

April - September 2025



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

News & Events

Burton-on-Trent District Branch



Berlin Airlift Memorial at National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, photo by NMAguide

 Music  Games  Social  Meetings  Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Welcome to our Burton-on-Trent Combined Newsletter and Diary

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Our combined newsletter and diary is a handy guide to keep by your phone or fridge, so you know what is happening at the Branch.

If you have anything you would like including in the next copy of the newsletter, i.e., letters, photographs, or anything of interest to our readers please do not hesitate to contact me, either by post, phone, or email as in the contact details.

Pre-Booking is Essential at all Events!
Names, addresses and a contact number of members and visitors attending will be required.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of booking for all events - by Wednesday of the week of the event - to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

Contact Details

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

District Secretary: Mervyn Eaton
Email:
mervyn.eaton@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Secretary:
Amanda Norbury-Mountford
Email:
mandy.mountford@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall
All Saints Road
Burton-on-Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 3LS

Telephone: 01283 564056

Care and Welfare Officers:
Gordon and Viv Simpson
Telephone: 07984 297276

Any dietary requirements need to be requested at the time of booking.

Regular Events

Members are welcome to join in with the regular weekly activities...

There is usually something happening at Oddfellows Hall for our members. To find out more contact us on 01283 564056.

Badminton

**Monday Morning and Evening
and Wednesday Morning**

⌚ Monday and Wednesday Morning
9.30am - 12 noon
and Monday Evening 7pm - 9pm

£ Two free sessions, then membership applies

A chance to make new friends and get a little fitter, all you need is a racket and trainers.



Short Mat Bowls

Wednesday

⌚ 2pm - 4pm

£ Two free sessions, then membership applies

A chance to make new friends and enjoy a gentle sport - with a break for refreshments and a chat. All playing equipment is provided, all you need are flat shoes.



All Badminton and Bowls equipment will be sanitised before and after each session. Chairs will all be placed with a social distance of one metre and are not to be moved.

Singing for Pleasure

Every Thursday

⌚ 2pm - 3pm

£ Two free sessions, then membership applies

If you enjoy singing, Then why not come along on a Thursday from 2pm to 3pm for a jolly sing along with good friends, all welcome.



Have you celebrated a special Birthday or Wedding Anniversary?

How did you celebrate this? If you have anything else you would like including in the next copy of the newsletter, i.e. letters, photographs, or anything of interest to our readers please do not hesitate to contact me, either by post, phone, or email.

The Annual Summoned Meeting of the Loyal Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Will be held at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent on 15th March 2025 commencing at 11am for the purpose of transacting the following business.

AGENDA

1. To read the summons covering the Meeting.
2. Opening of the Meeting.
3. To receive any apologies.
4. To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual Summoned Meeting.
5. To discuss any Matters Arising from the Minutes.
6. Welcome by the Provincial Grand Master.
7. To receive the Accounts and Balance sheet together with the Auditors Report for the year ended 31 December 2024.
8. To receive the Report of the Committee of Management.
9. To consider the following grants from the District Lodge Benevolence Fund:
 - a) That a Christmas Grant of £10, in form of a gift voucher, be made to all members who: -
 - i) Have attained the age of 70 and have contracts, (or previously held contracts), with the Sickness, Annuity and Death Fund, or
 - ii) Are registered Widow(er) member.
 - b) That £1,200 be equally allocated to the various Lodges in the District for the purpose of charitable Donations for the ensuing year.
10. To consider the remuneration of the District Secretary, Social Secretary, Social/Unregistered Lodge Secretaries and reimbursement to Officers and Committee members.
11. To receive Nominations and elect District Representation for the ensuing year.
12. To elect Deputies to the 2026 Eastbourne AMC
13. Social Reports.
14. To receive any Propositions.
15. To conduct any other business which Rules so direct.
16. Close of Meeting.
17. Light Refreshments will be provided – therefore, for Catering purposes, would those members wishing to attend please notify the Secretary by 10th March 2025.

A full set of the accounts for 2024 are available on request from the Office.

April

TUES

01

Christian Union Lodge Meeting



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

THURS

03

Orphan's Protection Lodge



A social Lodge meeting, where the business of the Society is discussed in a relaxed atmosphere. New time of 6.30pm. Cock Inn, Hanbury Hill, Hanbury, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8TD. Contact Amanda on 01283 564056.

FRI

11

Cuppa and Chat



Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

SAT

12

Beetle Drive



If you want fun and games, then why not come along and join us for 'Beetle Drive', we are sure it will be a laugh. Ploughman's lunch followed by hot apple pie and custard are all included in the price.



Any dietary requirements need to be requested when booking. Please book by Wednesday 9 April. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



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

April

WED **16** **Burton-on-Trent** **District Lodge Meeting**



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

May

TUES **06** **Christian Union** **Lodge Meeting**



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

FRI **09** **Cuppa and Chat**



Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

SAT **10** **Night at the Dogs**



Members £10,
Guests £12,
Under 12's £6



Do you like a flutter? Then come along and place your bets at our 'Race Night'. Sure to be a winner. Supper and dessert are all in the price. Any dietary requirements need to be made known when booking your ticket. Please book by Wednesday 7 May. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

WED **14** **Burton-on-Trent** **District Lodge Meeting**



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

June

TUES
03

Christian Union Lodge Meeting

⌚ 3pm

£ Free



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

THURS
05

Orphan's Protection Lodge

⌚ 6.30pm

£ Free



A social Lodge meeting, where the business of the Society is discussed in a relaxed atmosphere. New time of 6.30pm. Cock Inn, Hanbury Hill, Hanbury, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8TD. Contact Amanda on 01283 564056.

FRI
06

Cuppa and Chat

⌚ 10.30am

£ £3



Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



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

June

SAT
07

Movie Time - 'The Great Escaper'



Members £7,
Guests £9,
Under 12's £5



Just what you need after all the hustle and bustle of the weeks toils. Relax with an afternoon tea and the film 'The Great Escaper'. Any dietary requirements need to be requested at the time of booking. Please book by Wednesday 4 June. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



WED
11

Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting



Free



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

July

TUES
01

Christian Union Lodge Meeting



3pm



Free



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

SUN
06

District Annual Church Service



3pm



Free



Burton-on-Trent District Annual Church Service to be held at St Modwen's Parish Church. Refreshment will be served after the church service at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road. We would appreciate you letting us know if you wish to partake of refreshments. Book by Wednesday 2 July. St Modwen's Parish Church, Market Place, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1HA. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

Photo by Stanley Walker



July

WED
16

Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

FRI
18

Cuppa and Chat



10.30am



Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date!

f OddfellowsUK

X OddfellowsUK

SAT
19

Eyes Down Bingo



6pm



Members £10,
Guests £12, Under 12's £6

Eyes down for a fun filled bingo evening, combining bingo with a delicious supper of ham salad and warm new potatoes with crumble



and custard for dessert. Any dietary requirements need to be booked in advance. Please book by Wednesday 16 July. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

August

TUES
05

Christian Union Lodge Meeting



3pm



Free



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

August

THURS
07

Orphan's Protection Lodge

⌚ 6.30pm

£ Free



A social Lodge meeting, where the business of the Society is discussed in a relaxed atmosphere. New time of 6.30pm. Cock Inn, Hanbury Hill, Hanbury, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8TD. Contact Amanda on 01283 564056.

FRI
15

Cuppa and Chat

⌚ 10.30am

£ £3



Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



SAT
16

Quiz Night

⌚ 6pm

£ Members £10,
Guests £12,
Under 12's £6



Love a quiz? Then why not come along and tax those little grey cells at our fun quiz. Cottage pie followed by gateau. Any dietary requirements need to be booked in advance. Book by Wednesday 13 August. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



WED
20

Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting

⌚ 7pm

£ Free



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER


TUES 02 Christian Union Lodge Meeting

 3pm

 Free



A Lodge meeting, where the matters of the Society are discussed. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.

FRI 12 Cuppa and Chat

 10.30am

 £3




Why not join us for a cuppa and a chat with friends, along with a bacon or sausage cob, or slice or two of cake, all for £3. A tombola stall will be running as well. 10.30am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



SAT 13 Movie Time - 'Stan and Ollie'

 4pm

 Members £7,
Guests £9,
Under 12's £5



Just what you need after all the hustle and bustle of the weeks toils. Relax with an afternoon tea and the film 'Stan and Ollie'. Any dietary requirements need to be requested at the time of booking. Please book by Wednesday 10 September. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn or Amanda on 01283 564056.



WED 17 Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting

 7pm

 Free



A meeting of the District Lodge with ritual, where the business of the Society and District are discussed. Please note new start time of 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS. Contact Mervyn on 01283 564056.

A Message from the Outgoing Provincial Grand Master

Hello,

I hope you like reading through our New Events Diary to catch up with what we have been up to and check out what is still to come. Having our own Hall for functions means we can offer such a wide variety of monthly events and along with the regular activities, there is never a dull moment.

As I have said already in the previous newsletter and in person at our events, I am incredibly grateful to everyone for coming along, and having a lovely time and raising funds for the Provincial Grand Master's Appeal. I finish my term in Office at the Annual Summoned Meeting in March and at the meeting we will then



find out how much has been raised for YMCA (Burton upon Trent and District) since March 2024 to March 2025. I know our contribution, whatever the value, will be appreciated. The Charity has an amazing impact on our community and town. It takes a lot of fundraising to offer services which support around 12,000 people per year.

As I come to the end of my term in Office, I take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to the members of our Social Committee. They help plan and provide our brilliant events each month.

Also may I wish the new Provincial Grand Master a happy and successful next two years.

**Thank you,
Caroline Mills, Provincial Grand Master**

Tote Winners for 2024

Month	Name	Numbers
January	Mr M J Eaton	15 & 18
February	Mr J Mills	2 & 27
March	Mrs S Barnes	2 & 16
April	Mr B Compson	13 & 23
May	Mr M Finch	1 & 25
June	Mr M Elloitt	20 & 27
July	Mrs J James	1 & 11
Snowball	Mr J Sanderson	12 & 29
August	Mrs O Sharpe	8 & 13
September	Mrs G Lee	10 & 12
October	Mr L English	24 & 27
November	Mrs D Garnham	20 & 22
December	Ms L Bridge	2 & 10

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



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

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

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

Access Oddfellows Extra

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

OEA50723

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



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 306448.

District Luncheon

On Sunday 27 October 2024, Burton-on-Trent District held its Annual Luncheon at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

Over 100 members and guests enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of friendship and good company with the usual excellent luncheon provided and served by the Team at Woodland Catering.

Distinguished Guests this year included Mr Paul Laffey, CEO of the YMCA Burton upon Trent and District, the Provincial Grand Master's Appeal for this Sister Caroline's second year in office.



Director Brother Meirion Edwards.

The Principal Guest Speaker was, once again, Sister Jane Nelson, CEO/Secretary of the Order who responded to the Toast "The Order and the District" with Director Brother Meirion Edwards replying on behalf of the guests and visitors.

Joining members from Burton-on-Trent were guests from the following Branches – Combermere, Deeside, Derby Derwent Valley, Five Shires, Heart of England, Nottingham Trent, Plymouth and Truro, Pride of Leicestershire and Worcester.



Brothers Bill and Michael from Plymouth and Truro District.



Sister's (not only in Oddfellowship) Della English and Monica Deakin.

The occasion culminated with Sister Jane Nelson, CEO/ Secretary of the Order presenting Unity Meritorious Service Jewels to Brother Mervyn Eaton, Prov CS (Burton onTrent) and Brother Peter English, Prov CS (Plymouth and Truro). The Meritorious Service Jewel is the highest honour, other than that of Grand Master of the Order, that can be bestowed on a member.



Sister Jane Nelson with the new Unity Meritorious Service Jewel holders Brother Mervyn Eaton, Prov CS (Burton-on-Trent) and Brother Peter English, Prov CS (Plymouth and Truro).



*Sister Caroline Mills
Prov GM.*



*Meritorious Service
Jewel.*



*Sister Jane Nelson
CEO/Secretary of
the Order.*

Burton Remembers

On Tuesday 5 November, Christian Union Lodge held their annual Lodge of Remembrance at Oddfellows Hall – for those who had fallen in combat since World War I.

The service was led by Reverend Brother Dennis Warner with Organist, Mr Jim Parker. Invitations were extended to the District Officers and any others who wished to attend.



Burton-on-Trent War Memorial

Sunday 10 November, District Officers and members of the Burton-on-Trent District joined with members of the Armed Forces and members of the public at St Modwen's Parish Church to commemorate Remembrance Sunday followed by the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial.



In Memoriam

Sisters

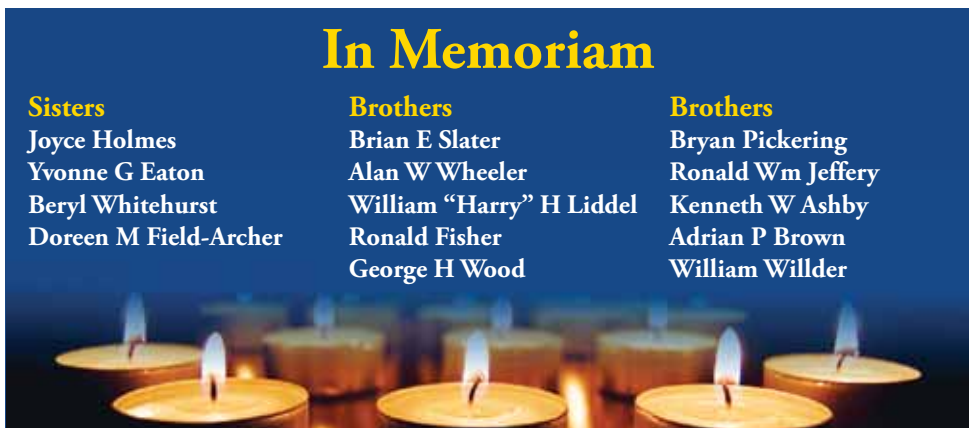
Joyce Holmes
Yvonne G Eaton
Beryl Whitehurst
Doreen M Field-Archer

Brothers

Brian E Slater
Alan W Wheeler
William "Harry" H Liddel
Ronald Fisher
George H Wood

Brothers

Bryan Pickering
Ronald Wm Jeffery
Kenneth W Ashby
Adrian P Brown
William Willder





Panto Season

On Saturday 7 December, 20 Young Oddfellows and 30 Adults visited the Lichfield Garrick Theatre for the Pantomime “Jack and the Beanstalk”. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that the 2025 Panto, “Cinderella,” is already booked for Saturday 6 December. So if anyone would like to join us this year then contact the office and book your seat.



Pre Christmas Luncheon

Our pre-Christmas Luncheon this year was held at the Lakeside Bistro, Moria on Sunday 8 December. 40 members thoroughly enjoyed the lovely food and atmosphere,

so much so we are hoping to return in the summer - so keep a look out for the advertisement. However, due the Bistro being a small venue it will, unfortunately, need be booked on a first come first served basis.



Christmas Coffee Day

Friday 15 December saw us hold our 'Christmas Coffee Day' in aid of the Provincial Grand Master's Appeal – 'YMCA Burton upon Trent and District'. A huge 'Thank you' to everyone that helped out at the event and contributed to raising money for the appeal.

A special thanks go to Sister Katie Guthrie and her mum Sister Sue Darlison for attending this event with her Christmas Craft Stall and a thank you also goes out to Mr Jim Parker for the Christmas back-ground musical accompaniment on the organ.



Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

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

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

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

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

Lodge: Branch

Young Oddfellows Birthdays

April:

Paige Mitchell Richardson,
James Barratt, Owen Barratt,
• Robert Eyley, Dylan Simpson,
Benjamin Swain, Francesca Stamp.
Luke Warner, Miley Golding,
Scarlett Richardson.

July:

Oliver Mason, William Stone, •
• Elana Elkin, Holly Pratt-Thompson,
Thomas Hollis, Anna Rees,
• Felicity Mason.

August:

Harry Wigston-Coleman,
Thomas Gillen, Isobella Smythe,
Jessica Ward-Fry. •

May:

• Lauren Hollis, Millie Mason, •
Sophie Rayson, Alfie Allen,
Olivia Canner, Lily Smythe.



September:

Fynn Barratt, Samuel Barratt,
George Hollis, Thea Plevy.

June:

Theodore Basten, Seth Bowman,
Lucas Shilton, Delilah Golding,
Minnie Golding, Dottie Golding,
Olivia Golding.

October:

• Rose Shakeshaft,
Emily De Oliveira-Golding,
Finley Gassor,



Young Oddfellows

What have you been doing during the year?

Why not write to me tell me what you have been doing and send a picture,
we would love to hear from you.

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 18 March 1pm, Scam Awareness session with Age UK.
Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 848 0779 4978 Passcode: 158048

Wednesday 2 April 6pm, Tai Chi with Graeme.
Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 89 0330 1327, Password: 331259.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Amanda Norbury-Mountford
Social Secretary



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 Mervyn on **01283 564056** or email **mervyn.eaton@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



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

Harnessing the warmth of friendship

I hope this message finds you well. Where has 2024 gone?

As we move into a new year, it's a perfect time to reflect on 2024 and prepare ourselves for fresh opportunities and challenges.

The best changes bring happiness to our lives, and better still, the lives of those around us.

Last September, during Friendship Month, we introduced the nation to 'frenergy' – the positive energy exchanged between friends. True friendships are more than just companionship, they thrive on mutual support and uplifting one another – something that, I'm proud to say, is evident throughout our Society. We all have those special people who are there for us in the good times but are equally importantly when life throws us challenges.

Spreading friendship

Let's continue to create that warm, positive feeling everywhere we go this year. Offer encouragement, make a new face at an Oddfellows event feel welcome, or simply make sure to really listen to each other.

A kind word or a helping hand can be transformative for ourselves and those around us, and create ripples of positivity that extend beyond our personal circles.



Frenergy can even be transferred through an unexpected smile or a nod at a stranger in the street. I know it makes my day when it happens and you'd be surprised how often they smile back – confirmation that it has lifted their spirits too.

2025's positive foundations

We welcomed more new members to the Society in 2024 than we have for many years, which is a credit to the atmosphere created within our Branches.

This is a positive foundation to build on, but more can always be done. There will always be people who could benefit from our friendship and support, so let's keep spreading the word.

In this season of reflection and renewal, I hope we all have the drive to pursue our goals while providing and receiving friendship's invigorating energy. One thing is for sure – whether tackling adversity or celebrating success, we are stronger together.

Wishing you and all those close to you a very happy and healthy 2025.

Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

Oddfellows Travel 2025

With Oddfellows Travel, not only will you have a wealth of unforgettable experiences, but you'll holiday with confidence and in good company.

All our group holidays are hosted by an Oddfellows member, and we only work with experienced travel partners that we trust.

Whether you want to break up your diary with a short UK getaway, or you have your sights on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise, take a look at our upcoming holidays. We'd love to have you along.

Our holidays are exclusively for our members and accompanying family and friends.

South Devon Delights 31 March to 4 April (4 nights)



Enjoy the resort of Torquay, affectionately known as the 'English Riviera', with its sandy beaches, public gardens, promenades and hustle and bustle of evening entertainment.

Staying at the Metropole Hotel, Torquay. From £295 per person. Half board. Includes coach pick up and drop off from certain locations, or a self-arrival option.

Join us as we head to the south Devon coast on this Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows Summer Holiday in Somerset 7 to 11 July (4 nights)



Our annual Oddfellows Summer Holiday, hosted by the incoming Grand Master (Chairman), is open to all members and their guests. It's a chance to enjoy some quality time out in wonderful and welcoming company.

We'll be staying at Warner Hotels' Cricket St. Thomas Hotel, Somerset. Half board from £350 per person, based on two people sharing a double or twin room. A limited number of solo occupancy rooms are available at a reduced rate of £450. Come and holiday among friends in this charming retreat.

Whales, Waterfalls and Geysers of Iceland

17 to 29 July (12 nights)



Witness the incredible energy of Iceland's geysers, thundering waterfalls and fascinating wildlife with us, as we set sail on this Oddfellows-escorted group cruise.

From £1,799 per person. Full board.
Departing from Dover on
Fred. Olsen's Borealis.

Take in Iceland's spectacular natural wonders on this thrilling Oddfellows group cruise.

Scarborough

1 to 5 October (4 nights)



You'll be staying in the Cumberland Hotel in the charming seaside town of Scarborough. With its castle, beaches, theatres, parks and cafés, you'll be spoilt for things to do.

From £325 per person. Half board.
Includes coach pick up and drop off from certain locations, or a self-arrival option.

Join us as we head to North Yorkshire on this Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.



A recent Oddfellows Travel 'Mystery Cruise' trip

For Oddfellows Travel questions and bookings, please contact
Emma Gorst **0161 214 4634** or email **travel@oddfellows.co.uk**
More information can be found at **www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel**

Measuring and offsetting our carbon footprint

We're a Carbon Neutral Plus Organisation and have been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Such measurements have resulted in a number of changes to how we operate, with the focus being on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



Our carbon footprint

Our carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases generated by our actions and measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, 77.78 tonnes of CO₂e was identified as being produced through the operations of the Oddfellows' Manchester and former Liverpool offices, and its associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

The amounts include fuel consumption, company-owned vehicles, staff business travel and homeworking. And, for the first time, emissions as a result of employee commuting have been included in the 2023/2024 assessment.

Reducing and offsetting

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

To offset our market-based carbon footprint for 2023-24, the Society has funded a range of carbon dioxide-saving initiatives around the world, including in Ghana, Zambia, Thailand, Turkey and India.

Jane added: "We aim to become Net Zero as a Society. This is where we reduce our carbon emissions to the lowest amount possible and offset as a last resort.

"While we are on that journey, our promise is to always offset our carbon footprint."

Find out more at
www.oddfellows.co.uk/climate-change

Branch Contacts

Burton-on-Trent District Lodge (Financial)

District Secretary: Mervyn Eaton

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

Christian Union Lodge

Keith Finch

Address: 20 Hawks Drive, Winhill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 0DL.

Telephone: 01283 562254.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

Orphan's Protection Lodge

Amanda C Norbury-Mountford

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at the Cock Inn, Hanbury.

Past Grands' Lodge

Amanda C Norbury-Mountford

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members.

For more information visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

At a glance

April 2025

Tues 1	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Thurs 3	Orphan's Protection Lodge	6.30pm
Fri 11	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 12	Beetle Drive	6pm
Wed 16	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm

May

Tues 6	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Fri 9	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 10	Night at the Dogs	6pm
Wed 14	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm

June

Tues 3	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Thurs 5	Orphan's Protection Lodge	6.30pm
Fri 6	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 7	Movie Time - 'The Great Escaper'	4pm
Wed 11	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm

July

Tues 1	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Sun 6	District Annual Church Service	3pm
Wed 16	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm
Fri 18	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 19	Eyes Down Bingo	6pm

August

Tues 5	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Thurs 7	Orphan's Protection Lodge	6.30pm
Fri 15	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 16	Quiz Night	6pm
Wed 20	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Christian Union Lodge Meeting	3pm
Fri 12	Cuppa and Chat	10.30am
Sat 13	Movie Time - 'Stan and Ollie'	4pm
Wed 17	Burton-on-Trent District Lodge Meeting	7pm