

October 2026 - January 2027



O^{the}DDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

North Gloucestershire



Panorama view of Gloucester cathedral in England



Online



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Art and Inspiration- Six week Creative Course (see page 5)

Welcome to the new Autumn / Winter Newsletter and events diary for North Gloucestershire District in 2026/2027.

It is early, but we want to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Hopefully all our members are safe and well and so are all their family and friends throughout the country and further afield.

As we head into the winter months, we would like to remind you all, that there will be some lovely social events, giving members the opportunity to meet up with old friends and new.

There may be some changes to some of our regular inhouse events in this diary, so please be aware and also remember and take note of the book by date attached to some of our out and about events.

We put this in to ensure we have plenty of time to book events and save

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disappointment. Unfortunately, if you try to book after the date advertised, we cannot always guarantee a space for you.

Over the past year we have had several new members that have

recently joined our District as well as regularly attending our social events, and would like to take this opportunity to express a warm welcome to all.

Please remember, that if you, as a member do have any crisis, health issues or problems that the Oddfellows can help with, do not hesitate to contact us.

This could be either through our welfare contacts or, if legal advice is required and you don't know where you stand on a dispute, then there is a separate Oddfellows' Citizens Advice line, and we can advise you of any help you may be able to access and what we can assist you with.

Regular Events

Free Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky Monday Bi-Weekly

 7pm

 Free







Why not join us and Nicky from Yeleni Therapy and Support for a free relaxation and meditation session. Help yourself to unwind and de-stress from the comfort of your own home using mindful breathing techniques and visualisation to achieve a feeling of peace and relaxation in mind, body and spirit. To access the event please go to www.zoom.us and click on 'Join a Meeting' in the top right, enter the following Zoom Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233, then click 'Join' to enter. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Alex on 01452 905010. We look forward to seeing you.

14 September 2026	26 October 2026	7 December 2026
28 September 2026	9 November 2026	4 January 2027
12 October 2026	23 November 2026	18 January 2027

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up-to-date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Regular Events

Monday Sleuths Club

Mondays at 11am



Love tracing your family tree or solving a good puzzle? Join the Sleuths Club for a friendly get-together at The Royal Oak! Meeting from 11am to 12.30pm on the second, third, and fourth Monday of each month, it's the perfect spot to explore your ancestry with our volunteer, Julie, or simply enjoy crosswords and good company. Members receive a free refreshment. If you plan to eat, please pre-order your meal by the Friday before the meeting (costs as per menu). Booking is preferred to guarantee your seat, so bring your curiosity and join us! The Royal Oak, Church Road, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham GL52 8LR. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

12 October 2026

19 October 2026

26 October 2026

9 November 2026

16 November 2026

23 November 2026

7 December 2026

14 December 2026

21 December 2026

11 January 2027

18 January 2027

25 January 2027

Monthly Carvery at Toby

(Purple Pub Club)

First Wednesday of the month



Come and join us as we indulge in a lovely carvery at Toby's in Gloucester, with dishes from as little as £4.29 and a full roast at only £11.49! Come along for some friendly conversation and great grub. The Toby Carvery, Over Farm Market, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DE. If you'd like to join us call Alex on 01452 905010 or email alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk and he'll meet you there.

7 October 2026

4 November 2026

Regular Events

Chapter and Chat Club

First Tuesday of the month



Enjoy great books and even better conversation at our friendly monthly book club, held on the first Tuesday of each month at Toro Lounge. Whether you're an avid reader or simply enjoy sharing your thoughts over a coffee and brunch, you'll receive the monthly book choice in advance and be warmly welcomed to join the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Free refreshment for members. Full menu available at cost price. If you'd like to keep the conversation going between meetings, why not also join our bi-weekly online book club - Between The Chapters, where members can connect and chat from the comfort of home? New members are always welcome. The Toro Lounge, 34 Cricklade Street, Cirencester GL7 1JH. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

6 October 2026

1 December 2026

3 November 2026

5 January 2027

Art and Inspiration

A six week Creative Course



Discover the stories behind some of the world's greatest artists and composers in this friendly six-week course. Each session will explore the life and work of one famous artist, before giving you the opportunity to create your own artwork inspired by what you've learned. No previous art experience is needed, just bring your enthusiasm and enjoy a relaxed, supportive environment where you can learn new skills, express your creativity and meet new people. The course runs every Tuesday from 10 November until 22 December, excluding 1 December. Stratton Village Hall, Thessaly Road, Stratton, Cirencester GL7 2NG. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

10 November
17 November

24 November
8 December

15 December
22 December

Regular Events

Between the Chapters

Online Book Club

Third Wednesday of the month



Join our friendly online book club on the third Wednesday of each month from the comfort of your own home. Read the monthly book at your own pace, then come together for a relaxed and enjoyable discussion with fellow book lovers. A great way to connect, wherever you are. Whether you're an avid reader or simply enjoy sharing your thoughts, you'll receive the monthly book choice in advance and be warmly welcomed to join the discussion. This group complements our monthly 'Chapter and Chat - Cirencester Book Club', giving members even more opportunities to enjoy books and friendship together. Zoom Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233 Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

21 October 2026

18 November 2026

16 December 2026

20 January 2027

Roots and Refreshments

Bi-Weekly on Thursday



Join us for a relaxed fortnightly get-together at Fosseway Garden Centre. Enjoy a coffee, friendly conversation and a browse around the garden centre with others who share an interest in gardens, plants or simply getting out and meeting new people. No gardening knowledge is needed just come along for good company in a welcoming setting. Free refreshment included for members. (Excludes 31 December). The Fosseway Garden Centre, Stow Road, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0DS. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

8 October 2026

22 October 2026

5 November 2026

19 November 2026

3 December 2026

17 December 2026

7 January 2027

21 January 2027



SAT

05

Découpage Craft Afternoon



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5



Come along for one of our Friendship Month key events. This will be a fun afternoon of crafting with all materials provided. Members can enjoy this event for free and non-members can come along at a discounted price of £5 a head to see how we work and have a taster of one of our crafty social events. A hot or cold drink will be provided in the café where we will meet before the event. Parton Road Community Centre Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



THURS

10

Oddfellows Drop-In and Digital Help Workshop



10.30am



As per menu



Join us for a relaxed coffee and chat at Whispering Willows Bistro in Chipping Norton. Stop by to enjoy a cup of

coffee, meet the Social Organiser over coffee and connect in a welcoming, comfortable setting. This drop-in service is open to everyone and is a great opportunity to learn about upcoming events in the area, share what kinds of activities and programs you'd like to see, ask questions and stay informed, enjoy friendly conversation with others, digital help workshop, whether you need help with your phone, laptop or tablet. We can support you to develop your basic skills and safely get involved with the online world. Drop in anytime. Bring a friend! Whispering Willow Bistro, Willow Gardens, Russell Way, Chipping Norton OX7 5FX. Please contact Dani on 07587 708263.



September - Friendship Month

THURS
10

Crafter's Coffee Club



12.30pm



Cost of refreshments



Celebrate Friendship Month this September at our friendly Crafters Coffee Club, held on the second Thursday of every month at The Rustic Bean! We'll be providing special friendship-focused craft materials (though you're always welcome to bring your own) for beginner-friendly, low-mess projects that are easy to complete over a light lunch. New attendees and a friend receive a complimentary coffee, and the café's full menu is available to purchase. Located just a short walk from Chipping Norton town centre bus stops, it's the perfect welcoming space to get creative, chat, and make new connections. The Rustic Bean, 1 Market Street, Chipping Norton OX7 5DD. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

FRI
11

Ten-Pin Bowling at Cheltenham Hollywood Bowl



6.30pm



£15.80



Meeting at 6.30pm in the down stairs entrance. We will be enjoying two games of ten-pin bowling with friends. This is a physical event and open to all young and old. Hollywood Bowl, The Brewery Oxford Passage, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 4EF. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



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

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

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

September - Friendship Month

THURS
17

Picnic In The Park



1pm



Free



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Grab your picnic, bring your friends (or come and make some new ones!) and join us for a feel-good afternoon at Pittville Park on Thursday 17 September at 1pm, as we celebrate Friendship Month! It will be a chance to relax, laugh, chat and enjoy the fresh air together in a beautiful setting. Whether you come on your own, or with a friend. Everyone is welcome! There'll also be some fun lawn games perfect for getting involved, breaking the ice and sharing a few laughs! Feel free to bring a blanket or chair. **Getting there:** Pittville Park is easily accessible by public transport, with local bus routes stopping nearby. There is also parking available at the Pump Rooms, including nearby streets and car parks. We'll be setting up in Pittville Park on the lawn, nearer the Pump Rooms, opposite the play area. Look out for our gazebo, it'll be a clear meeting point! Our Social Organiser will also be easy to spot wearing an Oddfellows jacket, so don't hesitate to come over and say hello. Come along and make your September a little more connected. Pittville Park - Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive, Pittville, Cheltenham GL52 3JE. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.



Image by Pricelb - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=103070726>

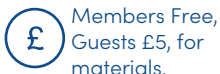
October

SAT
03

Christmas Crafts, Cards and Cakes



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5, for
materials.



Meeting in the café at Parton Road Community Centre for a drink, we will then move through to our hired room for our Christmas cards, crafts and cake making session. All materials for cards and crafts will be supplied and a talk through lesson on Christmas cake making will be given. Due to the complexity and time it takes to actually making a Christmas cake, we will be offering guidance on how you can do this when you go home with hints and tips. Parton Road Community Centre Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

October

THURS 15 Cheltenham Gift and Fashion Show Fair

⌚ 11am

£ £5 entry



Join us for a fantastic day out at the Cheltenham Gift and Fashion Fair at Cheltenham Racecourse on Thursday 15 October. Browse a wide variety of gift, fashion, homeware and artisan stalls. Discover unique Christmas gift ideas and enjoy a relaxed day shopping with friends. Whether you're looking for inspiration, treating yourself or simply enjoying a sociable day out, this is the perfect opportunity to spend time together in great company. You will have the time to browse all stalls before we reconvene at the café/restaurant to socialise and refresh. Please note admission is free with advance booking, otherwise £5 gate ticket prices on the day. Cost: £5 entry, free if pre-booked. The Centaur, Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham GL52 4SH. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

SUN 18 Meal Out at Clavell and Hind

⌚ 12 noon

£ Cost varies, but about £20



Meeting at 12 noon for sit down at 12.15pm, this event is very popular and back by request. Clavell and Hind make a wonderful carvery Sunday lunch and we have had the pleasure of attending the venue more than once and it doesn't disappoint! This event will be very popular, so pre-booking is essential. Members are asked to pay for their own meals and drinks on arrival at the bar, where they will receive a token for their meal that can be used when attending the carvery area. The cost may vary and haven't been released at the time of print, but are around £20 per head. Book by Sunday 4 October 2026. Clavell and Hind, Unit 2, Elmstone Business Park, Elmstone House, Cheltenham GL51 9SY. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

November

FRI
13

Christmas Clay Workshop



12 noon



Members
£16.50, Guests
£22



Get into the festive spirit and enjoy a creative afternoon at a Christmas clay workshop, led by 'Mama Makes It Crafty' at Toro Lounge. You'll be guided step-by-step to create your own beautiful Christmas clay decorations or keepsakes to take home at one of her popular workshop events. No experience is needed, just come along, enjoy a drink, get creative and spend time with friendly company in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere with like-minded people. Places are limited, so advance booking is essential. Discounted workshop for Oddfellow members. Book by Sunday 1 November 2026. The Toro Lounge, 34 Cricklade Street, Cirencester GL7 1JH. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.



SAT
14

Line Dancing with Mel



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5



Meeting in the café at 12 noon, we will be getting our refreshment before moving through to our booked room for another wonderful line dancing lesson, with the lovely Mel. Get ready to burn off all those Christmas treats and step into the Christmas season, with a dance step or two. This lesson is open to beginners all the way up to members who regularly attend line dancing in their own time. Mel will cater for all and will be happy to, if you need a little rest throughout the session, please don't worry. The event is free to members and £5 to guests, so why not bring a friend. **Please note this event is running on the second Saturday of the month as a change to the normal first Saturday inhouse events.** Parton Road Community Centre Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

FRI
20

Cinema Trip to the Tivoli Cinema Cheltenham



6.30pm



Around £20,
Cost TBC



We are planning on seeing the new film 'I am Rocky' as times and dates haven't been confirmed yet by the cinema at the time of this diary going to print, these may still be subject to change. Please book your seat by Monday 9 November 2026 to save disappointment and have a confirmation on times and costs. On the day, we will meet at the bottom of the large staircase in the entrance, by the booking reception desk. Tivoli Cinema Cheltenham, Regent Arcade, Regent Street, Cheltenham GL50 1EU. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



December

SUN 06 Our Great Christmas Feast - The Beckford Inn

 12.30pm  TBC 



Meeting at the Beckford Inn at 12.30pm for sit down at 1pm, this is our big Christmas meal event, with members from all over the District. The beautiful surroundings, wonderful food and good company will make this a wonderful festive event to attend. We have our own private and festive room at the venue and wonderful options of a three course meal. Places are limited to 50 people, so this will be a first-come, first-served event, with costings, discounts and menus for pre-booking closer to the time. This event won't disappoint and will get you into the Christmas spirit. Cost and discounts will be available by October. Booking is essential by Saturday 31 October 2026. The Beckford Inn, Cheltenham Road, Beckford, Tewkesbury GL20 7AN. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

SUN 13 Christmas Choir with Bellissima from the Border Belles Ladies Choir

 2pm  Members £5-£7.50,
Guests £7.50-£10 

Come and join us for a wonderful afternoon of song with Bellissima, from the Border Belles Ladies Choir, as they perform a range of songs, including some Christmas carols to get you in the spirit! This event will be a charity fundraiser, with all profits donated to charity. Refreshments will be available to purchase from the lovely Elaine from Devoted Catering. If you book in advance, you can save! Contact Alex and he will be happy to reserve your ticket. You can pay on the day, but the cost will be higher, so get in quick. Space is limited, so don't delay. Free parking onsite, cash and card accepted. St John's Church, St Johns Avenue, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2DB. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

SAT 19 Adult Only - Pantomime Sleeping Beauty

 6.30pm  Members £24.40,
Guests £32.50 

Meeting at 6.30pm at the main entrance of the Roses Theatre, the show will start at 7pm and will not be for the faint of heart. This is an adult only show and will have sections of the show that will have very strong off script language and acting. This is a brilliant alternative to the standard panto, trying to keep on track with the more child friendly script, but please be warned, it doesn't always stay on track and can be very risqué. Booking is essential, as we have reserved 15 seats and when they're gone, they're gone. Book by Saturday 31 October 2026. Roses Theatre, Sun Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5NX. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

January 2027

SAT

02

New Year's Quiz



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5



Meeting in the café for refreshments, then moving through for our New Year's Quiz, to blow away the cobwebs and those winter blues. Small prizes and treats will be available and we promise to test your general knowledge and quiz you on the big events of 2026. Come alone and meet with friends or bring a friend, we are always keen to meet existing, new and possibly new members. Parton Road Community Centre Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



FRI

15

Crazy Golf at Mulligans



6.30pm



£11.00



Meeting at 6.30pm at the main entrance, we will have a game of crazy golf to



blow away those winter blues. This event is inside, but there is uneven flooring and strobe lighting in areas. The venue can also, at times get very loud. Please book your place by Thursday 31 December 2026, to avoid disappointment, as tickets will be purchased in advance. Come alone or with a friend, the more the merrier. Mr Mulligans Crazy Golf, Unit 5A, The Brewery Quarter, Henrietta Street, Cheltenham GL50 4EF. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

FRI

29

Food and Friends - Member-Led Event



6.30pm



As per menu



Enjoy great food and even better company at our monthly Food and Friends social! Each month, we explore a new local restaurant chosen by our members. This time, we're heading to The Everest in Cheltenham town centre for a delicious Indian meal. Diners can choose from two or three course set menus (full and discounted options available), and Oddfellows members receive a complimentary beverage. Whether you're a regular or a first-timer, come share good conversation and a relaxed evening. Booking is essential by Friday 8 January 2027. Everest, 3-5 Portland Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NZ. Contact Dani on 07587 708263.

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 Garth on **01452 905010 option 3** or email our Secretary Stuart on **stuart.walker@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**

What an amazing year for our Social Events



Here at North Gloucestershire District Branch, we would like to express our warmest of welcomes to all the new members who have taken such an active part in this past years social diary and events.

We have had an explosion in new and different events run throughout the District and have welcomed Dani Brown to the Social Organiser team, enabling us as a Branch to reach out to more members, throughout the District on a more regular basis.

This year, we have enjoyed so many indoor and Out and About events, as well as our regular Zoom relaxation and seated Yoga events, which enable us to meet with members regularly

from all over the country and not just District wide.

This summer, we enjoyed music, meals out, crafts, dancing, historical walks, classic car shows as well as crafty events, cinema visits and the Bristol balloon fiesta. We have packed in so much in the past four months and want to do more.

We have a fun and varied diary for you over the winter months, but we still want to do more. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please reach out to one of our social organisers and make your suggestions. We are always keen to hear what our members would like to do and experience and are always open to suggestions.



Vintage Extravaganza

Our recent visit to the Vintage Extravaganza in Cirencester proved to be a huge success, with members enjoying a wonderful day browsing classic vehicles, vintage stalls, demonstrations and entertainment.

We started the day with a trip around the airfield on the Vintage Steams, seeing what the Fair had to offer, after a cup of tea in the tea tent. It was a fantastic experience.



Members also enjoyed a demonstration from the professional Welsh Axemen, and a beautiful display from Ben Long Falconry, alongside a day packed full of activities and entertainment.

There was plenty of laughter, great conversation and lots to explore,

making it a memorable day out for everyone who attended.

In fact, members enjoyed it so much that they have already requested a return visit next year!

One member summed up the day perfectly: "I would never have booked or done something like this on my own. It wouldn't have naturally appealed to me, but I've had immense fun and such a great laugh!"

It's a lovely reminder that sometimes the best experiences are the ones we never expected to enjoy, and that everything is better when shared with friends.

Growing Our Cirencester Community

We're delighted to be expanding our regular programme into Cirencester, bringing even more opportunities for members to meet new people, learn something new and enjoy time together. This autumn we're launching two brand-new regular clubs:

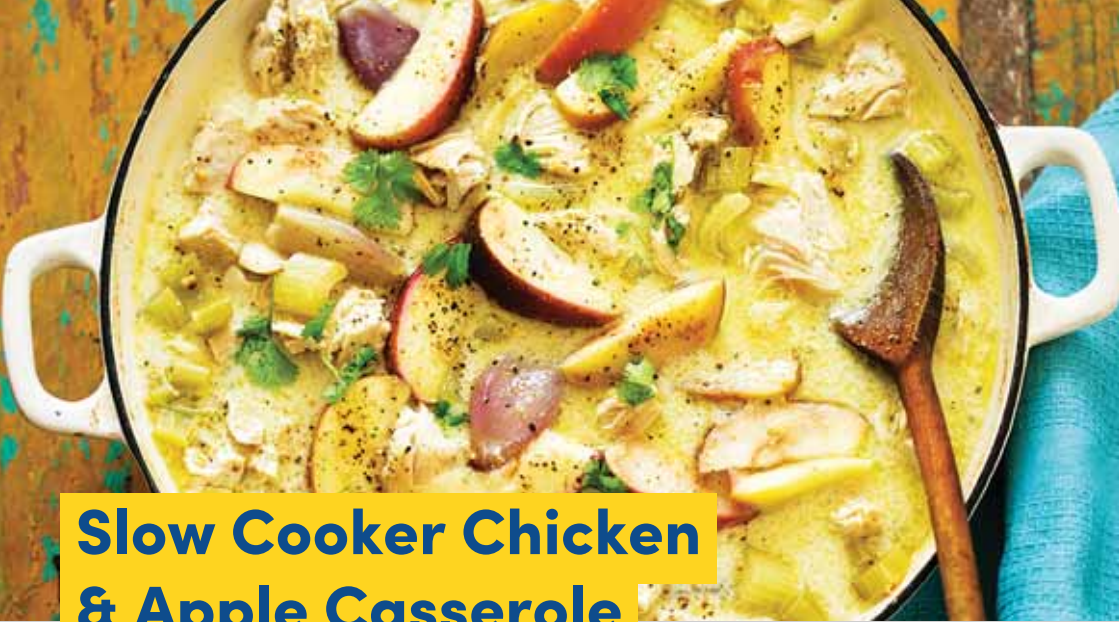
Chapter & Chat – Our friendly monthly book club, held at Toro Lounge on the first Tuesday of each month. Enjoy lively discussions, discover new authors and share your love of reading over a drink in a relaxed setting. Members can also keep the conversation going through our bi-weekly online book club, *Between the Chapters*. (See Page 5).



Art & Inspiration – A six-week creative course exploring the lives and works of famous artists and composers. Each session combines a fascinating introduction with the chance to create your own artwork, whatever your experience or ability. (See Page 5).



These new clubs are part of our commitment to offering a wider range of activities across the District, making it easier than ever for people to enjoy friendship, creativity and community closer to home. We look forward to welcoming both new and existing members to our growing Cirencester programme.



Slow Cooker Chicken & Apple Casserole

Another delicious recipe by Laura Worgan, a comforting dish ready for the cooler months coming in.

Ingredients (Serves: 4–6)

- 600g chicken breast chunks
- 2 eating apples, cored and sliced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 500ml chicken stock
- 2 tbsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp cornflour (optional, to thicken)

Method

Place the chicken, apples, onion, carrots and garlic into the slow cooker – if you have the time, fry these off for a few minutes before adding to slow cooker.

Stir together the stock, mustard and thyme, then pour over the ingredients. Cook on Low for 6–8 hours or High for 4 hours.

If you'd like a thicker sauce, stir in the cornflour mixed with a little cold water during the last 30 minutes.

Serve with creamy mashed potatoes, rice or crusty bread.

Tip: Swap the chicken for sausages or vegetarian sausages

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this autumn!

Throughout October and November, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and in upcoming print editions of Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about
our Making a Difference Awards,
including previous years'
winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/
makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.

At a glance

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Thurs 10	Oddfellows Drop-In and Digital Help Workshop	10.30am
Thurs 10	Crafter's Coffee Club	12.30pm
Fri 11	Ten-Pin Bowling at Cheltenham Hollywood Bowl	6.30pm
Mon 14	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 14	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Thurs 17	Picnic In The Park	1pm
Mon 21	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Mon 28	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm

October

Thurs 1	Scrambled!	2pm
Sat 3	Christmas Crafts, Cards and Cakes	12 noon
Mon 5	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 6	Chapter and Chat Club - Cirencester	11am
Wed 7	Monthly Carvery at Toby (Purple Pub Club)	7pm
Thurs 8	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Mon 12	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 12	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 12	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Thurs 15	Cheltenham Gift and Fashion Show Fair	11am
Sun 18	Meal Out at Clavell and Hind	12 noon
Mon 19	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 19	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Wed 21	Between The Chapters - Online Book Club	11am
Thurs 22	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Mon 26	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 26	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm

November

Mon 2	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 3	Chapter and Chat Club - Cirencester	11am
Wed 4	Monthly Carvery at Toby (Purple Pub Club)	7pm

At a glance

November - Continued

Thurs 5	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Thurs 5	Scrambled!	2pm
Mon 9	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 9	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 9	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 10	Art and Inspiration - A six week Creative Course	11.30am
Fri 13	Christmas Clay Workshop	12 noon
Sat 14	Line Dancing with Mel	12 noon
Mon 16	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 16	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 17	Art and Inspiration - A six week Creative Course	11.30am
Wed 18	Between The Chapters - Online Book Club	11am
Thurs 19	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Fri 20	Cinema Trip to the Tivoli Cinema Cheltenham	6.30pm
Mon 23	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 23	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 24	Art and Inspiration - A six week Creative Course	11.30am
Mon 30	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm

December

Tues 1	Chapter and Chat Club - Cirencester	11am
Thurs 3	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Thurs 3	Scrambled!	2pm
Sun 6	Our Great Christmas Feast - The Beckford Inn	12.30pm
Mon 7	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 7	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 8	Art and Inspiration - A six week Creative Course	11.30am
Sun 13	Christmas Choir with Bellissima from the Border Belles Ladies Choir	2pm
Mon 14	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 14	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm

At a glance

December - Continued

Tues 15	Art and Inspiration – A six week Creative Course	11.30am
Wed 16	Between The Chapters – Online Book Club	11am
Thurs 17	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Sat 19	Adult Only – Pantomime Sleeping Beauty	6.30pm
Mon 21	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Tues 22	Art and Inspiration – A six week Creative Course	11.30am

January 2027

Sat 2	New Years Quiz	12 noon
Mon 4	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Tues 5	Chapter and Chat Club – Cirencester	11am
Thurs 7	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Thurs 7	Scrambled!	2pm
Mon 11	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 11	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Fri 15	Crazy Golf at Mulligans	6.30pm
Mon 18	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 18	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Wed 20	Between The Chapters – Online Book Club	11am
Thurs 21	Roots and Refreshments	11am
Mon 25	Monday Sleuths Club	11am
Mon 25	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Fri 29	Food and Friends – Member-Led Event	6.30pm

Meetings

Committee of Management meetings are held every month. Why not come along and meet new friends, whilst finding out about your own Branch and how it runs! If you are interested in getting more involved, please give us a call to find out how.

Payment for events

You can always pay for forthcoming events at the meeting the month before the event itself, if you are not going to be able to attend the preceding event. Please contact Louise on **01452 905010** to discuss payment methods.