

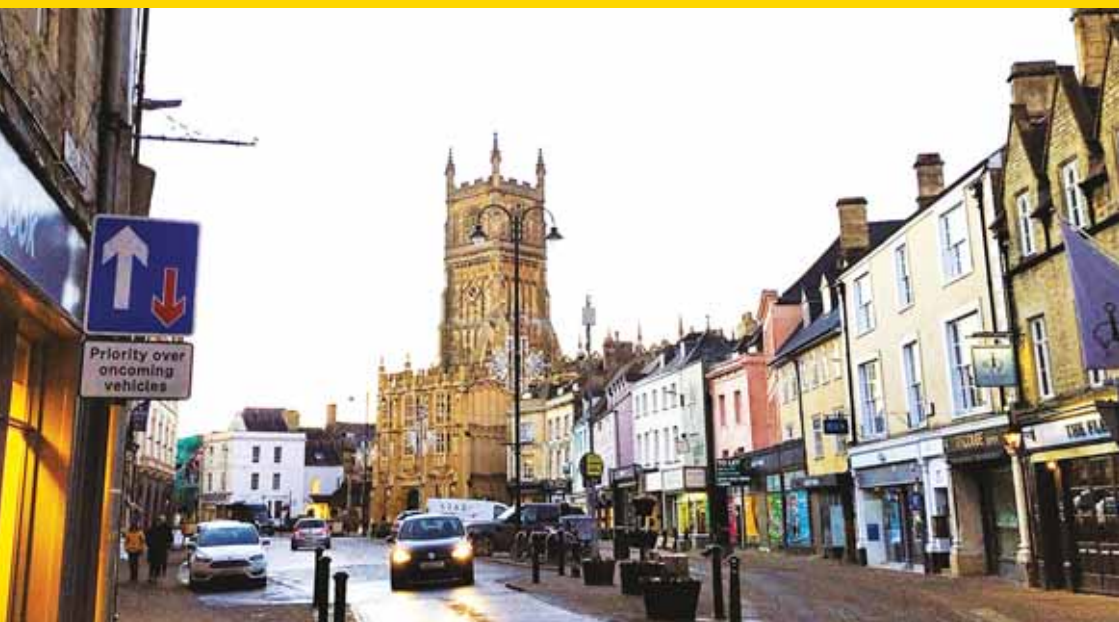
October 2024 - January 2025



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

out & about

North Gloucestershire



Cirencester



Online



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Quiz

North Gloucestershire Autumn newsletter 2024

Welcome to the new Winter Newsletter and events diary for North Gloucestershire District in 2024/2025. 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. We send our best wishes to those who may be experiencing ill health or other problems at this time.

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.

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 including the whole family and we are very much looking forward to seeing lots of our members at our annual get together Christmas lunch, this year at the new location.



Members of all ages enjoyed origami at one of our recent events

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Stuart Walker

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Ross-on-Wye,
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Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 6

Email:
stuart.walker@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Event Organiser:

Louise Quemby

Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 1

Email:
louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk.

Welfare Visitor: Garth Morgan

Telephone: 01452 905010 option: 3

Please also remember and take note of the book by date on our out and about events. We put this in to ensure we have plenty of time to book events and save disappointment.

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

Up and Coming

This winter we are looking forward to crafty events, Pantomime visit, weekly Zoom relaxation and yoga events if you would like to stay in the comfort of your own home and meals out throughout the District.



Remember, if there is any where you think would make a beautiful location for a day out or evening please just let Louise know We are all especially looking forward to our Christmas meal with a full menu that will be a delicious treat and a will cater for all. This is at a discounted price to Oddfellows Members, so why not start

your festivities early, and come along and meet up with lots of other local members for this very special and popular event.

We will also be having our annual Christmas charity prize draw at our Christmas Meal. To be entered all you need to do is book on and attend our Christmas Meal at the Tewkesbury Park on 3rd December. The two members whose names are drawn have the opportunity to name a charity of their choice for the Branch to make a donation to on their behalf.

So if you come to the Christmas meal give a little thought beforehand about which charity you would like to donate to if your name is drawn!

Throughout the year we have many Friends and Members who travelling many, many miles from Evesham, Winchcombe, Gloucester, Ross on Wye, Pershore, Chipping Campden Morton in Marsh and Stow on the Wold and all the surrounding areas to be with us and we would like to thank you all for attending our events and look forward to seeing you at many more to come.

Booking

Please remember the importance of booking early for our events. Please note a non-refundable deposit is required at time of booking to confirm your place and full payment is due before the event. Sometimes large amounts of money is collected so, for safety reasons, where possible a cheque (made payable to The Oddfellows) would be appreciated.

Regular Events

Free Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky

Monday Bi-Weekly



7 October 2024

21 October 2024

4 November 2024

18 November 2024

2 December 2024

16 December 2024

13 January 2025

27 January 2025

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, then enter the following: Zoom Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233, click 'Join', then enter. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Louise or Alex on 01452 905010. We look forward to seeing you.

Bi-Weekly Seated Chair Yoga via Zoom with Mike

Monday Bi-Weekly



7 October 2024

14 October 2024

28 October 2024

11 November 2024

25 November 2024

9 December 2024

6 January 2025

20 January 2025

Join Mike from Yoga Skies to practise seated chair yoga. Even if you have limited mobility, this yoga will suit as there will be no getting up and down off the floor! Help yourself to unwind and de-stress from the comfort of your own home using easy talked through yoga. Achieve a state of relaxation and wellbeing brought about by posture and stretching. Zoom Meeting ID: 858 3806 2233, click 'Join' then enter. If you have any problems or questions, please contact Alex on 01452 905010. We look forward to seeing you.

Regular Events

Purple Pub Club (food and drink)

Various Wednesday



Wednesday 23 October 2024 and Tuesday 26 November 2024

Join us at Toby Carvery in Over, Highnam in Gloucester. If you fancy a bite to eat or just a drink and a chat, then why not come along. With dishes from as little as £4.99. If you fancy a light bite to a full roast with unlimited vegetables for just £10.49! It's a great



place to meet and chat with friends and make new friends. They even offer unlimited refills on soft drinks. We will be there from just before 7pm to sit down for 7.30pm to dine. All food and drink to be purchased at the venue (details correct at time of print). Please book so we can reserve a table big enough, bookings required by midday the day before the event. The Toby Carvery, Over Farm Market, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DE. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

Shhh! Secret Cinema

Second Monday of the month



14 October 2024, 11 November, 9 December and 13 January 2025

It's back! Our popular Secret Cinema event returns. If you fancy catching one of the latest blockbusters while it's on the big screen then join us on our monthly visit to Cineworld. Each month we will see what is on and in advance choose a movie for us all to enjoy along with popcorn if you fancy too! Cineworld Gloucester, Quays Outlet Centre, Merchants Road, Gloucester GL1 5SH. To book on please contact Alex on 01452 905010 at least two days before the event to let him know you're coming and he can tell you what time to meet as the times are set by Cineworld for the start of different movies. We look forward to welcoming you.



October 2024

SAT

05

Vinyl Printing with Ashi



12 noon



Members Free
Guests £8



Come along to our regular meeting at Parton Road Community Centre for an afternoon of crafts hosted by one of our younger members Ashi. Ashi will be preparing and guiding members in the art of using a vinyl press to create our own item to take home. This is a free event to members and £8 to non-members for materials. We will as always be meeting in the café first where members will be treated to a hot drink and a slice of cake. Book by Friday 27 September 2024. Parton Road Community Centre the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



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.

THURS

10

Ed Byrne - Live at Gloucester Guildhall



7pm



Members £25.99
Guests £33.99



Join us for an evening with Ed Byrne, he will be live from 7.30pm on Thursday 10 October in Gloucester. We will be meeting outside by Starbucks and heading in to grab a drink at the bar before spending the evening laughing our socks off! Come along and join us for what looks to be a fun filled evening. Tickets are limited, so book sooner rather than later to not miss out. Book by Thursday 26 September 2024. Gloucester Guildhall, 23 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1NS. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.



October 2024

THURS
24

SPACE at Tewkesbury Abbey



6.30pm



Adult £12
Child £10



Journey through outer space, gaze up at the emerging galaxies and in the beautiful surroundings of Tewkesbury Abbey. This sound and light show will wow you and it suitable for all ages.

The show of light, colour and music with the collaboration of Luxmuralis, who have been touring cathedrals and churches of England for years.

This will last for 45 minutes and we will be meeting in the crescent bus stop off Church Street at 6.15pm to be ready to enter the Abbey grounds. Booking is essential as this event books up locally very quickly and is priced at £12 per adult and £10 for children. Book Saturday by 28 September 2024.

Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5RZ. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



November

SAT
02

Christmas Card Making



12 noon



Members Free
Guests £1 per
card made



Meeting in the café for a hot drink and slice of cake to warm our selves we will then enjoy an afternoon of crafts and chat making Christmas and winter themed cards. Materials will be provided, free to members and at a small cost of £1 per card to non-members. All cards can be taken and used to brighten up a loved ones day over the festive period.

All are welcome so why not come along even if just to watch and chat even if your not very crafty! Please book onto this event so enough materials and supplies can be provided by Saturday 26 October 2024. Parton Road Community Centre the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



November

FRI **15** **Dinner at the** **Hobnails Inn**



12 noon



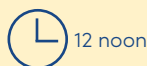
As per
menu



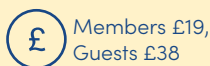
Meeting at the entrance of the Hobnails at Little Washbourne we will be enjoying good food and good company for the next hour or so. Members are required to book in advance to ensure availability and to pay for their own food and drink accordingly with items on the menu from around £15 to £25 for a main course. Please contact Louise on 01452 905010 or louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk, book by Friday 25 October 2024. The Hobnails Inn, Little Washbourne, Old Stow Road, Near Cheltenham GL20 8NQ.

December

SUN **08** **Annual Christmas Meal at Down Hatherly Hall**



12 noon



Members £19,
Guests £38



Meeting at Down Hatherly Hall at 12 noon for 12.30pm service this year. We are in for a treat and a change to the norm! We are spicing things up and meeting at Down Hatherly Hall for an inhouse Christmas meal lovingly prepared and served by Devoted Catering. We will have a private sit down meal at the hall and menus of courses will be available from Alex on alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk. So why not come out for an afternoon of good company and good food, in a pleasant and local environment. We will also be holding our attending members charity give away raffle.

Payment will be ask for in advance of this event at the time of booking and will be at a discounted price of £19 to members and £38 to non-members for a three course meal with mince pies, tea and coffee to finish. Please contact Louise on 01452 905010 or louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk, book by Friday 22 November 2024. Down Hatherly Village Hall, Down Hatherly Lane, Down Hatherly, Gloucester GL2 9QB. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

December

SUN
22

Pantomime Visit to see Aladdin at Cheltenham Everyman



11am



Members £34.48
Guests £45.98



Visiting the amazing and beautiful Everyman Theatre, this event is a real treat for the whole family and will book up very quickly, so make your reservations with haste to save on disappointment. Tickets are £45.98 to non-members and with an Oddfellows members discount price of £34.48 to members.

We will be meeting by the main entrance at 10.30am prompt to be seated for the start of the show. Book by Sunday 20 October 2024. The Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham GL50 1HQ. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

SUN
22

Christmas Choir Service (Forest Singers)



4.30pm



See below



Come and join us for a wonderful afternoon/early evening of choir songs at the lovely St John's Church in Churchdown, the Forest Singers will be delighting us with an array of songs. Free parking onsite, all tickets include one free mince pie and unlimited tea or coffee. Other refreshments will be available to purchase. We will also be fundraising for the local foodbank, with the monies raised being matched by the Branch* card payments can be taken on the day or in advance, cash is also accepted. Book now to secure your place and save.

We look forward to welcoming you and getting you in the Christmas Spirit if you are not already by then! (*to a maximum of £200 of matching). Cost: Members: £5, advance booking £6.50 on the day. Guests: £6, advance booking £8.50 on the day. Book by Thursday 12 December 2024. St John's Church, St Johns Avenue, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2DB. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

December

SAT
28

Mince Pie Special! - GWSR Train Trip



10.30am



Members £26
Guests £30



Join us as we venture on a heritage line from Cheltenham Racecourse to Broadway on the GWSR Mince Pie Special! We will meet at Cheltenham Racecourse and join a steam train out all the way to Broadway, refreshments are available onboard (subject to availability), one hot drink and mince pie will be included on the outward journey. On arrival at Broadway, we will have a chance to get off and stretch our legs before our return journey which should land us back into Cheltenham at 3pm.



Come along and enjoy the lovely views of the Cotswolds and beyond. Spaces are limited so please book in advance by Friday 20 December 2024. Cheltenham Racecourse, Prestbury, Cheltenham GL50 4QB. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

January 2025

SAT
04

New Years Quiz



12 noon



Free



Why not come along alone or bring a friend and shake away those winter blues and join us for a New Years quiz. With questions covering a wide range of general knowledge from both past and present. Everyone stands a chance in this quiz with small prizes for the winners and a hot drink and slice of cake offered. We will be meeting in the café first before our quiz gets underway. Parton Road Community Centre the Café, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucestershire GL3 2JH. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.



January 2025

SAT
18

A Family Day to Hollywood Bowl

L 12 noon

£ Adult £11.85
Child £10.35



In the post Christmas Blues why not treat the family to a day out and some competition. Meeting at Hollywood Bowl entrance at 11.45am we will have one or two games depending on interest and availability! The whole family is welcome so why not bring members young and old for a bit of fun and dash away those winter blues. Members to pay for their own games at £11.85 for an adult and £10.35 per child. Booking is essential as lanes book up in advance by Saturday 4 January 2025. Hollywood Bowl, The Brewery, Oxford Passage, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 4EF. Contact Louise on 01452 905010.

SAT
25

Oakham Treasures Day Trip

L 10.30am

£ TBC



Why not join us on a lovely Day Trip to Oakham Treasures near Bristol. We will be providing transport, collection points will depend on location of attendees. Oakham Treasures is one of the largest privately owned museums of retail and farming history in the UK. Opened to the public for the very first time since July 2008, it has already become an award winning major attraction and guarantees to give you an amazing and uplifting trip down memory lane. Whether you are 8 or 80, you'll be fascinated by this vast and unique collection of memorabilia from the last century.

There really is something for everybody, from the thousands of items in the historic stores, to the impressive display of vintage tractors and farm equipment. We will also be having lunch there, attendees will pay for their own refreshments/food. Spaces are limited so please book as soon as possible by Friday 17 January 2025. Oakham Treasures, Oakham Farm, Portbury Lane, Portbury, Bristol BS20 7SP. Contact Alex on 01452 905010.

Bereavement Support Payment

The death of a partner is not only distressing but can also be worrying financially. Bereavement Support Payment is a non-means-tested benefit that people may be able to claim if a spouse, civil partner, or cohabiting partner has died.

There are two different non-taxable rates of Bereavement Support Payment:

- £2,500, followed by 18 monthly payments of £100 if you are not responsible for a child under the age of 20.
- £3,500, followed by 18 monthly payments of £350 if you are responsible for a child under the age of 20.

You can claim Bereavement Support Payment if:

- Your spouse, civil partner, or cohabiting partner died on or after 6 April 2017.
- Your spouse or partner paid National Insurance contributions for at least 25 weeks in a single tax year since 1975.
- You were under state pension age when your spouse or partner died.



- You were living in the UK at the time of death (or another country pays bereavement benefits).

To claim the Bereavement Support Payment, you can either:

- Apply on the government website (apply-for-bereavement-support-payment.dwp.gov.uk/citizen-frontend/apply)
- Download a claim form on the government website (gov.uk/government/publications/bereavement-support-payment-claim-form)
- Phone the Bereavement Service helpline **(0800 151 2012)**.

(ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/bereavement-benefits/)

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay

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



OE/0122A6

Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Louise on 01452 905010 option: 1
louise.quemby@oddfellows.co.uk.

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THE ODDFELLOWS
since 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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

Friendship Month

and all our lovely events throughout the year
meeting with members

This year we have
had so many lovely
events not only
in September's
Friendship Month,
but throughout the whole year.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



We here at North Gloucestershire are very humbled by the attendance at our regular Zoom events, where we don't only get a chance to meet with members from the District, but also members from many other different Branches across the country! These lovely weekly events have really given us an opportunity to meet with members via the power of the internet and support each other through many different experiences.

We've also had the wonderful opportunity to meet with our members at our larger and lower key socials, everything from meals out, visits to Warner Brothers



Member hosts
Rupert bear event



Meal at our purple pub club



Fun at Harry potter studio

Studio Harry Potter Tours and our very crafty and in-house talks at Parton Road Community Centre in Churchdown, that happen monthly on a Saturday and allow members of all ages a chance to attend.

We all hope here at North Gloucestershire District Branch that you enjoyed Friendship Month as much as we did, and please remember you are more than welcome to come along to any of our events throughout the year!



Meals out with friends

Young Member Makes a Difference

We have so many different members here at the Oddfellows, all with different backgrounds and experiences, but the one thing we all have in common is friendship and thinking of others.

We have a junior member who has been a life member, as were his mother, grandmother, and great grandmother before him. He wanted to make a difference to other children's lives and came up with a plan. Isaac Quemby decided at this point to grow his hair for The Little Princess Trust, challenging the assumption that usually girls donate their hair.



Isaac patiently grew his hair for nearly two years and recently had the 'big cut'! He carefully sent his hair off and received a certificate confirming that it had been received. The hair will be used to make wigs for children who have lost their own hair through various health conditions and cancer.

Isaac also set up (with the help of his big sister) a JustGiving page and raised an impressive £290. This money will also be forwarded to The Little Princess Trust. Well done, Isaac!



Isaacs Hair Donation

£290 raised of £250 target · 26 donations

Share

Donate now



Louise Quemby is organising this fundraiser on behalf of The Little Princess Trust. ✓



Member's Recipe – Christmas pudding

From Great Aunt Ethel

Great Aunt Ethel had many skills, including baking and making preserves. She collected recipes and wrote them down in her two notebooks. There are several different recipes she collected for Christmas cake and Christmas pudding. The recipe that follows is one for Christmas pudding. Some of the recipes for puddings are mixed with Guinness, some with rum, and some with brandy. What they all share is a very long initial steaming time. Once made, they will keep for months and can be 'fed' with a drop more brandy, port, or rum before the final steaming on the day. This recipe does not use suet.

Method

Cream fat and sugar and add eggs. Mix in the rest of the ingredients. Put into greased pudding basins and seal with a double layer of greaseproof paper, tied with string to ensure pudding does not come into contact with water. Place in steamer, or on a upturned saucer in a large saucepan. Fill pan up to half depth of basin with water and steam for 6 hours. You will need to keep an eye on the water level and top up to prevent pan boiling dry. Keep in a cool dry place until needed and then steam for a further 2 hours or so before serving.

Ingredients

- 1lb currants (450 gm)
- 1lb sultanas
- 1lb raisins
- 1lb fresh breadcrumbs
- 4oz mixed peel
- 1lb butter
- 1lb dark brown sugar
- 5 eggs
- 4oz golden syrup
- 6oz self raising flour
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, grated rind and juice of 1 lemon, a wine glass of rum or brandy.



Emergency care for pets

Some members have requested information regarding the care of their pets due to hospitalisation. Did you know that local authorities in England and Wales have a duty to take into their care any pets that cannot be cared for by family or friends when their owner is hospitalised? Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, local authorities have an obligation to ensure the welfare needs of pets are met while they are responsible for them

politicalanimal.rspca.org.uk/england/care-act-emergency-boarding).

As such, local authorities should provide arrangements for the care

and welfare of pets, eg, boarding, as long as their owner is a resident in the area. In Wales, under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, this also includes individuals with no settled residence but based within the local authority area (politicalanimal.rspca.org.uk/england/care-act-emergency-boarding). This little-known provision can give peace of mind to pet owners at what is already an anxious time.

In addition, The Cinnamon Trust (cinnamon.org.uk) helps older people remain with their pets through a network of volunteers that provide dog walking, fostering and pet care, eg, cleaning of cages and collecting food.

Nominate a fellow member for the Society's Making a Difference Awards

Do you know a special member who has gone above and beyond to help others, raise money for good causes or run your Branch?

We're encouraging members to put these special people forward for national recognition! Speak to your Branch Secretary about how to nominate or find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference



MADAS0724

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 **01989 565664** 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**

Members meet in Llandudno for AMC

The late May Bank Holiday weekend in the beautiful North Wales coastal town of Llandudno was the setting for this year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

Hosted by Deeside Oddfellows, members from throughout the UK made the trip to reflect on the previous 12 months and discuss and vote on the course of the next, all presided over by the Grand Master (Chairman), Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham.



Business conducted, AMC Llandudno

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, with Oddfellows Brass putting on another wonderful performance.



Oddies on the coach to Portmeirion

Members also took part in a ceilidh at the welcome evening, graced the green at the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, took a day trip to Portmeirion and got all dressed up for the Farewell Dance.

Who should be our next major Fund recipient?

Our HA Andrews Memorial Fund provides major financial support over a two or three year period to a project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research in the UK.



The funding for Southampton University's Centre for Cancer Immunology, which was nominated by a member in Guernsey, is in its final year, so we're now open to suggestions on who to support from 2025.

If you've a suggestion of who we can support next, let us know. Go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the criteria, how to nominate and our deadlines.

Making a Difference Awards 2024

Five members have received national recognition for the brilliant and selfless work they put into making their Branch and the Society as wonderful as they can be.



Terry Rendle, Oswald Branch Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Terry's contributions to the running of Oswald Branch's social events.

He regularly comes up with ideas for events, plans and advertises them, organises and purchases supplies, arranges



catering, sells tickets, physically arranges chairs and tables in the room, taxis people to and from, hosts and clears up after. All this at the age of 84.

"Socialising is so important as you get older," Terry said. "It keeps your brain busy and your body busy which means you might last a bit longer."

He added: "I was flabbergasted. I had to read the letter three times before I realised what I was reading."

Pat and David Lang, Three Counties Branch Achieving Together

The married couple from Didcot, Oxfordshire, joined the Oddfellows over half-



century ago, and in that time have taken on many voluntary roles, including serving as Branch Chairman five times between them.

They are Welfare Visitors, regularly checking in on around 50 fellow members, and are well known for providing food for events and meetings. They are also responsible for an annual Christmas lunch event which, since 2009, has raised over £2,100 for the HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

David said: "It has never been about being rewarded. We love what we do, it's as simple as that.

Pat added: "I'm honoured. We have much to thank the Oddfellows for and have met so many lovely people."

Peter Coe, City of Norwich Branch

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

As a mutual society, the Oddfellows is run by and for our members and this award seeks to recognise those who have gone the extra mile to assist in the running of their Branch and the Society as a whole.

Peter has gone several extra miles, having held a number of voluntary roles, including Branch and District Chairman,



and is still a member of the social committee to this day, helping to organise many wonderful events.

Peter said: "The Oddfellows is full of very, very friendly people. We all get on. I've made some very good friends here over the years.

"It's my life. It's what I do. The best thing I did was join the Oddfellows."

Claire Needham, Vale of York District

Giving Something Back

Lifelong member Claire has been recognised for the work she does to raise money and awareness for worthy causes.



She donated nearly £3,000 for Motor Neurone Disease Association and Martins House Children's Hospice having run the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon last year, and has helped raise more than £30,000 through her role as Chairman of her workplace's Charity Committee.

Claire has also held positions on the Oddfellows' Benevolence Committee and Investigations Committee, making a positive difference to the lives of her fellow members.

"I was completely surprised and I feel really honoured," Claire said. "It's a really nice feeling. It's nice that other people think it's making a difference and it's having an impact."

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Each of the winners are fully deserving of this recognition and I'm very proud of all of them. They typify what it is to be an Oddfellow and the Society and their respective branches are lucky to have them."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2025 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Financial worries revealed



Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, recently surveyed 2,000 people throughout the UK to uncover what's keeping them up at night when it comes to their finances. Here's what they discovered. Do any of these resonate with you?

Cost of living

The worry peaks for those aged 40-49, with 63% feeling the pinch, closely followed by those in their 50s and 60s (both at 62%).

Emergency planning

35% of those surveyed worry they don't have enough money set aside for emergencies like car repairs or medical treatments. Additionally, 28% fret about potential home repair costs.

Pension and retirement

Living on a tight pension is a reality for 22% of respondents, and 18% worry they aren't contributing enough to their pension pot. Many in their 60s regret not paying more into their pensions earlier.



Savings and financial planning

Only 39% of people have money in savings or investments, but this number jumps to 61% for those in their 70s. Yet, just a third have a financial life plan.

Stress and anxiety

Financial stress affects 58% of respondents. Those in their 60s and 70s are less worried compared to younger age groups, with only 35% and 27% respectively reporting anxiety.

Financial regrets

Over half (51%) have financial regrets, including not saving enough each month (46%) and spending on pointless things (43%). Interestingly, more than one in 10 (12%) wish they'd married someone with more money.

These findings show that, while financial worries are largely universal, planning and saving can make a significant difference, especially as we age. Whether you're setting up your first financial plan or adjusting your retirement strategy, it's never too late to take control of your financial future.

Go to www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

Oddfellows members have access to a dedicated Citizens Advice Line. Its advisers can help you to find a way forward with any money or debt problems but are unable to give financial advice. Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/citizens-advice to find out more.

At a glance

October 2024

Sat 5	Vinyl Printing with Ashi	12 noon
Mon 7	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Mon 7	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Thurs 10	Ed Byrne - Live at Gloucester Guildhall	7pm
Mon 14	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 14	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Mon 21	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Wed 23	Purple Pub Club	7pm
Thurs 24	SPACE at Tewkesbury Abbey	6.30pm
Mon 28	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm

November

Sat 2	Christmas Card Making	12 noon
Mon 4	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Mon 11	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 11	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Fri 15	Dinner at the Hobnails Inn	12 noon
Mon 18	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Mon 25	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Tues 26	Purple Pub Club	7pm

December

Mon 2	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Sun 8	Annual Christmas Meal at Down Hatherly Hall	12 noon
Mon 9	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 9	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Mon 16	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm

At a glance

December

Sun 22	Pantomime Visit to see Aladdin at Cheltenham Everyman	11am
Sun 22	Christmas Choir Service (Forest Singers)	4.30pm
Sat 28	Mince Pie Special! - GWSR Train Trip	10.30am

January 2025

Sat 4	New Years Quiz	12 noon
Mon 6	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Mon 13	Shhh! Secret Cinema	6.30pm
Mon 13	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm
Sat 18	A Family Day to Hollywood Bowl	12 noon
Mon 20	Bi-Weekly Seated Yoga with Mike	7pm
Sat 25	Oakham Treasures Day Trip	10.30am
Mon 27	Bi-Weekly Relaxation with Nicky	7pm

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 **07980 100831** to discuss payment methods.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.