

October 2026 – March 2027



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

out & about

Mersey Branch



Brocklebank, Albert Dock, Liverpool



Social



Talks



Quizzes



Dining Out



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Meetings



Travel



Games



Walks



Coffee Morning
/ Afternoon Tea



Please book



*Coach Trip to Llandudno – Tuesday
30 June, hope you can join us!*

Hi Everyone,

**Welcome to the latest edition of the
Out and About Diary and Newsletter.**

Well, what a busy few months we've had! Check out the photo gallery to see what we've been up to. We've also got a busy autumn/winter schedule for you too. This summer has been a particularly warm one. I sincerely hope that by the time you get this newsletter, it will be much cooler.

If you're new to the Oddfellows, hello and welcome! You will be made welcome at any and all of our events. For those of you who have not been to one of our get-togethers before – or who haven't been for a while – or who are feeling a little shy, just contact us ahead of the event and we will make sure you are met at the door. It can be quite hard to go somewhere for the first time and we really do understand that.

Yours in Friendship.

**Margaret Hughes,
Branch Secretary**

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Care and Welfare Officer:

Angela Jones

Telephone: 07849 405854



Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits. Please visit
www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions to read these in full.*

A message from your Social Organisers (SOs)

Hello Everyone,

Can you believe that's another six months gone by? Time obviously flies when you're having fun!

Whilst we were sad to say goodbye to Jo, it's been lovely getting to know Vikki, our new Social Organiser for the Wirral and we're really looking forward to the exciting trips and events we've got planned. All these have been suggested by you, our amazing Members. We hope you're enjoying taking part in our WhatsApp Community Polls, it's always great for

you to have your say. If you aren't on the Community Group and would like to be included, just let us know and we will happily add you on.

Vikki says: Since starting as a Social Organiser in May, I have loved spending time with you all and getting to know everyone. We've already had lots of laughs, and I'm looking forward to many more days out together – especially all the Christmas fun we have planned!

Thank you for making me feel so welcome – here's to lots more happy times and memories together!

Angela and Vikki

Your Team



Margaret Hughes

Branch Secretary



Angela Murray

Social Organiser
Liverpool



Vikki Sweeney

Social Organiser
Wirral



Angela Jones

Care and
Welfare Officer

Booking and Cancellation

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please also note that full payment for trips and activities need to be paid by the deadlines indicated. Failure to do so may result in you losing the place.

Regular Get Togethers

Join us at any one (or all!) of our regular 'Get Togethers' for a cuppa and catch up, plus lots more, in a warm and welcoming environment. Free for Members, £2 for non-Members but first meeting is free. We do have a mini raffle at each meeting at a cost of £1, proceeds of which go towards the tea money. However, this is entirely voluntary – but the prizes are priceless!!

Each month there will be a different theme and fun & games are guaranteed! Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend along. Worried about going along for the first time? Just give Angela or Vikki a call and we will know to look out for you –remember, you are only a stranger the first time you walk through the door.

Childwall Get Together



**Fourth Monday
of the month**

Childwall Abbey Hotel, Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool L16 5EY. Bus Routes 79, 79a.

26 October 2026

(No December meeting)

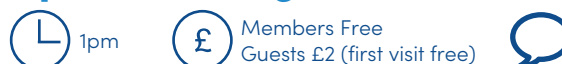
22 February 2027

23 November 2026

25 January 2027

22 March 2027

Upton Get Together



**Third Wednesday
of the month**

Upton Victory Hall, 61 Salacre Lane, Upton, Wirral CH49 0TN. Bus routes 418, 437.

21 October 2026

16 December 2026

17 February 2027

18 November 2026

20 January 2027

17 March 2027

Wallasey Get Together



**First Friday
of the month**

New Hope Wirral, Egremont Mission, Guildford Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 0BP. Bus routes 411, 413 to King Street.

2 October 2026

4 December 2026

5 February 2027

6 November 2026

(No January meeting)

5 March 2027

Waterloo Get Together



**Second Monday
of the month**

Waterloo Community Centre, 26 Great Georges Road, Liverpool L22 1RD. Bus routes X2, 47, 55, 54.

12 October 2026

14 December 2026

8 February 2027

9 November 2026

11 January 2027

8 March 2027

Regular Events

Book Club



11am



Members Free
Guests £2



**First Tuesday of
the month**

Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 11am. It is free for Members and guests pay £2. Each month a different member selects a book of their choice for everyone to read and then discussion follows at the next meeting, prior to the new book being picked. Afterwards we often head to the café in the Walker Art Gallery for a cuppa and spot of lunch. Liverpool Central Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EW. Contact Angela on 07912 605677. Dates are:

6 October 2026

1 December 2026

2 February 2027

3 November 2026

5 January 2027

2 March 2027

Movie Club and Dine Around

We will continue with these events on an ad hoc basis and keep you posted on WhatsApp Community, Facebook and through the weekly emails. If you don't have access to these, please let us know so we can keep you informed another way.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at **f MerseyOddfellows**

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay

To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

October 2026

FRI
16

Tour of the White Star Building



10.30am – extra
time of 12.45pm.



Members £8
Guests £10



Walk in the footsteps of Titanic history on a grand tour of this historic building. We will step inside Liverpool's most historic maritime building, completed in 1898 for the world-famous White Star Line. On our exclusive Oddfellows guided tour, you will explore the floors, vaults, balconies and hidden features of the grade II listed building, brought to life through incredible stories of ambition, tragedy and resilience. From the Grand Hall to the Quarter Deck, we will discover the hidden stories of the former White Star Line Headquarters and the port of registry for RMS Titanic. We can then end our journey with a drink in the Quarter Deck Bar! As numbers are limited, there will be two tours: one at 10.30am and the second at 12.45pm. Just let us know which one you prefer so we can book you on. Book by Friday 2 October 2026. The White Star Building, 30 James Street, Liverpool L2 7NX. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

"White Star Line Building" by Beverley Goodwin, CC BY 2.0

THURS
22

Walks with Kath



10.30am



Members Free
Guests £2



Join our lovely volunteer member, Kath, as we stroll down to the Childe of Hale and The Hale Head Lighthouse, followed by a drink/lunch in The Childe of Hale Pub. The lighthouse is a 17.5-metre Grade II listed landmark, built in 1906. It was decommissioned in 1958 and is on private property, but is reachable via scenic walking trails from Hale Village. The Childe of Hale is an English giant called John Middleton, born in 1578. He was allegedly 9 feet 3 inches and legend says he slept with his feet out of the window of his small house. He was employed as a bodyguard by the Sheriff of Lancashire. When King James I stopped by in 1617, the sheriff and John were invited to court where John beat the King's champion in a wrestling match and won £20 (approx. £3,500 in today's money). However, it is believed he was mugged or swindled on his way back and ended his days impoverished in 1623. He is buried in the cemetery of St Mary's Church. Meet outside Hale Village Hall. Bus route 82a from Liverpool. Hale Village Hall, High Street, Hale Village L24 4AF. Contact Angela on 07912 605677.

Image by Mario Ohlsky from Pixabay

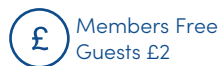
October 2026 November

SAT 31 Half Yearly Meeting and New Member Welcome



Please come and join us as your committee updates you on what has been happening across the Branch. You will have the opportunity to vote on all matters and ask any questions. We will also be holding an official 'Welcome' for any new members who haven't already done this and you will then receive your Oddfellows three links badge, which you can wear with pride. Upton Victory Hall, 61 Salacre Lane, Upton, Wirral CH49 0TN. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

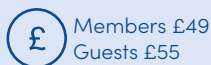
FRI 27 November Walks with Kath



Kath is taking us for a stroll around Stanley Park, followed by a drink/ lunch at the Isla Gladstone Conservatory Café in the park. Stanley Park is on the National Heritage List for England, designated as Grade II due to the fact it was designed by the nationally renowned landscaper Edward Kemp. Meet outside Anfield LFC ground. Bus route 26 from Liverpool One Bus Station. Liverpool Football Club, Anfield Road, Liverpool L4 0TH. Contact Angela on 07912 605677.

November

THURS 12 Christmas at Chatsworth House



Join us for an extra special Christmas excursion to Chatsworth House, voted for overwhelmingly by our members.

Chatsworth at Christmas is simply magical. We can enjoy a self-guided tour through the State Rooms, which are beautifully decorated with immersive festive themes. The gardens feature an illuminated light and sound trail as well as seasonal activities in the farmyard. There is also a Christmas Market featuring over 100 stalls offering artisan gifts, plus festive food and drinks. Access to the market is included in our house and garden ticket on the day. Pick-ups will be Upton Victory Hall, City Centre and Woolton Village, with meeting times to be confirmed nearer the date. Booking and payments must be made by Friday 30 October 2026. Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PP. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.



Image by Mick Lobb / Chatsworth House - South elevation, lawn and fountain. / CC BY-SA 2.0

December

SUN
13

Christmas Lunch at The Adelphi Hotel



12 noon



Members £30
Guests £35



Celebrate the festive season with us at the iconic Adelphi Hotel in the city centre, where we will enjoy a wonderful afternoon in one of the hotel's glamorous event rooms. The Adelphi Hotel is only a three-minute walk from Lime Street station, so handy for everyone. Indulge in a delicious three-course festive lunch, with a choice of two options for each course, followed by tea or coffee. You will need to pre-order your meal, so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come, so we can let you have the menu. We will also be joined by a festive singer to get everyone into the Christmas spirit, along with a raffle, plenty of laughter and lots of festive fun! It's the perfect opportunity to catch up with friends, make new memories and celebrate the season together. We can't wait to celebrate with you all! Book by Friday 27 November 2026. The Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Place, Liverpool L3 5UL. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.



Photo by Johannes Plenio on www.pexels.com

January 2027

THURS
14

Scouse Panto - Adults Only!



1.30pm



£21



Oh Come 'Ed Ye Faithful - it's back baby! They've cut down the curtains for costumes, pinched a donkey from the zoo and got a loan manger, so they're all set for another Christmas show packed with silly jokes and amazing live music. It's Bethlehem OAD (or OBC?) and Terry, a lonely shepherd looks out over the land and sees that all is good. Apart from a massive big star - he should probably look at that. However, he didn't want to miss out on a night with his mates in the pub, so they decided to keep a record of that beautiful star and the events that followed. 2026 years later, we have finally unlocked the secrets of the Gospel according to Saint/ Our Terry! We only have a limited number of tickets, so get in fast if you want to secure your place. This is a members only event and your place is not secured until full payment is received. Book by Thursday 8 October 2026. Royal Court Theatre, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool L1 1HL. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.



March

MON
01

Guided Tour of The Royal Court Theatre



11am – extra
time of 2pm



Members £10
Guests £12



We're keeping it local and exploring another of our great city landmarks. The Royal Court is a grade II listed building; a magnificent example of one of the best theatres built in the art deco style. The theatre is one of Liverpool's most enduring and iconic buildings and has a rich history – including several ghosts! Tours will last around two hours and takes us both front and back of house. We will be led by an experienced guide and the cost even includes a hot drink and biscuits at the end of our tour. As places are limited to 25 people per tour, please note that if we don't fill the 2pm tour, we will just have the 11am one, so please book early to ensure you get a place. The Royal Court Liverpool Trust is part way through an £11m scheme to renovate the buildings and the cost of the tickets for the tours will go towards the restoration of the building. There will also be a second tour at 2pm. Whilst the deadline for booking is Monday 22 February 2027, once the tickets are gone, they've gone! Royal Court Theatre, 1 Roe Street, Liverpool L1 1HL. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

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

March

THURS
11

Barton Grange Canal Cruise, Garden Centre and Market Day



9.30am



Members £45
Guests £50



Join us for a fantastic day out packed with great food, beautiful scenery and plenty of time to explore! We will be travelling by coach with the first stop being at a local market, before heading to the beautiful Barton Grange Marina and Garden Centre. From there we will board our 90 minute Lancaster Canal Cruise, where a freshly cooked fish and chips lunch (with alternative meal choices available) will be delivered straight to the boat from the Award Winning Turners Chippy at Bilsborrow. Sit back, relax and enjoy your meal as you take in the stunning canal scenery during this leisurely cruise. Afterwards, there will be plenty of time to browse the award winning Barton Grange Garden Centre, with its wonderful shops, gifts, plants and cafés, before we make our journey home by coach. This promises to be a fun-filled day with something for everyone – great company, delicious food, beautiful views and plenty to see and do. We can't wait for you to join us! Pick-up points will be Upton Village, City Centre and Woolton Village with times to be confirmed nearer the date. Book by Friday 12 February 2027. Barton Grange, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 0BT. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.



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SAT
20

Annual Meeting and New Member Welcome



12 noon



Free



Come and join us for a light buffet prior to our annual meeting. This is your chance to have your say and ask any questions as committee update you on the previous year's activities and financial position of the Branch. We will also be holding an official 'Welcome' for those who have not currently had one and you will be presented with your Oddfellows three links badge, which you can wear with pride. Please ensure you let us know if you are coming so we can ensure there are enough badges and food for everyone. Book by Friday 5 March 2027. Woolton Village Club, 23 Allerton Road, Woolton, Liverpool L25 7RA. Contact Vikki on 07777 382351 or Angela on 07912 605677.

Our Recent Adventures!

Liverpool Library Tour – February 2026



With the John James Audubon Book of paintings of Birds of America. The book is kept under strict conditions and the page is turned at the beginning of each week so it will take a while to go through it – but well worth it as the artwork is stunning!

Trentham Gardens – Friday 20 March



Enjoying a picnic lunch at Trentham Gardens



Ready to explore Trentham Gardens

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 supporting our members through a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810 to speak to one of our team.

Celebration Lunch – Sunday 19 April

We had a lovely afternoon at the Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel in Liverpool to celebrate with Angela Jones as her year as Chair came to an end. We raised an amazing £1,420 throughout the year for her chosen charity, Zoe's Place, so thank you so much to everyone who contributed.



Everyone all together.



Aimee Miller from Zoe's Place being presented with the charity cheque by Angela Jones, our outgoing Chair.



Ladies at the Celebration Lunch.

St Georges Hall – Friday 22 May

In May we kept it local and enjoyed a really interesting tour of one of the City's most iconic buildings, from the courtrooms and cells to the stunning Concert Hall, we saw it all!



*The guilty ones awaiting trial!
Well, visiting the cells anyway.*



Viewing the Minton tiles underneath the floor in the Great Hall with our very knowledgeable tour guide.

Llandudno – Friday 3 July

This trip was rearranged from the advertised date of 30 June, as the distillery decided it wasn't going to open on a Tuesday anymore! We therefore changed it to the following Friday.



And, we're off!



Ready to go at the Tram Station.



Our lovely Member, Noreen, enjoying a 'tipple' at the whisky distillery – Cheers me Dear!



Travelling up the Great Orme on the famous tram.

(Please note that all members arrived safely back home after this trip and no-one was lost en route!)

Chester – Friday 17 July

We headed off to Chester for a guided walk to explore its Roman history (led by a very handsome Centurion it must be said!) Augustus Faustus took us to see ruins of this historic city, many hidden in the cellars and back areas of cafés and shops – who knew?



Lining up along the wall and listening to the stories.



Never mind David and Goliath, we have Peter and Augustus – Peter had the dubious 'honour' of killing Augustus off at the end of the tour. What a waste of a handsome Centurion! (In my own personal opinion of course – Ed!)



I'm not sure if Vikki, our lovely Social Organiser, is trying to decapitate Joanne there, or knight the Centurion – I shall leave that up to you to decide!

Alvaston Hall visit with Oddfellows Travel Club – report back from Gordon Charters

Joan and I felt we must give some feedback about our holiday booked with the Oddfellows Travel Club at Alvaston Hall, Cheshire, 6th to 10th July 2026.

The Oddfellows representative, Debbie Jex, greeted us at the hotel reception. The hotel is a beautiful building situated in 42 acres of ground, much of which is a wildlife meadow, where there are easy walks, although some people may struggle with a few steep bits. There are several beautiful ponds near the hotel.

Breakfast and evening meals were included in the price. A wide variety of food was supplied for both meals and the food quality was first class. Other Oddfellows on our table agreed with me that the chefs were artists! Meals were enjoyed in the good company of other Oddfellows.

Various activities & treatments were available for those who wanted to take advantage of them. Several guided walks were available free of charge. Several hours of entertainment was provided each night, with a choice of entertainment in two different locations in the hotel.

Our spacious hotel room had a good ensuite, with shower. Debbie Jex was on hand to deal with any requests or problems any Oddfellows may have had. We were surprised there were no other Merseyside Oddfellows on the holiday.

Overall Joan and I would give Debbie and Emma Gorst from the Oddfellows 10 out of 10 for their efforts and help they gave with any queries they encountered. All in all an excellent holiday & well worth booking through the Oddfellows.

Gordon Charters.



Alvaston Hall Hotel.



Believe it or not, this is a dessert and everything is edible – the chefs truly ARE Artists!

Member Satisfaction Survey 2026

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Member Satisfaction Survey in March. We were delighted here at the Mersey Branch by the number of responses and especially pleased to receive an overall member satisfaction score of 9.6 out of 10. Our members also gave us a high recommendation rating, which suggests we're getting many things right.

We really value your feedback as it helps us understand what's working well and where we can do even better. We know that many people join for the opportunity to build friendships and take part in

social activities, so it was particularly encouraging to hear such positive comments about our events programme.

One member told us:

"Monthly get-togethers are always a highlight, giving the opportunity to chat to friends and make new ones."

If you've been thinking about coming along to an event, why not give it a try? We'd love to welcome you. And remember, if there's anything we can help you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Creative Corner

Have you got any photos or paintings you would like to see displayed here? If so, just send them to Margaret Hughes and I will add them to our 'Creative Corner'. The following have both been submitted by Keith Wike:



Obituary

Since our last diary, we have had to say goodbye to three very longstanding and loyal members.

In April, Bob Rowlands passed away having served many years on the Committee of Management, having joined in 2004. He also attended the Annual Conference on our behalf on many occasions and was our Chairman at least twice.

On the 17 July, Beryl Wike passed away. Beryl was also an active Member for many years before her illness. Beryl joined the Society in 1976 and together with her husband, Tom, supported the Branch throughout her membership.

On the 3 September we said goodbye to Doris Hulme, our Trustee, Andrew's, Mum. Doris had also been involved with the Society for a long time and was the Branch Secretary for many years. Unfortunately, her record is incomplete so I'm not sure when she joined. However, I have been a member since 1987 and she was definitely around then with her lovely sense of humour!

We shall miss all our friends and our condolences go to all the families who have lost their loved one.

Margaret Hughes
Branch Secretary

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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Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

We have a wonderful Care and Welfare Department who can help you out with convalescence or help at home after a stay in hospital, but if you are feeling lonely, don't forget that we have a local Care and Welfare Visitor, Angela, who is more than happy to phone you and have a chat. Just let Angela Jones know your phone number by contacting her on **07849 405854** and she will sort it out for you.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

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.

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and much more – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

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At a glance

October 2026

Fri 2	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Tues 6	Book Club	11am
Mon 12	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Fri 16	Tour of the White Star Building	10.30am
Wed 21	Upton Get Together	1pm
Thurs 22	Walks with Kath	10.30am
Mon 26	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
Sat 31	Half Yearly Meeting and New Member Welcome	3pm

November

Tues 3	Book Club	11am
Fri 6	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Mon 9	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Thurs 12	Christmas at Chatsworth House	9am
Wed 18	Upton Get Together	1pm
Mon 23	Childwall Get Together	10.30am
Fri 27	Walks with Kath	11am

December

Tues 1	Book Club	11am
Fri 4	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Sun 13	Christmas Lunch at The Adelphi Hotel	12 noon
Mon 14	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Wed 16	Upton Get Together	1pm

January 2027

Tues 5	Book Club	11am
Mon 11	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Thurs 14	Scouse Panto – Adults Only!	1.30pm
Wed 20	Upton Get Together	1pm
Mon 25	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

February

Tues 2	Book Club	11am
Fri 5	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Mon 8	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Wed 17	Upton Get Together	1pm
Mon 22	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

March

Mon 1	Guided Tour of The Royal Court Theatre	11am
Tues 2	Book Club	11am
Fri 5	Wallasey Get Together	10.30am
Mon 8	Waterloo Get Together	10.30am
Thurs 11	Barton Grange Canal Cruise, Garden Centre and Market Day	9.30am
Wed 17	Upton Get Together	1pm
Sat 20	Annual Meeting and New Member Welcome	12 noon
Mon 22	Childwall Get Together	10.30am

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