

September 2020 - March 2021



O^{the} OddfeLLows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Events & News

Making Friends in Coventry Godiva





We hope you can join us for our quiz night, see page 3 for dates and details

Welcome to our latest events diary.

Such a lot has happened in the six months since I last wrote to you, I hardly know where to begin.

Firstly, let me welcome you to our new look, combined Newsletter and Events Diary.

As you are aware, we cancelled the production of the March edition of Out & About, due to the announcement of the lockdown. In the meantime we have discovered the joys of video-conferencing, courtesy of Zoom, and have been holding weekly coffee mornings and monthly quiz nights. These are actually very good fun and have enabled us to catch up with some friends from the past who had left the area. They say 'every cloud, and all that!'

For the foreseeable future I believe that the majority of our events will continue to be on-line. If you have a computer or a smartphone then you will be able to download Zoom and join us. If you require any help in doing this then do give us a ring. We are not IT specialists and there are no guarantees but we have managed to get our own computers and phones to work so we may be able to help you out! I should add, that the use of Zoom is totally free.

You will find that Zoom is also being used by most of the other Oddfellow branches so you will be able to tap into all of their events too.

Contact Details

For details about membership and the wide range of benefits available please contact:

Secretary: Christine Luckett

Address:

Oddfellows House,
2 Queen Victoria Road,
Coventry CV1 3JH

Telephone: 024 76632900

Email:

christine.luckett@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Co-ordinator

Jan Lewis

Telephone: 07579 766208

Email: jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

Check out the main Oddfellows website; click on 'Events' and scroll down the page to find a wide variety of things on offer. Alternatively, like Coventry Godiva, most branches have their own Facebook page and it is there that you will also find the latest news about what is going on. In any case, I would urge you to check out our page regularly as the government guidelines for meetings and social gatherings are changing all the time, hopefully enabling us to open up our usual programme of events, sooner rather than later. Hoping to hear from you, or better still, see you in the none too distant future

Christine Luckett, Branch Secretary

Social Events

Coffee and a Chat!

🕒 11am

£ Free

Every Friday

Our regular coffee morning now happens via Zoom video conferencing. To receive the link to the event you will need to email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk These events are always lively and are guaranteed to make you smile – not least because of the regular unscheduled 'guest appearances' from various cats, dogs, grandchildren and other family members! Give it a try...you will amaze yourself at how easy it is to join. New friendships have already been forged and it is lovely being able to see our friends in their own homes.



Quiz Night

🕒 7pm

£ Free



Every Month

Each month your hosts Christine and Tony Luckett will be putting together a fun quiz covering a variety of subjects to test and challenge you. The quiz will run over a number of rounds, giving everyone the chance to find their strengths (and weaknesses!). In order to participate you will need to mail jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk in order to obtain the Zoom link.

Wednesday 16 September 2020

Wednesday 21 October 2020

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Wednesday 16 December 2020

Wednesday 20 January 2021

Wednesday 17 February 2021

Wednesday 17 March 2021

Diary reminders for each of the above events will be posted on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsCoventry>) , along with any additional information: For instance, some of the quizzes may have a particular theme, so the super-keen amongst you may want to do a bit of research beforehand!

Attending a Zoom get together

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that can be accessed through the internet, or via an App on your Computer, Mac, Smartphone or tablet. You will need to have a valid email address to register and use it.

To find and install the app, just visit the app store on your device and search for Zoom. You can still use Zoom without installing the app – just go to **www.zoom.us**

Zoom allows users to meet online, with or without video, so if you don't have a webcam, don't worry, you can still take part as if you were on a telephone conference call.

How to join Zoom

Joining Zoom is really easy, just follow these simple steps:-

1. Click on the Zoom app and then click on 'sign up'
2. Enter your email address, as well as your name
3. Set a password

If you are not joining through the app the process is exactly the same through the website **www.zoom.us**

How to join Zoom meeting:

The host of the meeting will have sent you a joining code / Meeting ID - the Meeting ID can be a 9, 10, or 11 digit number – they may have sent you this by email, WhatsApp or other means. There may also be a password to enter a secure meeting.

If this has been emailed to you, you may be able to click on a link and go straight into the Zoom meeting automatically – it may also give you a password to put in.

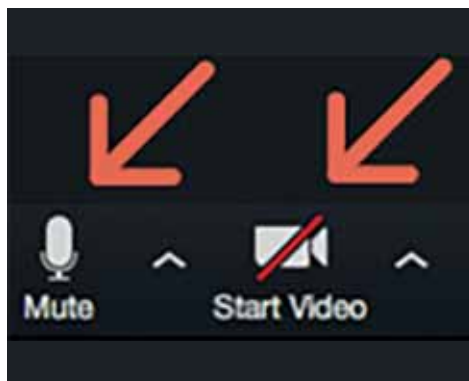
If you cannot click on a link:

Open the App on your device, or go to **www.zoom.us**

Click on 'Join a Meeting'



Put in the Meeting ID followed by the password if required. Hey presto, you are in – just make sure you can be seen and heard – say yes to any camera and microphone requests. Please be aware that a red line through the microphone and/or camera icons (located in the bar at the bottom of the screen) means you won't be seen or heard - see screenshot below. The meeting host may also give you some help and guidance in the meeting if there are issues or problems.



Joining if you can't get online:

You can access Zoom meetings with any phone, you obviously won't have the video element, but you can speak and hear the conversations.

Dial in at the time of the meeting to either: 0330 088 5830 is equivalent to a local call, while 0208 080 6592 is a UK landline number. (See below for information on how these are charged)

Then follow the instruction on the call, you will still need the Meeting ID: as set by the meeting – followed by # Password: if required and as set by the meeting. Personal ID – just put in # During the meeting participants are often muted and unmuted by the host – when a question is wanting to be asked, if participants can raise their hand the host will come to them. To raise your hand on a phone call – key *9

To mute and unmute yourself *6
Joining online is free, but depending on your telephone provider, there may be a charge for calling in.

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

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.



Gardens that give back



There's a growing movement to make your garden much more than just a pretty space. Instead, the push is to turn it into an area that gives something back, to the local community or to the earth. Here's three 'blooming great' ideas to get you started.

1. Food for thought

There's nothing as satisfying as putting your own produce on the table. If you're lucky enough to have a surplus of spuds or spare sprouts, then why not help others by donating to a local food bank? These schemes have become vital lifelines to many people. Fresh produce would be a welcome change from many tinned options that are given out. If you're a nifty cook, then jars of homemade jam, chutney or marmalade would be equally appreciated. If you're not sure where to find your nearest food bank, try the Trussell Trust's searchable map at www.trusselltrust.org

2. Don't hog your garden

It's not just humans who use your garden. Think about how to encourage and nurture wildlife. For instance, the number of hedgehogs in the UK is plummeting

but by creating access spaces between your garden and your neighbours', you can help these prickly animals prosper. Simply cut a hole, about 12cm x 12cm, in the bottom of your fence and the job is done! Other visitors such as toads, frogs, bats and squirrels could all do with a helping hand. The RSPB has an excellent personal planner to help you make your garden more wildlife-friendly at www.rspb.org.uk

3. Plant to provide

When you're deciding which plants to include in your garden, consider the benefits of different varieties. Maybe leave a patch of your garden covered with fast-growing annuals such as poppies which quickly create a mass of flowers, providing food for bees and birds, and much-needed cover for other creatures. Some plants are the favourites of butterflies and other pollinators, such as lavender and buddleia. Don't ignore moths, which are a vital part of the food chain and thought to be in decline in the UK. Choose flowers that release scent in the evenings, like evening primrose, for nocturnal garden visitors. The RHS has lots of advice on its website about what to plant at www.rhs.org.uk



Stopping fake news from going viral

Not everything you see on the internet or social media is true. But how do you spot fake news?

If you use the web or social media to keep up with news and general conversation, then it is vital you know how to separate fact from the made up kind.

If we have the knowledge to discredit false information, then we can ignore it and stop it from going viral, or report it to the social media channel and get it taken out of circulation.

But why? Sharing unverified information or guidance can be very damaging. While fabricated casual opinions or entertainment-related stories might be low-impact, some fake news or hoaxes stir panic, confusion and rumours, which can create real damage, especially when it concerns public health.

How to spot fake news

The BBC suggests seven considerations:

1. **Stop and think.** If you have any doubts, pause and check further before sending on information to others.
2. **Check your source.** Before you forward it on ask some basic questions about where the information comes from. It's a big red flag if it is from a 'friend of a friend'.
3. **Could it be fake?** Appearances can be deceptive. It is possible to impersonate official accounts including the government and BBC.



4. **Unsure whether it's true?** Don't share. Don't forward things on 'just in case' they might be true. You might be doing more harm than good.
5. **Check each fact, individually.** In long lists of advice it's easy to believe everything in them just because you know that one of the tips is true.
6. **Be aware of emotional posts.** Things that make us anxious, angry or joyful tend to be forwarded on in large numbers. Urgent calls for action are designed to ramp up anxiety, so be careful.
7. **Think about biases.** Are you sharing something because you know it's true or because you agree with it? We are more likely to share information that reinforces our existing beliefs.

Read more than just the headline. Be careful what you share. Even if you mean well.

To read more about how to stop the spread of false news, visit

www.sharechecklist.gov.uk



Social distancing doesn't mean no socials...

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

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

*Why not
join in?*

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

Branch Contacts

Nelson Branch

Secretary: Peter Matthews, 6 Eastern Green Road, Coventry CV5 7LH.

Telephone: 024 76471692.

Earl of Craven Branch, Good Intent Branch, Admiral Lord Nelson Branch

Secretary: Matthew Redmond, 17 Alexandra Street, Nuneaton CV11 5RN.

Telephone: 024 77989963

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 14 October 2020

Please note that for this year only the AGM will be conducted by video- conferencing over Zoom. This is due to the current government restrictions on indoor meetings. All members are invited to attend via a Zoom video-conferencing link, which can be obtained by sending an email to jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk.

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

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 Christine on **024 76632900** or email **christine.luckett@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.