

April - September 2023



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**Capital of the Fens Branch**



Theatre



Wellbeing



Travel



Dining Out



Friendship



History



Social



Tasting



Talks



Meeting



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



*Wednesday 26 July – Afternoon Tea, we hope you can join us!*

## Welcome to this edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Capital of the Fens District.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from dining out to trips out plus lots of other activities.

## Contact Details

### District

#### Secretary:

Hilary Morgan-Thorpe

#### Address:

72 Docking Road  
Great Bircham  
Norfolk  
PE31 6QP



Our Branch  
Secretary, Hilary  
Morgan-Thorpe

**Telephone:** 07939 860968

#### Email:

hilary.morgan-thorpe@  
oddfellows.co.uk

#### Social Organiser

**Telephone:** 07751 777862

## Dental & Optical Claim Forms

Just a reminder that the Wisbech office is now closed. Please forward any claim forms to our District Secretary, Hilary, to the above address. Alternatively, you can always hand any forms to Hilary, Social Organiser or Stewart when we meet up.

# Regular Events

## Breakfast at Lillie's



10.15am



Free



See dates below

Our monthly visit to this popular venue with plenty of choice for your breakfast. Numbers limited, so early booking strongly advised and if you miss this one, you can book for the next one. Book 10 days before the event. Lillie's, Bamber Leisure Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



Tuesday 25 April, Tuesday 30 May, Tuesday 20 June, Tuesday 18 July, Tuesday 15 August and Tuesday 26 September

## Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning

First Wednesday of the month



10.30am



Free



Our regular get together to enjoy coffee, chat and a catch up on any forthcoming events and Oddfellows news. First cuppa free. Family, friends and guests all welcome to come along to find out more about us. Crown Lodge Hotel, Downham Road, Outwell PE14 8SE. Contact Social Organiser on 07751 777862.



Wednesday 5 April, Wednesday 3 May, Wednesday 7 June, Wednesday 5 July, Wednesday 2 August and Wednesday 6 September

## Seated Exercises

See dates below



2pm



£3.50



April is our last session taken by Patricia before starting again in July with Kate, who will lead us through some fun and helpful exercises to music. We end our session with tea or coffee and of course a friendly chat. If you haven't tried seated exercises, come along and give it a try. Plenty of free parking in Chapel Road car park. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Social Organiser on 07751 777862.



Monday 17 April, Monday 10 July, Monday 14 August and Monday 11 September

# Regular Events

## Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning



10.30am



Free



Come along to our coffee morning to meet up with friends for a coffee and chat. Find out about the latest Oddfellows news. Family, friends and guests always welcome at this free event. Car parking adjacent to the Rugby Club is free. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

**Second Thursday  
of the month**



Thursday 13 April, Thursday 11 May, Thursday 8 June, Thursday 13 July, Thursday 10 August and Thursday 14 September

## April 2023

TUES  
11

**Curry Night at Alishan's**



7pm



As per  
menu



Our bi-monthly curry night banquet at Alishan's - from the very mild to the really spicy there is plenty to choose from. Remember, you don't have to be a member to dine with us. Book by Wednesday 5 April. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Social Organiser on 07751 777862.



TUES  
18

**Lunch at  
The Woolpack**



12.30pm



As per  
menu



Join us for a pub lunch at the popular Woolpack. Lighter bite menu also available. Guests always welcome. Book by Thursday 13 April. The Woolpack, Main Road, Terrington St John, Wisbech PE14 7RR. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



Further events are being added, see: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events).

# April 2023

## WED 19 Littleport Coffee Morning

L 10.15am

£ Free



Enjoy complimentary coffee, tea and biscuits. Bacon rolls will also be on sale. Family, friends and guests are always welcome to come along and find out more about our Branch. Littleport Bowls Club, Hempfield Place, Littleport CB6 1NP. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



# May

## TUES 16 Afternoon Tea

L 2.30pm

£ £15



Enjoy a lovely afternoon tea with savoury and sweet treats at this Fenland location with plenty of free parking. Book by Thursday 11 May. Marshland Hall, Smeeth Road, Marshland Street, Wisbech PE14 8JB. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

# June

## TUES 13 Curry Night at Alishan's

L 7pm

£ As per menu



Join us for our bi-monthly curry night, Plenty of choice from Alishan's Banquet Menu. Guests are always welcome to join us. Book by Wednesday 7 June. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



## THURS 29 Lunch at Woodmans Cottage

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



A return visit to this popular pub for lunch either full menu or lighter bite. As choices need to be pre-booked please ask our Social Organiser for a menu. Meet from 12.30pm for lunch to be served at 1pm. Book by Tuesday 20 June. Woodman's Cottage Inn, 90 High Road, Gorefield PE13 4NB. Contact Social on 07751 777862.





# July

WED  
26

## Afternoon Tea



3pm



As per menu



Enjoy a cream tea (scones, jam, cream, tea or coffee) at the Woodman's Cottage Inn. Family, friends and non-members always welcome. Booking essential by Tuesday 18 July. Woodman's Cottage Inn, 90 High Road, Gorefield PE13 4NB. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



SUN  
30

## Sunday Lunch



1pm



As per menu



Everyone is invited to join us for a plated roast lunch at this new venue. The dessert menu looks enticing as well. Book by Wednesday 26 July. The Barn, 2 School Road, Terrington St John PE14 7SE. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

# August

TUES  
13

## Curry Night at Alishan's



7pm



As per menu



Join us for our bi-monthly curry night, Plenty of choice from Alishan's Banquet Menu. Guests are always welcome to join us. Book by Wednesday 7 June. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



THURS  
24

## Old Wisbech



7pm



£5 per person



Another interesting talk and slide show by Alan Wheeldon. Will certainly bring back memories for some of us. There will be plenty of time for questions. Light refreshments will be available. Please book to assist with catering requirements. Plenty of free parking in Chapel Road car park. Book by Tuesday 15 August. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



# August

TUES  
29

## Lunch at The Woolpack



12.30pm



As per menu



Another outing to this popular pub where they have a lighter bite menu as well as the full pub fayre. Choose your menu on the day but booking is essential. Family, friends and guests very welcome to join us. Book by Thursday 24 August. The Woolpack, Main Road, Terrington St John, Wisbech PE14 7RR. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

# September

SUN  
10

## Friendship Month Annual Bowls Event



2pm



Free



Our friendly bowls get together is being held at Gorefield and we look forward to everyone joining us at this new venue. If you haven't bowled before, have a go. Regular players are happy to help and encourage you. Afternoon tea will be served and a raffle will be held for our Chairman's charities. Open to family, friends and non-members, we will be pleased to meet you. Book by Wednesday 6 September. Gorefield Community Centre, Wolf Lane, Gorefield PE13 4NE. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



# September

## - Friendship Month



THURS  
14

## District Half Year Meeting



7pm



Free



This is the time of year we put forward nominations for all the various officers and committee members who help run the Branch for you. This meeting to open to all our members. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Oddfellows. Volunteers are always welcome to assist are Branch going forward. Light refreshments will follow. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

# ODDFELLOWS

## FRIENDSHIP MONTH

### 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



## Booking and cancellations

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

# September - Friendship Month

FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT  
Invite a friend

WED  
20

**Littleport Coffee  
Morning**



10.15am



Free



Enjoy complimentary coffee, tea and biscuits. Bacon rolls will also be on sale. Family, friends and guests are always welcome to come along and find out more about our Branch. Littleport Bowls Club, Hempfield Place, Littleport CB6 1NP. Contact Social on 07751 777862.



SUN  
24

**Friendship Month  
Sunday Lunch**



1pm



As per  
menu



Enjoy a  
carvery  
Sunday lunch  
at this new  
venue in

**ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



March, with a good selection of desserts if you wish to indulge. Booking essential please by Wednesday 20 September. Cassanos, 78-82 High Street, March PE15 9LD. Contact Social on 07751 777862.

## Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun

**All welcome**

**ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



Make friends with the Oddfellows



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit [www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)



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

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



To see what's coming up visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

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## Oddfellows Travel 2023

It's never too soon to start planning your next holiday. So if you're keen to discover somewhere new, take a look at our upcoming holidays with Oddfellows Travel!

### **Mon 3–Fri 7 July** **Oddfellows Summer Holiday**

Warner's Thoresby Hall  
Nottinghamshire  
From £351\*

### **Sat 1–Sat 15 July** **Lapland and Scandinavia**

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines  
From £2,099\*

### **Mon 7–Sun 13 August** **Isles of Scotland and the Faroes**

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines  
From £999\*

### **Mon 4–Fri 8 September** **South Downs Discovery Tour**

HF Holidays  
Premium single room £739.  
Classic twin room £659\*

### **Fri 13–Mon 16 October**

Warner's Alvaston Hall Hotel  
Cheshire  
From £248\*

\* Prices are per person based on 2 people sharing

For further information and to book contact Mike Hall  
0161 832 9361 (ext 2224) or email [travel@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:travel@oddfellows.co.uk)



**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.**

For further details or to book on any of the following events please contact Hilary on **07939 860968** or email [hilary.morgan-thorpe@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:hilary.morgan-thorpe@oddfellows.co.uk) or Social Organiser. Anyone requiring a lift to any event, please contact either Social Organiser or Hilary.

## Thank you for keeping each other's spirits lifted

**When you're going through a tough time, joy can frequently feel in short supply.**

Despite the challenges and upsets we've faced as a nation this past year, it has been reassuring to see so many instances of our members coming together to enjoy each other's company. When I look at our Facebook pages and see the comfort you give each other, and the happiness being cultivated, it never fails to make me smile.



I've been an Oddfellow for 27 years, which compared to many members is no time at all. However, over time you notice what brings us together as members and makes us such a powerful, collective force. We've a desire to make the most of our situation, and to improve the lives of those around us. And that is so special. There's a lot happening at the moment and so much of it is out of our control. But there is one thing we can influence – our wellbeing – by adding more mini-moments of peace or happiness into our days.



Please stick on some music that makes your heart sing. Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Bake something to share. Try something new. And, of course, make sure you pop one of our socials in your diary. Joy is infectious. You only need to share a smile to witness this. Even if you don't know them, they're likely to smile back and feel happier for it.

We've been sowing the seeds of friendship and support for over two centuries now, and I know I can count on you to continue to do this.

I know a little extra dose of happiness won't solve all our problems, but it will help us to cope with them better, and hopefully create a positive 'Oddies' chain reaction with those around us. We've been told to brace ourselves for difficult economic times, so I also want to remind you that we are always here and ready to help where we can. Thank you again for all that you do and for being such wonderful examples of Oddfellowship.

I wish you, your family and all those you care for good health, happiness and fortune for 2023.

**Yours always in friendship,  
Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows.**

# Help with the cost of living

**It's a worrying time for everyone with rising household bills, food price inflation and dramatic increases in fuel costs. However, now is always the best time to seek guidance with maximising income, coping with bills and debts, and seeking help with mental and physical health issues.**

Our colleagues from the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line have shared information on help available, and ways in which we can alter our behaviour to save money.

## Speak to your local council

Some people can access support from the "Household Support Fund" (also known as "welfare assistance"). Check your local council website to find out if you're eligible.

## Budget your outgoings

Having a very clear picture of where your money is spent can help you identify any unnecessary spends, or highlight an opportunity to cancel or find a better deal on subscriptions.

## Create a meal plan

Make a list of everything in your cupboards before writing a shopping list to avoid purchasing items you may already have tucked away.

## Check your benefits

Some people may be entitled to unclaimed benefits or more than they currently receive. Check <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> or contact the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line.

## Sell your spares

It's never been easier to get rid of unwanted clothes, toys or unused items. Use websites such as eBay or Vinted to make a little money from items which would otherwise be sat around your home.

## Be scam aware

There has been a huge increase in the number of scams happening, so be vigilant and if you're ever unsure, speak to a friend, family member, or the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line for their input.

## Other help available (qualifying criteria applies)

Such as the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme, £150 Council Tax rebates, £650 Cost of Living Payment, £150 disability Cost of Living Payment and up to a £300 pensioner cost of living payment. Plus more help to be announced for 2023.

**If you are worried about the cost of living, and would like more information, please call the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line. The number can be found on the back of your membership card or call Membership on 0800 028 1810.**

# HA Andrews Memorial Fund



**Representatives from the Oddfellows visited the Centre for Cancer Immunology to present the first installment of funding from the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund and discover how it will support developments in cancer research.**

Immunology is a ground-breaking development in the fight against cancer. It offers less invasive treatment for patients, and the results so far are extraordinary.

The Centre, which opened at Southampton General Hospital in 2018, and is funded entirely by donations, is the most recent beneficiary of a gift from the HA Andrews Memorial Fund. The Fund will provide three years of support for a talented PhD student, Nur Zainal, whose research will focus on a specific gene which can potentially be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Guernsey Oddfellows member, Eric Ferbrache, nominated the project for funding after learning about the Centre's work when it initially opened.

He said: "I personally think it is such a worthwhile project, and the research they are doing around how we can use our body's immune system to better treat different types of cancers is a great advancement. I'm so pleased that it was chosen for the most recent round of funding."

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology at the University of Southampton, said: "Our proposal to study the role of RNA editing in cancer cells was selected from amongst a list of 27 submitted from different universities across the UK. We'd like to extend our gratitude to the Guernsey Oddfellows, who supported our application to the HA Andrews Memorial Fund."

Jane Nelson, CEO at the Oddfellows, said: "Sadly, many of our members and their families have been affected by cancer, which is why we are proud to support this incredible research with the HA Andrews Fund. Anything we can do to help the efforts to find a cure is hugely important to us."

**We recently received a kind thank you note with a beautiful picture from His Majesty King Charles III, and wanted to share it with you.**

When we heard about the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Society sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Oddfellows and its members.



## Unity Mutual – here for you

**At Unity Mutual, we believe looking after your finances shouldn't feel scary. It should feel achievable to anyone in any circumstance. Whether you're interested in a deposit on your dream home, saving to give your grandchildren a great start in life, or wanting to leave a little something to loved ones should the worst happen, we're here to help you achieve it.**

We have a range of savings and insurance products that could work for you, such as a Junior ISA or Child Tax Exempt Savings Plan, which can offer your child, grandchild, niece or nephew a great head start into adulthood that will mean the world.

Or our new Over 50s Life Insurance Plan, so that when the time comes (hopefully a long time from now), the people you love

are taken care of. Visit our website: **[www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows)** or call our friendly team on **0161 214 4628** for more information and the terms and conditions that apply to each product.

Keep a look out for the next Society News, where we will feature our individual products in more detail as part of our 'Introducing Series'.



 **Unity Mutual**  
FAMILY FRIENDLY FINANCE

\*To view Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bond terms and conditions, go to [www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib). If you're in any doubt about whether any Unity Mutual product is right for you, it's a good idea to talk to an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). You can find a local financial advisor by visiting [www.unbiased.co.uk](http://www.unbiased.co.uk). You may need to pay for a financial advisor's help, so make sure you ask them about their fees first.



# 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 Hilary on **07939 860968** or email **hilary.morgan-thorpe@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@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

# At a glance See pages 3-4 for more info on regular events

## April 2023

<b>Wed 5</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 11</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Thurs 13</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 17</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Tues 18</b>	Lunch at The Woolpack	12.30pm
<b>Wed 19</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Tues 25</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am

## May

<b>Wed 3</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 16</b>	Afternoon Tea	2.30pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am

## June

<b>Wed 7</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 8</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 13</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Tues 20</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Thurs 29</b>	Lunch at Woodmans Cottage	12.30pm

## July

<b>Wed 5</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 10</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Thurs 13</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 18</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Wed 26</b>	Afternoon Tea	3pm
<b>Sun 30</b>	Sunday Lunch	1pm

Further events are being added, see: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events).

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.  
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

# At a glance

See pages 3-4 for more info on regular events

## August

<b>Wed 2</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 8</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Thurs 10</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 14</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Tues 15</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Thurs 24</b>	Old Wisbech	7pm
<b>Tues 29</b>	Lunch at The Woolpack	12.30pm

## September - Friendship Month

<b>Wed 6</b>	Friendship Month Outwell Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sun 10</b>	Friendship Month Annual Bowls Event	2pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 14</b>	District Half Year Meeting	7pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Sun 24</b>	Friendship Month Sunday Lunch	1pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Friendship Month Breakfast at Lillie's	10am

## Introduce the Oddfellows to someone you know

### Refer a friend today



Why not make someone's day by telling them about the Oddfellows?  
You might be surprised who would appreciate getting involved –  
membership brings lots of benefits and so much more\*.

To refer someone you know and make their day, either call Membership on  
**0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or fill in the  
**Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary.

\*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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers).