

Provincial Grand Master's Message

I would like to thank you all for appointing me as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) for Derby District and I would like to congratulate Bill Henchliff for being appointed as Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman). Although, at the moment we are unable to meet, I am looking forward to working with my fellow District Officers in the forthcoming year, as well as the Committee of Management, who work tirelessly for our District.



I am very sorry that I was unable to announce my chosen charity at this year's Annual Meeting in March as my predecessors have done in the past. I have great pleasure in announcing that **Derbyshire Blood Bikes** is the charity that I have chosen to raise funds for in my year of office. It is a charity that is solely run by volunteers that provides a **Free** urgent medical courier service to the NHS in Derby and Derbyshire. They transfer vital medical consignments around the country 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. At a time when the use of their service to the NHS has increased due to the Coronavirus, it is a critical service for a wide range of patients.

In 2018, Derbyshire Blood Bikes made 1,400 journeys and covered 80,000 miles. In 2019, they're more than doubled those journeys, and on New Year's Eve they made their 2,830th journey and brought the covered mileage for 2019 to over 100,000 miles. As of 10am on Friday 3 April 2020, they had made 931 journeys. March has shown a 50% increase on January and February's journeys and they covered over 15,000 miles in March due to the deliveries of Covid-19 samples every day, as well as moving vital supplies as the health crisis deepens.

We hope to have a volunteer attend several of our Coffee Mornings over the next year to further enlighten us about the charity, although the promise of bacon cobs is probably the real reason for their attendance. I look forward to seeing you all again soon; take care of yourselves and your families

Yours fraternally

Pauline Cunningham, Provincial Grand Master



Poem Written by Volunteer Geoff Medland

If you live in Derbyshire, wherever you are,
Look out for bright yellow bikes, a van or a car,
Marked with the word BLOOD, they're on a mission
To support Derbyshire NHS to fulfil their vision

Of helping our hospitals to save peoples' lives,
For brothers and aunts, granddads and wives.
They're available 24/7 in all winds and weathers
All suitably dressed in their protective leathers

Taking blood samples, medications, and human
breast milk,
Or anything else of a medical ilk
To places like London, Sheffield, Ilkeston and Leeds,
They'll go anywhere to suit the NHS needs.

They don't know whose life they're helping to save
So, if you see them, give them a wave,
Or go onto Facebook and add them to 'likes',
They're all volunteers for Derbyshire Blood Bikes



Volunteer making a delivery.

Aqueduct Cottage



For many years, walking along the Cromford Canal has been a favourite walk for the Walking Group. During the years they have seen the Aqueduct Cottage fall into further and further deterioration.

The cottage is in an idyllic location on the edge of Lea Wood, was once part of the Nightingale Estate and Florence Nightingale is believed to have visited, when she lived in Lea Hurst. It was built in 1802 as a lock keepers cottage by Peter Nightingale, who was once a partner of Richard Arkwright.

Stories of families who lived there have been collected from the 1880s to the 1970s and it is hoped that a team of volunteers, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and other specialist organisations will soon restore the cottage which will become a Visitors Centre.

At the beginning of the year work to clear the site had started and we look forward to seeing the project develop. The workers were hoping to complete the renovation this year, the 200th anniversary since Florence Nightingale was born. Sadly, the work has probably had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 situation.

Teacher, Teacher

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria!

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula of water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

First Coffee Morning of 2020

We had probably the best attendance we have had in a long time for a Coffee Morning, over 40 members, friends and visitors attended.

Bill Henchcliff, Director of the Society and Past Grand Master (Past Chairman), gave a very interesting talk on the 'History and Traditions of the Society', dating back to BC times, on how friendly societies were needed among the working classes in times of need, before the Welfare State.

The Oddfellows have evolved over the years but still have many benefits to help their members in difficult times, as well as the many social events organised and also raising money for charities each year.



The Black Knight Reminisces Quiz Recollections!



Many years ago when radio was King of the Airwaves the quiz show 'Twenty Questions' or something along those lines included the following question:

Quizmaster: The British Army regiment known as the Khyber Rifles was defeated by local tribesmen in an area of North West India. What was the battle known as?

Contestant: I know this-er-er -oh-I do know this-er-er

Quizmaster: Shall have to hurry you and your answer is?

Contestant: Oh-er-er It's no good-completely left my head-Pass!

Quizmaster: That is correct. Indeed it was the Khyber Pass.

Well done!

Doris Day Celebration



The first film show of the year drew a good attendance to see one of Doris Day's many films. Voting papers were distributed and members had six to choose from and the overall winner was 'Young at Heart' with Doris's co-star being Frank Sinatra. It was a typical film from the 50s and members enjoyed the nostalgia of films with no sex, violence or bad language!

American style refreshments followed with good quality burgers - many thanks to Polly Cunningham. Sweets from Margaret Henchcliff were chocolate pecan pie, cinnamon and pecan sponge, blueberry muffins or lemon tart, all with ice cream.

Open Gardens

Hopefully the situation we find ourselves in at the time of writing will be over and we will be able to move freely again and enjoy visiting members gardens.



The garden season will be advertised a little differently this year. Instead of members purchasing a booklet containing the gardens to be opened, they will be advertised in the Events Diary giving the area of the garden. If the garden is in your area and you are interested in going along, just telephone the Office (01332 345697) for the actual address.

There are some new gardens listed this year and they will be looking forward to welcoming you, so let's hope the Coronavirus has gone away.

Dining Out Experience

Several years ago Derby District started to organise a 'Dining Out Experience' each month. Members and friends meet up on the second Tuesday of every month to dine out at different restaurants and pubs to experience foods from different cultures. We have travelled around the world whilst staying in our own town of Derby and the surrounding areas. We have been to Italy, Greece, India, Morocco, Mexico, China and of course, England.



Tuesday 14 January - The Oast House, Sinfin Lane

We enjoyed a pleasant evening. The food was good value and the staff were friendly, although the service was slow as there had been a mix up with the time we were book in for. Nine members visited, 3 stars rating.



Tuesday 11 February - The Standing Order, City Centre

We enjoyed some good food and the portion sizes were fair for the prices paid. It is spacious with impressively high ceilings, although rather noisy for 7pm on a Tuesday evening. 11 members visited, 4 stars rating.



Tuesday 10 March - The Mahmann Indian Restaurant, Smalley Drive, Oakwood

We enjoyed a lovely curry and the service was exceptional. The atmosphere was good and the staff were friendly and helpful. We all chose from the set menu at the reasonable price of £12.95 for a starter, a main course, rice, poppadoms and a side dish to share. Seven members visited, 5 stars rating.

Dinner Dance 2020

This year a new venue was chosen for our Annual Dinner Dance and what a success it was. The Derby Conference Centre, London Road was very impressive. The dinner took place in the Sunken Lounge, which as the name suggests was down a few steps, but there was a lift for those who needed it.

The food was delicious and arrived on very hot plates and the staff, although all quite young, were very efficient and attentive.

The dinner was in honour of the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Margaret and she had invited the Grand Master of the order (Chairman of the Society), David Randall and his wife Diana as guests of honour with the President of the Midland Group Conference Meirion Edwards to respond to the toast to visitors and friends and his wife Tracey. After all the formalities, there was dancing to a disco and a raffle raised a wonderful £426 for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. I am sure we will be going to this venue again.



Left to right: Christine Cunningham, Pauline Cunningham Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman), Bill Henschliff Immediate Past Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman), Margaret Henschliff Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), David Randall Grand Master of the Order (Chairman of the Society) and his wife Diana, Meirion Edwards President of the Midland Group Conference and his wife Tracey, Christine Shelton Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman) and her son Ian.

Presentation Evening

On Wednesday 11 March a cheque for the sum of £6,400 was presented to Leslie Stewart, a senior nurse from the Combined Day Unit of the Royal Derby Hospital.

Margaret Henschliff said she would be eternally grateful to the wonderful team at the Unit and was incredibly grateful to the members of Derby District who had worked so hard to make such a wonderful amount. It had been hoped to raise enough for a new treatment bed, but we had, in fact, raised enough for two, although the department may decide to purchase another piece of equipment instead of two beds.

Leslie thanked us for the donation and said it would be used to make their patients as comfortable as possible during their treatment.



**This is timeless - written in
1869 by Kathleen O'Mara**

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened more deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic, 1919

10 Tips for Attracting Birds to Your Garden

1. Bird tables and hanging feeders are healthier than feeding birds on the ground, but they need to be moved every few months to prevent too many droppings accumulating underneath.
2. Birds require different foods at different times, high fat foods in winter to help them survive the cold winter nights and high protein foods in the summer to help them during the breeding and moulting periods.
3. During spring and summer offer the following food: black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mild grated cheese.
4. A cold or wet spring and summer affects the insect population, you can help by offering insect nibbles.
5. The perfect bird table spot is away from fences and dense hedges and next to a small bush, so the birds can use it as a lookout point.
6. Birds need clean water.
7. Birds have trouble with salt so avoid items containing it.
8. Household scraps such as pastry, cooked rice and bread crumbs are enjoyed and bruised fruit.
9. Prevent rats and infection by keep bird tables free from old food and droppings. Clean it using 5% disinfectant wearing rubber gloves.
10. Stick to regular feeding times as birds rely on it.

The Next Magazine - September 2020

**More than ever before, articles for the
September magazine will be needed and
gratefully accepted.**

As we are unable to meet socially at the moment and a large content of our magazine relies on reporting on what we are doing, we will be missing quite a bit of interesting information. If you have anything to share with our members, funny stories, how the Coronavirus has affected you and how you have coped; what you have missed most or are they any pluses, please get in touch.

Articles can be sent to Margaret Henchcliff, c/o 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2PU or emailed to: margaret.henchcliff@oddfellows.co.uk (an accompanying photo would also be appreciated).

What Robin Told by George Cooper

How do the robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
First a wisp of amber hay
In a pretty round they lay;
Then some shreds of downy floss,
Feathers too and bits of moss,
Woven with a sweet, sweet song,
This way, that way, and across,
That's what Robin told me.



Where do the robins hide their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
Up among the leaves so deep,
Where the sunbeams randy creep,
Long before the winds are cold,
Long before the leaves are gold,
Bright-eyed stars will peep, and see
Baby robins, one, two, three;
That's what Robin told me

Two Queen Ships

A Walk Down Memory Lane - Part 1



On Friday 10 January 2020 I was booked to sail away on Cunard Queen Mary 2 for the start of her World Cruise for 2020, this being 99 days from Southampton and back. Some US passengers were doing the transatlantic crossing as well at the start and finish to save them flying, adding another 10 days - both were from New York. The ship was full with 2,500 passengers and out of those 1,000 were doing the whole World Cruise. For me 22 days, with the tag on afterwards, is enough, the extra being the stay on the Queen Elizabeth 2 ship-hotel in Dubai.

We set sail at 11pm, later than expected, because of refuelling, but there was a firework display at the rear of the vessel to start this world cruise. So much goes on behind the scenes, and all this as well as taking into account two ill passengers requiring hospital treatment. I know I feel completely safe on ships, as I had a

similar experience some 20 years ago, with my husband.

After two relaxing sea days, we arrived in Lisbon, Portugal where I did a leisurely tour and saw Christ the Redeemer Church. Another two days at sea and we came to Messina in Sicily, known for the Godfathers. Here the coach stopped before noon, so we could see the local church and also the local buildings which had beautiful architecture and on the strike of one, a bronze statue of a lion gave a big sound and moved its head and face. Below this there was a cockerel, also made of metal, which also made a sound and shook all its feathers. There were also six windows, where music played whilst the clockwork ladies and gentlemen did their dancing in and out of the windows in time to the music. These were beautifully made and painted in various colours and costumes.

Our next stop was Haifa, Israel. I did a nine hour trip of Galilee, visiting the Mount of Beatitudes and the river Jordan and saw about 20 young people in their 20s descending the steps into the river Jordan to be baptized; this was very touching. One could either purchase or hire the white full length robes and towels and go into the changing room. This is the place where John the Baptised baptized Jesus. In the afternoon we took a drive through Nazareth, where Jesus lived as a boy. We then visited Basilica of the Annunciation, being the largest church in the Middle East, before driving back via the Mount Carmel Mountains, with views over Haifa Bay. The ship stayed here overnight.

The following day I did a leisurely trip of Jerusalem for 11 hours and again it rained and rained - just like England in February! We drove along the Road of Courage, with its abandoned metal trucks/tanks etc.,



before passing through the new city, and then driving to the Mount of Olives and continuing to the Garden of Gethsemane, with its ancient olive trees. We stopped at the Wailing Wall, the most sacred Jewish shrine.

The following day was a day at sea, before sailing through the Suez Canal in the daylight; I understand this is mostly done at night. This was something new for me. We started the transit at 6.30am and one could see from the cabin or on deck the traffic, roads and train lines going in both directions. There were 19 vessels in our convoy; QM2 was number three and the only cruise ship, the other vessels being tankers with various cargoes. It takes nine to ten hours to transit and the cost for our vessel was approximately £250,000. One could see properties, main roads, even canoes on the water with families having a day out. The day had started sunny, but finished in fog. The Suez Canal is vital to world trade. The length of the Suez is 120 miles, and building work started in 1859 and took 10 years to complete. We went under the Japanese Friendship Bridge with a clearance of 230 feet. The canal is 670 feet wide. There are approximately 90 to 100 vessels going through the Suez Canal every day, and dredging still continues for expansion.

The following day we had Piracy Drill - yes that's correct Piracy Dill. Those in inside cabins were to stay in

their cabins, those with windows and balconies had to close the curtains and go into the passageway, either sitting on chairs taken from the cabin or sitting on the floor. The following day, we had a talk given by Commander Peter Stanton Brown, assisted by other officers, all to do with security and from the British Navy. There were security people with binoculars patrolling the deck. It was explained how people may try to climb on board and a banner was placed on the railing on the promenade deck advising not to come within 200 metres of the ship. That evening was Burns Night and a special meal and dance took place with Haggis, Whisky, displays and poems by Robbie Burns and Reel Dancing which some guests had been learning. There were similar events to celebrate The Year of the Rat and Australia Day with flags and corks.

On the final day at sea before I disembarked in Dubai after 22 days, we had a British Navy warship sailing by our side for several hours, and a helicopter flying around the ship, before settling on the rear of the navy vessel after two hours. Soon afterwards the ship sailing away from both vessels with funnels sounding, saying farewell.

There was the usual passengers' choir and I had been going to the rehearsals for an hour each sea day. There were 100 in the choir, with lots of men, both bass and tenor, including some Welsh voices. At the concert we sang six songs and two hymns, both in four part harmony unaccompanied and the other songs were about the sea.

Finally, after a jam packed cruise on The Queen Mary 2 we arrived at Dubai, where I, along with 35 other members from the same travel company, transferred from QM2 to Queen Elizabeth 2 for a four day stay.

Submitted by Margaret Thomas

Part 2 - Dubai, to follow



A group of members and junior members attended the Watson Players Pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, performed at Landau Forte School. Unfortunately, their usual venue The Guildhall in the Market Place is still closed after over a year due to renovations needed for health and safety reasons.

As it is the Watson Players 50th Anniversary Year they pulled out all the stops and put on a really good show, with everything needed for a good panto, lots of laughs, a baddie to boo, singing, dancing and very colourful costumes.

After watching the Watsons since the 70s, some actors are still there, a little older and greyer, but still obviously enjoying themselves and in some cases their children and even grandchildren are now taking part.



Congratulations to the Watson Players and long may they continue to entertain.

Coincidentally, the Craft Group have recently knitted a Snow White and the Seven Dwarves to raise money for charity and this was won and donated to a local nursery. Doreen Swain has been busy knitting other fairy tale characters and they will, no doubt, be appearing when we get together again.

Memories

Memories remind us that nothing lasts forever.

Time is precious and should not be wasted.

Enjoy life and remember, don't count the days, make the days count.

My Year Teaching in India



After completing my A levels in 2018, I didn't want to go straight to university, but I definitely wanted to travel. After talking to my sister's house mate, I found out about an international school in India. I'd always wanted to travel to India and this was a perfect opportunity. I contacted the school and managed to secure a position as an English Teaching Assistant for their full academic year (May to March). Before setting out I worked at two different places simultaneously to fund my trip and completed a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) course to prepare myself as much as possible.

On Tuesday 14 May 2019, I left Manchester airport and flew to Kochi, Kerala. I was met by a driver and taken to the school. It was a completely different world. The first shock for me was to discover that rather than being the Teaching Assistant, I was expected to be the English Teacher with no help at all in the classroom. The first few weeks of teaching were therefore incredibly daunting as I had no prior experience, but after properly planning and preparing lessons I quickly adapted. Just as I was getting the hang of teaching English, the school's only French teacher - my roommate, left and went back home to Tamil Nadu. The school failed to recruit a new French teacher, and I therefore offered to help out - with my A level French - as a temporary French teacher. However, I became the full time French teacher from July until school's closure in March 2020.

I taught children from ages 6 to 14, I wrote exam papers, corrected books and held parent-teacher meetings. It was very challenging, dealing with international students, leading full classes and also dealing with the Indian parents who were very involved with their children's education,

but it was all a great experience for me.

I was fortunate to make friends with teachers, and other locals I'd met whilst travelling. When I was free at weekends they'd take me to their houses, or to popular places in Kerala so I could really explore the area and culture. During the December school holidays

I joined a 'women's only' travel group 'Appoopanthaadi' and we spent Christmas exploring the Himalayas. To get there I flew to Delhi, then took a night bus to the north and the final part of the journey was by jeep. It was a shock to go from the 40 degree heat of Kerala to the snow of the Himalayas, but it was worth it and I have some wonderful memories of the time I spent there.

In February half term I again joined the group and we went camping in rural Munnar - a place famous for its tea plantations. On other occasions I managed to fit in sightseeing in New Delhi, Bangalore, Goa and Tamil Nadu. I was also fortunate enough to attend an Indian engagement party followed by haldi, mehendi, and the actual wedding, which was very exciting and fun to be part of! Indian life is also full of festivals and I was lucky enough to experience Diwali, Independence day and finally Holi, the festival of colour, just before returning home.

Working in the school gave me time to think about what to do in the future. I decided that teaching isn't for me, however I did decide to apply to university for a business management course. I have now received offers from all of my chosen universities and I'll be starting my higher studies in September.

Overall the whole year was a great experience, unfortunately it was cut short due to lockdowns in the country, but I definitely have plans to return one day!

By Fran Chatto



Helena's Ginger Cake

Ingredients:

25g Crystallised Ginger
70g Prunes
150g Golden Syrup
50g Black treacle
150g unsalted Butter
8g ground Ginger
2g Ground Mixed spice
2 eggs
2 tbsp milk
120g Self Raising Flour



Method

Preheat the oven 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas Mark 3, then grease and line (base and sides) an 18/29cm cake tin.

Finely chop ginger, set aside, then finely chop prunes then transfer to a pan, add golden syrup, treacle, sugar and butter to the pan and gently stir over a low heat until combined.

Remove from the heat then stir in ginger, mixed spice and chopped ginger. Lightly beat the eggs and milk together, then add to pan, stir into for a smooth batter. Fold in the sieved flour then transfer to tin.

Bake in the oven for one hour, until springy to touch. Leave to cool in tin, then serve with a light dusting of icing sugar.

Social Distancing

During April my garden has looked lovely with the colourful spring flowers. I love the early spring flowers and have lots of primroses, cowslips and primulas, but on looking more closely this is what I saw.



No social distancing here, the cowslips and primulas have cross pollinated, but what do I call them - Cowulas or Primslips?

Submitted by Margaret Henchliff



Last year Bill and I were both 70, so I thought it was time for a bucket list to make sure we got to see the places we have kept saying "I'd like to go there". Most of the places on the list are in our beautiful country, but one thing that has always fascinated me is the Northern Lights or the Aurora Borealis.

To facilitate this, Bill booked us on a cruise to Norway in the hope we would be lucky enough to see them, because there is no guarantee that conditions will be right. Most of the time they were not and we only got a bit of a glimmer, but one night we set the alarm to get us up in the night when conditions were supposed to be good. The lights did not appear but the sky was absolutely amazing. The stars were so bright lighting up the pitch black (we were in the middle of the sea) as if someone had just thrown up a ton of glitter. With the light pollution we now have I had forgotten what we used to see as children.

Our bucket list continues to grow, but at the moment we are not getting very far with our ticking off!

Submitted by Margaret Henchliff

Orphan Gift Fund

The proceeds from our March Coffee Morning have been donated to the Orphan Gift Fund.

The fund was started in 1919 after the First World War to help the children of members killed in action. The fund has continued through the years and now helps our bereaved junior members during their years in education.

It helps with the cost of uniforms, books, school trips and their needs during college and university in the hope that they will not be disadvantaged because of their loss.

A huge thank you to our big-hearted Branches!

In 2019, our Branches and their members collectively raised a staggering £155,000 for good causes and charities. What a wonderful bunch you are!

And this is on top of support being given to other causes such as the RNLI, the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which has supported various UK medical research

projects since 1971, and the Oddfellows' Orphan Gift Fund.

Jane Nelson, Oddfellows CEO, shares how proud she feels to be part of a Society that continually looks at ways it can give back to the community. She says: "You can't go a week on social media without seeing a big cheque being handed over by a Branch to a local charity or

good cause. It's so heart-warming to see. And then finding out that these kind gestures have amounted to over £155,000, it's simply fantastic. Thank you all for digging deep and doing the best you can to help others in need."

Photos show just a few of the causes that have received your help in 2019.



KIND received £150 from Mersey Branch.



British Heart Foundation received over £1,300 from Great Berkhamstead Branch.



Prostate Cancer UK received £1,500 from Tunbridge Wells Branch.

Find out more about how the Society is giving back to its communities at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Financial help to progress your studies and your career



Are you soon to start your first apprenticeship or your first degree course at university? Remember, all members with five years' continuous membership are invited to apply for an Oddfellows Educational Award. These awards are open to all eligible members, regardless of age.

First Degree Course Educational Award

Each year, we grant up to three First Degree Course Educational Awards consisting of £900 per year for the duration of a student's first degree programme.* To apply, applications should be made via your Branch around April, with judging taking place in September.

Lisa Sutlow (pictured), a Leodis Branch member and winner of a 2019 First Degree Course Educational Award says: "The Award has allowed me to cut down the hours I work, meaning I can have quiet time during the day to focus on my studies.

I want to be a great example to my two daughters, Isabelle and Harriet, to show them you can achieve anything with hard work and passion. I can't wait to become an occupational therapist,

being able to make a difference and help someone every day."

Apprenticeship Educational Award

Each year, we grant up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards consisting of £250 per year for the duration (maximum three years) of a member's apprenticeship.* To apply for the 2019 Apprenticeship Educational Awards, applications should be made via your Branch no later than 31 March 2020 for consideration in April 2020. For the 2020 Apprenticeship Awards, you need to apply via your Branch around September 2020. Judging will take place in February 2021.

*Young Oddfellows membership is taken into consideration. To check your eligibility and to see the full terms and conditions of this benefit, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs.

Getting the right social care support – challenging refusals, diversions and delays



It's an all too common conversation over our Care and Welfare Helpline. Members, and their families, want to find out what social care support they're entitled to and, having requested or had a needs or carer's assessment from their local council, they're facing refusals, diversions or delays.

"We often find that members are having to deal with such setbacks during times of crisis," said Andrea Libman of the Oddfellows' Care and Welfare team. "This makes it more likely to be confused about what you're entitled to, know

where you're up to with decisions, and what you're to do next.

"My single biggest piece of advice is to find out about your entitlements. We can help you with that. Secondly, it's to get support if you need it, to help you make progress."

How to take positive action

- **Keep notes.** From day one, keep a record of who you spoke to, what they agreed to do, any deadlines and the date and time of the call. This will help you to know where things are up to.
- **Get decisions in writing.** Social services should write to you about any decisions they make, such as a care and support plan, the outcome of a financial assessment to determine care cost contributions, or a decision about a disabled facilities grant for home adaptations.
- **Make a complaint.** If you can't informally resolve a complaint, use the

council's official complaint process. When submitting a complaint, it's essential to set out each issue clearly, explain what has or hasn't happened and what outcomes you're seeking.

- **Contact the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.** If you're not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, escalate it to the Ombudsman. If you pay for your own care, you can take your complaint to the Ombudsman if you've exhausted your care provider's complaints process.

Are you in this situation and need some support? We'll help where we can. Call the Care and Welfare Helpline on **0800 0149 822**. Lines are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm on Friday. The 0800 number is free to call from landlines and mobiles. You can also email care@oddfellows.co.uk.

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 Penny on **01332 345697** or email penny.folds@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@manchestercab.org

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.



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.

*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.

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

Congratulations

Sarah Braithwaite of the King George IV Branch and her husband on the birth of their son Finch Simon Braithwaite.

Dennis and Lorna Jordan on winning the crocheted throw in the recent raffle which raised £140 for charity.



Congratulations to (from left to right) **Cynthia Seaman, David Smith** and **Penny Folds** seen with the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Margaret Henchcliff following the taking of their Purple Degrees.

Fundraising

You will have read on the front page about the very worthy cause our new Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Pauline Cunningham, has chosen to support this year.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we have been unable to start fundraising as we would usually do. If anyone would like to make a donation to Blood Bikes I am sure Pauline would be delighted with your generous gesture.

Cheques should be made payable to: The Provincial Grand Master's Charity and can be sent to the office and will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Life is too short

Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones who don't and believe that everything happens for a reason.

If you get the chance, take it.
If it changes your life, let it.
Nobody said it would be easy, they
just promised it would be worth it.

Dr Seuss

Obituaries

Jean Collis
Pares Branch

Audrey Manchester
Good Intent Branch

Eileen Wardle,
Pares Branch

Barbara Lewsley
Pares Branch

Walter Stone
King George IV Branch

John Swinburn
Good Samaritan Branch

We share the road of life
With ones that we hold dear
And if it were in our power
We'd always keep them near.



Thank you

A big thank you to our Line Dancing teacher Vivien Woolmer who has put some line dancing routines on YouTube for us to keep up our dancing.

It is very much appreciated and hopefully we will all be back together soon. It is much more social and enjoyable dancing with your mates and having a laugh.

Ode to the Spell Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.