



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Summer-Autumn 2020 | Issue 4
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Burton-on-Trent News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

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Did you know?



Fruit Salad



Our emergency appeal



Burton-on-Trent District Branch Combined Newsletter and Diary

Well, after so many months of lock down, we are hoping to get back to some sort of normality. Your newsletter and diary will look a little different, as we get to grips on how we can safely hold meetings, activities and social events – all with social distancing in place of course!

For Your Safety

On entry to Oddfellows Hall there is a hand sanitising station for your use. All toilets have anti-bacterial soap, wipes and spray along with paper towels for your use but please dispose in the bins provided. Whilst you have been away all Hall surfaces have been professionally deep cleaned.

All activities and meetings will need to have two metre social distancing in place. Face coverings will be up to each individual depending on how safe and comfortable they feel at the time.

Government legislation will dictate how many people can meet at any

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

District Secretary: Mervyn J Eaton
T: 01283 564056
E: mervyn.eaton@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Secretary:
Amanda C Norbury-Mountford
T: 01283 564056
E: mandy.mountford@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
All Saints Road,
Burton-on-Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 3LS

Care and Welfare Officers:
Gordon and Viv Simpson
T: 07984 297276

one time, (currently no more than 30 people), so **Pre-Booking is Essential!** Names, addresses and a contact number of members and visitors attending will be required for the purposes of 'Track and Trace'.

Regular Events

How we will run Activities, Branch and Social Events during the Covid Crisis

Activities and social events will look a little different for a while at Oddfellows Hall with Covid-19 Rules in place.

At a Management Committee Meeting it was decided that all Branch meeting are to be suspended until 2021 or until the situation allows. All badminton and bowls equipment will be sanitised before and after each session. Chairs will all be placed with a social distance of two metres and are not to be moved.

Badminton

All badminton will only take place on a Monday morning 9.30am to 12 noon and Monday evenings 7pm to 9pm. Starting from Monday 7 September.



Short Mat Bowls

Bowls will take place on a Wednesday afternoon 2pm to 4pm. Starting from 9 September.



Social Events

Due to the current Covid situation, it has been decided that our main social events should be on hold until 2021 and until then we will be holding Coffee and Cake Days instead, where members can come and meet up for a coffee or tea and chat and eat cake, all with social distancing measures in place.

This will take place initially once a month starting on Friday 2 October 10.30am to 2.30pm and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

At the first Coffee and Cake Day there will be a questionnaire for members

to fill in as to what events they would be willing to attend when the situation allows and future dates for Coffee and Cake Days. These will also be advertised on our Facebook page.



Names, addresses and a contact number of members and visitors attending will be required for the purposes of 'Track and Trace'.

Pre-Booking is required for all activities. Names, addresses and a contact number of members attending will be required for the purposes of 'Track and Trace'.

A notice from Mervyn J Eaton

District Secretary

Annual General Meeting

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you and your families are managing to stay safe and well during these cruel and unprecedented times we find ourselves in.

As you are probably aware the Burton-on-Trent District Branch (No. 10008) should have held its Annual Summoned Meeting on Saturday 21 March 2020 but, because of Government restrictions brought in to counter the Covid-19 Pandemic, this had to be cancelled.

The purpose of my writing is to give Notice that an Annual General Meeting will now take place on Saturday 12 September 2020 at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS commencing at 11am for the purpose of transacting important business on the amended Agenda.

In order to comply with current Government/Local Authority guidelines a Covid-19 Risk Assessment has been prepared with Sanitising Stations and other protective measures in place in addition to the usual two metre social distancing which attending members will be expected to strictly adhere to.

Members will also be asked to give contact details for the purposes of 'Track and Trace'

Currently guidelines stipulate only 30 persons can attend the Annual General Meeting so it is **imperative** you contact the office (01283) 564056 or email mervyn.eaton@oddfellows.co.uk as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

There will be no elections at this AGM with all Officers and Committee Members remaining in post until the 2021 Annual Summoned Meeting.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at



OddfellowsBurtonOnTrent



OddfellowsUK

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting
2. To receive Apologies
3. To confirm the minutes of the 2019 Annual Summoned Meeting
4. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes
5. Welcome by the Provincial Grand Master
6. To receive the accounts and balance sheet together with auditors' report for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 (previously circulated)
7. To receive the report of the Committee of Management
8. To consider the following Grants:
 - (a). Christmas Grants
 - (b). Charitable Donations
9. To consider the remuneration of the District Secretary, Social Secretary, Unregistered Lodge Secretaries and reimbursements to Officers and Committee members
10. To elect Deputies to the 2021 Southport Annual Movable Conference (AMC)
11. Reports
12. To receive any Propositions
13. To conduct any other business which Rules so direct
14. Close of meeting

Light Refreshments may be provided if numbers warrant such – so for catering purposes numbers attending will need to be known beforehand.

Is there someone you know who'd enjoy what we do?

Refer a friend today

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at **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.

Ref 1644

Making A Difference Award Winner 2020

As you may know The Oddfellows Making a Difference Awards are made annually to chosen members in recognition of their hard work for the Society in general.

The awards fall under four different categories:

1. Enriching lives socially,
2. Giving something back,
3. Working in the spirit of mutuality
4. Giving a helping hand.

The winners are usually presented with their Awards at the Annual Movable Conference (AMC). Unfortunately, the 2020 AMC at Scarborough did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so it has been decided in the interim that they should receive a special framed certificate of their achievement and be invited to

2021 AMC at Southport to receive their engraved awards from the Grand Master.

Burton-on-Trent District nominated Young Oddfellow Effie Bowman (our very talented harpist, aged 7) for the category “Giving something back” in view of her many charitable deeds, which is ongoing, and at such a tender age too.

On Wednesday 19 August we met up with Effie her brother Seth, little sister India and mum Donna for an Oddfellows photo shoot at Hicks Lodge, Willesley. Although in somewhat damp conditions they all had a great time which is evident from the photographs. There will be more about the award winners on the Oddfellows website, social media, Society News and local press throughout September, so keep a watchful eye.



Effie with her certificate.



Effie, India and Seth under Oddfellows umbrella.



Effie with her mum Donna, little sister India and brother Seth.



Effie with Mervyn J Eaton, District Secretary.

Did You Know?



In Abbots Bromley Staffordshire, a special custom takes place each Wakes Monday – the first Monday after 4 September.

The Horn Dance, featuring reindeer antlers, a hobby horse and a fool, was traditionally danced by members of the Bentley family; the tradition passed to the related Fowey family in the early 20th century. The antlers used in the dance date back to the 11th century. The antlers are mounted on small heads carved from wood. Since 1981, the horns are legally the property of Abbots Bromley Parish Council. For 364 days a year, they are on display in St Nicholas Church.

The traditional medieval harvest day was 24 September. As the last of the crops were gathered, a ceremony called 'Calling the Mare' took place. Farmers would shape the very last sheaf of their harvest into a horse shape, and send it around to a neighbouring farm who were still harvesting. That farm would then work quickly to finish their harvest and send the 'mare' on to the next farm- the last to receive the mare would have to display it all year, to show they'd been the slowest to harvest.

Nothing happened in British History between 3-13 September 1752, as the dates were omitted in the changeover from the Julian to the Gregorian calendars. Consequently, September 1752 only had 19 days.

Sphagnum moss is able to hold between 16 and 26 times its own weight in water. Since it is so absorbent, extremely acidic and inhabits the growth of bacteria, it has been used as a wound dressing for centuries, including during WWI.

Birthdays



Have you celebrated a special Birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the lockdown period? How did you celebrate this?

Was there anything you discovered or rediscovered that you could do during this period.



If you have anything else you would like including in the next copy of the newsletter, i.e. letters, photographs or anything of interest to our readers please don't hesitate to contact me, either by post, phone or email.



Young Oddfellows Birthdays

October 2020

*Alex Mitchell Richardson
Anna Boulton
Rose Shakeshaft*

November 2020

*Ivor Elkin
Theo Ellison
Aimee Shilton
Clara Shilton
Sam Stone
Dakota J Perry
Isabel Hindmarch*

December 2020

*Aleah Denham
Aurora Basten
Harry Burton
Molly Robinson
Jasmine Wilkes
William Smout*

January 2021

*Danny Barratt
Alana Bowler
Effie Bowman
Miya Charles
Heidi Goodwin
Daniel Leigh
Grace Stansby*

Young Oddfellows

What have you been doing during the lockdown period?

Why not write to me tell me what you have been doing and send a picture, we would love to hear from you.



Fruit Salad (Quiz for a bit of fun)

1. Which poet described autumn as the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'?
2. Blackberries are supposed to be picked by Michaelmas Day. A feast celebrated on which date in September?
3. Bullace is, despite its small size, a wild variety of which larger fruit?
4. The game of conkers—played with the fruit of the horse chestnut has a World Championship now staged each autumn at Southwick in which English county?
5. Which Scottish river lends its name to the blackberry-red-raspberry-cross, introduced in its locality in 1977?
6. Cranberries were in short supply nationally in 1995 after which TV cook recommended them in a duck recipe?
7. The edible, so called cornelian cherry, is borne on trees belonging to a genus known by which common name?
8. What colour are the fruits of the pineberry, a hybrid strawberry with the fragrance of pineapples?



Answers to the quiz will be printed in the next edition of the Newsletter/Diary.



Social distancing doesn't mean no socials...

One of the great things about the Oddfellows is sharing good times with friends.

*Why not
join in?*

Although we can't see each other face to face right now, we're doing lots of great stuff online.

Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/ to find out what's on this week or contact your local Branch.

Time to say “Thank you!”



It's true that lights shine brightest on the darkest of days as, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, we've witnessed countless acts of kindness and the best of humankind.

Jane Nelson, CEO, says, “Oddfellows has its own very special brand of friendship which goes a long way in helping our members through some difficult times, and these past few weeks have been extremely difficult for so many people. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Branches and all our volunteers for the fantastic way that they all rose to the challenge, and we can't thank them enough for their efforts.”

As with other local organisations supporting older or vulnerable people, including many who live alone or who

are shielding, our volunteers make a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as making welfare check-in calls, organising essential shopping and providing company through befriending and online events.

Once again, our most heartfelt thanks go to the individuals who have given their time freely to be a friend to those in desperate need. We will not forget your kindness, and we hope that their example continues to inspire many others to offer their help where possible, long into the future.

Interested in becoming an Oddfellows member volunteer? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or take a look at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering/

Our emergency appeals

At times of crisis, the Society has always looked for ways to help. Which is why, when our friends in Australia were fighting against bush fires at the end of 2019, our members rallied to offer their support.



Reflecting on the donations, Oddfellows CEO Jane Nelson said: “Thank you again to all who have contributed to the Appeals, and for enabling those in need to receive the support they so desperately need, as well as to draw comfort from the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.”

We're pleased to tell you that the total amount raised by our members was £7,600. This money has gone directly to those affected, to help rebuild communities and provide valuable support.

We also launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, in support of The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust's critical work during the pandemic. Both organisations work hard to ensure help and comfort is provided to those who desperately need it.



We'd love to see you at our online events

Just because you aren't able to come along to our usual face-to-face events at the moment, it doesn't mean that you should have to miss out on all of the fun!

Lots of our Branches are hosting online events, open to members from across the country, through Facebook Live or Zoom video conferencing. Don't have a smartphone or a computer with a camera? There's a phone-in option as well, so it's accessible to all.

Whether you're looking for exercise motivation with our Seated Yoga class, hosted by Swansea and Bridgend, or you'd like to test your general knowledge with Ipswich's weekly trivia quizzes, there is something for everyone. If you're struggling to get set up on Zoom, our Branches are on hand to help.



Give your local Social Organiser a call and they can talk you through the process. It's a free-to-use video conferencing tool, and it's a great way for you to stay in touch with your fellow members.

Facebook is another option. Lots of Branches have their own Facebook page updated regularly with events, news, fun quizzes and a little bit of humour to keep us smiling through these tough times. If you haven't liked your local Oddfellows page yet, get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ask for the link.

Oddfellows Travel Unveiled

Despite there being restrictions on how and where we can travel at the moment, we're busy behind the scenes creating a brand new line-up of short breaks, longer trips and cruises for 2021 under the new name Oddfellows Travel (formerly Active Travel Club).

Rest assured, we're still working with our trusted third-party travel partners, Fred. Olsen, Warner Leisure Hotels, Haven and Leger Holidays who are ABTA and ATOL

protected, so you can be confident your booking is in good hands.

When you're thinking about taking your next trip, don't forget to look at what we have to offer. Whether you're a foodie, a culture vulture or a history buff, we hope to have a holiday that you'll love.

Visit Oddfellows Travel at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Boredom Busters

We’ve put together some fun puzzles to help distract your mind and pass the time. How quickly can you crack them?

Anagrams – rearrange the letters to guess the word!

Doledwolfs Henisfirpd Clodkonw Behpmimers Beefnits

Riddles

Can you guess the answers to these quarrelsome questions?

1. What has to be broken before you can use it?

2. What goes up, but never comes down?

3. What question can you never honestly answer yes to?

4. This belongs to you, but everybody else uses it. What is it?

5. How can a pocket be empty, but still have something in it?

Where is the ping pong ball?



Dingbats

What’s this well-known phrase?

E Y E S

Answers:

Where is the ping pong ball? (C)
Riddle: 1. An egg, 2. Your age!, 3. Are you asleep?, 4. Your name
Dingbats: Eyes wide open
Anagrams: Oddfellows, Friendship, Lockdown, Membership, Benefits

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 Mervyn on **01283 564056** or email **mervyn.eaton@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.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

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

Branch Contacts

Burton-on-Trent District Branch (Financial)

District Secretary: Mervyn Eaton

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

Christian Union Branch

Keith Finch

Address: 20 Hawks Drive, Winshill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE15 0TZ.

Telephone: 01283 562254.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

Orphan's Protection Branch

Amanda C Norbury-Mountford

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at the Cock Inn, Hanbury.

Past Grands' Branch

Amanda C Norbury-Mountford

Address: Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 3LS.

Telephone: 01283 564056.

Meets at Oddfellows Hall, All Saints Road.

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.