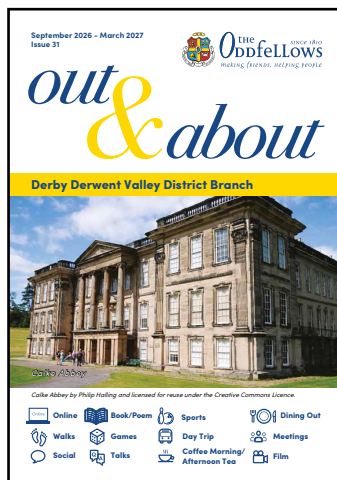


Derby Derwent Valley Out and About and The Derby Link Magazine

Please scroll down to the first page for the Derby Out and About events diary and page 21 for The Derby Link Magazine

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the link below
[Derby Out and About](#)



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the link below
[The Derby Link Magazine](#)



September 2026 - March 2027
Issue 31



O^{the} **DD**fellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Derby Derwent Valley District Branch



Calke Abbey

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Online



Book/Poem



Sports



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Film

Welcome to your latest edition of the Out and About!

We have enjoyed a wonderful variety of events over the summer months, including two successful coach trips. One took members to the Good Food Show and Gardeners' World Live at the NEC in Birmingham, while the other visited the picturesque seaside town of Llandudno.

Our ever-popular Strawberry Tea was also a great success, with everyone enjoying an afternoon of games, followed by a delicious buffet of strawberries and cream, sandwiches, and cakes. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended. All proceeds were donated to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman's) chosen charity, YMCA Derbyshire, helping to support people experiencing homelessness.

The Social Planning Committee has been hard at work arranging a varied programme of events for the months ahead, and we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

September promises to be a particularly busy Friendship Month, beginning with our ever-popular Cheese and Wine Evening, which will once again feature the fun-filled 'Steal the Raffle' game. Members are encouraged to invite family and friends along for what is always a relaxed and enjoyable evening.

Also planned is a picnic and walk to the YMCA at Wilmorton, offering another opportunity to socialise while supporting our chosen charity.

Our Annual Church Service will take place at Boulton St Mary's Church. Please arrive at 2.30pm for the 3pm service. Afterwards, everyone is invited to enjoy a complimentary buffet tea in the church

community hall, providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

The festive season begins with the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 7 November, where a variety of craft stalls and festive gifts will be on offer and Turkey and Stuffing cobs will be on sale. We then look forward to Brunch with Santa on Saturday 5 December, featuring a continental breakfast and a glass of Prosecco, before welcoming families to our Junior Members' Christmas Party on Sunday 13 December. Throughout December, we will also be celebrating with our Lodge Christmas Parties and the Derby Derwent Valley Christmas festivities.

Please note that our Chair Exercise sessions, held on the first and third Monday of each month at 11am, have had a small price increase. The cost is now £5 for members and £6 for guests, which includes tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Also, the start time for our Ukulele Group has changed. Sessions will now begin at 2pm on most Fridays. However, on the third Friday of each month, the start time will remain 2.30pm due to hall hire arrangements.

The Derby Derwent Valley District Luncheon will be held on Sunday, 21 February. Details of the venue, timings, and cost will be confirmed and circulated closer to the event. Bookings will open at the beginning of 2027.

Finally, Polly Cunningham, our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), would like to extend her sincere thanks to everyone who has supported her chosen charity throughout the year. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a donation and would like to do so, please contact the Provincial Office on 01332 345697 and speak to Lauretta or Alice, who will be happy to assist.

Weekly Events

The events below all take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Line Dancing

Every Monday

⌚ 2pm - 3.30pm £ Members £3
Guests £4

Step into the fun – everyone's welcome! Get moving with a fantastic workout. Relax with a cup of tea or coffee and some biscuits – for just £1! Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.

Short Mat Bowls

Every Tuesday

⌚ 2pm - 4pm £ Members £1.50
Guests £2.50

Join us for a relaxed and friendly session – perfect for beginners and seasoned players alike. Enjoy great company, a game or two, and complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits. All are welcome – come and give it a try! Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.



Lots of our events take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Really easy to find with parking at the rear off Melbourne Street.

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

01332 345697

Laurretta Stokes

Email:

laurretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk

Alice Smyth

Email:

alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk

f OddfellowsDerby

Ukulele Class

Every Friday

⌚ 2pm or 2.30pm £ £1

Join us every Friday for a fun afternoon learning to play the ukulele or improving your existing skills. Whether you're a complete beginner, looking to build

confidence, or simply coming along to listen, everyone is welcome. Ukuleles are provided and you can enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits for just £1. **The start time for our Ukulele Group has changed. Sessions will now begin at 2pm on most Fridays. However, on the third Friday of each month, the start time will remain 2.30pm due to hall hire arrangements.** Contact Laurretta on 01332 345697.



Regular Events

Knit and Natter

⌚ 6.30pm

£ £1

Fortnightly
Monday

Come and join us for a fun evening of any type of crafting whilst having a chat and refreshments. All abilities are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 07855 517144.

7 September 2026

2 November 2026

11 January 2027

8 March 2027

21 September 2026

16 November 2026

25 January 2027

22 March 2027

5 October 2026

30 November 2026

8 February 2027

19 October 2026

14 December 2026

22 February 2027

Chair Exercise Class

⌚ 11am

£ Members £5, Guests £6

Fortnightly
Monday

Come and join us on first and third Monday of each month. Enjoy improving your strength, flexibility, balance and circulation, all while being safe and easy to perform at a Chair Exercise Class. Tea or coffee and biscuits are included. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

7 September 2026

2 November 2026

4 January 2027

1 March 2027

21 September 2026

16 November 2026

18 January 2027

15 March 2027

5 October 2026

7 December 2026

1 February 2027

19 October 2026

21 December 2026

15 February 2027

Coffee Morning

⌚ 10.30am

£ £1

Thursday
and Saturday

Join us for a warm cuppa and a friendly chat! Enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits for just £1 in great company and treat yourself to our delicious hot cobs on sale (Saturday's only). Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

Saturday (Hot cobs on sale)

19 September 2026 - Quiz

3 October 2026 - Bingo

7 November 2026 - Christmas Bazaar

9 January 2027 - Games/Quiz

6 February 2027 - Valentine

6 March 2027 - Easter-themed

Thursday (Guest Speaker)

24 September 2026

15 October 2026

26 November 2026

21 January 2027

18 February 2027

18 March 2027

September 2026

TUES
01

King George IV Branch Ten-Pin Bowling



7.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for an exciting night of ten-pin bowling! It's the perfect way to have fun. Book by Tuesday 4 August 2026. Tenpin Bowling, Foresters Leisure Park, Derby DE23 8AG. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

WED
02

Walking Group at Foremark Reservoir



10am



As per menu



Foremark Reservoir meet at the car park, parking is payable, DE65 6EG (Ticknall to Milton Road). Lunch to be decided. Foremark Reservoir, Milton, Derbyshire DE65 6EG. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

TUES
08

Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Dominoes



2pm



Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon of playing dominoes.



The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

TUES
08

Dining Out Experience at The Silk Mill



6.45pm



As per
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Silk Mill, British menu takes influence from all four corners of the British Isles. Book by Tuesday 1 September 2026. The Silk Mill, 19 Full Street, Derby DE1 3AF. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

WED
16

Walking Group at Shardlow



10am



As per menu



Meet at the Clock Warehouse for a four-and-a-half-mile walk in the Shardlow area. Clock Warehouse, Canal Bank, Shardlow DE72 2GL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

September 2026

SUN
20

Annual Church Service



2.30pm



Free



Being held at the Boulton St Mary's Church. Meet at 2.30pm for the service at 3pm.



Following the service, a buffet tea will be served in the church community hall. Book by Friday 11 September 2026. Boulton St Mary's Church, Boulton Lane, Alvaston, Derby DE6 5JG. Please contact the Derby Office on 01332 345697 if you would like to attend, for catering purposes.

SAT
26

Friendship Walk and Picnic at Wilmorton



11am



£5



Make someone's day and invite friends and family along for a walk and a chat. Meet at the Wilmorton Community Hub. Also, a delicious picnic is provided. All money goes to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity the YMCA Derbyshire. Book by Friday 18 September 2026. Wilmorton Community Hub, Dickinson Street, Wilmorton DE24 8WJ. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



FRI
25

Cheese and Wine Evening and Steal Raffle



7.30pm



Members £8
Guests £10



Come along to our ever so popular cheese and wine evening. There will also be a fun game of Steal

Raffle. Book by Friday 18 September 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



WED
30

Walking Group at Breaston



10am



As per menu



Breaston Coffin Walk. Meet at the Bull's Head pub car park Breaston DE72 3EA for a five-miles walk, undulating countryside with stiles and a railway bridge. Eating at the Bull's Head afterwards. Bull's Head, Wilsthorpe Road, Breaston DE72 3EA. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

October

SAT 03 Stanhope Branch District Officers' Visit

 6.30pm  Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Due to room restrictions, places are limited. Book by Saturday 5 September 2026. Hunters Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn DE56 0LU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

TUES 06 King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Games

 7.30pm  Free



Join us for our exciting monthly meeting, followed by a fun-filled game night! Don't miss out on the action and great company. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

TUES 13 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Rummikub

 2pm  Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon of playing Rummikub. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

TUES 13 Dining Out Experience at Darcy's Fish and Chips

 6.45pm  As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Darcy's Fish and Chips is a family-run business in Derby, serving some of the best fish and chips in the area. Book by Monday 6 October 2026. Darcy's Fish and Chips, Manor Road, Littleover, Derby DE23 6BR. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

FRI 09 Bring and Share Buffet and Steal Raffle

 7.30pm  £8



Come along to our ever so popular bring and share evening. As before, it's free if you bring along something savoury or a pudding. If you're not bringing anything, there will be a small charge of £8. There will also be a fun game of Steal Raffle. Book by Friday 2 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



October

WED **14** **Walking Group at Little Eaton**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at The New Inn for a walk in the Little Eaton Area. Eating at The New Inn afterwards. The New Inn, Duffield Road, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5DR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

WED **28** **Walking Group at Mickleover**

 10am

 As per menu



Radbourne 5.5 mile walk. Meet at The Great Northern. Lunch at The Great Northern. The Great Northern, Station Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9FB. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



SAT **24** **Quiz Afternoon**

 2pm

 £4



Come and join us for a fun afternoon quiz with friends. Delicious cakes, tea or coffee will be provided. All money raised goes to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity the YMCA Derbyshire. Book by Friday 16 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

November

TUES **03** **King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Bonfire Theme Activities**

 7.30pm

 Free



Join us for our monthly meeting, followed by a fun-filled evening of bonfire-themed activities! Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

TUES **10** **Pares Branch Meeting and District Officers' Visit**

 2pm

 Free



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet will be served following the meeting. Book by Tuesday 3 November 2026. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

November

TUES **10** Dining Out Experience at Nicco Restaurant & Bar

 6.45pm

 As per
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Contemporary Indian dining. Luxurious cocktail bar and lounge. Tapas-style dining, tasty grills, street food and curries. Book by Tuesday 3 November 2026. Nicco Restaurant & Bar, Wheelwright Way, Derby DE24 8SQ. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

WED **11** Walking Group at Ticknall

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at Ticknall Village Hall (DE73 7JX) (Parking-donations) for Calke Tramway five-miles walk. Lunch to be decided. Ticknall Village Hall, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall DE73 7JX. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

SAT **14** Game Show

 7pm

 Members £10
Guests £12



Join us for a fun game show evening. Followed by beef or vegetable lasagne and a pudding. Spaces are limited, so please be quick to book by Friday 30 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

SAT **21** Kurling Afternoon

 2pm

 £4



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of kurling. Enjoy some friendly competition and enjoy some delicious cake, tea or coffee. All money raised goes to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity the YMCA Derbyshire. Book by Friday 13 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

WED **25** Walking Group at Staunton Harold

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at Staunton Harold car park LE65 1RU (behind the garden centre) for a walk. Staunton Harold Car Park, Melbourne Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch LE65 1RU. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

December

TUES **01** **King George IV Branch** **Christmas Party**

 7.30pm

 Free



Join us for a festive celebration at our Christmas party! Enjoy a delicious evening buffet, exciting party games and plenty of holiday cheer. Don't miss out on the fun! Book by Tuesday 3 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

THURS **03** **Good Intent Branch** **Christmas Party**

 2.30pm

 Free



Join us for our Christmas party. An afternoon buffet, along with a visit from Santa. Booking is essential as numbers are limited by Thursday 26 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 07855 517144.

TUES **08** **Pares Branch** **Christmas Meal at** **Eaton Farm**

 12 noon

 As per menu



Come and join us for some festive fun at our Christmas meal at Eaton Farm. Book by Tuesday 1 December 2026. Eaton Farm, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4AW. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

WED **09** **Walking Group at** **Alvaston Park**

 10am

 As per menu



Walk from Alvaston Park DE24 8QQ (car park by BMX track) along the Derby Canal to Borrowash, returning along the river Derwent. Five and half miles, flat, mostly paths, one flight of stairs. Pub lunch, venue for lunch to be decided later. Alvaston Car Park, Meadow Lane, Alvaston DE24 8QQ. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

SAT **05** **Brunch with Santa's Helpers -** **Continental Breakfast and Prosecco**

 10.30am

 Members £8, Guests £10



Join us for a delicious cooked breakfast, perfectly paired with prosecco for a festive start to your day. Book by Friday 27 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



December

WED **09** **Derby Derwent Valley** **District Branch District** **Officers' Visit**



Come and meet this year's Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and her officers. A buffet meal will be served after the meeting. Book by Wednesday 2 December 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. For catering purposes, please contact Branch Secretary, Lauretta on 01332 345697 if you would like to come along.

SUN **13** **Junior Members** **Christmas Party**



Calling all junior members. Come and join us for a lunchtime of fun playing games, followed by a visit from Santa, bringing presents and a lunchtime of sandwiches, cake and crisps. Book by Tuesday 8 December 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.

MON **14** **Good Samaritan** **Branch Christmas Party**



There is no Branch meeting this month. Instead, join us for a Christmas buffet, quiz and raffle. Limited spaces. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. For catering purposes, please book by Tuesday 1 December 2026 with Gordon on 01332 728694.

THURS **17** **Good Samaritan** **Christmas Meal at** **Mickleover Golf Club**



Come and join us for some festive fun at our Christmas meal at Mickleover Golf Club. Arrive at 12.30pm for the meal at 1pm. Mickleover Golf Club, Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover, Derby DE3 9AD. Spaces are available and please book before Thursday 19 November 2026 with Gordon on 01332 728694.



December

WED 23 Walking Group at Chester Green

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Walk from Chester Green to Pride Park and return along the Derwent. Park at Old Chester Road car park DE1 3SA. Five-miles walk, flat, no stiles, paths. Pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Chester Green Car park, Old Chester Road, Derby DE1 3SA. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

January 2027

TUES 12 Dining Out Experience at The Bubble Inn

⌚ 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Book by Tuesday 5 January 2027. The Bubble Inn, Stenson, Derby DE73 7HL. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



January 2027

WED 06 Walking Group at Breadsall

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at The Paddock DE21 4AW for a walk along the Northern Greenway via Breadsall Village. Seven miles. Lunch at The Paddock. The Paddock, Mansfield Road, Derby DE21 4AW. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

TUES 12 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Bingo

⌚ 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon of playing bingo. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

WED 20 Walking Group at Whatstandwell

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Walk the Cromford Canal. Meet at Whatstandwell railway station car park DE4 5EE (pay for parking) for a six-miles walk, returning to Whatstandwell. Flat tow path. Lunch venue to be decided. Whatstandwell Car Park, Whatstandwell DE4 5EE. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



January 2027

SAT
23

Chocolate Bingo



2.30pm



Members £5
Guests £7



Get your dobbers ready and join us for an afternoon of Chocolate Bingo. Bingo books will be available to purchase on the day. There will be refreshments of jacket potato with various fillings. Book by Friday 15 January 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

February

WED
03

Walking Group at Shipley Country Park



10am



As per menu



Meet at Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre DE75 7GX for a five-miles walk round the park. Flatish terrain mainly on paths. Pay for parking. Shipley Country Park, Slack Lane, Heanor DE75 7GX. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

February

TUES
09

Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Topix



2pm



Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon of playing Topix. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

TUES
09

Dining Out Experience at Istanbul Restaurant



6.45pm



As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. This spacious restaurant serves a wide variety of Turkish dishes. Book by Tuesday 2 February 2027. Istanbul Restaurant, 166 Normanton Road, Derby DE23 6UX. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

SAT
13

Film Afternoon



2pm



Members £5
Guests £7



Come and join us for a film afternoon with friends. The film is to be decided at a later date. Also, soup and a roll is included. Book by Friday 5 February 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



February

WED **17** **Walking Group at** **Heage**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at Eagle Tavern, Heage (DE56 2HU) for five-miles walk. On street parking. Lunch to be decided. Eagle Tavern, Ripley Road, Heage DE56 2HU. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

SUN **21** **Derby Derwent Valley** **Annual Luncheon**

 12.30pm

 TBC



Join us for our annual Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman's) Luncheon. Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this special afternoon as we come together to celebrate and enjoy good food and great company. There will also be a raffle during the event, with all proceeds going towards our chosen charity, YMCA Derbyshire. Further details, including the venue and costs, will be announced at a later date. Book by Monday 8 February 2027. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697 or Alice on 01332 345697.

SAT **27** **Bowls** **Afternoon**

 2pm

 £4



Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and test your bowls skills. A variety of cakes, tea or coffee are included. All the money raised goes to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity the YMCA Derbyshire. Book by Friday 19 February 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

March

WED **03** **Walking Group at** **Ticknall**

 10am

 As per menu



Meet at Ticknall Village Hall (DE73 7JX) for the Robin Wood five-miles walk. Lunch venue to be decided. Ticknall Village Hall, Ingleby Lane, Ticknall DE73 7JX. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

March

TUES 09 Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Rummikub



2pm



Free



Come and join us for our monthly meeting. Followed by an afternoon of playing Rummikub. The Coach & Horses, Victoria Road, Draycott DE72 3PS. Contact Barbara on 0115 9465105.

TUES 09 Dining Out Experience at The New Inn



6.45pm



As per
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. Book by Tuesday 2 March 2027. The New Inn, 61 The Wharf, Shardlow, Derby DE72 2HG. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

SAT 13 Pudding Club and Steal Raffle



7.30pm



£8



Come along to our ever so popular Pudding Club. As before, it's free if you bring along a pudding. If you're not bringing anything, there will be a small charge of £8. There will also be a fun game of Steal Raffle. Book by Friday 5 March 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



WED 17 Walking Group at Melbourne



10am



As per menu



Meet by Melbourne Hall (Church Square) DE73 8EN for a five miles walk. Melbourne Church Square, Melbourne Pool, Melbourne DE73 8EN. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

SAT 20 Cheque Presentation Afternoon



2.30pm



Free



The Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Polly Cunningham will be making a presentation to her chosen charity the YMCA Derbyshire. A buffet will be provided. All are welcome. Book by Friday 12 March 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the Derby Office on 01332 345697 to let us know if you wish to attend for catering purposes.

WED 31 Walking Group near Locko Park



10am



As per menu



Walter's Walk (Locko four-miles). Meet at Bluebell Dairy Ice Cream Farm. Lunch at Kings-Corner, Oakwood DE21 4RF. Bluebells Dairy Ice Cream Farm, Locko Road, Spondon DE21 7AR. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

Branch Contact and Business Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters, such as Branch finances, membership and member support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings. If you'd like to know more or come along to one, please contact the Branch Secretary. See below for further meeting details.

Derby Derwent Valley District Branch

Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697
Meet quarterly on Wednesday at 7pm at Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

Wednesday 9 September 2026
Wednesday 9 December 2026
Wednesday 10 March 2027

Saturday 3 April 2027, 2pm
Annual Summoned Meeting

Loyal King George IV

Contact Lauretta Stokes on 01332 345697
Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

2026: 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December. 2027: 5 January, 2 February, 2 March

Loyal Good Samaritan

Contact Gordon Lunn on 01332 728694
Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10.30am at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

2026: 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December. 2027: 11 January, 8 February, 8 March

Good Intent

Contact Lauretta Stokes on 01332 345697
Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

2026: 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December. 2027: 7 January, 4 February, 4 March

Loyal Pares

Contact Barbara Smith on 01159 465105
Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm at Coach and Horses Pub, Victoria Road, Draycott, Derby DE72 3PS.

2026: 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December. 2027: 12 January, 9 February, 9 March

Loyal Stanhope

Contact Lauretta Stokes on 01332 345697
Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 6.30pm at Hunters Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn, Derby DE56 0LU.

2026: 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December. 2027: 2 January, 6 February, 6 March

At a glance

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Tues 1	King George IV Branch Ten-Pin Bowling	7.30pm
Wed 2	Walking Group at Foremark Reservoir	10am
Thurs 3	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 5	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 7	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 7	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 8	Pares Branch Meeting followed by game of Dominoes	2pm
Tues 8	Dining Out Experience at The Silk Mill	6.45pm
Wed 9	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch Meeting	7pm
Mon 14	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Wed 16	Walking Group at Shardlow	10am
Sat 19	Coffee Morning and Quiz	10.30am
Sun 20	Annual Church Service	2.30pm
Mon 21	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 21	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Thurs 24	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Fri 25	Cheese and Wine Evening and Steal Raffle	7.30pm
Sat 26	Friendship Walk and Picnic at Wilmorton	11am
Wed 30	Walking Group at Breaston	10am

October

Thurs 1	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 3	Coffee Morning and Bingo	10.30am
Sat 3	Stanhope Branch District Officers' Visit	6.30pm
Mon 5	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 5	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 6	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Games	7.30pm
Fri 9	Bring and Share Buffet and Steal Raffle	7.30pm
Mon 12	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Tues 13	Pares Branch Meeting followed by game of Rummikub	2pm
Tues 13	Dining Out Experience at Darcy's Fish and Chips	6.45pm
Wed 14	Walking Group at Little Eaton	10am

At a glance

October

Thurs 15	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Mon 19	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 19	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Sat 24	Quiz Afternoon	2pm
Wed 28	Walking Group at Mickleover	10am

November

Mon 2	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 2	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 3	King George IV Branch Meeting followed by Bonfire Theme Activities	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 7	Coffee Morning Christmas Bazaar	10.30am
Sat 7	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 9	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Tues 10	Pares Branch Meeting and District Officers' Visit	2pm
Tues 10	Dining Out Experience at Nicco Restaurant & Bar	6.45pm
Wed 11	Walking Group at Ticknall	10am
Sat 14	Game Show	7pm
Mon 16	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Mon 16	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Sat 21	Kurling Afternoon	2pm
Wed 25	Walking Group at Staunton Harold	10am
Thurs 26	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Mon 30	Knit and Natter	6.30pm

December

Tues 1	King George IV Branch Christmas Party	7.30pm
Thurs 3	Good Intent Branch Christmas Party	2.30pm
Sat 5	Brunch with Santa's Helpers - Continental Breakfast and Prosecco	10.30am
Sat 5	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 7	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Tues 8	Pares Branch Christmas Meal at Eaton Farm	12 noon

At a glance

December

Wed 9	Walking Group at Alvaston Park	10am
Wed 9	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch District Officers' Visit	7pm
Sun 13	Junior members Christmas Party	11am
Mon 14	Good Samaritan Branch Christmas Party	10.30am
Mon 14	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Thurs 17	Good Samaritan Christmas Meal at Mickleover Golf Club	12.30pm
Mon 21	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Wed 23	Walking Group at Chester Green	10am

January 2027

Sat 2	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 4	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Tues 5	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 6	Walking Group at Breadsall	10am
Thurs 7	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 9	Coffee Morning and Games/Quiz	10.30am
Mon 11	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Mon 11	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 12	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Bingo	2pm
Tues 12	Dining Out Experience at The Bubble Inn	6.45pm
Mon 18	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Wed 20	Walking Group at Whatstandwell	10am
Thurs 21	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Sat 23	Chocolate Bingo	2.30pm
Mon 25	Knit and Natter	6.30pm

February

Mon 1	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Tues 2	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 3	Walking Group at Shipley Country Park	10am
Thurs 4	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 6	Valentine's Day Coffee Morning	10.30am

At a glance

February

Sat 6	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 8	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Mon 8	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 9	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Topix	2pm
Tues 9	Dining Out Experience at Istanbul Restaurant	6.45pm
Sat 13	Film Afternoon	2pm
Mon 15	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Wed 17	Walking Group at Heage	10am
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Sun 21	Derby Derwent Valley Annual Luncheon	12.30pm
Mon 22	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Sat 27	Bowls Afternoon	2pm

March

Mon 1	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Tues 2	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 3	Walking Group at Ticknall	10am
Thurs 4	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
Sat 6	Easter Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 6	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
Mon 8	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	10.30am
Mon 8	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Tues 9	Pares Branch Meeting followed by a game of Rummikub	2pm
Tues 9	Dining Out Experience at The New Inn	6.45pm
Wed 10	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch Meeting	7pm
Sat 13	Pudding Club and Steal Raffle	7.30pm
Mon 15	Chair Exercise Class	11am
Wed 17	Walking Group at Melbourne	10am
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning and Guest Speaker	10.30am
Sat 20	Cheque Presentation Afternoon	2.30pm
Mon 22	Knit and Natter	6.30pm
Wed 31	Walking Group near Locko Park	10am

Provincial Grand Master's Message

This is my first address as Provincial Grand Master, although I have now been in office for five months.

2026 has been another busy year, with many events taking place across the District, as well as two coach trips, one to the NEC for Gardeners' World and the Good Food Show, and one, at the time of writing, coming up quickly to Llandudno, where we hope to enjoy an ice-cream or two, if the seagulls don't steal them.

We have an exciting programme of events planned over the next seven months, including September's Friendship Month – why not bring a friend along to one of our events during September and let them see what a fantastic organisation we belong to? I would love to see our membership continue to grow. Don't forget that the Society runs an Annual Recruitment Award where we could be presented with the Lilian Ogden Recruitment Trophy for the District achieving the highest net increase in membership, or the Silver Salver for the highest net percentage increase. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Derby Derwent Valley won one of these prestigious awards?

I am very grateful for the support you have shown for my chosen charity, YMCA Derbyshire, and for the excellent talk and presentation given by their representative at our recent coffee morning. After this talk, several members suggested that, in addition to the usual fundraising we do at our events, we also collect donations of tinned and packet food, personal hygiene products, complimentary

hotel toiletries, as well as any unwanted Christmas or birthday gifts, to support YMCA residents, many of whom have to provide their own toiletries, but sometimes struggle to find the funds to do so.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our forthcoming events, especially the picnic at the Community Hub run by the YMCA in Wilmorton during September, where you will have the opportunity to see how the money raised this year will be used.

Once again, thank you for your generosity, kindness and continued support.

In Friendship, Love and Truth,

Polly, Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)



Floral Display

The flowers at the front of our Hall look wonderful this year and brighten up the street, drawing many admiring glances. Thanks to Terry and Carol for the beautiful arrangements and the volunteers who water them regularly to keep them looking their best.



Ruth's Coach Holiday to Scotland

At the end of May, I travelled to Fort William on a coach holiday. We stopped at Moffat on the way, a lovely quaint town full of history.

We went to Clansman Harbour to board a Jacobite Cruise ship to go to the deepest part of Loch Ness. We didn't get to see Nessie, but had a lovely time. We then travelled on to Inverness - lots to see and a beautiful castle.

The following day, we went to Eilean Donan Castle, which was absolutely stunning, my photo looks like a painting. We also went over the sea to Skye and visited the colourful harbour of Portree. We drove the famous road to the Isles and stopped at Glenfinnan

Monument and viaduct for a photo opportunity.

The next day, from Fort William we travelled to the famous Jacobite Railway, described as one of the 'greatest railway journeys in the world'. This section of the West Highland Line travels over Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous in the Harry Potter films. The journey is nearly two hours long both ways and we went on for some free time in Malliag, before our return train journey. It was a fantastic day and people stood on the hills waving to us.

On the journey back, we stopped off at Gretna Green before making our way home. A really lovely memorable holiday.

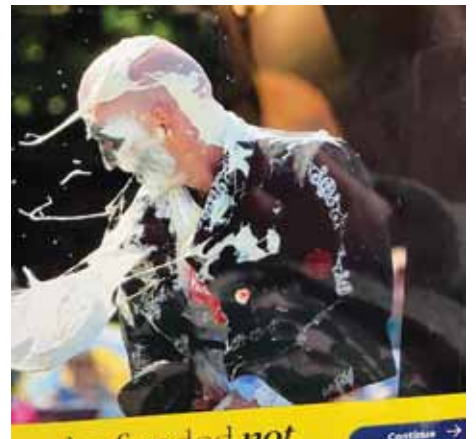
Submitted by Ruth Jackson



World Custard Pie Throwing Competition

Yes, there is such a thing and I am proud to announce my son-in-law, Kenny and his team of four came second this year. The championship takes place in Maidstone, Kent and has been running for 50 years. The Old School Ravers were the winners this year, with Kenny's team Stupid Deaths coming in second. The pies recipe is a

closely-guarded secret, but is said to contain flour and water, apparently custard itself is unsuitable because it ricochets! A total of 30 teams took part in the event with four to a team. Teams from Japan, Finland and France also took part. They face each other and throw the pies with their left hand. The winning team take home a trophy.



Sadly, this year we have lost three Past Provincial Grand Masters (Past Chairman), who will be missed for their knowledge of the history of our District and Oddfellowship

Geoffrey Young

Geoff joined the Oddfellows in 1934, the year of his birth. He held all positions within his own Lodge and in 1968/69 was the Provincial Grand Master of Derby District, at the young age of 34. He was for many years a Trustee of the District's Financial Lodge. He was the Secretary of the Loyal Stanhope Lodge for many years, retiring in 1975, but then became the Loyal Sitwell Lodge's Secretary for a number of years. He attended many Conferences over the years, his last being to Southport in 2019.

He rarely missed a meeting or a coffee morning and was often selling raffle tickets.

Geoff sadly passed away on the 5 January after a short illness. He was a much loved and respected member of the Oddfellows, a gentle and quiet man whose presence will be greatly missed. Geoff's family asked that any donations at his funeral be donated to our chosen charity and a wonderful £550 was presented to us.

Eddie Cartledge

Eddie was a member for many years. He was a regular attendee of his Lodge, the Good Samaritan, and held all Officer roles at Lodge level. He held the position of Provincial Grand Master in 1981-82 and 2001-02 and was a Trustee for many years, using his experience working for the Derby City Council regarding our properties. He was on the Sub Committee when we were building the extension on our Hall. He, along with his wife, Christine, were two of first volunteers at our Luncheon Club.



Brian Hayhoe

Brian was a member for many years, originally in the Spring of Love Lodge, before transferring to the King George IV Lodge, when the Spring of Love Lodge closed. He held all the positions in both Lodges and was Provincial Grand Master in 1997-98. He was also a District Trustee for a number of years and was a regular visitor to the Annual Moveable Conference, and he and his wife, Marion, always made a great effort if there was a fancy dress theme at the Welcome Ball on the Saturday night. A particular notable one being Brian dressed as Blofeld at the James Bond themed event, complete with cat!

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 Laurretta Stokes on **01332 345697** or email laurretta.stokes@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

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

*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.

Annual Luncheon

On Sunday 22 February, 74 members, family and friends attended our annual luncheon, which was again held at The Folly at The Farmhouse, Mackworth, held in honour of our then Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Margaret Henchcliff (pictured with her husband, Past Provincial Grand Master of the Order (Past Chairman of the Society) Bill).

Our guest speaker was Director Karen Rose, who is also Provincial

Corresponding Secretary of the Tunbridge Wells District. A very busy lady, she is also heavily involved in the Girl Guide Movement, something she spoke about in her speech, noting that 22nd February was 'Thinking Day', also the birth date of both Lord Baden Powell and Lady Baden Powell.

The food was lovely and the staff were very attentive and looked after us very well. A raffle with over 40 prizes raised £320 for our chosen charity. Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation.



Ukulele

Several members have taken up the challenge to learn the Ukulele and what a joy the sessions are.

Under the patient tutelage of Pat Newcombe, we are learning the chords needed to play a variety of songs, mainly 60s based, so we know them quite well. Whilst we play, we sing along and I am sure we all go home feeling a lot better than when we arrived.

We are calling ourselves the OUPS – Oddfellows Ukulele Players and it looks like we will be having our first "gig" at the December coffee morning!



Champagne Breakfast

This is always a popular event and this year 36 members booked to attend. The date of Saturday 13 June was picked to coincide with King Charles III's official birthday.

Volunteers, Diane, Christine, Caroline and Margaret arrived early to get the hall ready and the sausages and bacon in the oven. When everything was ready, the doors were opened to welcome members in.

A toast to His Majesty, King Charles III, with Prosecco, was raised before cereal and juice, a full English and toast and marmalade was served, and a sigh of relief from the volunteers that everything was ready in time.



Committee of Management

The Annual Meeting took place on Saturday 21 March, when members attended to hear the report of the Committee of Management and vote on matters concerning the District, including voting for the Committee for the ensuing year.



Your Committee now consists of:

Sister Polly Cunningham, Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)/Trustee

Sister Penny Folds, Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman)/Trustee

Sister Laurretta Stokes, Provincial Corresponding Secretary

Sister Margaret Henchcliff, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman)

Sister Christine Shelton, Trustee

Brother Colin Smith, Trustee

Brother Gordon Lunn, Trustee

Brother Barrie Wilson, Trustee

Brother Anthony Davis, Past Noble Grand

Sister Lisa Billings

Sister Cynthia Seaman, Past Noble Grand

Unfortunately, the accounts were not ready to be presented to the meeting, but these were agreed at the Summoned Meeting on the 10th June 2026.

Curling Afternoon

This event proved very popular with 32 members attending making up 4 teams. Terry and Dave valiantly tried to keep everyone in order and each team eventually played each other with team three (pictured) coming out triumphant at the end.

Members also enjoyed refreshment of jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings with Polly and her mum, Christine working hard in the kitchen; our thanks to them. It was a really happy event and I am sure it will be arranged again soon.



Cheque Presentation



On Thursday 12 March, members attended the hall, excited to know how much we had raised for the East Midlands Air Ambulance during the previous year.

Margaret Henchcliff thanked everyone who supported the cause. She was delighted to present a cheque for the sum of £7,581.98 to John, a volunteer at the charity. He was quite shocked at the amount and thanked us, telling us it would help the charity immensely as they rely solely on donations from the public.

Inspirational Quotes

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity" – Amelia Earhart

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken" – Oscar Wilde

"You become what you believe" – Oprah Winfrey

"If you can dream it, you can do it" – Walt Disney

"It always seems impossible until it's done" – Nelson Mandela

Velocity Zipwire Adventure

Towards the end of April, with a forecast of lovely sunny weather and an empty diary, we took the opportunity to book a few days away in our caravan. We decided to go to Anglesey as we had never been before and had always wanted to visit. We stayed on a lovely caravan and motorhome campsite in Penrhos and visited various local bays and villages, including Red Wharfe, where we had a Welsh Ploughman's lunch with the most amazing cheeses and Beaumaris, which was lovely to wander around in the sun.

The campsite had lots of information about local attractions and one of the leaflets was for the longest, fastest Zipwire in the world. Now, I am the least adventurous person you could meet. I have always felt too scared to do anything outside of my comfort zone, whereas Garry is always the first one to jump off a mountain. However, in a moment of madness,



I said "shall we book this," so we did and then I had to do it.

On the day, I was very nervous and unsure if I would be able to do it. As we drove to the Penrhyn Slate Quarry, I kept thinking *I don't have to do this if I don't want to*. Even booking in, I was still unsure until a very kind lady who had just done it told me not to worry, that it was amazing and the staff look after you all the way. So, I decided to just get on with it. You are taken to get kitted out in a body harness, helmet and safety goggles and the whole process is explained in detail. We went to the 'little Zip' for a practice run before taking on the 'big Zip'. I opted to go first alongside Garry so that I didn't have to keep waiting and get more nervous. You lie facedown on a large mattress type thing and they hook up your harness to the wire. You are checked and double checked that all is safe and then they count down from five and off you go! You are flying along the



wire extremely fast and it felt like it was over in seconds.

Then, it was time to go up the mountain to do the 'big Zip'. There was about 12 of us and we were taken three kilometres up the mountain in an open-sided truck. This took about 15 minutes of extremely steep hairpin bends and sheer drops at the side. Once up there, we were taken three at a time and clipped onto the wire. This time, you could see how high we were, with wonderful views of the countryside, quarry and the quarry lake which is 300 feet deep. The 'big Zip' is a mile long and you can go at speeds of 100 miles an hour or more.

We were warned to keep our arms at our side at all times, if you wave them about it can slow you down or even cause you to stop, which I did not want to happen. I can say in all honesty now that I loved it, although the waiting to be sent off made me quite anxious, but once I got going all fear left me and it seemed that it was no time at all before I got to the end.

The lady who was there to unclip me from the wire asked if I had enjoyed it – I wanted to say I did but momentarily my legs would not stop shaking and I couldn't actually speak.

Would I do it again – yes, I would!

Submitted by Penny Folds

We've been there, done that, did it, had it, saw it, lived it, and we're not done yet, it just takes us longer... (except if you are Penny on a zip wire)

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**.

Murder Mystery



This year, the Good Intent Branch's annual Murder Mystery was entitled 'Which Guide Lied'. It was set at a camp site and a guide leader, Peg Puller, had been murdered.

The cast was made up of six ladies, with Diane as the facilitator, helping us put the clues together. The cast were, right to left, Helen Warby as Fay Den Powell, Carol Bartle as Daisy Chain, Alice Smyth as Gail Warning, Diane, Laurretta Stokes as Barbie Key, Penny Folds as Ivanna Sleep and Caroline Paddock as Iona Woggle. There were the usual red herrings to try and confuse us. After all the acts had taken place, members enjoyed a wonderful buffet provided by Good Intent members, whilst they made their deliberations.

Two of the four teams actually put the clues together correctly and guessed the murderer was Penny alias Ivanna Sleep. She kept nodding off and it turned out that this was sometimes a ruse. She was actually pretending and

listening to everyone's conversations, leading to her finding out useful bits of information, which she used to blackmail people. Unfortunately, the poor murdered guide had found out her secret and she had to go!!! Everything went very well, and the cast did their best with their costumes, all wearing blue shirts and Helen made them all neckerchiefs and woggles. Some had badges too (Helen had an armful).

This was also Margaret's last meeting as Secretary and she was presented with a lovely rose and gift voucher in thanks for her service to the Lodge.

We are delighted to say that Penny Folds will be taking over as Permanent Secretary and wish her all the best in her position. We are still in need of a Secretary for the Stanhope Lodge, who meet in Kilburn. If anyone is interested in taking up this position, please contact Laurretta or Alice in the Office, on 01332 345697.



Just an Old Rebel

This was Caroline's description of herself after recently having her first tattoo and she has passed her three score years and ten!



Her tattoo is in honour of the Women's Royal Army Corp, the regiment she served in for 10 years. She said, "I wear my tattoo with great pride, to be able to say I served my Queen and Country".

Apparently, it didn't hurt, just felt a bit uncomfortable and only took an hour.

Pudding Night

Members excelled themselves at this event with some delicious puddings, mostly homemade and it would have been rude not to sample as many as possible. Judging by the noise level during the 'Steal Raffle,' everyone was suffering from a sugar rush. £70 was raised for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity.

YMCA

On Thursday 25 June, Paul, a representative from the YMCA, the charity we are supporting this year, came to our Coffee Morning. Unfortunately, it was during the extreme weather conditions and there were not many attending.

He started by introducing himself telling us he is a retired vicar of 34 years. He was vicar of St Peter's in town for 10 years and moved to Brailsford for 16 years. He was also Chaplain of Derby County, Chaplain of the Derbyshire High Sheriff and also of a Grammar School. He is a fundraiser for the YMCA, a role that is funded privately, and he is also a councillor at a secondary school.

The YMCA at London Road has 86 homeless people living there aged 18-50. The under 25s get three meals a day and the over 25s have to look after themselves. They also have 100 individuals off site who they keep an eye on, some have mental health problems. They have a community garden, which the funds we raise will go to. Here they can learn horticulture, cooking, bricklaying and how to mend a bike. They have 120 young people in college who have failed Maths and English, which they



will learn, plus something else. They run a nursery for under three year olds from low income families. Many of these children come without spare nappies and the nursery rely on donations. Apparently, some people open packets of nappies in the shop and steal a couple. These packets cannot then be sold so supermarkets donate them.

They have recently opened a new 60-room hostel by the old Cotton Lane Police Station. It is for 18-30 year old, who have a job or apprenticeship, and the YMCA work to help everyone individually.

All these things are funded by sponsors and fundraising.

Alice and Luke's Garden

When members arrived at the garden, the weather was dull and overcast, but the sun soon broke through and off went the cardigans and on came the sun hats.

Alice and Luke have been busy since last year, with some new additions and the sweetcorn grown from seed was very impressive – hope they have some lovely produce. There was lots of

colour, especially around the pergola, with clematis and roses. Alice's vine is growing very healthily, and she is looking forward to some grapes soon.

We were promised Greek food and it was delicious, thanks to Luke who had been busy preparing and cooking for two days.

We played a few drawing games with the children, which was great fun

and caused much laughter. We were also lucky enough to share Eleanor's birthday cake as she turned 10. It was also the birthday of our new member, Sheila, who turned 80, so we sang to them both.

It was a lovely time, thanks to Alice and Luke and their children for entertaining us and their helpers.



Gardeners' World and the Food Show

What a great day we had at the NEC in June. The coach set off on time and we were soon wandering around the wonderful show gardens. There were some really lovely ones and it gave us some ideas as to what is possible. My favourite was the pink themed one, pictured. The flower marquee was wonderful, with its many beautiful displays.

As we walked around, we kept bumping into members and eagerly looked at what they had purchased. The Food Show, the other attraction, also had much to offer everyone as there was lots to sample before purchase. Eventually, everyone made their way back to the coach with their treasures. Our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Polly, had to buy a large trolley for all hers!



Fushia display



Carnivorous plants

They say when you retire, you will travel more.
What they don't tell us is that it is to
doctor's appointments.

Three things that will always bring you peace.
Gratitude for what you have, acceptance
for what you cannot change, hope for
what's yet to come.

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  OddfellowsDerby

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

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

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):
District Secretary - responsible for administering
Branches

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM):
Past District Chairman

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

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions,
Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual
support and family.

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.

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.

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jack Langford** who has been awarded a Unity Apprenticeship Award. Jack is training to become a chef and we wish him all the best in his endeavours.

Congratulations of **Pippa Mo** who achieved a First Class Degree with Honours in Geography at Glasgow University.



Congratulations to **Andrew Beckett** who won the crocheted throw which raised £177 for the charity we were supporting last year.

Congratulations to **Marilynn** and **Barrie Wilson** on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in April.



Obituaries

Charlie and Jenny Watts, Loyal King George IV Branch
Geoff Young, Loyal Stanhope Branch
Louisa Burton, Loyal Stanhope Branch
Eddie Cartledge, Loyal Good Samaritan
Peter Francis, Loyal Good Intent Branch
Stewart Wharton, Loyal Good Intent Branch
Brian Hayhoe, Loyal King George IV Branch
Jeremy Allum, Loyal Good Intent Branch
Sheila Newmarch, Loyal Good Samaritan Branch
Peter Hanks, Loyal Good Samaritan Branch
Hazel King, Loyal Pares Branch
Kathleen Meakin, Loyal Good Samaritan Branch
Sheila Smith, Loyal Good Intent Branch
Norman Rushton, Loyal Good Intent Branch
Betty Vickers, Loyal Good Intent Branch

Each time we look
at your picture
You seem
to smile and say
Don't be sad
but courage take
And love each
other for my sake



Sonnet from the Portuguese XLIII (for Marilyn and Barrie)

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee with purely as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, - I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! - and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

If you have anything you would like to include in our next edition of the Derby Link Magazine, please send it into the Office 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2PU or email to lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk or alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk for the editor.