

March - August 2022



the **ODDfelloWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, HeLPing people

out & about

South East Lancashire District



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Health &
Wellbeing



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Cinema



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party - Tuesday 21 June

Welcome to the latest edition of the South East Lancashire Branch Events Diary. Members of the Branch 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

Contact Details

For more information or to book any events contact the Secretary

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of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

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.

Message from your Chairman and Editor



As I come to the end of my term of Office I would like to thank everyone who has helped to organise, run and support past events and raise money for the Bury Hospice.

Unfortunately, we are running late with our latest Diary and Newsletter owing to some unforeseen planning difficulties. However, we hope you find plenty of things to interest you in this diary and look forward to meeting you on some of our future events.

Hot News

We have opened a new venue in Wigan for social meetings at the WiganStars opposite the Bus Station. We will be open from 10:30am on the first Thursday of every month for light refreshment, laughter, talks, games and a good old chit chat. See the event in the diary for details.

Is volunteering on your list of things to do in 2022?

We're incredibly grateful to have around 2,500 members across the country who give up their time to volunteer at local Branches like ours. They change members' lives, they help shape our direction, and they're hugely valued. If you're looking for somewhere to volunteer and make a difference, we'd love for you to consider the South East Lancashire Branch. Please contact Sheila Kendall or myself.

Please do read the articles. The Oddfellows has so much to offer you.

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  OddfellowsSouthEastLancashire

 OddfellowsUK

Regular Events

Games Night

Every
Monday



7pm



Free



Online



Every Monday Night starting at 7pm Join our weekly Games Night for fun, games and banter. All are welcome to come along. We have variety of Games, Talks, and Sing alongs. Why not join us and make new friends from across the UK and maybe even further. The Meeting ID is 967 996 1868 (no password). Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Charles on 07564 641909.



Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 & Surrounding Area

Last
Monday



11am



Free



The walking group will meet on the last Monday of every month until October. For details of where the walk will be and the meeting arrangements please contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138

28 March
25 April

30 May
27 June

25 July
29 August

Craft & Coffee Morning

Every
Monday



10.30am



£3



A two hour weekly session where we have a chat over tea/coffee and cakes whilst painting or crafting. There will be various resources provided, but you can bring your own projects if you wish, e.g. knitting, crochet, sewing, model making, artwork, sketch book, etc. There maybe be an optional raffle in aid of the Annual District charity. Information available at the meeting. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

Ten Pin Bowling Blackburn

First
Tuesday



11.15am



£7.50



We bowl during the months of November to March where you can join us for a bit of fun, it doesn't matter if you have never bowled before. Pre booking is essential for this event. Why not join us for lunch at a local venue afterwards. Book two weeks before. Tenpin Bowling, Peel Leisure and Retail Park, Mayson Street, Blackburn BB1 1DG. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734

1 March

Covid restrictions may lead to some meetings being cancelled, so please check before you come.

Regular Events

Line Dancing

First
Tuesday



7.30pm



£4



No need for a partner: bring your two left feet for another great session of line dancing. The emphasis will be on fun, not technical skills. So come along don't be shy, you are among friends. Refreshments included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138



1 March
5 April

3 May
7 June

5 July
2 August

Blackburn Social Club

Second
Tuesday



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 Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

8 March
12 April

10 May
14 June

12 July
9 August

Weekly Quiz Night

Every
Thursday



7pm



Free



Online



Every Thursday at 7pm Free to join and meet friends from across the whole of the UK and maybe further. Have a change from watching TV and join the Quiz Night, where you will be made very welcome. Expect a good range of questions, some easy and some not so easy. The Meeting ID is 967 996 1868 (no password). Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Charles on 07564 641909

Bury Thursday Friends

Every
Thursday



12 noon



£2 plus
optional £1



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. £1 for the football card (optional) Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Vera on 07887 617742.

Covid restrictions may lead to some meetings being cancelled, so please check before you come.

Regular Events

Wigan Coffee Morning

First Thursday

🕒 10.30am 🧐 Free



Come and join us for our monthly social coffee morning with talks, games and friendly chat. Held on the first Thursday of the month. Adjacent to bus station and close to the railway stations. Limited parking by permit. Easily accessible for all. Wigan Stars, Hallgate House, Frank Street, Wigan WN1 1HP. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Chris on 0161 764 3734



3 March **5 May** **7 July**
7 April **2 June** **4 August**

Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday and Friday

🕒 11am 🧐 As per menu



All are welcome to drop in between 11am and 1pm to enjoy the company and make new friends with a brew and maybe a bite to eat. Coffee Creations, Millgate Shopping Centre, 2 Union Arcade, Bury BL9 0QF. Contact Vera on 07887 617742



Dine Around, The Art Picture House, Bury

Second Friday

🕒 12.30pm 🧐 As per menu



All are welcome to join us for lunch, but let us know you are coming so we can reserve a place for you. Ask for the Oddfellows when you arrive. Please book at least one week before. The Art Picture House, 20-36 Haymarket Street, Bury BL9 0AY. Contact Vera on 07887 617742. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138



11 March **13 May** **8 July**
8 April **10 June** **12 August**

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. We have the right to cancel any events.

Covid restrictions may lead to some meetings being cancelled, so please check before you come.

March 2022

TUES

01

Ten Pin Bowling



11.15am



Approximately
£7.50 for
two games



Join us for a bit of fun, it doesn't matter if you have never bowled before. Pre-booking is essential for this event. Why not join us for lunch at a local venue afterwards. Tenpin Blackburn, Peel Leisure and Retail Park, Mayson Street, Blackburn BB1 1DG. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

TUES

08

Blackburn Social Club - Talk on the Lancashire Witches - Part Two



12 noon



£4



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 Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



SAT

12

LADGC - Lancashire Night Dinner/Dance



6pm



£25



This dinner will be held in honour of the new Lancashire and Associate Districts Group Conference President, Debbie Howarth. Come along and enjoy a great meal and entertainment. Book as soon as possible. Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8JP. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Charles on 07564 641909.

TUES

15

Musical Evening



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



An evening of musical entertainment by two accomplished flute players, Carolyn Speakman and Ros Brown. Sit back, relax and enjoy listening to them play. Refreshments will be provided during the evening. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Charles on 07564 641909.

March 2022

THURS 17 **Dine Around - The Wheel**



12 noon

£ As per
menu

The award winning Wheel Restaurant at Parsons Walk Centre serves excellent cuisine, prepared and served by catering and hospitality students. Bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. Book by Thursday 3 March. The Wheel Restaurant, Wigan and Leigh College, Parsons Walk Centre, Wigan WN1 1RS. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.



TUES 22 **Dine Around at Scholars Restaurant, Blackburn**



12 noon

£ £12

Join us for excellent food prepared and served by catering students in the college's professional standard licensed restaurant. Please book in advance by Tuesday 8 March. Meet at Blackburn College, Fielden Street, Blackburn BB2 1LH. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

SAT 26 **Annual Summoned Meeting (AGM)**



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 and Vice Chairman. 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.



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 and
enter 'Kelso' in the place name
search box

OE/0122A6

April

SAT
02

Annual District Dinner

L 6pm

£ £25



All are welcome to join us for our annual celebration in honour of our new District Chairman, Dennis Hilton. Following a delicious dinner there will be customary toasts, speeches and presentations to representatives of the Bury Hospice. After the formalities there will be music and dancing and a fabulous raffle to raise funds for Dennis's chosen charity. The event is open to all. Dress to impress. Advance booking is essential for this event by Friday 25 March. The Masonic Hall, Parsons Lane, Bury BL9 0LY. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

TUES
05

Leisurely Scenic Walk - Witton Country Park

L 11am

£ Free



The walking group meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walks are not suitable for anyone who has a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Book by Tuesday 8 March. Witton Country Park, Blackburn BB2 2TP. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

THURS
21

Dine Around - Summat to Ate, Hindley

L 12 noon

£ As per menu



This restaurant has a strong emphasis on sourcing the best quality local produce. They have a range of menus available throughout the week with some great value deals.



As well as specialising in steak, they also have a range of other meat and non-meat dishes to cater for all guests. They believe home-made and fresh is always best and strive to offer you the very best quality from starters through to desserts. Book by Thursday 7 April. Summat to Ate, 48 Market Street, Wigan WN2 3AN. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

TUES
26

Dine Around - The Dog Inn, Whalley

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



The pub has a warm and inviting ambience and excellent homemade food is available every lunch time. Home-made dishes change on a daily basis. Book by Tuesday 12 April. The Dog Inn, 55 King Street, Whalley, Clitheroe BB7 9SP. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

May

TUES 03 Leisurely Scenic Walk - Ramsbottom/ Summerseat

⌚ 11am

£ Free



The walking group meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walks are not suitable for anyone who has a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Book by Tuesday 12 April. St Paul's Church, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom BL0 9BP. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

TUES 17 Games Night at the hall

⌚ 7.30pm

£ Members £4
Guests £5



There will be a chance to play different games during the evening and refreshments will be included. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138.



SAT 14 Bridgewater Gardens

⌚ 10am

£ £8 plus transport



A tour of the Bridgewater Gardens. Limited pickup in mini bus at Oddfellows Hall and Bolton Railway Station. RHS Garden Bridgewater, Occupation Road Off Leigh Road Worsley, Salford M28 2LJ. Book by Friday 29 April. For further details contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

THURS 19 Dine Around - The Royal Oak

⌚ 12 noon

£ As per menu



A chance to catch up with new and old friends at a local restaurant around Wigan. All are welcome to come along and chat over a nice lunch. Bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. Book by Thursday 5 May. The Royal Oak, Standishgate, Wigan WN1 1XL. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

May

TUES 24 Dine Around - Ribchester Arms, Ribchester



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. Join us for food and friendship. Non-members are welcome just let us know to expect you. Book by Tuesday 10 May. The Ribchester Arms, Blackburn Road, Ribchester PR3 3ZP. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

June

TUES 07 Leisurely Scenic Walk - around Towneley Park



The walking group meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walks are not suitable for anyone who has a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Book by Tuesday 10 May. Towneley Hall Museum, Towneley Park, Burnley BB11 3RQ. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

June

FRI 10 Radcliffe Male Voice Choir



The choir will be helping the District Chairman of South East Lancashire District raise money for the Jigsaw charity. Refreshments are included in the price. Radcliffe and Stand United Reformed Church, Blackburn Street, Radcliffe, Manchester M26 3WQ. Contact Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Robert on 07905 524885.

SAT 11 Jobson Cup Crown Green Bowling



Come and join us for this popular event at St Paul's Bowling Club. Beginners are welcome. Refreshments are included. Book by Friday 3 June. St Paul's Bowling Club, Railway Road, Adlington, Chorley PR6 9QZ. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Chris on 0161 764 3734.

June

TUES 14 Blackburn Social Club - Talk about the Royal Mail



12 noon



£4



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 Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



THURS 16 Dine Around - Forbes on the Lane



12 noon



As per menu



A chance to catch up with new and old friends at a local restaurant around Wigan. All are welcome to come along and chat over a nice lunch. Bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. Book by Thursday 2 June. Forbes on the Lane, 236 Wigan Lane, Wigan WN1 2NU. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

TUES 21 Platinum Jubilee Party



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



We will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. An evening of entertainment with a buffet. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

TUES 28 Dine Around - Guy's Thatched Hamlet, Bilsborrow



12.30pm



As per menu



The ever popular Guy's Thatched Hamlet eating establishment, restaurant and pizzeria, serving a varied international menu from, pizza and fresh pasta to Angus steaks and the freshest fish. Book by Tuesday 14 June. Guy's Thatched Hamlet, St Michael's Road, Bilsborrow, Preston PR3 0RS. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

July

TUES
05

Leisurely Scenic Walk - Ashley Park, Chorley



11am



Free



The walking group meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walks are not suitable for anyone who has a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Book by Tuesday 14 June. Ashley Park Gates, Park Road, Chorley PR7 1QS. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

TUES
12

Blackburn Social Club - Speaker John Munford, Estate Planner



12 noon



£4



John specialises in Wills, Trust, Probate and Estate Planning. Part of his talk will be about the current changes that the government are proposing or have implemented this year. Join us for a friendly afternoon in good company with John. Buffet and refreshments included in the cost. Meet from 12 noon until 2pm. Salvation Army, Vicar Street, Blackburn BB1 5BE. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

SAT
09

LADGC Annual Bowling Competition



10am



See below



Districts send teams of two and if you are interested, come as a pair or we will put you with someone to make a team. The competition will start at promptly 10.30 with scratch time being 10 am. The club bar will be open and hot drinks are also available all day. A splendid cold buffet with chips will be provided at lunchtime. Please note a raffle will be held in aid of the Presidents Charity.



Cost: Bowlers £10 including buffet or Non-bowlers £6 including buffet. Book by Friday 1 July. Garswood Hall Bowling and Community Club, 47 Nicol Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8LU. Contact Charles on 01942 259569 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138 or Robert on 07905 524885 or Charles on 07564 641909.

July

TUES
19

Social Evening with a Holiday Theme



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



'We are going on a summer holiday', with maybe a few cocktails, past holiday pictures and fun and games associated with holidays. Come and have a bit of fun. Light refreshments will be available. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138.



THURS
21

Dine Around - Wigan



12 noon



As per
menu



A chance to catch up with new and old friends at a local restaurant around Wigan. All are welcome to come along and chat over a nice lunch. Bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. Venue to be confirmed. Book by Thursday 7 July. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.



TUES
26

Dine Around - Astley Bank, Darwen



12.30pm



As per
menu



Apart from being a beautifully preserved 19th Century Mansion House, Astley Bank has played a very important part in the history and life of Darwen, with three Members of Parliament, three Mayors and various social benefactors having lived there. They claim to offer elevated home dining in luxe surroundings. Lets help you discover the best Darwen has to offer. Book by Tuesday 12 July. Astley Bank, Bolton Road, Darwen BB3 2QB. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.

August

TUES
02

Leisurely Scenic Walk - Burrs Country Park, Bury



12 noon



Free



The walking group meet on the first Tuesday of every month until October and walks are less than four miles. Walks are not suitable for anyone who has a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Book by Tuesday 12 July. Burrs Country Park, Woodhill Road, Bury BL8 1BT. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734.

August

TUES

16

Dominoes Tournament



7.30pm



£3.50



Whether you're a novice or an expert all are welcome to come along and have some fun with new and old friends. Refreshments available during the evening. Oddfellows House, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH. Contact Chris on 0161 764 3734 or Sheila on 0161 773 3138.

THURS

18

Dine Around - Wigan



12 noon



As per menu



A chance to catch up with new and old friends at a local restaurant around Wigan. All are welcome to come along and chat over a nice lunch. Bring a friend if you want to. Non-members are welcome. Venue to be confirmed. Book by Thursday 4 August. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Charles on 01942 259569.

WED

17

Croquet Afternoon



2pm



Free



Croquet is an ideal sport to build friendship and communications. It is played in pairs with lots of laughter. The club will run a short training session and supervise the games. Flat sole shoes must be worn. Book by Tuesday 2 August. Bury Croquet Club, Whitehead Park, Ainsworth Road, Bury BL8 2PY. Contact Vera on 07887 617742 or Chris on 0161 764 3734.

TUES

23

Dine Around - Ego at The Knowles Arms, Blackburn



12 noon



As per menu



Enjoy freshly cooked Mediterranean food, wine, cocktails and cask ales in a beautifully refurbished pub and restaurant with friendly Oddfellows. Located just two miles from Blackburn city centre. Book by Tuesday 9 August. Ego at The Knowles Arms, Pleckgate Road, Blackburn BB1 8QW. Contact Joan on 07414 816521 or Valerie on 01254 698716.



We're Back Dining!

South East Lancashire District Branch Dinner

Saturday 11 September 2021

Well, here we are after heaven knows how long back to a face-to-face dinner with good food and drink, everyone dressed for the occasion, speeches, cheque presentations, the raffle etc. and a good time enjoyed by all!

Reading District may well have beaten SEL to it but it is thought we are one of the first to have an Oddfellows dinner since Covid restrictions stopped all matters social.

The Masonic Hall in Bury saw a fine collection of Oddfellows not only from our own District and neighbouring Districts but also many came from across the Pennine border which was heartening.

After meeting in the bar downstairs where everyone renewed acquaintances after far too long we all went upstairs (no-one got stuck in the lift this time) and after Grace was said by Brian Kirkby we tucked into a fine repast.



Grand Master of the Order David Ogden and Consort Diane happily pose by a balloon representation of Bury Black Puddings at our Annual Dinner which was already up in the venue for another occasion.

As the cheese boards were passed around by replete diners the toasts were made and speeches followed. We were honoured to have the Grand Master of the Order, David Ogden (from nearby Ormskirk and Southport District) as our main speaker and he was splendidly backed up by our new Chairman Chris McGarraghy and Deputy Chairman Dennis Hilton. All speeches mercifully short but erudite, amusing and with many apt points for us to take away and ponder.

Also present at the dinner were President of the LADGC, Charles Venables and the Vice President, Debbie Howarth.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of cheques to worthy charities. Because of the pandemic Shirley



Debbie Howarth and Margaret McGarraghy were honoured to receive the District Meritorious Service Jewels from Chairman Chris McGarraghy.



Walton had been Chairperson for the past two years and presented a cheque for the outstanding amount of £8,500 to Sarah Horne of the North West Air Ambulance who graciously received it and gave a short and interesting speech about the work of that remarkable charity.

Chris McGarraghy then presented a cheque for £650 to Majors Ashley and Nasreen Dawson from the Salvation Army at Blackburn. Major Ashley responded and made the point that the Salvation Army are keen to foster a relationship with the Oddfellows and work alongside us.

There was also a surprise presentation of a birthday cake for Alan Crabtree who was

celebrating a large number of years on this earth and Alan was suitably pleased.

Once the customary presentation of gifts and the allocation of the lovely table-centre flowers was concluded the diners became dancers and chatterboxes as everyone mingled and enjoyed the music provided by Joey Ogden.

The raffle, in aid of Chris McGarraghy's chosen charity, Bury Hospice, raised the superb total of £303 which included £81 made by the sale of bags and other magnificent items all handmade by June Lockley. In addition, Diane Ogden, Consort of GM David Ogden, most generously donated her cash gift.

It was one of the largest attendances at a SEL dinner which your correspondent can remember. Which just goes to show that everyone is glad to get back into our

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

stride as far as our formal dinners are concerned. It is expected the Oddfellows' dining season will be renewed with vigour. The revels were still on-going when your

correspondent left so it must have been a fine occasion.

RWP

Brian Kirkby Becomes an ALM



What, you may ask, is an ALM? The initials stand for Authorised Lay Minister and Brian has become one.

On Sunday 26 September Brian Kirkby of our District was licenced at Manchester Cathedral as an Authorised Lay Minister by none other than the

Bishop of Manchester, The Right Reverend David Walker.

Brian, the Sacristan at St Peter's CofE, Bury, has been studying for nine months and has chosen to favour the role of a Pastoral Minister. Although Brian can't conduct services in the church he assists the vicar by taking a lot of the pastoral work off him, or her, to free the vicar so that he, or she, can concentrate on other parts of their parochial work.

All this is part of a Collaborative Ministry; Brian explained that his work in the parish includes visiting people who have a problem and endeavouring to sort it out. "Mostly, it's just a case of listening to what the person's problem is," explained Brian. "They just need to have someone to listen to them. Being able to 'listen' to a person can be very important. Another thing is recognising that someone has a problem and getting them to perhaps speak about it for the first time. That alone can go a long way towards solving their trouble".

After the service in the Cathedral Brian, his family and friends enjoyed a celebratory buffet at Oddfellows House, Bury. A good time was had by all!

RWP



Line Dancing Evening

On Tuesday 18 January a very good turn out at Bury Oddfellows Hall ensured that a splendid evening of Line Dancing was enjoyed by everyone. Admittedly, not everyone took part in the actual dancing but it was evident that even they thoroughly enjoyed themselves watching and delighting in the music.

Led by Maria, an expert Line Dance teacher, the floor was kept full dance after dance all evening.

The exception to this was when 'the pies are ready' was called and we all tucked into either meat and potato pie or cheese and onion pie. Delicious!

As can be imagined, a jolly good evening was enjoyed by all and £30 was made on the raffle in aid of the Chairman's charity, Bury Hospice.

Thanks go to Maria for her time and wonderful tuition which even novice dancers could follow – well, some of them! Thanks too to the Social Committee for their hard work during the evening.

If you are sad you missed it there will be a Line Dancing event on the first Tuesday evening of the month from now on. Entry is £4 which includes a raffle ticket and light refreshments.

RWP





Flying Scotsmen Trip

There were 20 members who joined the 'Flying Scotsman' for the evening where we travelled along the East Lancs Railway enjoying friendly chat and the journey itself. Everyone was laughing and there was music at Bury Bolton Street station.

When we arrived back at the station they were singing 'Sweet Caroline' and they were waving hands and in response some of us joined in! In Bury itself on the day there were loads of festivals happening so some members had a wonderful time before and after our train ride, looking around. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Charles Venables

Photos by Chris McGarraghy



The Flying Scotsman pulling into Platform 3 of Bury Bolton Street headed by 60103 Flying Scotsman.

Picture above: Some of the Oddfellows who enjoyed the trip on the 'Flying Scotsman' at the side of the iconic engine.



A very happy Alan Crabtree was granted an most people only dream about; he was invited onto the footplate of the 'Flying Scotsman' by the crew. They heard that Alan had enjoyed a 'Footplate Experience' on Flying Scotsman and had driven her (under supervision) from Bury to Rawtenstall back in 1993. As you can see from the picture Alan was thrilled to bits.

How I became an Oddfellow

Linda and I first met on an Oddfellows holiday to Eastbourne in October 2015. I'd been invited to go by a friend, her partner had booked to go with her, but had sadly recently passed away. She had also been a friend of Linda's for many years and introduced us to each other. We got on really well together and soon became friends.

Linda told me how Oddfellows had changed her life since joining the Blackburn Group in 2011, after becoming single again. I had spent months at home alone recovering from breast cancer and a knee replacement and had no social life. I started to attend the meetings, lunches and socials events with her.

We have since become the best of friends and travel companions. We have enjoyed several holidays together including Malta,

Spain, Majorca and many in the UK. We have twice been to Brighton and visited my sister and family. I would normally only see them once a year when they visited me.

We have shared many good times and supported each other through some tough times. We are now in daily contact. We attend most of the Oddfellows events organised by the Blackburn branch and sometime other South East Lancashire Districts events too.

We have both made several new friends since joining Oddfellows. We now enjoy a busy social life including lunches, walks, theatre, cinema, ten pin bowling, visiting places of interest and different towns etc. Being members of the Oddfellows has transformed our lives.

Joan

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):
District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):
District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):
Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

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 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



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**

A message from Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows CEO

Dear friends

For me, two things really stood out in 2021 – how resilient everyone has been, and how well we've adapted to so much change.

It's been a tough 12 months on top of a previous tough nine months, and who knows how many more? However, as Oddfellows, you've looked out for one another, stayed open to doing things differently, and it's getting us through. Your actions have made an amazing difference to so many of our members' lives.

Gratitude

I want to thank you all for everything you have done. When speaking with our members and volunteers, and working alongside our Branches and staff in Manchester and Liverpool, I have felt immense pride – about our Society, everyone involved, and in Oddfellowship. By working together, we've shown that Oddfellows do what we say we do, no matter what challenges are thrown at us.

“Being there for our members continues to be our priority.”



At the start of 2021, we had hoped that by the end of the year things would feel a little brighter. We've made huge strides in our understanding of Covid, but the landscape is still very unpredictable. And when faced with uncertainty over a sustained period, it can make us feel overwhelmed and anxious.

One thing I've been doing to try and manage these feelings is to focus on what I can control, and acknowledging what I cannot. It's not always easy, but it really has helped. Sitting with your thoughts or worries and working out what you can influence is time well spent. You can then identify the bits you can take action to change, which puts you in a more positive frame of mind. Covid is here to stay and the challenge for us all now is learning to live alongside it.

If you've needed support from us, I hope we've been able to help you where we can. Being there for our members continues to be our priority.

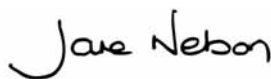
Online events are here to stay for as long as there is a need to keep people in touch with others from the comfort of their home. And our local and national care and welfare teams, and advice lines, will always be there for anyone who needs help to work through a problem or worry.

We sadly lost many people we cared about in 2021. To those that passed, we will always remember you. Our condolences go out to family and friends, and rest assured they'll always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

We are having to cope with higher levels of uncertainty and worry at the moment, so we must make sure we rest well, smile as often as we can and be kind to ourselves and others. These are all totally within our control.

On behalf of the Society and my family, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

Stay safe and well. Yours always in friendship



Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows

Lupus research team skills up for the future

In November we visited Guy's Hospital to see members of the Lupus Trust research team who have been the recipients of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund since 2019. Lockdown had the unintended consequence of sending the research in a new direction.

The restrictions meant they had to abandon the laboratory to work from home but this gave them time to focus on learning how to analyse big data, a skill that will benefit the research well into the future.

Pictured is the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Ogden handing over a cheque of £29,000



to Professor Jo Spencer and PHD student Bekki Velounias.

The donation marks the final instalment of a major three-year funding partnership, which totalled £85,000.

Oddfellows Travel – travel with confidence and in great company in 2022

We can't wait to get members and guests together for an exciting range of holidays in 2022. There's such a selection, something is sure to float your boat. Here's what's on offer...

London Theatre Weekend

17–19 June 2022

(2 nights. Bed and breakfast)

£245 per person



For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

We kick off the season with a trip to London to enjoy restaurants, shopping and musical theatre. We couldn't get closer to the buzzing West End than the 3* St Giles Hotel, located just yards from Oxford Street and Leicester Square. Join us for welcome drinks on Friday with our host, member Debra Haley. On Saturday, we head to the Victoria Apollo Theatre to see highly acclaimed musical, **Wicked**. On Sunday, we will make the most of the location with a shopping trip, ending our weekend with lunch before the journey home.

An unforgettable cruise exploring Norway and the Arctic Circle

22 June–7 July 2022

(15 nights. Full board)

From £2,899 per person

All aboard the Fred. Olsen cruise ship Balmoral on this exploration of Norway's northernmost reaches – an unforgettable journey of a lifetime. Setting off from Newcastle, join Oddfellows host Wendy Atkins as we journey to the Arctic Circle to the famous island of Spitsbergen, just 700 nautical miles from the North Pole. We will experience the remote beauty and eerie silence of distant towns situated in the stunning Arctic landscape. Our magical journey continues to the Norwegian mainland, to the 'top of Europe', the North Cape plateau and Tromsø, taking in stunning sights of lakes, mountains and glaciers on a journey that's unforgettable.



For more information, contact host Wendy Atkins at wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01437 251 867

Oddfellows Summer Holiday 4–8 July 2022

(4 nights. Half board)

Warner Leisure Hotel's Nidd Hall, Harrogate. From £351 per person for a Standard room or £381 per person for a Signature room

Treat yourself to a break in a Grade II listed Georgian mansion in the Yorkshire countryside on our annual hosted summer getaway. Oddfellows Travel summer holidays are legendary and this year promises to be no exception. Set in 45 acres of award-winning gardens in the North Yorkshire countryside, we will be staying at Nidd Hall Hotel – where rumour has it Edward VIII met Wallis Simpson at a party.

For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

Unwind with friends

The group holiday, which will be hosted by David Ogden, our Grand Master, is open to any members and their guests from across the UK. Together we'll be enjoying drinks, mouth-watering meals and superb live evening entertainment. You'll be free to choose how to spend your day – exploring the stunning location, sharing a game of bowls in the glorious gardens or relaxing in the swimming pool and spa. There's a host of activities to entertain you. Join us – bring a friend – and enjoy this beautiful 18th century mansion near Harrogate.



The spectacular grounds at Nidd Hall, Harrogate

Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

Different benefits apply to other membership categories.
Contact your local Branch Secretary for further information.

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions or call us on 0800 028 1810.

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**

Oddfellows House Bury, 94 Manchester Road, Bury BL9 0TH
Annual Summoned Meeting (AGM) – 26 March
Meeting start at 1.30pm.

Events at a glance

Weekly Events

Games Night - Every Monday at 7pm - Online

Craft and Coffee Morning - Every Monday at 10.30am

Bury Thursday Friends - Every Thursday at 12 noon

Weekly Quiz Night - Every Thursday at 7pm - Online

Coffee Morning - Every Wednesday and Friday at 11am

March 2022

Tues 1	Ten Pin Bowling	11.15am
Tues 1	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Thurs 3	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 8	Blackburn Social Club - Talk on the Lancashire Witches - Part Two	12 noon
Fri 11	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm
Sat 12	LADGC - Lancashire Night Dinner/Dance	6pm
Tues 15	Musical Evening	7.30pm
Thurs 17	Dine Around - The Wheel	12 noon
Tues 22	Dine Around - Scholars Restaurant, Blackburn	12.30pm
Sat 26	Annual Summoned Meeting (AGM)	1.30pm
Mon 28	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am

April

Sat 2	Annual District Dinner	6pm
Tues 5	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Witton Country Park	11am
Tues 5	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 8	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm

Events at a glance

Weekly Events

Games Night - Every Monday at 7pm - Online

Craft and Coffee Morning - Every Monday at 10.30am

Bury Thursday Friends - Every Thursday at 12 noon

Weekly Quiz Night - Every Thursday at 7pm - Online

Coffee Morning - Every Wednesday and Friday at 11am

April

Tues 12	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Thurs 21	Dine Around - Summat to Ate, Hindley	12 noon
Mon 25	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am
Tues 26	Dine Around - The Dog Inn, Whalley	12.30pm

May

Tues 3	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Ramsbottom/Summerseat	11am
Tues 3	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Thurs 5	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 10	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Fri 13	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm
Sat 14	Bridgewater Gardens	10am
Tues 17	Games Night at the hall	7.30pm
Thurs 19	Dine Around - The Royal Oak	12 noon
Tues 24	Dine Around - Ribchester Arms, Ribchester	12 noon
Mon 30	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am

June

Thurs 2	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
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Events at a glance

Weekly Events

Games Night - Every Monday at 7pm - Online

Craft and Coffee Morning - Every Monday at 10.30am

Bury Thursday Friends - Every Thursday at 12 noon

Weekly Quiz Night - Every Thursday at 7pm - Online

Coffee Morning - Every Wednesday and Friday at 11am

June

Tues 7	Leisurely Scenic Walk, around Towneley Park	11am
Tues 7	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Fri 10	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm
Fri 10	Radcliffe Male Voice Choir	7.30pm
Sat 11	Jobson Cup Crown Green Bowling	12 noon
Tues 14	Blackburn Social Club - Talk about the Royal Mail	12 noon
Thurs 16	Dine Around - Forbes on the Lane	12 noon
Tues 21	Platinum Jubilee Party	7.30pm
Mon 27	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am
Tues 28	Dine Around - Guy's Thatched Hamlet, Bilsborrow	12.30pm

July

Tues 5	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Ashley Park, Chorley	11am
Tues 5	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 8	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm
Sat 9	LADGC Annual Bowling Competition	10am
Tues 12	Blackburn Social Club - Speaker John Munford, Estate Planner	12 noon

Events at a glance

Weekly Events

Games Night - Every Monday at 7pm - Online

Craft and Coffee Morning - Every Monday at 10.30am

Bury Thursday Friends - Every Thursday at 12 noon

Weekly Quiz Night - Every Thursday at 7pm - Online

Coffee Morning - Every Wednesday and Friday at 11am

July

Tues 19	Social Evening with a Holiday Theme	7.30pm
Thurs 21	Dine Around Wigan	12 noon
Mon 25	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am
Tues 26	Dine Around - Astley Bank, Darwen	12.30pm

August

Tues 2	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Burrs Country Park, Bury	12 noon
Tues 2	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Thurs 4	Wigan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 9	Blackburn Social Club	12 noon
Fri 12	Dine Around - The Art Picture House - JD Wetherspoon, Bury	12.30pm
Tues 16	Dominoes Tournament	7.30pm
Wed 17	Croquet Afternoon	2pm
Thurs 18	Dine Around Wigan	12 noon
Tues 23	Dine Around - Ego at The Knowles Arms, Blackburn	12 noon
Mon 29	Leisurely Scenic Walk, Manchester M25 and Surrounding Area	11am