12 noon

£ As per menu



Café Retreat is a lovely place to relax and unwind with friends. They use local produce to offer a varied menu at affordable prices, there really is something for everyone. Book by Tuesday 8 October 2024. East Lancashire Hospice, Park Lee Road, Blackburn BB2 3NY. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Linda on 01254 264391.



TUES
22

Speaker from The Alzheimers Society

🕒 1pm

£ £3



We welcome a speaker from our chosen charity this year to tell us more about The Alzheimer's Society, who they are and how they support the thousands of people affected by Alzheimer's. Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



October 2024

MON
28

The Story Behind Motown, Blackburn Empire Theatre

L 2pm

£ £7.50



Do you love Motown? Why not join us for a great afternoon at Blackburn Empire Theatre? Sing along to the classic hits of The Supremes, Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and many more! We will even bring you a touch of Soul by The Drifters, Marvin Gaye, the list goes on!



A dazzling show you do not want to miss with projected videos showing live footage of classic Motown legends plus the man himself, Mr Berry Gordy Junior the founder of Motown. Tickets must be paid for on booking. Book by Friday 11 October 2024. Blackburn Empire Theatre, Aqueduct Road, Blackburn BB2 4HT. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Claire on 07564 641909.

TUES
29

Cinema Trip - Bury

L 2pm

£ As per venue



Why not join us to watch a film at the Vue cinema in Bury? We meet up locally before heading to the cinema together and watching a new release together. Time is approximate depending on showing times. Book by Tuesday 22 October 2024. Vue Bury The Rock, 9 Rock Place, Bury BL9 0YB. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



November

TUES

12

Blackburn Social Club Guest Speaker Major Ashley Dawson from the Salvation Army



12 noon



Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for a friendly afternoon with our speaker or games in good company. Buffet lunch and refreshments included in the cost.

Meet from 12 noon til 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



TUES

12

Dine Around - Cosalea, Walshaw



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for a journey to the local favourite. Lots of choice on the menu and great company.

Book by Friday 1 November 2024. Cosalea, Ground Floor, Walshaw Unit 2, Bolholt Industrial Park, Walshaw Road, Bury BL8 1PY. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES

19

Third Tuesday Social - Local Poet, Steven Taylor



7.30pm



Members £4, Guests £5



Join us for a special evening of entertainment with this fabulous local poet. His first book of poetry 'Reflections' is currently in its third print. His second collection 'Reflections 2' came out in March 2020. His third book '2020 vision' is a collection of poems written during and about the year of Covid with the proceeds of this book being donated to Bury Hospice.

Over the years he has worked with many stars of poetry (John Cooper Clarke, Henry Normal, Hovis Presley, John Hegley) and many stars of comedy (Peter Kay, Jack Dee, Jo Brand etc). Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



November

THURS
21

Dine Around - Golden Days Garden Centre, Appley Bridge



12 noon



As per menu



Join us for a lovely lunch with plenty of opportunity for a Christmas browse around this stunning garden centre. Book by Thursday 14 November 2024. Golden Days Garden Centre, 181 Back Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan WN6 8RS. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES
26

Dine Around - Rose & Crown, Clitheroe



12 noon



As per menu



There is very good evidence that there has been a public house on the site of The Rose & Crown since Tudor times. The building as it stands today was built in 1836 and up until 1860 it played a prominent part in the life of the local people, even being used as the county court at one time. Traditional characteristics of the property still exist, including the old archway to the courtyard, and public rooms retain original features like high ceilings and large windows looking out onto the street. Book by Tuesday 19 November 2024. The Rose & Crown Hotel, 21 Castle Street, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 2BT. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Linda on 01254 264391.

WED
27

Lancashire Day with Supper and Entertainment



7pm



Members £5, Guests £6



On this day in 1295 the first elected representatives from Lancashire were called to Westminster by King Edward I to attend what later became known as 'The Model Parliament'. The Lancashire Day Proclamation is read out by town criers throughout the county on 27 November. Join other Lancastrians in celebrating Lancashire Day with the toast, unique to Lancashire: The King, Duke of Lancaster. Traditional hot supper with a selection of Lancashire treats included. Book by Wednesday 20 November 2024. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



December

SUN
08

A Visit to Skipton Christmas Market



9am



TBC



Come along and join us for a festive visit to this beautiful historic town for their annual Christmas market. Booking is essential and travel options will be confirmed nearer the time. Book by Friday 15 November 2024. Skipton Christmas Market, High Street, Skipton BD23 1JX. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES
10

Christmas at Blackburn Social Club



12 noon



Members £4
Guests £5



All welcome to celebrate at our Jacob's joint Christmas lunch in a friendly atmosphere. This will be followed by Christmas fun and games. There will be a Secret Santa event. Advance booking essential by Thursday 12 November 2024. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



TUES
10

Dine Around - Olive's Kitchen at The Fusilier Museum, Bury



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for a sumptuous lunch inside this popular café situated in The Fusilier Museum. Everyone welcome. Book by Tuesday 3 December 2024. The Fusilier Museum, Moss Street, Bury BL9 0DF. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.



December

TUES 17 Third Tuesday Social A Night of Christmas Fun



Join us for a Christmas themed social evening with songs, games, mince pies and mulled wine. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



January 2025

TUES 14 Blackburn Social Club



Join us for a friendly afternoon with our speaker or games in good company. Buffet lunch and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon to 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



WED 18 Christmas Lunch - Bury



By popular demand, we will once again be celebrating the festive season with excellent food prepared and served by our own members. Please book early to secure your place, as places are limited. Payment on booking required by Saturday 30 November 2024. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Chris on 07711 376280 or Claire on 07564 641909.



January 2025

TUES 14 Dine Around - Park Farm Shop and Tearooms - Bury



Join us at this traditional tearooms with a small shop selling fresh produce and gifts. Book by Tuesday 7 January 2025. Park Farm Tearooms, Walmersley BL9 5NP. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.



THURS 16 Wigan Dine Around - The Royal Oak (Westhoughton)



Time to relax with friends and enjoy a great welcome at The Royal Oak Carvery, Westhoughton. A go-to carvery for locals, serving an incredible selection of succulent roasted meats, with fresh vegetables and all the trimmings, with delicious rich gravy. Book by Thursday 9 January 2025. The Royal Oak, 480 Westhoughton Road, Bolton BL5 3ND. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

TUES 21 Third Tuesday Social - Game Show Night



Our Last Game Show evening was an absolute blast... join us again for 'Deal or No Deal' 'Strike It Lucky' 'Play Your Cards Right' and something new for 2025. Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES 28 Dine Around - The Butlers Arms, Pleasington



Tripadvisor - it was absolutely amazing cannot recommend this place enough the food was really good the staff are lovely and the pub has a lovely feel to it. Book by Tuesday 21 January 2025. The Butlers Arms, Victoria Road, Pleasington, Blackburn BB2 5JH. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Linda on 01254 264391.

February

TUES 11 Blackburn Social Club

 12 noon

 Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for a friendly afternoon with our speaker or games in good company. Buffet lunch and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon to 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



TUES 11 Dine Around - Racconto Lounge, Bury

 12.30pm


 As per menu



Situated on The Rock, Racconto Lounge offers an exciting menu in a relaxed environment. Join us and take in some of the artwork which dons the walls as you sample some of the menu. Book by Tuesday 4 February 2025. Racconto Lounge, 4 Clerke Street, Bury BL9 0PN. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.

THURS 13 Shirley Valentine at Bolton Octagon Theatre

 2pm

 £33.50 - £44



Be transported to sunny Greece with this beloved northern comedy! A heart-warming comedy... Housewife Shirley feels stuck in a rut and frustrated now that the kids have flown the nest. Whilst making egg and chips for her husband, she can't help but wonder what has happened to her life... Set to be a fabulous afternoon. Book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are limited and on a first come, first served basis. Book by Thursday 16 January 2025. Bolton Octagon Theatre, Howell Street, Bolton BL1 1SB. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

SAT 15 Desperados - Tribute Band to The Eagles

 7.30pm

 £20



Desperados are an ensemble of talented and creative musicians, who pride themselves on their technical ability and attention to detail to deliver a rip-roaring celebration of The Eagles. Expect Hotel California, Lyin' Eyes, Peaceful Easy Feelin' as well as songs from Don Henley and Joe Walsh' solo careers. Sit back, take it easy and bask in the glow of one of music history's greatest songbooks. Book by Friday 31 January 2025. Bacup Royal Court Theatre, Rochdale Road, Bacup OL13 9NR. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

February

TUES **18** **Third Tuesday Social -** **The Assassination of John** **Lennon with Pete Mellor**

L 7.30pm

£ Members £4
Guests £5



Join us for an evening with local speaker Pete Mellor talking about the assassination of John Lennon. Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

THURS **20** **Dine Around -** **The White Crow** **(Worthington)**

L 12 noon

£ As per
menu



A warm welcome awaits at The White Crow free house in Worthington, near to Wigan and Chorley, where you can choose between indoor/outdoor dining. The pub offers a selection of fine ales and a varied menu, with something to appeal to all tastes. Book by Thursday 13 February 2025. The White Crow (Worthington), Chorley Road, Worthington, Wigan WN1 2XL. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.



TUES **25** **Dine Around - Scholars** **Restaurant, Blackburn**

L 12 noon

£ TBC



Join us for excellent food prepared and served by catering students in the college's professional standard licensed restaurant. Please book in advance. Meet at Blackburn College. Book by Tuesday 18 February 2025. Blackburn College, Fielden Street, Blackburn BB2 1LH. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

March

TUES **11** **Dine Around -** **The Village Bistro,** **Little Lever**

L 12.30pm

£ As per
menu



The Village Bistro is a lovely little café serving a fine selection of seasonal lunches and cakes. Book by Tuesday 4 March



2025. The Village Bistro, 60 Market Street, Little Lever, Bolton BL3 1HN. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.

March

TUES 11 **Blackburn Social - Music Across America Part 1**

 12 noon

 Members £4
Guests £5



Join us and enjoy this fabulous presentation about music across America. Buffet lunch and refreshments included. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Chris on 07711 376280 or Joan on 07414 816521.



TUES 18 **George Martlew - Dominoes Tournament**

 7.30pm

 £4



A friendly tournament with a trophy for the winner and cash prizes based on the number of entrants.

You don't need to be an expert, just have fun. Light refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Claire on 07564 641909.



THURS 20 **Dine Around - The Owls, Standish**

 12 noon


 As per menu



Set in five acres of grounds, an idyllic venue that offers both delicious dining in the restaurant and a chance to unwind in the stylish Orchard Bar or on the outdoor terrace situated within the orchard ground. Book by Thursday 13 March 2025. The Owls Restaurant, Rectory Lane, Standish WN6 0XD. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

SAT 22 **Step into Spring, Hilltop Walk and Pub Lunch, Affetside, Bury**

 11am

 As per menu



Join us for the moderate walk over the hilltops from Walshaw (past the Alpaca



Farm) to Affetside and enjoy a pub lunch in the Pack Horse at Affetside. Suitable footwear and clothing is necessary. Book by Friday 28 February 2025. The Pack Horse, 52 Watling Street, Affetside, Bury BL8 3QW. Contact Claire on 07564 641909.

March

TUES
25

Dine Around - The Yew Tree, Preston

12 noon

£ As per menu



Atmospheric, Spacious, charming - in a building with years of history. Book by Tuesday 18 March 2025. The Yew Tree, 100 Victoria Road, Walton Le Dale, Preston PR5 4AU. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



SAT
29

Annual Summoned Meeting (AGM)

1.30pm

£ Free



This is our Annual General Meeting where we get together to discuss financial matters and other significant business of the District. We will also install our new Chairman and Vice Chairman. All are welcome to attend, but only members will be able to vote on matters affecting the District. Light refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

Forthcoming Event Annual District Dinner

Saturday 5 April 2025, 6pm

The Masonic Hall, Parsons Lane, Bury BL9 0LY

All are welcome to join us for our annual celebration in honour of our new District Chairman, Robert Peters. Following a delicious formal dinner, there will be customary toasts, speeches and presentations to the representative of the Alzheimer's Society.

After the formalities, there will be music, dancing and a fabulous raffle to raise funds for Robert's chosen charity. Dress to impress.

Cost: £27. Advance booking is essential for this event by Friday 14 March 2025. Contact Chris on 07711 376280 or Claire on 07564 641909.





Coronation Street Experience

On Sunday 2 June, 10 of us set off on a journey to Weatherfield, home of one of the most beloved soap operas in British television history.

Our friendly tour guide knew all there was to know about the history of Coronation Street. We watched a great compilation of historic moments from the show dating back to the first ever episode. It was quite emotional to be taken on a journey through time and brought back childhood memories for us all.

Next, we headed onto the set to walk where legendary characters like Ken Barlow, Rita Sullivan, and Liz McDonald had all created TV magic. We marvelled at the different sets and were amazed at how small the sets were compared to how they appear on screen.

We learned about the tricks of the trade for the camera operators to use specific angles to make buildings appear bigger than they are. We enjoyed being up close and personal with such familiar shops, houses, Kev's garage, Weatherfield Police Station and of course The Rovers Return. It felt surreal standing in a place that has been the backdrop for countless dramatic showdowns and heartwarming moments.

The tour continued with a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at some of the costumes and props used throughout the years. Dummy sets meant that we got to sit in Roy's Rolls café and see some of the famous wedding dresses worn by characters throughout the years. We marvelled at the attention to detail that goes into every episode, from the



intricate set designs to the meticulous wardrobe choices.

Our group loves enjoying days out together with friends, and the Coronation Street Experience was one of the best yet.

However, a word to the wise: booking early is essential to secure a place on any trips. Popular destinations like this fill up quickly, and you wouldn't want to miss out on such an incredible adventure.

A Word from Your Social Organiser

Thank you for another wonderful six months as your Social Organiser. We have enjoyed some fabulous events together, and it's heartening to see the lovely friendships that have blossomed. Oddfellows is run by members for members, and many of our members support events by volunteering their time to help with things such as washing up and selling raffle tickets.

To help us encourage further connections and a wide range of experiences, I am looking for people who would be happy to host occasional meet-ups. If volunteering or occasional hosting appeals to you, I would love to chat with you further.

Let's continue to make our community vibrant and welcoming for all!



LADGC Bowls Day

The second Saturday in July saw more than 60 Oddfellows enjoying the sunshine at Garswood Hall Bowling and Community Club in Ashton-in-Makerfield.

Most of the Districts in the Group Conference were represented; with some members coming from as far as Cumbria.

Twenty four bowlers were competing for the doubles bowls trophy which left a large number of supportive onlookers. These happy souls made good use of the splendid bar which has become well-known on these occasions for its superb gin and tonics. Bowling was keen and competitive and at lunchtime they were grateful for a break. The buffet at Garswood Hall is highly recommended. Nick, the steward, was kept busy making enough chips for everyone.

The bowling began again but slightly more sedately following such a hearty repast.

The winners were Brian Key and young Connie Catton (Ormskirk & Southport). The trophy was presented by LADGC President, Sister Sheila Kendall (SEL).

Then about 30 ladies took to the green to compete for the Yvonne Troilett Shield. During the past twelve months Brother Alan Troilett sadly passed away. He had personally presented the winner with the shield on the past two occasions. His son, David, and his wife were our guests and David was only too proud to hand the shield to Sister Carol Rigby (St Helens & Warrington) who won it with one of her late husband, Brother John Rigby's bowls; which was fitting.

The raffle made a gradely amount for the President's charity and as the afternoon sun turned to a soft evening glow our day drew to a happy end.

Robert Peters



A Perfect Day at Meadowcroft Alpaca Farm

What could be better than spending a sunny day surrounded by adorable alpacas and stunning scenery? On Sunday 26 June, a group of 13 enjoyed a trip to Meadowcroft Alpaca Farm.

Upon arrival, we were greeted with a warm welcome that instantly made us feel at home. The farm's picturesque landscape, with its rolling hills and vibrant greenery, was a sight to behold. Our excitement grew as we headed towards the paddocks to meet the star attractions - the alpacas.

Each alpaca had its own unique personality, from the curious and playful to the calm and gentle. As we



fed and stroked them, we couldn't help but fall in love with their soft, woolly coats and endearing faces. It was a heartwarming experience, and everyone enjoyed the chance to connect with these gentle creatures.

We met fluffy silkies, mischievous pygmy goats, and even got introduced to some brand-new rescued rabbits. The farm's growing array of animals was both impressive and enchanting. The combination of great company, beautiful weather, and charming animals made for a perfect outing.



Branch Fundraising



As you know, our Chairman, Brian Kirkby, has chosen The Alzheimer's Society as our supported charity this year. We raise funds during our many social events and it is great to know that the funds raised help towards supporting those affected by dementia.

Who are The Alzheimer's Society?

We provide help: we support people affected by dementia through some of the hardest and most frightening times, to improve their lives and help to avoid crisis.

Too many face dementia alone. We want everyone affected by dementia to know that whoever you are, whatever you're going through, you can turn to Alzheimer's Society/us for expert support through practical advice, emotional support, and guidance for the best next step

We provide hope: we join forces with people affected by dementia, leading scientists and policy makers, amplifying voices to push for cutting edge breakthroughs and societal change that'll improve the lives of people affected by dementia, now and in the future.

How and where to get support:

No matter what type of dementia you have, we're here for you.

Alzheimer's Society offers a range of support services. From a listening ear on the phone to a visit in person and opportunities to connect with others.

We'll be there for you again and again and again, no matter what.

Call us on **0333 150 3456** to get personalised information, support and advice.

Dementia Support Forum - our online community. Our online forum available 24/7, a place to ask questions, get advice and speak to other people experiencing similar challenges.

Our website – for our factsheets to learn more about dementia, the types of dementia and everything from finance to caring for someone affected by dementia. Our website also has lots of blogs, publication, our Dementia Together magazine which all offer support and guidance.

How does your fundraising make a difference?

Every penny you raise will help create a world without dementia. Your donations will help fund our vital services, groundbreaking research into a cure for dementia, and support our campaigns for the rights of people living with dementia right now. Until the day we find a cure, you are helping to provide help and hope to everyone affected by dementia.

Thank you to everyone at the Oddfellows for your brilliant support, we are so grateful!



Culture Mondays at Manchester Museum

We are delighted to share that we now attend Culture Mondays at Manchester Museum regularly, thanks to the wonderful connection we've established with the museum. The museum is committed to an inclusive program for people over 50, and these special days offer a fantastic opportunity for our members.

On occasional Mondays throughout the year, Manchester Museum dedicates the day to the over 50s, providing a relaxed and welcoming environment to explore their exhibitions. These Culture Mondays allow us the space and time to enjoy the museum at our own pace, making the experience truly enriching and enjoyable.

During the most recent Culture Monday in July, we were entertained by a fabulous community choir singing positive songs. Their performance reinforced the message



of positivity and individuality regardless of age or circumstances, adding a joyful and uplifting touch to our visit.

Please note that we are given a limited number of tickets for these events. Early booking is essential, and a waiting list will operate once all tickets are reserved.

We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership and hope to see more of you joining us for these enriching cultural outings.



An Evening of Croquet at Bury Croquet Club

On a pleasant summer evening, thirteen of us gathered at Bury Croquet Club for a fun-filled game of croquet. The club members greeted us warmly and gave us a quick lesson on how to strike the balls effectively and some tactical play, which even the novices found easy to follow.

Splitting into teams, we enjoyed several rounds of croquet, filled with laughter and friendly competition. The relaxed atmosphere made it easy to enjoy the game, regardless of skill level.

After the games, we gathered for tea and cake, sharing a good chat and reflecting on our favourite moments of the evening. The combination of croquet, refreshments, and great company made for a memorable outing.

For a delightful evening with friends, Bury Croquet Club is the perfect spot. The welcoming environment and enjoyable game make it a fantastic way to spend time together.



Members meet in Llandudno for AMC

The late May Bank Holiday weekend in the beautiful North Wales coastal town of Llandudno was the setting for this year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

Hosted by Deeside Oddfellows, members from throughout the UK made the trip to reflect on the previous 12 months and discuss and vote on the course of the next, all presided over by the Grand Master (Chairman), Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham.



Business conducted, AMC Llandudno

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, with Oddfellows Brass putting on another wonderful performance.



Oddies on the coach to Portmeirion

Members also took part in a ceilidh at the welcome evening, graced the green at the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, took a day trip to Portmeirion and got all dressed up for the Farewell Dance.

Who should be our next major Fund recipient?

Our HA Andrews Memorial Fund provides major financial support over a two or three year period to a project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research in the UK.



The funding for Southampton University's Centre for Cancer Immunology, which was nominated by a member in Guernsey, is in its final year, so we're now open to suggestions on who to support from 2025.

If you've a suggestion of who we can support next, let us know. Go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the criteria, how to nominate and our deadlines.

Making a Difference Awards 2024

Five members have received national recognition for the brilliant and selfless work they put into making their Branch and the Society as wonderful as they can be.



Terry Rendle, Oswald Branch Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Terry's contributions to the running of Oswald Branch's social events.

He regularly comes up with ideas for events, plans and advertises them, organises and purchases supplies, arranges



catering, sells tickets, physically arranges chairs and tables in the room, taxis people to and from, hosts and clears up after. All this at the age of 84.

"Socialising is so important as you get older," Terry said. "It keeps your brain busy and your body busy which means you might last a bit longer."

He added: "I was flabbergasted. I had to read the letter three times before I realised what I was reading."

Pat and David Lang, Three Counties Branch Achieving Together

The married couple from Didcot, Oxfordshire, joined the Oddfellows over half-



ago, and in that time have taken on many voluntary roles, including serving as Branch Chairman five times between them.

They are Welfare Visitors, regularly checking in on around 50 fellow members, and are well known for providing food for events and meetings. They are also responsible for an annual Christmas lunch event which, since 2009, has raised over £2,100 for the HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

David said: "It has never been about being rewarded. We love what we do, it's as simple as that.

Pat added: "I'm honoured. We have much to thank the Oddfellows for and have met so many lovely people."

Peter Coe, City of Norwich Branch

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

As a mutual society, the Oddfellows is run by and for our members and this award seeks to recognise those who have gone the extra mile to assist in the running of their Branch and the Society as a whole.

Peter has gone several extra miles, having held a number of voluntary roles, including Branch and District Chairman,



and is still a member of the social committee to this day, helping to organise many wonderful events.

Peter said: "The Oddfellows is full of very, very friendly people. We all get on. I've made some very good friends here over the years.

"It's my life. It's what I do. The best thing I did was join the Oddfellows."

Claire Needham, Vale of York District

Giving Something Back

Lifelong member Claire has been recognised for the work she does to raise money and awareness for worthy causes.



She donated nearly £3,000 for Motor Neurone Disease Association and Martins House Children's Hospice having run the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon last year, and has helped raise more than £30,000 through her role as Chairman of her workplace's Charity Committee.

Claire has also held positions on the Oddfellows' Benevolence Committee and Investigations Committee, making a positive difference to the lives of her fellow members.

"I was completely surprised and I feel really honoured," Claire said. "It's a really nice feeling. It's nice that other people think it's making a difference and it's having an impact."

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Each of the winners are fully deserving of this recognition and I'm very proud of all of them. They typify what it is to be an Oddfellow and the Society and their respective branches are lucky to have them."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2025 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Financial worries revealed



Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, recently surveyed 2,000 people throughout the UK to uncover what's keeping them up at night when it comes to their finances. Here's what they discovered. Do any of these resonate with you?

Cost of living

The worry peaks for those aged 40-49, with 63% feeling the pinch, closely followed by those in their 50s and 60s (both at 62%).

Emergency planning

35% of those surveyed worry they don't have enough money set aside for emergencies like car repairs or medical treatments. Additionally, 28% fret about potential home repair costs.

Pension and retirement

Living on a tight pension is a reality for 22% of respondents, and 18% worry they aren't contributing enough to their pension pot. Many in their 60s regret not paying more into their pensions earlier.



Savings and financial planning

Only 39% of people have money in savings or investments, but this number jumps to 61% for those in their 70s. Yet, just a third have a financial life plan.

Stress and anxiety

Financial stress affects 58% of respondents. Those in their 60s and 70s are less worried compared to younger age groups, with only 35% and 27% respectively reporting anxiety.

Financial regrets

Over half (51%) have financial regrets, including not saving enough each month (46%) and spending on pointless things (43%). Interestingly, more than one in 10 (12%) wish they'd married someone with more money.

These findings show that, while financial worries are largely universal, planning and saving can make a significant difference, especially as we age. Whether you're setting up your first financial plan or adjusting your retirement strategy, it's never too late to take control of your financial future.

Go to www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

Oddfellows members have access to a dedicated Citizens Advice Line. Its advisers can help you to find a way forward with any money or debt problems but are unable to give financial advice. Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/citizens-advice to find out more.

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 Sheila on **0161 773 3138** or email **sheila.kendall@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@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**

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Meetings

Ceremonial Meetings (King William the Fourth Lodge)

The Oddfellows have a long and rich history stretching back more than 200 years and in line with other guild and fraternal organisations of a similar age, we have certain traditions, ceremonies, titles and regalia that have been used over the years. In the modern Oddfellows there is no need for any member to take part in any of the Ceremonial side of the Society but it does give a fascinating insight into the history of the Oddfellows and Guilds in general.

Our King William the Fourth Lodge is our living embodiment; keeping the history and traditions alive. It is where new members can be formally welcomed to the Oddfellows (if they wish) and people wishing to stand for an officers position in the society can complete their Oddfellows education, in the form of what we call Oddfellows Degrees.

Our regalia is used, as are traditional terms and room layouts. Why not come along and find out more about what Oddfellowship is about, and for members, it is the opportunity to practice and to keep up to date on the running of a traditional and ceremonial meeting.

These meetings are for members only (although members of any Oddfellows Branch are welcome to join us).

Meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 1pm.

Contact: Sheila Kendall for further details on ceremonial meetings.

Telephone: 0161 773 3138

Email: sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH

Annual Summoned Meeting – Saturday 29 March 2025 at 1.30pm

Events at a glance

Weekly Events

Bury Craft and Coffee Morning - Every Monday at 10.30am

Bury Wednesday Coffee Morning Meet Up - Every Wednesday at 11am

Bury Thursday Friends - Every Thursday at 12 noon

Thursday Online Quiz and Games Night - Every Thursday at 7pm

Bury Friday Coffee Morning Meet Up - Every Friday at 11am

Fun on Friday Social - Tottington - Every Friday at 1pm

October 2024

Tues 1	Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn	11.30am
Tues 1	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 1	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Thurs 3	Social and Coffee Morning - Wigan	10.30am
Thurs 3	Social Lunch - Wigan	12 noon
Mon 7	Walk Around Jackhouse Nature Reserve, Oswaldtwistle	11am
Tues 8	Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker Pinnys Pots Talk and Demonstration of Paper Folding and Pottery	12 noon
Tues 8	Dine Around - Number Ten Bistro, Bury	12.30pm
Fri 11	Valli'd Reason - The Story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons	7pm
Tues 15	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 15	Third Tuesday Social - Bury - Pie, Peas and Bingo	7.30pm
Thurs 17	Dine Around - The Boars Head, Standish	12 noon
Tues 22	Dine Around - Café Retreat, Blackburn	12 noon
Tues 22	Speaker from The Alzheimers Society	1pm
Mon 28	The Story Behind Motown, Blackburn Empire Theatre	2pm
Tues 29	Cinema Trip - Bury	2pm

November

Tues 5	Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn	11.30am
Tues 5	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm

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November

Tues 5	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Social and Coffee Morning - Wigan	10.30am
Thurs 7	Social Lunch - Wigan	12 noon
Tues 12	Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker Major Ashley Dawson from the Salvation Army	12 noon
Tues 12	Dine Around - Cosalea, Walshaw	12.30pm
Tues 19	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 19	Third Tuesday Social - Local Poet, Steven Taylor	7.30pm
Thurs 21	Dine Around - Golden Days Garden Centre, Appley Bridge	12 noon
Tues 26	Dine Around - Rose & Crown, Clitheroe	12 noon
Wed 27	Lancashire Day with Supper and Entertainment	7pm

December

Tues 3	Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn	11.30am
Tues 3	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 3	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Social and Coffee Morning - Wigan	10.30am
Thurs 5	Social Lunch - Wigan	12 noon
Sun 8	A Visit to Skipton Christmas Market	9am
Tues 10	Christmas at Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Tues 10	Dine Around - Olive's Kitchen at The Fusilier Museum, Bury	12.30pm
Tues 17	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm

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Fun on Friday Social - Tottington - Every Friday at 1pm

December

Tues 17	Third Tuesday Social - A Night of Christmas Fun	7.30pm
Wed 18	Christmas Lunch - Bury	12.30pm

January 2025

Tues 7	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 7	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Tues 14	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Tues 14	Dine Around - Park Farm Shop and Tearooms - Bury	12.30pm
Thurs 16	Wigan Dine Around - The Royal Oak (Westhoughton)	12 noon
Tues 21	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 21	Third Tuesday Social - Game Show Night	7.30pm
Tues 28	Dine Around - The Butlers Arms, Pleasington	12 noon

February

Tues 4	Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn	11.30am
Tues 4	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 4	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Social and Coffee Morning - Wigan	10.30am
Thurs 6	Social Lunch - Wigan	12 noon
Tues 11	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Tues 11	Dine Around - Racconto Lounge, Bury	12.30pm
Thurs 13	Shirley Valentine at Bolton Octagon Theatre	2pm
Sat 15	Desperados - Tribute Band to The Eagles	7.30pm

Events at a glance

Weekly Events

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Bury Friday Coffee Morning Meet Up - Every Friday at 11am

Fun on Friday Social - Tottington - Every Friday at 1pm

February

Tues 18	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 18	Third Tuesday Social - The Assassination of John Lennon with Pete Mellor	7.30pm
Thurs 20	Dine Around - The White Crow (Worthington)	12 noon
Tues 25	Dine Around - Scholars Restaurant, Blackburn	12 noon

March

Tues 4	Ten Pin Bowling, Blackburn	11.30am
Tues 4	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 4	Line Dancing - Bury	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Social and Coffee Morning - Wigan	10.30am
Thurs 6	Social Lunch - Wigan	12 noon
Tues 11	Blackburn Social - Music Across America Part 1	12 noon
Tues 11	Dine Around - The Village Bistro, Little Lever	12.30pm
Tues 18	Scrabble Club - Bury	1pm
Tues 18	George Martlew - Dominoes Tournament	7.30pm
Thurs 20	Dine Around - The Owls, Standish	12 noon
Sat 22	Step into Spring, Hilltop Walk and Pub Lunch, Affetside, Bury	11am
Tues 25	Dine Around - The Yew Tree, Preston	12 noon
Sat 29	Annual Summoned Meeting (AGM)	1.30pm

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.
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