

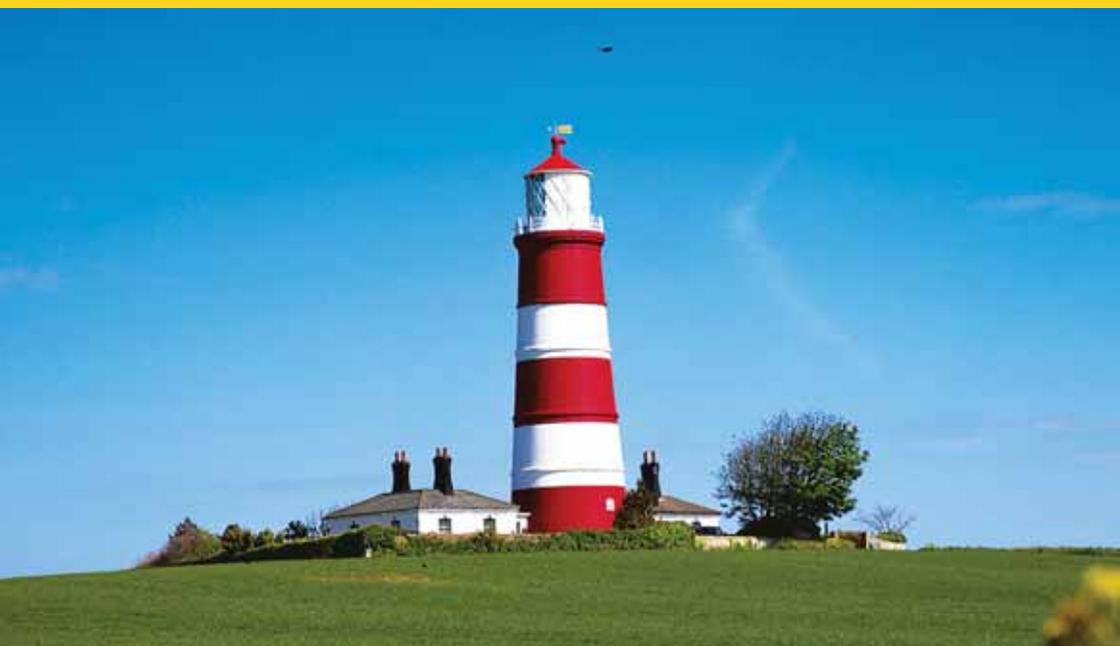
March - September 2026



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

# out & about

Heart of Norfolk



*Happisburgh Lighthouse by Victoria Feliniak on Unsplash*



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Health and Wellbeing



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Cinema



*We can't wait to see you at our social events!*

Welcome to the latest edition of your events diary and newsletter for Heart of Norfolk Branch of Oddfellows.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events.

## Contact Details

**Branch Secretary:**

Lydia Cutting

**Telephone:** 01362 696536

**Email:**

[Lydia.rosecutting@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:Lydia.rosecutting@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Contact:** Monday to Thursday  
9am-2pm

**Address:** 31 Crown Road  
Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4AE

**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.**

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

# March 2026

## THURS 12 Talk on Elizabeth Fry by Georgette Vale

🕒 7.30pm

£ Members Free, Guests £3



This month we will be having a talk on Elizabeth Fry from the wonderful Georgette Vale. Hear about the fascinating life of prison reformer Elizabeth and the work she did. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



## THURS 26 Annual Summoned Meeting

🕒 7.30pm

£ Free



We invite members to join us for our Annual Summoned Meeting. We will be discussing the running of the Branch and our charitable donations, we invite you to come and get involved or just see how things are run. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

## WED 25 Holt Garden Centre Coffee Morning

🕒 11am

£ First drink free



We're heading over to Holt Garden Centre for our March coffee morning. A lovely place for some shopping and to enjoy coffee and lunch with friends. The café has beautiful views over the stunning local countryside and an in house bakery if you fancy a sweet treat. Holt Garden Centre, Holgate Hill, Kelling, Holt NR25 7ER. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



# April

THURS  
09

## Dessert Night

7.30pm

£ Free



Bring along a dessert to share and we will have an evening of tasting all the delicious goodies on offer. Show off your skills



in the kitchen or just pop to the shop for something. We will also be joined this evening by a representative of the Motor Neurone Disease Association's Norfolk, Norwich and Waveney branch, so that we can present them with the funds we have raised for our Chairman's appeal this year. So come along and enjoy some delicious food and great company. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

WED  
22

## Coffee Morning at the Bug Parc

11am

£ As per menu



We had such a wonderful time visiting the café at the Bug Parc last year that we decided to go again! Enjoy lovely food and drink with friends and you could always visit the Bug Parc afterwards to meet some of the many fascinating species they have. Costs for entering the Bug Parc are available on the website. Chrysalis Café at the Bug Parc, Nowhere Lane, Lenwade NR9 5PD. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

# May

THURS  
14

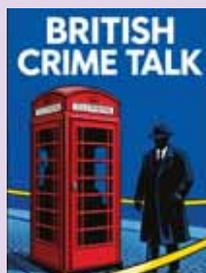
## Cases that made British Criminal History Talk by Gary Powell

7.30pm

£ Members Free, Guests £3



Our guest speaker this evening will be Gary Powell, a retired police officer who will be giving us a presentation on the case that



made British Criminal History. A great opportunity to find out some fascinating information on how techniques have developed and how they affect policing. Refreshments will be available, so why not come and learn something new. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



# May

## WED 27 Norfolk Food Hall Coffee Morning



This month we will be trying somewhere new for our coffee morning, join us at the Norfolk Food Hall on the showground to try the delicious range of food they have available. Set inside a food hall, selling a range of the best produce from around the county, this restaurant has been hugely popular since opening in May last year. Norfolk Food Hall, Dereham Road, Norwich NR5 0TT. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



# June

## THURS 11 Tabletop Games Night



Join us for a relaxed evening playing some tabletop games. Get involved with friends and move around the tables where we will have a few fun games set up. Tea or coffee and biscuits will be available to come relax and enjoy. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

# June

## SUN 14 Oddfellows Brass Band Concert



We will be joining with other local branches to enjoy a fantastic concert from the Oddfellows Brass Band. Enjoy refreshments of tea, coffee and a selection of cakes while listening to wonderful music and meeting members from other branches. There will be a charity raffle and plenty of fun to be had. Book by Monday 1 June. Knights Hill Hotel, South Wooton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 3HQ. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



# June

WED  
24

## Folly Tea Room Holt Coffee Morning



11am



As per menu



This month we will be joining the lovely people who run the Folly Tea Room in Holt for a coffee morning in their beautiful surroundings. Enjoy a range of brunch and light lunch options alongside their wide range of tea brews. Folly Tearoom, 4 Hoppers Yard, Bull Street, Holt NR25 6LN. Please note that the owners would like a pre-order to ensure they provide the best service, so please get in contact if you wish to attend and let Lydia know on 01362 696536 on what you would like to eat.

# July

WED  
22

## Coffee Morning at the Sainsbury Centre



11am



As per menu



Our coffee morning this month takes place in the Sainsbury Centre on the campus of the UEA. An art gallery and museum with a 350 acre sculpture park this is a fascinating place to explore before or after you meet us in their restaurant for our coffee morning. Choose from their wide selection of light and hot lunches. Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia, Norfolk Road, Norwich NR4 7TJ. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

# July

THURS  
09

## Community Police Talk



7.30pm



Free



Tonight we will be joined by a member of our local police team. They will be giving us some information on how to keep ourselves safe as well as telling us what local police do in our community. This is your opportunity to engage with local police and get some great tips. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

Photo by Tadas Petrokas on Unsplash

# August

THURS  
13

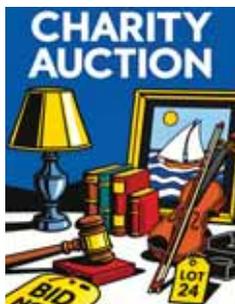
## Charity Auction

7.30pm

£ Free



Following our super successful auction last year we will be having another auction with items brought in by our members to make some money for our Chairman's charity of the year. Bring along anything you think can make a little money, this could be an item from a charity shop, something you have lying around or something you have made yourself. We'll auction the items off, so don't forget to bring along some change so you can buy some of the wonderful items on offer. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



# September

THURS  
10

## Vision Norfolk Talk

7.30pm

£ Free



Vision Norfolk will be joining us to tell us about the amazing work they do supporting people with sight loss across the county. Come along and have a cuppa and a biscuit while we learn about the support available and how they empower people with sight loss to live full, independent lives. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



WED  
26

## Picnic at Oxburgh Estate

11am

£ Entry fee as per website



Let's enjoy the beautiful summer weather with a picnic in the grounds of the beautiful Oxburgh Hall. Bring along your own refreshments and a chair and let's sit and enjoy nature with friends. There is a café available should you wish to purchase refreshment instead. Please note this is a National Trust property and entry is payable on the day. Oxburgh Estate, Near Swaffham, Norfolk PE33 9PS. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

# September

THURS  
17

## Half Year Meeting



7.30pm



Free



This is your opportunity to get involved with the running of the Branch. Come along to our half year meeting to find out how our Branch is run and have your say. Remember our Branch is run by members for the good of us all, so don't miss your opportunity to make sure the Branch is doing all it can for you. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.



WED  
23

## Whitwell Station Coffee Morning



11am



As per menu



Enjoy a trip out to Whitwell Station to visit The Sidings Café where 'A warm welcome is guaranteed'. They have a range of food available from cakes to hot meals and a garden if the weather is on our side. The station has a museum and shop, so why not pop in for a visit after coffee morning and see what is on offer. Whitwell Station, Whitwell Road, Reepham, Norfolk NR10 4GA. Contact Lydia on 01362 696536.

## Fundraising

**We have had an amazing year of fundraising and will be presenting our donation to the Motor Neurone Disease Association's Norfolk, Norwich and Waveney branch at our April social.**

We are so grateful for the generosity of our members for donating raffle and tombola prizes and coming along and supporting us.

Our new Provincial Grand Master's charity will be announced at our Annual Meeting this March, and we have lots of events planned to get our next year of fundraising off to a fantastic start including a stall at Dereham Day in May, a great opportunity to see all there is to offer in our local area and another charity auction which proved so popular last year.

# News from the Heart of Norfolk Oddfellows



## Coffee Mornings

Our coffee mornings over the last 6 months have covered some of our favourite venues across our district and we have a great programme of wonderful locations for these warmer months including a summer picnic.

The coffee mornings are a great opportunity for our members to get together in a relaxed environment while enjoying some of the delicious food on offer across Norfolk. We welcome new members and if anyone would like to know more about Oddfellows there is always a warm welcome at our events.



## Evening Socials

Following on from some really popular evening socials over the last few months, including our fantastic Christmas Party, we have a selection of talks, games evening and another charity auction coming up. We've been thrilled to see so many faces at our socials and hope we see even more this summer.

## New Provincial Grand Master, Jo

We are delighted to be introducing Jo as our new Provincial Grand Master from our AGM this March. She is a longstanding member who has served the branch on the Committee of Management for several years and volunteered at so many of our fundraising events.



She is excited to start collecting for her Provincial Grand Master's charity of the year and we have some exciting events coming up to help get her started this spring and summer.

## Care and Welfare and Volunteering

**Please remember that the branch is always here for members in need. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Lydia if you would like more information, if we can't help, we'll be able to direct you to someone who can.**

There is also the opportunity for members to volunteer within the branch, both with

care and welfare and with the running of the branch. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please do get in touch and we can talk you through the options. Our branch is run by the members for the members and we would like as many people as possible helping us to ensure we are doing all we can for you.

## Traditional Terms

**Grand Master (GM):** Chairman

**Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM):** District Chairman

**Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):** District Deputy Chairman

**Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):** Immediate Past District Chairman

**Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM):** Past District Chairman

**Lodge:** Branch

## Friendship: the constant that carries us forward A message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

**Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.**

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship. Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

**Yours in friendship,**

**Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows**

## A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate)



# Talented trio win Educational Awards

**We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).**

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

## Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

## Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



## Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

## Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

## More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards).

# 2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

**The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.**

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

## Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

## Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

## Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

## Find out more

Visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk) or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.



# 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 Lydia on **01362 696536** or email **lydia.rosecutting@oddfellows.co.uk**

## **Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line**

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto: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](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

EDCWA50223

# At a glance

## March

<b>Thurs 12</b>	Talk on Elizabeth Fry by Georgette Vale	7.30pm
<b>Wed 25</b>	Holt Garden Centre Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Annual Summoned Meeting	7.30pm

## April

<b>Thurs 9</b>	Dessert Night	7.30pm
<b>Wed 22</b>	Coffee Morning at the Bug Parc	11am

## May

<b>Thurs 14</b>	Cases that made British Criminal History Talk by Gary Powell	7.30pm
<b>Wed 27</b>	Norfolk Food Hall Coffee Morning	11am

## June

<b>Thurs 11</b>	Tabletop Games Night	7.30pm
<b>Sun 14</b>	Oddfellows Brass Band Concert	2pm
<b>Wed 24</b>	Folly Tea Room Holt Coffee Morning	11am

## July

<b>Thurs 9</b>	Community Police Talk	7.30pm
<b>Wed 22</b>	Coffee Morning at the Sainsbury Centre	11am

## August

<b>Thurs 13</b>	Charity Auction	7.30pm
<b>Wed 26</b>	Picnic at Oxburgh Estate	11am

## September

<b>Thurs 10</b>	Vision Norfolk Talk	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 17</b>	Half Year Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Wed 23</b>	Whitwell Station Coffee Morning	11am