

October 2026 - March 2027



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

out & about

Nene and Welland District



Travel and
Trips



Arts and
Crafts



Talks



Social



History



Coffee Morning



Dining Out



Walk



Games

Chairman's Update

By David Hitchcock

Thank you to everyone who helped create and send out the Winter Out & About.



We have a few new events that we are introducing, including a Book Club and a simple soup and a roll for £1.50. If you can bring the correct change to events, it would be appreciated as we sometimes struggle getting change.

We're going to be introducing a 'booking line' (see next page), where you can leave a voicemail message for booking on to events. The line will be checked a couple of times a week. This will make it easier for our volunteers who run events, and reduce the number of people members need to ring to book various events. You'll be asked to leave your name, number, which event you are booking on to, names of any other people you're booking for, food choices and any dietary requirements.

We're also setting up a WhatsApp Community Group, which we can use to let people know menus, and post reminders of when payments are due etc., (you'd need a smartphone for this). If you'd like more information please speak to Sarah at an event, and she can give you a demonstration if you haven't used a WhatsApp group before.

We are very grateful to all our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to plan and run events. Jenny has written an article detailing what goes on behind the scenes - please do have a read and let us know if you are able to help, especially with taking photos and clearing up after events.

I'd like to extend my appreciation to all the members who donate prizes for our raffles and Surprise Bingos, as well as to those who support the events. Prizes are always welcomed, especially before and after Christmas. The Deepings Community Library will be very grateful for all our fundraising efforts - it would be fantastic if we can match last year's total of £3,000.

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.

We would like to welcome you to our new Out and About Events Diary.

If you don't already, and would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email, please let Sarah know at sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk, otherwise there is always an up-to-date copy on the Hall noticeboard available to look at. There are also free, regular national online events you can join.

Where possible please can **Standard and Extra Benefits** members set up a Direct Debit payment when renewing your subs. You can do this by contacting Membership direct on freephone number 0800 028 1810 (Mon - Thurs 9am - 5pm, Fri 9am - 4pm).

Associates can set up Standing Orders or pay via bank transfer. Please contact Karen on 01778 342006 with any queries, as unfortunately this can't be done through the Membership team.

Thank you to everyone who books on to events, it is helpful to know who is coming, then we know when we have reached capacity. We are going to be trialling a new method of booking events to hopefully make it easier for

Contact Details

District Secretary: Karen Earth

Telephone: 01778 342006

Email:

karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk

Assistant Secretary & Events Co-ordinator:

[sarah.hitchcock@](mailto:sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk)

oddfellows.co.uk

Booking line: 07895 569451.

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
57 Church Street, Market
Deeping PE6 8AN

event organisers (who volunteer their time) and for members (so that there are not as many people to contact).

The new booking line number is: 07895 569451. This will be a mobile that will be checked a couple of times a week. You will be asked to leave your full name, a contact number, name of event you are booking for, and the names of any other people you are booking for.

You will also need to let us know if there are any dietary requirements. Please note that the events Christine runs will still be booked directly with her.



Junior Members

Six of our Junior members, (and one of our Adult members) took part in a Colour run at the children's school to help raise money for the Samaritans. As you can see, they got thoroughly covered in the paint powder!

We are hoping to arrange more activities aimed at Junior members – if this would be of interest to your children/grandchildren please get in touch by emailing sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk



Some of our Junior members took part in a fun art session organised by Artivity and Deepings Literary Festival, where they helped decorate birds to be used as bunting at Deeping St James Priory Church Hall during the May 2026 Literary Festival.



REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at www.oddfellows.co.uk



*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Regular Events

Pudding and Cake



6pm



Members £5, Guests £6 - Tasting only
Free for contributors

Various Days



Why not come along and enjoy a wonderful range of home-made desserts and cakes. Whether you choose a favourite or a selection - the choice is yours. If you'd like to bring someone along, please do, otherwise just come along and enjoy! Don't forget to book your place beforehand and let us know if you have any dietary requirements. Attendance is free if you bring a pudding with you (home-made very much preferred). If you can also bring change with you to buy raffle tickets (for our Chairman's charity) etc. This would be a great help. Please note from October the cost will be increasing, to reflect the increased food costs for people making the puddings and cakes. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



Tuesday 3 November 2026

Friday 5 March 2027

Tuesday 5 January 2027

Lunch at the Hall



12.30pm



Members £6, Guests £7



Tuesdays

Join us at the hall for a lunch with friends. Come by yourself, meet friends here or invite a guest to come with you. Please remember to book at least 10 days before as spaces go quickly for this event (don't forget to tell us about any dietary requirements when booking). Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

6 October 2026

2 February 2027



Regular Events

Friendship Lunch

⌚ 12 noon for
12.30pm

£ As per menu



Wednesdays

Every month we will be meeting at The Crown Inn, Surfleet to enjoy good food and company in this traditional pub. Make sure you book early and provide your menu selection. Food will be served at 12.30pm. The Crown Inn, 6 Gosberton Road, Surfleet, Spalding PE11 4AB. Contact Christine on 07714 096801.



21 October 2026
18 November 2026

16 December 2026
20 January 2027

17 February 2027
17 March 2027

Let's Do Lunch!

⌚ 12.30pm
for 1pm

£ Currently £9 main course,
additional courses per menu



Wednesdays

Thorney Golf Club offer a fantastic menu for £9 (at time of going to press) for a main course (additional courses per menu). Events start at 12.30pm for 1pm food service. Bookings must be in at least 10 days before the meal, as requested by the venue. Unfortunately, they will be unable to accommodate any bookings after this time. Don't forget to keep a note of your food choices. Thorney Golf Club, English Drove, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0TJ. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



28 October 2026

27 January 2027

24 February 2027

Regular Events

A Crafty Cuppa



10.30am



Donation for refreshments



Wednesdays

Come and join us for a crafting morning, a natter with friends and a cuppa. Bring your own projects: knitting, sewing, paper-craft etc, and have a relaxing time. Bring your friends or just come along for the company. Refreshments available for a donation to our Chairman's charity. Don't forget to book your place. Donation for refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



14 October 2026

9 December 2026

10 February 2027

Craft Club



10.30am



£4 includes refreshments
£6 for guests includes refreshments



Wednesdays

No diary would be complete without our very popular Craft Club! A different craft each time – everything you need is provided for you. Due to the popularity of this event booking is essential two weeks before as space is limited. There will be a raffle for the Chairman's charity. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



11 November 2026

13 January 2027

10 March 2027

Regular Events

Museum Workshops

 10.30am
to 12 noon

 Members Only
Free



Did you know we are putting together an Oddfellows Museum above the main hall? Would you like to come and browse our archives? If so please let Christine know. Please note that there is a flight of stairs to climb (with handrails). Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call Christine on 07714 096801.



Friday

23 October 2026
27 November 2026

22 January 2027
26 February 2027

19 March 2027

Surprise Bingo!

 2pm

 £1 per book of 10 games
£5 for six books



Various Days

Why not join us for an afternoon of bingo fun? These sessions are open to all, so why not bring a friend? 10 games of bingo for the bargain price of £1 a book, or £5 for a strip of six books. Donation for refreshments. Large print books are available on request. Winners of lines and full houses get to choose a bag containing a mystery prize. The sessions are informal, with laughs along the way. There is a break half way for a chat with a cuppa and a piece of cake. Book in advance, as this is a popular event. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

Thursday 5 November 2026 ***Saturday 20 March 2027**
Saturday 30 January 2027

*Special Easter flyers £1 each. We were told the Easter Bunny has scheduled a special delivery! Book by Monday 15 March.

Coffee Morning

 11am

 Donations



Sundays

Come and support our coffee morning. Donations for refreshments will go to our Chairman's Charity of the Year, which is Deepings Community Library. Come by yourself or bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there! Open between 11am - 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

8 November 2026

31 January 2027

21 March 2027

Regular Events

Business Meetings



Tuesdays

Our business meetings are open for all members to attend. If you would like to know more about the running of the Branch, ask questions regarding the Branch, or become actively involved in any aspect of the Branch, then let us know. Please call us if you are coming, so that the appropriate paperwork etc. can be provided, so you can follow along. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



13 October 2026
8 December 2026

12 January 2027
2 March 2027 - Annual General Meeting

Book Club



NEW EVENT
Thursdays

New for this Out and About we're expecting to run about an hour and a half to two hours. If interested, members are welcome to our inaugural meeting on Thursday 29 October, so we can discuss how it would operate going forward. We look forward to seeing you there. Donation for refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



29 October 2026
26 November 2026

28 January 2027
25 March 2027

Simple Soup and a Roll



NEW EVENT
Saturdays

We are doing a bowl of soup with a roll for just £1.50. Let us know upon booking if you have any dietary requirements and book in advance as there are limited spaces. If you would like to stay and play some games, such as cards, dominoes and Scrabble afterwards, you will be very welcome. Correct change would be appreciated. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



21 November 2026
9 January 2027

20 February 2027
13 March 2027

October 2026

FRI 09 Degree Workshop

L 10.30am £ Free



To keep our Branch running, we need members to complete the four minor degrees and the Purple Degree, which are required for the roles of Deputy Chairman and Chairman. The degrees are straightforward, fully guided, and take around 30 minutes each. Lectures are also available, lasting about 15 minutes and providing more information about the Oddfellows, although the degree route is still required for those wishing to become Deputy. Please ask if you'd like more information. There is also a five-minute 'Welcoming Ceremony', in which you are awarded your 'Three Links' badge. Both the degrees and the lectures are just a way to learn more about the Oddfellows. Book by Tuesday 6 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. Contact Christine on 07714 096801.

SAT 24 British Racing Motors Talk with Lunch

L 1pm £ Members £5
Guests £6



Join us for soup and a roll, followed by a talk about British Racing Motors, Britain's original F1 team, which was based in Bourne. They raced over three decades and were World Champions in 1962. Driven by a number of racing legends, including Sir Stirling Moss, Graham Hill and Sir Jackie Stewart, the talk will be followed by a cuppa and a cake. Book quick, limited spaces. Open to non-members, so why not invite a friend? Book by Friday 16 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



November

SAT
14

Christmas Quiz and Buffet

⌚ 3pm

£ Members £8
Guests £10



Why not put a team together of between four to six people (we can



help team you up if requested).

There will be a buffet tea at half time and the overall winning team gets a prize. Join us for a light hearted traditional pub quiz themed around Christmas. There will be a raffle for our Chairman's charity - Deepings Community Library. Please note this is at a different venue. Book by Monday 2 November 2026. Coronation Hall, 16 Halfleet, Market Deeping PE6 8DB. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

MON
23

Burtey Fen Christmas Music

⌚ 1pm

£ £10



Enjoy Christmas music played at the Burtey Fen Collection - a privately owned music hall, which houses three pipe organs. The venue also features a vast collection of original memorabilia in tribute to the stars of entertainment between 1940 to 1965. There will be 40 minutes of music, an interval where a hot drink and mince pie is served (included in your booking cost) and a further 40 minutes of music. Join in with popular Christmas music and a medley of well-known carols. Payment on booking please. Doors open at 1pm, so you can have a look at the memorabilia, music starts at 1.30pm. Book by Thursday 12 November 2026. Burtey Fen Collection, 3 Burtey Fen Lane, Pinchbeck, Spalding PE11 3SR. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

SUN
29

Deepings Christmas Market

⌚ 10.30am

£ As per purchase



Pop in and see us during the Deepings Christmas Market. We will be open between 10.30am to 1pm, running a few stalls to help increase our Chairman's charity fundraising total. The 'Tombola', 'Name the teddy' and 'Guess how many sweets in a jar' were very popular last year. Come and see what you can win. Don't forget to tell your friends, family and neighbours too. Cash only please. Refreshments will be available for donation. No need to book, just pop in. If you can spare half an hour to help please let us know. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

December

TUES

01

Christmas Lunch



12 noon



TBC



This year we are booked in to Eventus Café for Christmas lunch. Food will be served



at 12.30pm. If you would like to supply your own wine you can, but you will also need to bring your own glasses to drink it from. Book fast as there are limited places. Please inform us of any dietary requirements upon booking. Book by Tuesday 10 November 2026. The Café at Eventus, Eventus Business Centre, Sunderland Road, Market Deeping PE6 8FD. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

SUN

06

Christmas Carol Service



3pm



Free



Bring a plate of food to share and join in this lovely Christmas celebration. Sing some Christmas carols, accompanied by the keyboard, along with some seasonal readings. Let us know what food you are planning to bring so that we can ensure we have a range of food available to enjoy. Must book as there are limited spaces. Book by Tuesday 1 December 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

THURS

10

Festive Afternoon Tea



1pm



TBC



Join us for a festive afternoon tea. Meet at 1pm, food served at 1.30pm.



Entertainment provided by a live singer. Cost to be confirmed. Book by Friday 20 November 2026. Fayre Spot Pub at The Cresset, Rightwell, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DX. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

THURS

17

Christmas Beetle Drive



2pm



Donation



Why not join us for an afternoon Christmas beetle drive. £1 per beetle sheet. Come by



yourself or bring a friend with you. The sessions are informal and we have laughs along the way. There will be a break half way for a chat with a cuppa and piece of cake. Remember to book your place as spaces are limited. Please bring some £1 coins to make payment easier. Book by Wednesday 9 December 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

January 2027

SAT
23

Curry Night



6.30pm



Members £10
Guests £12



Try something new at our curry night. There will be chicken, beef and vegetable curry - these will not be very spicy, along with side dishes and a dessert. Let us know your choices when you book. Why not bring a friend with you? Book quick as there are limited spaces. Book by Wednesday 13 January 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



February

SAT
13

Beauville Ensemble



2pm



Donation



Join Beauville Ensemble for a woodwind music concert with some of John Clare's poetry included. Approximately one hour long, followed by refreshments for a donation. The group are often asked to play at church flower festivals and at open gardens (we are hoping to have a tour of John Clare's house in the warmer months). Don't forget to book as there are limited places. Book by Friday 5 February 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.

March

TUES
02

Annual General Meeting



10.30am



Free



This is our Annual General Meeting, where we elect our new Chairman and Deputy for the year ahead. This meeting is open to all members to attend. If you would like to know more about the running of the Branch, have any questions, or would like to become actively involved in any aspect of the Branch, then please book and join us. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. To book, please call us on 07895 569451.



**Learn, have fun,
and stay in touch
from home**

We've online events
for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.

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

What goes on behind the scenes?

By Jenny Collins.

We want to give you a flavour of all the hard work that goes into making each of our social events a success and why we owe so much to all the people who help make it happen. It is usually the same dedicated people who help every time.

Let's take a typical Ploughman's Style Lunch at the hall for approximately 25 people. As an example, this relaxing two-hour event has involved:

- Taking bookings, dealing with cancellations/ queries, checking for dietary needs.
- Booking and liaising with speakers (often several emails/phone calls are required)
- Sorting out raffle prizes, tickets and a float
- Checking food labels of every product in case recipes have been altered
- Buying and storing the food, preparing and printing food labels/menus
- Baking cakes or making desserts the day before
- Shopping for last minute fresh items– bread etc.
- Preparing the food – washing, cutting and chopping salads, cutting up cheese, boiling and shelling eggs, washing and preparing fruit, rolling up sliced meats etc.
- Setting out the hall – tables, chairs, cutlery, mats, fire register
- Laying the tables - place mats, coasters, cutlery, serviettes, sugar pots, milk jugs
- Making sure the fire gate has been opened/heating put on, or air con
- Setting out the food, tongs, serving spoons etc.
- Preparing beverages – cups, boiling kettles, filling the hot water flasks
- Checking up on people who have booked and haven't turned up
- Making sure everyone present has signed the fire register and paid
- Accepting donations of future raffle and bingo prizes etc
- Reminding people about future events and taking bookings for them
- Making sure at least one photo has been taken and put on Facebook
- Making sure any new people are made welcome
- Selling Raffle tickets, folding up tickets and arranging the draw
- Distributing and boxing up leftovers (donation required if taking leftovers please)
- Clearing and cleaning tables, mats, coasters, hoovering the carpet
- Washing up/ drying up, putting everything back in its correct place
- Checking taps and lights are off in toilets and emptying the bins
- Bagging the rubbish/recycling in correct coloured bags for collection by trade waste
- Making sure the fire gate has been locked, heating/lights/air con turned off
- Washing tea towels ready for the next event
- Counting and labelling money ready for banking



Continued on next page

These are what we remember, there are bound to be others we've forgotten to include. So, when we say we'd really appreciate some offers of help with the multitude of tasks that need to be done we really do mean it. After all many hands make lighter work, and remember this is for just one event and we average 8 – 10 events a month. So, if you can help with any of these tasks we'd love to hear from you.



Three of our members were published in a Special of The People's Friend magazine from last year's extreme sports that Unity (our Head Office based in Manchester) asked six of our members to take part in. The interviewer spoke to Jean about the day, hence the headline "I'm always up to mischief".



In January 2026 we had a talk by One You Lincolnshire explaining some of the services they offer free of charge to people in the county. One member, Jamie, pictured here, successfully used the service to stop smoking after numerous attempts over the years. Others have also successfully accessed the Slimming World classes for 12 weeks for free, with one member having lost over two and a half stones. Keep up the great work everyone!



When Jenny Collins, one of the Trustees was calling into Deeping businesses in April to ask about sponsorship of our Wacky Races she was blown away by what Double & Megson Solicitors offered us. In addition to a bottle of wine for our raffle, they kindly donated £800 to be used 'for events for our members'. Please note that Shanta Shar and her team are still working at the same place, though it has now been acquired by Chattertons.





At the end of 2025 we were contacted about a banner which was found at Sawtry Parish Council. In 2026 we were asked if we'd like the banner for our museum. It looks to be in a similar style to the other banner we collected a couple of years ago from up North. Unfortunately, the material was very ripped, and was held together in some areas with Sellotape, which hadn't helped the material. We had to cut most of it to save the painting. If you'd like to see this in more detail there are pictures in the museum that you can view.



Four members of the Explorer Section in the 1st Whittlesey Scouts have been awarded a total of £150 by the Branch to help them pay to attend the World Scout Jamboree 2027 in Poland.



A plaque and a £25 National Book voucher was presented to a Willoughby Academy student in July on behalf of the Branch. This was awarded for best demonstrating the school's core values of 'wisdom, curiosity, generosity, courage and passion'.



Some of our members enjoying a Brunch out at The Fayre Spot, Bretton.

Join in the fun at our social events....



Afternoon tea at the Fayre Spot, Bretton



Baytree Garden Centre in Spalding



Pudding and cake



*St Patrick's Day Armchair
Treasure Hunt*



*Flower arranging with the
Craft Club*

Oddfellows Online Events

Staying Safe from Financial Scams

Tuesday 18 August, 7pm

Financial scams are becoming more sophisticated, using new tactics to exploit trust. This talk with Unity Mutual explains how these scams work, highlights key warning signs, and provides practical strategies to help you protect yourself and your finances.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/FinancialScams1

Understanding Diabetes with Diabetes UK

Tuesday 15 September, 7pm

Join us for this informative talk covering what type 1 and type 2 Diabetes is, signs and symptoms, who's at risk of type 2 diabetes, how to access support, and how to live well.

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

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



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.

Meet your Nene and Welland Care and Welfare Team

**The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support**



We'd like to introduce you to our friendly Care and Welfare team, with three more members undertaking Care & Welfare training, we look forward to talking to you in the near future.



**Christine
Sargeant
07714 096801**



**Karen Earth
01778 342006**



**Sarah
Hitchcock
01778 342006**



**Jenny Collins
07788 534290**

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Branch Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Karen Earth on **01778 342006** or email **karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk**.

National Oddfellows Helplines



As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.

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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs

Events at a glance

October 2026

Tues 6	Lunch at the Hall, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Fri 9	Degree Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am
Tues 13	Business Meeting, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Wed 14	A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Wed 21	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Fri 23	Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am
Sat 24	British Racing Motors Talk with Lunch, Oddfellows Hall	1pm
Wed 28	Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney Golf Club	12.30pm
Thurs 29	Book Club, Oddfellows Hall	11am

November

Tues 3	Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall	6pm
Thurs 5	Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall	2pm
Sun 8	Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall	11am
Wed 11	Craft Club , Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Sat 14	Christmas Quiz and Buffet, Coronation Hall, Market Deeping	3pm
Wed 18	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Sat 21	Simple Soup and a Roll, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Mon 23	Burtey Fen Christmas Music, Burtey Fen Collection, Pinchbeck	1pm
Thurs 26	Book Club, Oddfellows Hall	11am
Fri 27	Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am
Sun 29	Deepings Christmas Market, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am

December

Tues 1	Christmas Lunch, The Café at Eventus, Market Deeping	12 noon
Sun 6	Christmas Carol Service, Oddfellows Hall	3pm
Tues 8	Business Meeting, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Wed 9	A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Thurs 10	Festive Afternoon Tea, Fayre Spot Pub at The Cresset, Bretton	1pm
Wed 16	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Thurs 17	Christmas Beetle Drive, Oddfellows Hall	2pm

Events at a glance

January 2027

Tues 5	Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall	6pm
Sat 9	Simple Soup and a Roll, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Tues 12	Business Meeting, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Wed 13	Craft Club, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Wed 20	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Fri 22	Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am
Sat 23	Curry Night, Oddfellows Hall	6.30pm
Wed 27	Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney Golf Club	12.30pm
Thurs 28	Book Club, Oddfellows Hall	11am
Sat 30	Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall	2pm
Sun 31	Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall	11am

February

Tues 2	Lunch at the Hall, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Wed 10	A Crafty Cuppa, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Sat 13	Beauville Ensemble, Oddfellows Hall	2pm
Wed 17	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Sat 20	Simple Soup and a Roll, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Wed 24	Let's Do Lunch!, Thorney Golf Club	12.30pm
Fri 26	Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am

March

Tues 2	Annual General Meeting, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Fri 5	Pudding and Cake, Oddfellows Hall	6pm
Wed 10	Craft Club, Oddfellows Hall	10.30am
Sat 13	Simple Soup and a Roll, Oddfellows Hall	12.30pm
Wed 17	Friendship Lunch, The Crown Inn, Surfleet (Christine)	12 noon
Fri 19	Museum Workshop, Oddfellows Hall (Christine)	10.30am
Sat 20	Easter Surprise Bingo, Oddfellows Hall	2pm
Sun 21	Coffee Morning, Oddfellows Hall	11am
Thurs 25	Book Club, Oddfellows Hall	11am

Booking Events

It's essential you book in advance for all events and provide up-to-date contact details, enabling us to notify you promptly of any changes or cancellations. Please notify the office of any contact detail changes. Messages can be left on the office phone or sent via email. Staff are usually about between 9am – 2pm.

Business Meetings

Held on Tuesday at 10.30am

Our business meetings are open for all members to attend. If you would like to know more about the running of the Branch, ask questions regarding the Branch, or become actively involved in any aspect of the Branch, then please do join us. Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping, Peterborough PE6 8AN. Contact Karen on 01778 342006.

3 October 2026

12 January 2027

8 December 2026

2 March 2027 - Annual General Meeting

Contact Details

Booking Line: 07895 569451

Christine: 07714 096801

Office (Karen or Sarah): 01778 342006

Nene and Welland Oddfellows office

Karen Branch Secretary email:
karen.earth@oddfellows.co.uk

Sarah Assistant Secretary email:
sarah.hitchcock@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  **OddfellowsNeneWelland**

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