

February - July 2019



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

out & about

South East Lancashire District



Castle Armoury Bury



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Health &
Wellbeing



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Cinema



Annual Dinner and Dance - Saturday 6 April

Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Lancashire District Branch Events Diary. Members of the District have organised a varied programme of events for you all.

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area. Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

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.

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

Secretary: Sheila Kendall

Address:

10 Broadstone Close, Prestwich
Manchester M25 9QA

Telephone: 0161 773 3138

Email:

sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch Development Officer:

Helen Carnson

Telephone: 07564 641909

Email:

helen.carnson@oddfellows.co.uk

Blackburn Social Organiser:

Linda Dallison

Telephone: 01254 264391

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Front cover: *Castle Armoury Bury* by Paul Anderson and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Regular Events

Bury Knit and Natter

Mondays



11am



Free



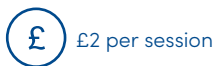
Our group of ex-carers meets every Monday for lunch and a chat. Bring your own lunch and we will provide a brew. Knitting and crafts are a regular but optional part of our meetings. New people are always welcome to join us. 11am till 2pm at Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH.

Bury Thursday Friends

Every Thursday



12 noon



£2 per session



Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk and outing. Why not bring your own lunch and join us? We will provide tea/coffee and cake for a small charge. Meet new friends and enjoy our social afternoon. A football card is generally passed round to raise some much needed funds for local charities. Cost: £2 per session, £1 football card (optional). Call Vera Kirkby on 07887 617742 or Helen on 07564 641909 or email helen.carnson@oddfellows.co.uk. 12 noon till 2pm at Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH.

Chatterbox Coffee Morning

First Wednesday of the month

**6 February
6 March**

**3 April
1 May**

**5 June
3 July**



10am



£1 brew and biscuit



Welcome to our monthly coffee morning. Come and join us for a chat, a biscuit and a brew, with free refills. You can play cards or dominoes or just take the weight off and chill for a bit. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

Beginners Tai Chi Class

Friday 15 February

Friday 8 March

Friday 22 February

Friday 15 March

Friday 1 March



7pm



Members £5
Guests £7



We are fortunate to have secured the services of Sue Johnson, Tai Chi instructor, for a block of five beginner's lessons to provide an introduction to China's ancient martial art. No special clothing or equipment needed, just comfortable footwear. Don't worry if you cannot attend every session, just come when you can. After the class, which lasts about 50 minutes, there will be an opportunity to have a brew and biscuit, and a chat. All welcome. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

February 2019

FRI
01

Dine Around Automatic Cafe



12 noon



See below



Join us for lunch at Bury's trendy cafe bar in the town centre. Guests are welcome but please let us know you are coming as advance booking is essential for this very busy restaurant. Our yellow sign will mark our table. Cost: About £12 to £14 for two courses. Light lunches are available. Automatic Cafe, Market Street, Bury BL9 0BW. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



THURS
07

Wigan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
12

Blackburn Social Club - Protecting your Assets



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. Today's speaker, John Mumford will talk to us about the very important topic of protecting your assets in later life. John explains protecting against care fees, avoiding probate and arranging lasting power of attorney in a no nonsense, easy to understand manner. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

TUES
12

Bingo Night



7pm



£1 plus cost of
bingo tickets



Join us for our fun Bingo Night which will include traditional and novelty rounds. There will be prizes and a raffle. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Chairman's charities. Light refreshments will be provided. We are not licensed to sell alcohol, but you can bring your own if you want to. Non-members are welcome to join us, but there will be a 50p surcharge. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

February 2019

THURS 14 On the Town in Bury The Clarence

7pm

£ See below



Join us for an evening get together at this popular and trendy meeting place. Dining is optional with excellent food and cocktails available. Vegetarian options. All welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Cost: About £21 for two courses if dining. Book by Tuesday 12 February. The Clarence, 2 Silver Street, Bury BL9 0BW. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

THURS 21 Dine Around The Moon Under the Water

12 noon

£ As per menu



Set in an imposing building which was once a bank, this Wetherspoons pub offers a varied menu with vegetarian options also available. Join us for lunch and good company. The Moon Under the Water, 5-7A, Market Place, Wigan WN1 1PE. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

SAT 23 Cash on Delivery

7pm

£ £8



Come and see our own Amdram superstars, Robert and Jenny Peters, in this production of Samuel French's hilarious farce by Michael Cooney, where a con artist claims multiple benefits for non-existent lodgers. When Mr Jenkins from the DSS calls to investigate, mayhem follows, as does an undertaker, a bereavement counsellor, a psychiatrist, a corpse, the ominous Miss Cowper and a rebellious washing machine. Performances from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 February inclusive.

Call 01204 847866 to book tickets. Book by Friday 15 February.

St Paul's Primary School,
Newnham Street, Astley Bridge,
Bolton BL1 8QH.

Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

February 2019 March

TUES
26

Dine Around A Mano



12 noon



As per
menu



A Mano is an innovative, contemporary Italian restaurant and cocktail bar situated in Cathedral Square, Blackburn. Serving freshly cooked pizza, pasta and delicious salads. Book by Tuesday 12 February. A Mano, One Cathedral Square, Blackburn BB1 1FB. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

SAT
02

Lancashire Night Dinner/Dance



6pm



£25



This dinner will be held in honour of the new Lancashire and Associate Districts Group Conference President, Mary Wheeler. Come along and enjoy a great meal with entertainment. Book by Saturday 2 February. Alma Lodge Hotel, Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6EL. Contact Helen on 07564 641909 or Chris on 0161 764 3734.

March

FRI
01

Dine Around The Duke William



12 noon



£14 for two
courses



Welcome to this traditional friendly pub renowned for its cuisine. Guests are welcome to join us, but please let us know you are coming so we can reserve a place for you. Look out for our yellow table sign. The Duke William, Well Street, Ainsworth, Bolton BL2 5SQ. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



March

MON
04

Mid Day Concert Duo Bauhinia



1pm



See below



Sirius Chau and Chi-Hoi Cheung will play Poulenc Sonata for flute and piano, Claude Bolling suite for flute and jazz piano, and Prokofiev Sonata for flute and piano.

Concert takes about an hour. Tickets are available at the door. There will be an option to go for coffee and cake or other suitable refreshments after the concert.

Cost: £10.50 for concessions including booking fee. £8 if paid on the door.

Bridgewater Hall, Lower Moseley Street, Manchester M2 3WS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
05

Ten Pin Bowling



11am



Bowling £7. Lunch as per menu



Back by popular demand and just for a bit of fun. It doesn't matter if you have never bowled before. We have a start time of 11.15am. The cost is £7 per person for two games. Pre-booking is essential for this event. Why not join us for lunch afterwards at a local venue to be arranged. Book by Tuesday 26 February. Tenpin Blackburn, Peel Leisure and Retail Park, Mayson Street, Blackburn BB1 1DG. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 Contact Linda on 01254 264391.



THURS
07

Wigan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

March

TUES
12

Tuesday Evening Social - Dominoes Tournament



7pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Fun for beginners and experts alike. There is a trophy to be held by the winner for one year and maybe a small cash prize for the winner and runner up taken from the proceeds of the evening. We usually have a raffle and the proceeds from this go to the Chairman's charities. Bring your own wine if you want to, and guests are always welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
12

Blackburn Social Club



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

THURS
14

On the Town in Blackburn - Calypso



7pm



£17 for two courses



Join us for an evening get together at this popular Caribbean style eatery. Fine food with vegetarian options available. Cocktails are also served. Non-members are welcome to join us, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Book by Monday 11 March. Calypso, 16 Eanam, Blackburn BB1 5BY. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



SAT
16

Annual Summomed Meeting



1.30pm



Free



This is our Annual General Meeting where we get together to discuss financial matters and other significant business of the District. We will also install our new Chairman, Shirley Walton and Vice Chairman Martyn Seddon. All are welcome to attend, but only Members will be able to vote on matters affecting the District. Light refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

March

THURS
21

Dine Around La Mama's



12 noon



As per
menu



Join us at this family owned restaurant with an Italian theme, for good food and friendly chat. Non-members are welcome to join us. La Mama, 19 High Street, Standish WN6 0HA. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

TUES
26

Dine Around Ribchester Arms



12 noon



£13 fixed price
two course



This traditional country inn boasts a beer garden and patio area so you can dine al fresco if the weather is good. A wide menu choice is available or you could opt for the fixed price two or three course menu if you prefer. Join us for food and friendship. Non-members are welcome just let us know to expect you. Book by Tuesday 12 March. The Ribchester Arms, Blackburn Road, Ribchester PR3 3ZP. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

April

TUES
02

Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area



10.30am



Free



The walking group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Doreen. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Doreen on 01254 601132.

THURS
04

Wigan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

April

FRI **05** **Dine Around** **The Duckworth Arms**



12 noon



£15 for two
courses



Join us for lunch at one of the area's favourite eating places. You are welcome to bring a friend or come as a guest, but please let us know you are coming as we will be booking a table and we want you to be able to sit with us. Look for our yellow table sign. The Duckworth Arms, 416 Whalley Road, Shuttleworth, Ramsbottom BL0 0EG. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES **09** **Blackburn Social Club** **Guest Speaker Ian Emery**



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. By popular request we have invited Ian Emery from the Salvation Army to come back and continue his talk on his life in the Salvation Army. So come along and learn some more. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

SAT **06** **Annual Dinner and Dance**



6.30pm



£25



All are welcome to join us for our annual celebration in honour of our new District Chairman Shirley Walton. Following a delicious dinner there will be the customary toasts and speeches and presentations to representatives of last year's Chairman's chosen charities, Grace's Place Children's Hospice and the North West Air Ambulance Service.



After the formalities, there will be music and dancing and a fabulous raffle to raise funds for Shirley's chosen charity, The North West Air Ambulance Service. You can bring a friend and guests are very welcome. Dress to impress.

Advance booking is essential for this event. Book by Friday 29 March. The Masonic Hall, Parsons Lane, Bury BL9 0LY. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Helen on 07564 641909 or Chris on 0161 764 3734.

April

TUES **09** **Second Tuesday Social** **Street Pastors**



£ Members £3
Guests £3.50



Tonight we have a guest speaker from Bury Street Pastors who will tell us about the work done by volunteers from local churches helping people on the streets in Bury on Friday and Saturday nights. There will be light refreshments included in the price and we will sell raffle tickets at £1 per strip. The net proceeds of the evening will be donated to the Street Pastors to assist their valuable work. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

THURS **11** **On the Town in Bury** **The Racconto Lounge**



£ See below



Join us for an evening get together at this lively eatery with the quirky decor and South American theme. Vegetarian and gluten free meals are available as well as the more carnivorous delights. Cocktails are also served. Non-members welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Cost: About £15 for two courses if dining. Book by Monday 8 April. Racconto Lounge, 4 Clerke Street, Bury BL9 0PN. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

WED **10** **Ancient Inns Tour**



£ See below



Pick up will be at Oddfellows House at 9.30am to travel to Clitheroe where we meet our guide and storyteller, Simon Entwistle. There is also an option to join the tour here. Simon will take us through some fabulous countryside to a selection of historic old pubs with intriguing stories to tell. Hauntings are not guaranteed, but we will stop for lunch at one of the pubs and you will be able to have a drink at any of them along the route.



We will return to Clitheroe at about 4pm and arrive at Oddfellows House in Bury at about 5.10pm. Numbers are limited to 15 passengers on this tour, so please book early with Helen to secure your place. Cost: About £23 to £34 depending on numbers plus lunch. Book by Wednesday 3 April. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

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April

WED
17

A walk in the Park Heaton Park



10.30am



Free



Let's face it, we all need a bit more exercise and fresh air. Join us for a gentle stroll in Manchester's largest park. There are gardens, lakes and woodlands to explore at will. Meet at the café where there is an option to stop for lunch or a coffee afterwards if you want to. Friends, guests and well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Please let Helen know you are coming so we don't set off without you. The Stables Cafe, Heaton Park Animal Centre, St Margarets Road, Manchester M25 2 SW. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

THURS
18

Dine Around The Owls



12 noon



£6.95 for two courses

Always exceptional value. Join us for lunch at one of our favourite spots and bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. The Owls at Standish, Rectory Lane, Standish WN6 0XD. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.



THURS
25

Harrogate or Harrogate Flower Show



9am



See below



Join us for our annual visit to Harrogate or the prestigious flower show. It's your choice to visit Harrogate or go to the flower show. Plenty to see and enjoy for everyone with a chance to purchase some exciting new goodies for yourself or for your garden. Cost: Coach from Blackburn £12 plus cost of entry to flower show to be confirmed. Book by Tuesday 9 April. Town Hall, Exchange Street, Blackburn BB1 7JN. Contact Valerie on 01254 698716.

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April

TUES **30** **Dine Around** **Boars Head**

 12.30pm  As per menu





A 16th century building located in the heart of Hoghton, Lancashire, close to both Preston and Blackburn. Situated just a few minutes away from Hoghton Tower, offering a warm welcome with locally produced and seasonal food. If you want to do the walk then join us at 10am outside the Boars Head or meet at 12.30pm for lunch. The walk will be in the gardens of Hoghton Tower. If it's very wet there will be no walk, so just meet at the Boars Head. Book by Tuesday 9 April. Boars Head, Hoghton, Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton, Preston PR5 0RX. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



May

THURS **02** **Wigan Coffee Morning**

 10.30am  Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

May



FRI **03** **Dine Around - Three** **Seasons Restaurant**

 12.15pm  £7.50 for three courses



Join us for lunch at Bury College's training restaurant. Delicious food, cooked and served by catering students under the watchful eye of experienced staff. Advance booking is essential for this event so please let us know you are coming. Look out for our yellow table sign. Book by Monday 29 April. Three Seasons Restaurant, The Woodbury Centre, Bury College, Market Street, Bury BL9 0BG. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES **07** **Leisurely Scenic** **Walk, Blackburn and** **Surrounding Area**

 10.30am  Free



The walking group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Doreen. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Doreen on 01254 601132.



May

WED
08

The King and I



2.30pm



£30 for concessions



Classic musical show where an English governess meets and falls in love with the King of Siam. Seats are in the rear stalls, but there are steps to get down to them. Option to meet for lunch before the show. Please book and pay in advance with Helen by Wednesday 27 March as we will have a limited number of seats available. The Opera House, 3 Quay Street, , Manchester M3 3HP. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



THURS
09

On the Town in Blackburn - A Mano



7pm



£15 for two courses



Join us for an evening get together at Blackburn's popular Italian restaurant. Vegetarian options are available as well as traditional Italian fare. Cocktails are also served. All welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Book by Monday 13 May. A Mano, 1 Cathedral Square, Blackburn BB1 1FB. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
14

Second Tuesday Social Ten Pin Bowling



7pm



£11.80 for two games



Join us for a bit of fun at Bury's Bowling alley. You don't need to be an expert, we can use bumpers and ramps to help. Food and drink is available on site. AMF Bowling, 11 Rock Place, Bury BL9 0JX. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
14

Blackburn Social Club



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

May

WED
15

A walk in the Park - Phillips Park, Whitefield



10.30am



Free



Let's face it, we all need a bit more exercise and fresh air.

Join us for a gentle stroll in this local nature reserve with gardens and wooded areas to explore. Meet at the Barn. No special gear required. There is no café, so bring your own refreshments if you want them. Friends, guests and well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Please let Helen know you are coming so we don't set off without you. The Barn, Phillips Park, Whitefield M45 2 7JQ. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



TUES
21

Dine Around Scholars Restaurant



12 noon



TBC



Join us for excellent food prepared and served by catering students in the college's professional standard licensed restaurant. Please book in advance. Book by Tuesday 14 May. Blackburn College, Fielden Street, Blackburn BB2 1LH. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



THURS
16

Dine Around - The Harvester, Leigh



12 noon



£13 for two courses



Join us for lunch and a chat with unlimited salad on offer. Vegetarian and vegan meals are also available. Non-members are welcome to join us. The Harvester Restaurant, Parsonage Way, Leigh WN7 5SJ. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.



June

TUES

04

Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area



10.30am



Free



The walking group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Doreen. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Doreen on 01254 601132.

THURS

06

Wigan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



FRI

07

Dine Around The Friendship Inn



12 noon



£15 for two courses



This traditional style pub serves delicious food in convivial surroundings. Join us for lunch, and bring a friend. Non members are welcome, but please let us know you are coming so we can reserve a place for you. Look out for our yellow table sign. The Friendship Inn, Scholes Lane, Prestwich M25 0PD. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

SAT

08

Bowls Tournament - Adlington



12 noon



£3



Come and join us for this popular event at St Paul's Bowling Club. Beginners are welcome. Entry fee to be advised, but usually about £3. Book by Thursday 6 June. St Paul's Bowling Club, Railway Road, Adlington Chorley PR6 9QZ. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Helen on 07564 641909.

June

TUES
11

Blackburn Social Club Guest Speaker Sarah Horne from the Air Ambulance



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good



company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. By popular request Sarah Horne from the Air Ambulance will be talking to us about the important role they play in every day life. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

TUES
11

Second Tuesday Social Beetle Drive



7pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Fun and games with this traditional pastime. We may even rustle up some prizes. Light refreshments will be provided but you will need to bring your own alcohol if you want to. Guests are always welcome. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

THURS
13

On the Town in Bury - Crowded House



7pm



£20 for
two courses



Not in the Town Centre, but worth the journey, join us for an evening get together at this cosy eating place with food cooked to order. Vegan and gluten free options are available and cocktails are also served. All are welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Book by Thursday 13 June. Crowded House, 626 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 9SU. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

WED
19

A walk in the Park - Burrs Country Park



10.30am



Free



Let's face it, we all need a bit more exercise and fresh air. Join us for a gentle stroll in Bury's country park. There are riverside paths, wooded areas and a sculpture trail to explore at will. Meet at the Lamppost café where there is an option to stop for lunch or a coffee afterwards if you want to. Friends, guests and well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Please let Helen know you are coming so we don't set off without you. The Lamppost Cafe, Woodhill Road, Bury BL8 1DA. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

June

THURS
20

Dine Around Summat to Ate



12 noon



As per
menu



This restaurant specialises in steaks which you cook yourself at the table on a hot rock. If that's not your thing, there is also a varied menu of locally sourced food which includes vegetarian choices. Non-members are welcome to join us but please let us know you are coming so we can reserve a place for you. Summat to Ate, 48 Market Street, Wigan WN2 3AN. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

THURS
27

On The Town in Wigan - Marty's Kitchen and Bar



7pm



£18 for
two courses



Meet at this American themed diner with burgers and hotdogs a



speciality of the house. Salads and veggie options are also on offer. You can round the evening off with a cocktail too. All welcome, but please let us know you are coming so we can book a place for you. Marty's Kitchen and Bar, 54 Wallgate, Wigan WN1 1BA. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
25

Dine Around The Juniper - TJ's



12 noon



About £10



This is an Afternoon Tea which will be put on specially for our group. Book by Tuesday 11 June. The Juniper - TJ's, 4 Blackburn Road, Great Harwood BB6 7DE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

TUES
02

Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area



10.30am



Free



The walking group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Doreen. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Doreen on 01254 601132.

Events at a glance

Excluding regular events, which can be found on page 3.

February 2019

Fri 1	Dine Around - Automatic Cafe, Bury	12 noon
Wed 6	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 7	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 12	Blackburn Social Club - Protecting your Assets	12 noon
Tues 12	Bingo Night	7pm
Thurs 14	On the Town in Bury - The Clarence	7pm
Fri 15	Beginners Tai Chi Class	7pm
Thurs 21	Dine Around - The Moon Under the Water, Wigan	12 noon
Fri 22	Beginners Tai Chi Class	7pm
Sat 23	Cash on Delivery	7pm
Tues 26	Dine Around - A Mano, Blackburn	12 noon

March

Fri 1	Dine Around - The Duke William, Ainsworth, Bury	12 noon
Fri 1	Beginners Tai Chi Class	7pm
Sat 2	Lancashire Night Dinner/Dance	6pm
Mon 4	Mid Day Concert - Duo Bauhinia, Manchester	1pm
Tues 5	Ten Pin Bowling	11am
Wed 6	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 7	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 8	Beginners Tai Chi Class	7pm
Tues 12	Tuesday Evening Social - Dominoes Tournament	7pm
Tues 12	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Thurs 14	On the Town in Blackburn - Calypso	7pm
Fri 15	Beginners Tai Chi Class	7pm
Sat 16	Annual Summoned Meeting	1.30pm
Thurs 21	Dine Around - La Mama's, Standish	12 noon
Tues 26	Dine Around - Ribchester Arms, Ribchester	12 noon

April

Tues 2	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area	10.30am
Wed 3	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 4	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am

Events at a glance

Excluding regular events, which can be found on page 3.

April

Fri 5	Dine Around - The Duckworth Arms, Ramsbottom	12 noon
Sat 6	Annual Dinner and Dance	6.30pm
Tues 9	Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker Ian Emery	12 noon
Tues 9	Second Tuesday Social - Street Pastors	7pm
Wed 10	Ancient Inns Tour	9.30am
Thurs 11	On the Town in Bury - The Racconto Lounge	5pm
Wed 17	A walk in the Park - Heaton Park	10.30am
Thurs 18	Dine Around - The Owls, Standish	12 noon
Thurs 25	Harrogate or Harrogate Flower Show	9am
Tues 30	Dine Around - Boars Head, Hoghton	12.30pm

May

Wed 1	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 2	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 3	Dine Around - Three Seasons Restaurant, Bury	12.15pm
Tues 7	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area	10.30am
Wed 8	The King and I	2.30pm
Thurs 9	On the Town in Blackburn - A Mano	7pm
Tues 14	Second Tuesday Social - Ten Pin Bowling	7pm
Tues 14	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Wed 15	A walk in the Park - Phillips Park, Whitefield	10.30am
Thurs 16	Dine Around - The Harvester, Leigh	12 noon
Tues 21	Dine Around - Scholars Restaurant, Blackburn	12 noon

June

Tues 4	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area	10.30am
Wed 5	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 6	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 7	Dine Around - The Friendship Inn, Prestwich	12 noon
Sat 8	Bowls Tournament - Adlington	12 noon
Tues 11	Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker Sarah Horne from the Air Ambulance	12 noon
Tues 11	Second Tuesday Social - Beetle Drive	7pm

Events at a glance

Excluding regular events, which can be found on page 3.

June

Thurs 13	On the Town in Bury - Crowded House	7pm
Wed 19	A walk in the Park - Burrs Country Park	10.30am
Thurs 20	Dine Around - Summat to Ate, Hindley	12 noon
Tues 25	Dine Around - The Juniper - TJ's, Great Harwood,	12 noon
Thurs 27	On the Town in Wigan - Marty's Kitchen and Bar	7pm

July

Tues 2	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area	10.30am
Wed 3	Chatterbox Coffee Morning	10am
Thurs 4	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 5	Dine Around - The Barracks Tea Rooms, Bury	12 noon
Sat 6	LADGC Annual Bowling Competition	10am
Tues 9	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Tues 9	Second Tuesday Social - Crackers and Cheese	7pm
Thurs 11	On the Town in Blackburn - The Parthenon	7pm
Wed 17	A walk in the Park - Close Park, Radcliffe	10.30am
Thurs 18	Dine Around - The Fat Bull, Ashton in Makerfield	12 noon
Tues 23	Out and About - Lytham	10am
Wed 31	Blast from the past - Stockport	11am

Forthcoming Events

August

Fri 2	Dine Around - Park Farm Tea Rooms, Walmersley	12 noon
Tues 6	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area	10.30am
Thurs 8	On the Town in Bury - The Automatic Cafe	7pm
Tues 13	Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker, North West Blood Bikes Lancashire and Lakes	12 noon
Thurs 15	Southport and/or Flower Show	10am
Wed 21	A walk in the Park - Moses Gate Country Park, Farnworth	10.30am
Tues 27	Dine Around - The Fielden Arms, Blackburn	12 noon

September (Friendship Month)

Sat 7	Oddfellows Brass Band and Inharmony Voices Charity Concert	7pm
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Oddfellows Brass Band and Inharmony Singers

Saturday 7 September, 7pm

**Uppermill Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill,
Saddleworth OL3 6AE**

Join us to hear award-winning Oddfellows Brass play a selection from their extensive repertoire, and enjoy a range of choral works from Inharmony Singers.

Licence bar will be available.

Please book by Sunday 1 September, all welcome.

Tickets: £10 members and concessions

Guests £11



**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



**Further information and tickets,
contact Shirley on 01457 876870 or
sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk**

www.oddfellows.co.uk



OddfellowsSouthEastLancashire

Net proceeds from event and raffle will be donated to
The North West Ambulance Service

July

THURS
04

Wigan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning. Talks, games and friendly chat. Meet in the lounge area of the hotel on the ground floor. Fully accessible with parking available at £1 for two hours. Mercure Oak Hotel, Orchard Street, Wigan WN1 3SS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



FRI
05

Dine Around - The Barracks Tea Rooms



12 noon



As per menu



Friendly Tea room located on the former Bury Barracks site with an excellent reputation for friendly service and delicious food. Non members and guests are welcome to join us but please note that it is essential to book in advance for this very popular venue, so we need to know you are coming. Look out for our yellow table sign. The Barracks Tea Room, 400 Bolton Road, Bury BL8 2DA. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

SAT
06

LADGC Annual Bowling Competition



10am



£3



Districts send teams of two and if you are interested, come as a pair or we will put you with some one to make a team. The competition will start promptly at 10.30am with scratch time being 10am.

The club has a bar and there will be Tea and coffee, but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments. A wide range of food can be obtained locally for those wishing to purchase.

Book by Monday 1 July. St Peters, Eaves Lane, Chorley PR6 0DX.

Contact Robert Peters on 07905 524885.

July

TUES
09

Blackburn Social Club



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

TUES
09

Second Tuesday Social Crackers and Cheese



7pm



Members £3
Guests £3.50



Let's relax and enjoy some company. We will provide some cheese and biscuits and maybe a bottle of wine or two. You can bring your own to share if you want, plus your favourite CD or poem or painting or anything you would like to talk about with the group. This is chill time. Guests are welcome. We will probably also have a raffle with proceeds going towards the Chairman's charity, North West Air Ambulance Service. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.



THURS
11

On the Town in Blackburn - The Parthenon



7pm



£15 for two courses



Join us for an evening get together at this popular Greek restaurant in the heart of the town. Excellent food and a lively evening guaranteed. Vegetarian options available. All welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Book by Monday 8 July. The Parthenon, 40 King Street, Blackburn BB2 2DH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

July

WED
17

A walk in the Park - Close Park, Radcliffe



10.30am



Free



Let's face it, we all need a bit more exercise and fresh air. Join us for a gentle stroll in this Radcliffe park. There is a sensory garden, some sculpture, an outdoor gym and the Terry Nortley measured mile to enjoy. Meet at the dinosaur statue near the car park. There is no café, so bring your own refreshments if you want to, otherwise no special equipment is needed. Friends, guests and well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Please let Helen know you are coming so we don't set off without you. Close Park, Dumers Lane, Radcliffe M26 2QA. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
23

Out and About Lytham



10am



Free



A day out to relax and enjoy the fylde coast line or the shops of Lytham. Or just relax and have a cuppa and a meal. Book by Tuesday 9 July. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

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THURS
18

Dine Around - The Fat Bull



12 noon



See below



This Steakhouse restaurant boasts fresh home-cooked food of the highest quality. Join us for lunch and a chat. Non-members are welcome but please let us know you are coming so we can reserve a place for you. Cost: £10 two course lunchtime menu. The Fat Bull, 16 Warrington Road, Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan WN4 9PL. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.



July

WED
31

Blast from the past Stockport

 11am

 See below



Patrick will pick us up from Oddfellows House and take us to visit the 'Staircase House' with its unusual spindles and medieval exhibition where we will pause for lunch in the café.

We will then visit the Stockport air raid shelter with its memorabilia and gift shop before progressing to the hat works where you can view the 'felting process, go inside a hatter's cottage and view the mighty steam-presses of the industrial age. There is also an exhibition of 20th century hats. We will depart on the homeward journey at 4.30pm.

Cost: £10 concessionary multi ticket for exhibitions plus cost of transport £15 to £22 depending on number. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

August

FRI
02

Dine Around Park Farm Tea Rooms

 12 noon

 As per menu



Join us for good food and good company at this popular venue on the edge of Ramsbottom, with locally sourced produce and diabetic, vegetarian and gluten free options available. The tea room is fully licensed and has an outside seating area should we choose to dine al-fresco. Smaller portions are also available. The on site shop sells local produce, gifts and garden items. Everyone welcome, but please let us know you are coming so we can book a place for you. Park Farm Tea Rooms, Walmersley BL9 5NP. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

THURS
08

On the Town in Bury The Automatic Cafe

 7pm

 £16 for two courses



Join us for an evening get together at Bury's popular and trendy theatre bar and restaurant. Dining is optional with excellent food and cocktails available. Vegetarian options and smaller portions are also offered. All are welcome, but please book in advance with Helen so a place can be reserved for you. Book by Monday 5 August. The Automatic Cafe, Market Street, Bury BL9 0BW. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

August

TUES 06 **Leisurely Scenic Walk, Blackburn and Surrounding Area**



10.30am



Free



The walking group will meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Doreen. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Doreen on 01254 601132.

TUES 13 **Blackburn Social Club - Guest Speaker, North West Blood Bikes Lancashire and Lakes**



12 noon



£3.50



Join us for a friendly afternoon with speakers, games and good company. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. This months talk is about the totally free, but professional, voluntary service, out of normal working hours for the transportation of Urgent and Emergency items, solely for the benefit of the publicly funded emergency services and the patients being treated by them, within the NHS Hospitals. Salvation Army, Vicars Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

THURS 15 **Southport and/or Flower Show**



10am



See below



Visit Southport and/or the Flower Show Located in Victoria Park.

The event will feature stunning show gardens, the finest flower and vegetable displays, specialist foods and books, celebrity guests and much more.

A coach will leave from Blackburn or meet at Southport. Early bookings are essential. Cost: Entry fee to be announced. If going by coach from Blackburn additional £10.

Book by Tuesday 9 July. Southport Flower Show, Victoria Park, Southport PR8 2BZ. Contact Valerie on 01254 698716.

August

WED
21

A walk in the Park - Moses Gate Country Park, Farnworth



10.30am



Free



Join us at this Country Park and wildfowl reserve. Meet at Rock Hall Visitor Centre. You may want to bring your own refreshments. Friends, guests and well behaved dogs are welcome to join us. Please book with Helen. Rock Hall Visitor Centre, Moses Gate Country Park, Hall Lane, Farnworth BL4 7QS. Contact Helen on 07564 641909.

TUES
27

Dine Around The Fielden Arms



12 noon



As per
menu



Join us for good food and great company at our monthly dine around. Today we will be going to Fielden Arms. Book by Tuesday 13 August. The Fielden Arms, Whalley Road, Mellor Brook BB2 7PR. Contact Linda on 01254 264391 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

Oddfellows Brass Band and Inharmony Voices Charity Concert

Saturday 7 September, 7pm

For further details please see
advert on page 22.



Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Sheila on **0161 773 3138** or email sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk.

Oddfellows Advice Line Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org

*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

Meetings



Ceremonial Meetings (King William the Fourth Lodge)

The Oddfellows have a long and rich history stretching back more than 200 years and in line with other guild and fraternal organisations of a similar age, we have certain traditions, ceremonies, titles and regalia that have been used over the years. In the modern Oddfellows there is no need for any member to take part in any of the Ceremonial side of the Society but it does give a fascinating insight into the history of the Oddfellows and Guilds in general.

Our King William the Fourth Lodge is our living embodiment; keeping the history and traditions alive. It is where new members can be formally welcomed to the Oddfellows (if they wish) and people wishing to stand for an officers position in the society can complete their Oddfellows education, in the form of what we call Oddfellows Degrees.

Our regalia is used, as are traditional terms and room layouts. Why not come along and find out more about what Oddfellowship is about, and for members, it is the opportunity to practice and to keep up to date on the running of a traditional and ceremonial meeting.

These meetings are for members only (although members of any Oddfellows Branch are welcome to join us). **We meet every fourth Wednesday at 7.30pm except in December.** We just ask that you let us know if you are coming, so we can fully welcome you to the meeting and ensure you feel a part of it.

District Meetings

We regularly hold meetings in your area and all members and prospective members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meetings is to share and discuss the business of the District, including finance, social planning, care and welfare, publicity and promotion. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. No need to book, just come along.

**Contact: Sheila Kendall for further details on ceremonial meetings or District meeting dates Telephone: 0161 773 3138.
Email: sheila.kendall@oddfellows.co.uk**

Standish Community Centre, Moody Street, Standish WN6 0JY

Meeting starts at 1.30pm on 18 May.

Oddfellows House Bury, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH

Annual Summoned Meeting at 1.30pm on 16 March.

Development Officer's Review

It has been a busy, busy six months, just read some of our articles about events members have enjoyed recently.

2019 looks to be even busier, as a glance through our diary pages will show. We have lots on offer to help you keep your New Year resolutions to keep fit, and lots of dine arounds available when you feel you need a break. We have exciting trips out planned and some new evening events as well. Plenty to keep you entertained and occupied in the very best of company.

We are delighted to have welcomed some new members over the last few months and it has been good to see them settling in and enjoying the many benefits our organisation has to offer.

We look forward to welcoming many more as 2019 gets under way. Don't forget everyone is welcome to bring a friend to any of our events. We have recruited many new members this way, and this is what helps our organisation to thrive and prosper. Happy New Year, and see you soon.

Helen Carnson

Join us for a Pampering Session



Calling all you lovely ladies (and gents). Bury College has a beauty therapy department and offers a range of treatments such as Facials, eyebrow shaping, spray tanning, massage, waxing and manicures all at knock down prices. As an example, you could have a back massage, a luxury manicure and an eyebrow wax and tint all for just £25.50.

Pamper days for groups are scheduled as and when students are ready to try out their skills. Treatments on offer may vary. We will be notified of available dates and the treatments on offer as they become available. Please register your interest with Helen and you will be notified when there is a scheduled event.





Blackburn Walk

Today, Tuesday 2 October was the last of our scheduled walks. We woke to a drizzly morning, so it was uncertain whether it would go ahead. However, the sky lightened and we met in the bus station to board our bus to Darwen. Although Darwen is an old mill town, it is also surrounded by little gems of countryside.

Our walk, led by Doreen, one of our members, was through Sunnyhurst woods and beyond. It started in the built up area of the town following the path from the main road and walking uphill to the entrance of the woods. Then we followed the line of Sunnyhurst brook, over bridges until we reached a densely wooded area. It is very pretty and of course there were signs of autumn everywhere. Leaves of every shape and colour, trees, water, rocks, slopes, the sound of bird song and trickling water. We even came home with lots of shiny conkers.



Of course a walk would not be complete without a stop for a brew and a butty. Luckily, the kiosk was open and we sat and enjoyed our snack in the woods, sharing chat and laughter.

All in all a very enjoyable outing – thank you Doreen, can't wait for the next walk.

Olive Reah



Haunted Inns Tour

We had a really special and unusual day out on 22 October, just before Halloween. Our driver took us by minibus to Clitheroe to pick up our Tour Guide, Simon Entwistle, who took us to the Swan and Royal, our first stop of the day. Simon is a storyteller par excellence and we were enthralled by his tales of lost love, suicide and spectral sightings. More was to come.

We drove through glorious countryside, some of it part of the Royal Estates, and visited three more ancient inns with equally gripping tales. Highwaymen, witchcraft, murder and more were on offer, as well as an outrageous tale of cheating at the races. Who knew there was such an abundance of history and folklore on our very doorstep?

We enjoyed coffee and cake at the Coach and Horses at Bolton by Bowland, which surely has one of the most intriguing pub signs ever, and then sandwiches and chips at the Inn at Whitewell. I was astonished to see the Courtroom upstairs at the Hark to Bounty at Slaidburn. The room was also used as a mortuary from time to time. Another surprise was that several of these

pubs had been used as muster points for the armed forces during various wars, up to and including the second world war. Simon had an interesting tale to tell about two soldiers who had agreed to meet at the pub when they returned to Blighty. One didn't make it... alive that is, but turned up spectrally many years later when his surviving friend came back to make good on his promise.

Despite his extensive knowledge on the subject, Simon confided to me that he has never actually seen a ghost himself, though he has met people who say they have. None showed up for us on this tour, which is probably a good thing. There will be another chance though. We are planning a second trip visiting different pubs in the spring. See the diary entry for Wednesday 10 April for details.

Helen Carnson



Christmas Lunch

Mercure Hotel, Wigan

There was a jolly good turn out of Oddfellows from all over the South East Lancashire District at the Christmas meal on Thursday 6 December 2018. We foregathered in the lounge area of the Mercure Hotel, Wigan where some early birds were enjoying a coffee whilst waiting the rest of us to arrive.

We were soon shown to a long table set out splendidly for us with Christmas napkins, table decorations and festive cheer. Each festive diner received a complimentary drink of their choice, which was most acceptable.

The meal got under-way with diners snapping crackers between them, wearing the festive hats and telling the inane but ever-seasonal jokes found within.

The sumptuous meal was served and eaten in near silence as each delicious course came and went: first in great anticipation, then enjoyment, followed by satisfied sighs as the food and drink settled on us nicely.

Christmas cards were passed round as folk took this opportunity, if the last it was before Christmas, to see their Oddfellow friends.

It was very good to see friends from all over South East Lancashire District renewing friendships and chatting over times past and more good ones to come.

Reluctantly we all departed wishing each other seasons greetings and a Happy New Year! Again, another successful Oddfellows occasion!

The new Mr and Mrs Speakman

South East Lancashire District Oddfellows offer heartfelt congratulations to Steve Beardall and Carolyn Speakman on the occasion of their wedding on Saturday 3 November 2018 at the United Reformed Church in Bury. Unusually, Steve opted to take his partner's surname and is now Mr Speakman.

In a packed church, the music and the ceremony were performed by friends of the bride and groom whilst others

provided a buffet after the formalities had been completed. Carolyn herself played clarinet at the reception, and yet more friends provided music and entertainment both in the afternoon at the church and in the evening at the masonic Hall. It was a lovely and joyous occasion and South East Lancashire wish them both a long and happy life together.

South East Lancashire Christmas Luncheon at Bury Oddfellows Hall

Thursday 13 December 2018

Forty hungry and festive Oddfellows gathered just after noon on a cold Thursday lunchtime in mid-December at Bury Oddfellows Hall to be greeted by warming glasses of sherry amidst a cheery atmosphere redolent with the smell of something good cooking in the kitchen.

That 'something good' was, of course, a wonderful traditional Christmas dinner prepared and cooked on the premises by culinary Oddfellows. Abundant help in all the other departments of preparation, seating, decoration of festive tables and rooms and the serving of hungry Oddfellows, was provided by many more South East Lancashire members and friends.

The main hall, where the tables were set out, was a logistical triumph and the forty-odd members and friends fitted in easily with plenty of room around for serving. This meant that the room, upon 'dinner is ready, please be seated!' being called, drew gasps of amazement and appreciation from anticipative diners, as the spectacle was beheld.

Soup was served then the main course came out: chicken, stuffing, roast potatoes, parsnips, sprouts, white sauce, gravy, cranberry sauce; you name any part of a Christmas dinner and it was there!

Wine had been donated by an anonymous donor and was in plentiful supply.

Teetotallers were looked after to no less an extent and everyone partook to their heart's delight, whilst amiable and festive conversation washed o'er each table between guest and friend.

Between courses members of the Committee of Management added to the occasion by providing entertainment in the form of the recitation of dialect poems, much to the appreciation of the rapt audience.

By the time pudding was served everyone was really enjoying themselves. Pudding was a delicious trifle and it is certain there were one or two diners who had second helpings. Coffee, mints and mince pies etc. were then served whilst carols and Christmas songs were sung by everyone in a roof-raising sing-song session.

Oxygen was called for as two members performed a spirited but hilarious interpretation of 'Riverdance' and collapsed in near exhaustion afterwards. The whole event went off like a dream and it is not difficult to imagine that if the right noises are made towards the end of 2019, a similar Christmas meal may well be served again. Who knows? There are too many to mention but heaps of thanks are poured upon all those who helped in any way to make this occasion such a successful one. You know who you are. Thank you.

Robert Peters

Here is selection of events members have enjoyed over the last six months





This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.

Jane Nelson, CEO

Members of Distinction

Whether through the old Portraits Scheme, or the recently launched Making a Difference Award – we love to recognise and celebrate members who go over-and-above in their support of the Society and its work.

So thank you to three of Portraits 2018's final winners Gerald, Miriam and Adrian for everything you do for the Oddfellows. We appreciate it.



*Gerald Gordon Baxter
Nene and Welland District*

Meet Gerald, member of the Nene and Welland District, who was singled out for his long-standing support to the Society at many different levels – from local Branch through to International Conference.

Some of Gerald's notable positions held over his seven decades as an Oddfellow include Noble Grand and Vice Grand

for his Branch, Provincial Grand Master for his District, 28 years' service as a District and Branch Trustee, as well as Past President (1988-1989) at East Anglia Group Conference.

Reflecting on his 71-year relationship with the Oddfellows, Gerald shared: "I liked the idea of what Oddfellowship stood for – Friendship, Love and Truth.

"We all need friends that we can turn to when we need them. There are times when we all need support and the Oddfellows has been there for me and my family."



*Miriam Witcomb
Heart of England District*

The Oddfellows is very fortunate to have people such as Miriam in its membership. She embodies the Society's humanitarian spirit through her commitment to helping others.

Since joining in her 40s, Miriam has served as Noble Grand for Leigh and Knightly Branch, as well as Heart of England District Oddfellows Club President and Trustee.

However, what sets Miriam apart is her devotion to fundraising and volunteering. Year-round, she knits items to sell and organises regular tombolas to raise money for her Provincial Grand Master's chosen charities.

For over 20 years, she has provided fellow members with care and support in their times of need as Branch Welfare Officer.

In the words of her District Committee of Management, Miriam is 'a much loved member'. And as a Society, we couldn't agree more!

Introduced to the Oddfellows by his father at age 16, Adrian's constant energy has kept him incredibly busy and active in his District and regional group conference.

Since 2006, he has been a member of Beds and Bucks District Committee of Management, in which he serves as Trustee and second-time Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was during his tenure as Provincial Grand Master in 2009 that his career reached new heights – as he undertook a charity indoor skydive for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Other appreciated contributions include his time as Past Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands, Midland Group



*Adrian Taylor
Beds and Bucks District*

Conference President and, while studying at university in Birmingham, attendance at monthly Branch meetings and District annual meetings.

Speaking about his time with the Oddfellows, he explained: "It provides excellent opportunities to be able to meet people at home and overseas. An example of this is when I travelled around Australia and New Zealand and visited Lodges in Brisbane and Wellington."

Well done and thank you to all our members who've featured as portraits over the years. We can't wait to continue celebrating members who go the extra mile in supporting our Society through a Making A Difference Award. To nominate a member for 2019, contact your Branch Secretary for an application form.



On your marks, get set, parkrun

There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website www.parkrun.org.uk and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events

Friendship and Social activities across the UK



At South East Lancashire Oddfellows we put on a range of social activities each month for us to enjoy together in friendship. We always welcome new people to come along and give us a try... No longer living in the South East Lancashire District Area?

Why not check out the social activities being put on by the Branch nearest to where you are living...

Visit the Oddfellows Website (www.oddfellows.co.uk) and click on the events tab to search for local events. Alternatively, contact us, (details on the page 2) and we can request that your local secretary gets in touch and sends you a copy of their Events Diary.

Oddfellows Summer Holiday

**Discover the best of
Hampshire's Coastline
with Oddfellows members
and friends at the Sinah
Warren Coastal Hotel.**

Situated on Hayling Island, Sinah Warren is a large, comfortable hotel surrounded by elegant gardens and spectacular view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from
only £280 per person**

With evening entertainment, activities and use of leisure facilities.



To book call Warner's on 0330 1009 772
(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS

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