



**the**  
**Oddfellows**  
*making friends, helping people*

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# St Marnock News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

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Scotland**  
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*Millport, Isle of Cumbrae*



**Orient Express**



**Millport**



**Easter Eggs Donations**



## Welcome to our latest newsletter, featuring events we have all enjoyed over the last six months

From concerts to museum visits, bus tours and lovely meals, we have all had a fantastic time with Oddfellows friends.

Both Amanda and I have loved organising these events which have been so well supported by you, our members.

It's also amazing to see our coffee events grow in popularity. The true ethos of The Oddfellows is friendship and it's lovely to see people getting together for an informal chat and coffee on a monthly basis.

We are both looking forward to the next six months of events, coffees and friendship.

**Christine and Amanda**

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## Secret Strollers

**Our friendly wee group, Secret Edinburgh with Friends (aka The Secret Strollers!), was out and about in Stockbridge discovering hidden stories from this fascinating wee community. All members are welcome to join friendly tour guides - Robert and Susan - as you discover smaller and more unusual venues and locations in the company of friends.**

These wee hidden gems are too small to be included in our main events programme, but are equally deserving of a visit. So, join this group to find out more about Edinburgh's hidden treasures. All events are free of charge unless an entry fee is required. These trips will include the option to meet up for tea, coffee or lunch.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Amanda Fraser - details on page two.

## St Marnock District Half Yearly Meeting

**St Marnock District Half Yearly Meeting will take place in the Hotel Indigo, 51 - 59 York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JD on Monday 25 September at 2pm. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be served. All welcome.**

**To book your space at our business meeting, please contact Yvonne Rice on 01563 572727 or email [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk)**

# What's been happening in the East of Scotland

**I'm delighted to let you know that the events programme is fully back on track with the reintroduction of our hugely popular bus trips. Now that things are returning to normal, I'm glad to report that we've had a busy six months in Edinburgh with a huge selection of diverse and interesting events. Thanks also to our Books with Friends group and the Secret Strollers for adding even more options to our events programme.**

Our free monthly 'Coffee with Friends' events in the Hotel Indigo continue to go from strength to strength. We enjoy a really warm welcome from the hotel staff and the opportunity to catch up with friends in a lovely venue serving great coffee, and a generous selection of cakes and pastries.

The past six months have offered a wide range of events starting in January with a sell-out event at the Queen Charlotte Rooms. Better known as Edinburgh's own Orient Express, this delightful venue cleverly recreates railway carriages in the style of the



legendary Orient Express train. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their excellent value Afternoon Tea experience on board the train!

Later in January a group headed down to Portobello to enjoy a behind the scenes tour of community co-working space, Tribe Porty. We enjoyed a tour of this busy building which houses offices, event space, the Edinburgh Tool Library and a bike repair shop.



Our first event in February was to be a visit to the new Museum of Fire Heritage. Unfortunately, the museum's opening date was delayed, so this event has been rescheduled for 7 September. We can look forward to a fascinating guided tour of this brand new museum, and the opportunity to catch a glimpse of fire drills in the training yard.

The second event in February was in the Usher Hall where we enjoyed the most wonderful classical music concert featuring the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra





with guest soloist Jennifer Pike. Combined with lunch at favourite restaurant Dine, this was an afternoon to remember. The concert featured music by Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Khachaturian - better known as the theme tune from the Onedin Line!

In March a large group headed to the Edinburgh Hindu Mandir & Cultural Centre. This Hindu Temple is based in a former church. Large enough to accommodate 500 people, the congregation meets once a fortnight and the venue also plays host to cultural and arts activities. We received the warmest

of welcomes before heading for lunch at Bijou Bistro - a fabulous lunch with a highly entertaining host!

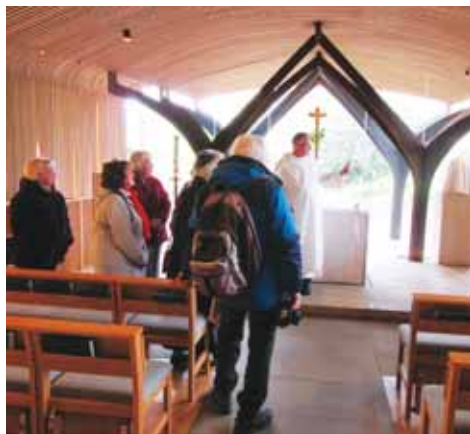
Later in March we met Blue Badge guide Sarah who earned every penny of her fee as she provided us with the most engaging and informative Tall Tales walking tour which included many of the statues forming part of the City landscape. Lunch at Dusit lived up to its reputation as one of the City's best Thai restaurants.



April kicked off with a fish and chips lunch in North Berwick's Rocketeer. This special restaurant was the old Coastguard Station which was converted and now sits in a glass box offering unparalleled views of the Bass Rock and the beautiful sandy beach.

Later in April a small group thoroughly enjoyed visiting St Albert's Chapel in the company of Father Dermot - a Dominican Friar and head of the Catholic Chaplaincy. Constructed in 2012, this stunning award-winning Chapel was built in the Chaplaincy's back garden. It was one of the most beautiful buildings we have had the pleasure of visiting in Edinburgh. Lunch at well-rated Malaysian restaurant Nanyang rounded off the day perfectly.

In May, the sun shone down as we visited Redcroft garden in the company



of charming owner Anna. Redcroft is a mature walled garden surrounding a stunning Arts and Crafts house and one of the gardens open to the public as part of Scotland's Garden Scheme. We enjoyed an exclusive tour in the company of the





owners before heading for lunch at top-rated restaurant - Dine Murrayfield.

The end of May saw a large group head up Calton Hill, home to the City Observatory, the birthplace of astronomy and timekeeping in Edinburgh. It has recently been redeveloped and is now the home of Collective, a contemporary art organisation who present a year-round programme of

exhibitions, walks, and events. Back down at street level, lunch at popular Scottish restaurant Howies was a real treat.

June saw a large group board a bus (for the first of many day trips) and head over to Fife for two fascinating visits - first to Fife Folk Museum in beautiful Ceres, and then on to the wonderful Hill of Tarvit mansion house. This NTS property is fascinating for the record it preserves of Edwardian life both upstairs and downstairs. Lunch at The Press in Cupar was a meal to be remembered with a great atmosphere, good food and enormous portions!

A visit to the Queen's Hall at the end of June was a real treat. We received an incredibly warm welcome from the management team who all turned out to welcome us to their fabulous venue.





A Category A listed, former church, the building opened in 1824, and re-opened as the Queen's Hall in 1979. Our special behind the scenes visit was followed by a delicious bargain lunch at one of Edinburgh's best-rated restaurants, Blonde.

**Amanda Fraser**

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## Birthday Wishes to Two Special Members

**Two of our members recently celebrated special birthdays.**

### Jim Patterson – 80th Birthday

Jim, who lives with his partner, Elenor, in Loans Ayrshire, was 80 in April and celebrated the occasion with some friends from Oddfellows. Jim worked for many years with W.H. Malcolm, the haulage, quarry and ground works company.



Jim's brother, Tom and his wife Janice are also members of Oddfellows. Despite some health issues, Jim has always maintained a wry sense of humour when meeting up with Oddfellow friends on a regular basis.

Congratulations, Jim from all your Oddfellows friends

### Hilda Mair – 100th Birthday

One of our Oddfellows members, Hilda Mair, celebrated 100 years on 25th April. Hilda was overjoyed to receive a card from King Charles to mark the occasion. Family and friends joined her at a party in the care

home where she now resides.

Hilda, originally from Ellesmere Port, moved to Kilmarnock when she met her husband, David. They had two children, Ian and Ann.

When they went to secondary school, Hilda took up a post with J & J Sturrock, now Carruthers, Curdie, Sturrock, Oddfellows' St Marnock office. She rose to Head Cashier before retiring at 65.

She had a fulfilled life, running the Sunday School, Church Badminton Club, Old Folks' Christmas Lunch. Hilda also joined the Kilmarnock Dramatic Society, took up bowls, was a member of the WRVS and was a mainstay of the Kilmarnock 'Meals on Wheels' initiative, well into her eighties.

Many congratulations, Hilda, on accomplishing so much in your life.





## Oddfellows' Easter Egg Donation to Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity



Our generous members brought Easter eggs along to our March coffee event to donate to Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, located within The Queen Elizabeth hospital. The Charity fundraise to ensure that every baby, child and young person treated at Scotland's

largest children's hospital receives the extra special care they deserve.

We donated more than 30 Easter eggs which were given to the children in hospital and their siblings. We received a lovely letter from the Charity, thanking members for their kindness.

### REFER A FRIEND

## Share the love and make someone smile

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



\*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers).

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# What's been happening in the West of Scotland

## January

### The Elvis Years - Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Members joined the audience in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall for an outstanding performance of The Elvis Years. The West End production was fabulous and had the audience singing and dancing! It was just what we needed on a cold January evening!



## February

### Glasgow City Sightseeing Tour and Lunch in Di Maggio's

The 90 minute open topped bus tour covered all the famous landmarks in the city centre, which is steeped in history. It was hugely informative and we all learned

so much we didn't know about the history of the city. Following the tour, members enjoyed a delicious lunch in Di Maggio's. Members then had the option to pick up the tour again for the remainder of the day.



## March

### Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery– Tour and Lunch

Twenty six members enjoyed a tour of Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, followed by lunch in the café. The tour guide informed members of the history of the Museum and advised of the most interesting exhibits to visit.

The highlight of the day was the Organ Recital – 30 minutes of wonderful, well known classics, with the unexpected finale of ‘Sweet Caroline’ which left the audience feeling uplifted.





## April

### Orient Express Experience, Queen Charlotte Rooms, Edinburgh



This was a fantastic day! The quality of the afternoon tea was exceptional, as was the service and value for money.



The room was designed around the Orient Express, with the sound of the train and background music to give diners a taste of what it might be like on the real Orient Express. This will definitely be an event we will be running again in the near future.

## May



### Tour of Dumfries House with Lunch, Followed by Visit to Royal Troon

Another great day out. Members joined a Glentons' tour to Dumfries House in the week leading up to the Coronation, which made it extra special.

We were given a tour of the House by an extremely knowledgeable guide who showed us the various grand rooms and the Chippendale furniture, the value of which ran into millions alone.

We were then treated to lunch in a private dining area in the House which added to the enjoyment of the day.

Following the visit, we headed to Troon where members visited shops, cafes and the beach before heading back to Glasgow.

## June

### Millport – Cumbræ Gin Distillery and Nardini's

We set sail for Millport on a gloriously hot, sunny day. Some members toured the Cumbræ Gin Distillery and enjoyed hearing the story of how five ladies from around the world decided to open a distillery on the island. Everyone on the tour rated it first class, especially as they were able to sample the very pleasant gin! Another event we will repeat in the future.

We then headed back to Largs to the famous Art Deco, Nardini's, where we enjoyed a traditional fish tea.



# 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 Yvonne Rice on **01563 572727** or email [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@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@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

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

## Care and Welfare Helpline

**Call 0800 0149 822**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

**Email:** [care@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:care@oddfellows.co.uk)

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

**Visit our website page at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

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## Annual conference returns to Eastbourne



*Conducting important business in Eastbourne.*

The May sun shone on the south coast as members from up and down the UK converged on the seaside town for the Society's annual conference. A highlight in the Oddfellows' calendar, the Annual Movable Conference (AMC) is a chance for members to catch up, reflect on the previous year, and discuss and vote on how the Society is run, as well as welcome the new Grand Master (Chairman) – Vale of York's Barbara Needham.

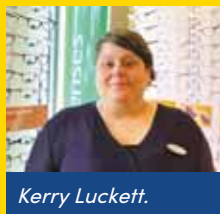
Hosted by Brighton and Sussex Oddfellows, there were a number of social activities in the schedule too. Before business got underway, members and the public were treated to another fantastic performance by Oddfellows Brass – a high point for many each year. Other events held throughout the week included the black and white-themed welcome evening, a church service where remembrance wreaths were laid, a day trip to Rye, a bowls tournament, and the Farewell Dance.



*Members enjoyed the Roy Harmer Bowls Tournament.*

## Apprenticeship Educational Award Winner

**Kerry Luckett, from Coventry Godiva Oddfellows, has been chosen as the latest recipient of an Oddfellows Apprenticeship Educational Award.**



*Kerry Luckett.*

the classroom elements of her Optical Assistant course with Specsavers.

The Oddfellows has been backing its members who choose to undertake an apprenticeship since 2017 by providing selected applicants with a £250 non-refundable grant to go towards their studies.

Kerry, who says she is “very honoured” to have received the award, will use the money to buy a new laptop to help with

**Find out more about the Educational Awards by visiting**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards)

# Five stars shone at the 2023 Making a Difference Awards

This year we were privileged to recognise five of our wonderful members with a Making a Difference Award during a ceremony at our annual conference.



## Sue Davies Cleveland and Durham Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

This award recognises Sue's embodiment of the ethos of the Society. She joined the Oddfellows after her husband died in 2004, and within just three months of becoming a member she had already volunteered to write the Branch's newsletter.



Sue went on to organise a popular luncheon club and has helped out at a variety of other social events and on the Committee of Management.

"Oddfellows has been a lifeline to me because I have made so many new friends since joining. I have had so many new experiences and learned so much," said Sue.

"With the Oddfellows, you are never alone for long. You are made welcome at any event."

## Keith and Margaret Glanville Derby Derwent Valley Achieving Together

With more than 120 years of membership between them, husband and wife, Keith



and Margaret Glanville, topped the 'Achieving Together' category for their team effort to significantly improve the lives of other members and make their Branch and the Society the best they can be.

Both have served in various roles at the Derby Derwent Valley Branch, from volunteering to both becoming Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) – Keith twice!

Margaret described how they enjoy what they do and they were both in "absolute disbelief" when they found out. Keith added: "I've been around the block a bit and I wouldn't have missed Oddfellowship for the world."

## Karen Dyke Thames and Kennet Giving a Helping Hand

Branch Secretary at Thames and Kennet, Karen frequently goes way beyond the role's expectations. She is also a welfare visitor, providing a friendly face while checking in on fellow members, often in her own time.

She is also known to give members lifts to appointments and hospital visits, and is always just a phone call away if she is needed.

Karen described working for the Oddfellows as "more than just a job", adding: "You can do a nine-to-five but for me it's more than that. It's about making my members happy and being there when they need me."



## Marilyn Hayward Thames and Kennet Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Marilyn's contributions to the running of Thames and Kennet Branch's social events.



Marilyn moved to Reading from Sidcup to be closer to her son when her husband died, which she described as a "big step to make".

After trying a number of social groups without much success, she then discovered the Oddfellows.

She said: "I've tried to make people feel welcome and let them know that we want to see them again. That often doesn't happen at other places. You feel like you belong here."

**CEO of the Oddfellows, Jane Nelson, said: "Congratulations to all this year's winners – each of you are shining examples to us all and we are lucky to have you. The contributions you have made are invaluable to the Society and our members."**

**Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2024 awards. To find out more, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).**



# Members updated on HA Andrews Memorial Fund project



*Left to right: Professor Edd James, the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson, Nur Zainal, and Immediate Past Grand Master (Past Chairman) David Ogden.*

**The recipients of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund have described the honour they feel and explained how the Oddfellows' backing is fundamental to what they do.**

Nur Zainal, a PhD student at the University of Southampton whose studies are being sponsored by the Fund, and one of the leaders of the research, Professor Edd James, came to the Society's annual conference in Eastbourne in May to discuss their project's progress.

The first year has been spent teaching Nur the skills she will need to carry out the research. She described the funding as "essential" and said she was honoured to receive the Oddfellows' backing.

Edd added: "Funding is shrinking, so the Oddfellows' ability to have this funding means that we can do these projects.

"This could be a step to going into clinical trials and getting much bigger sources of

funding to then take what Nur identifies and finds out during her PhD to patients and clinics in the future."

In 2022 the Centre for Cancer Immunology was awarded £100,000, which will be split over three years. The research team is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine. If successful, this could profoundly change outcomes for patients with cancer, particularly lung, breast, head and neck, oesophageal and bladder cancers.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund was created in 1971 to honour a remarkable Society Secretary, Herbert Arthur Andrews. It provides financial support over a two or three year period to a UK project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research. To date, thanks to generosity of individuals and Branches, it has donated £1,214,000.



*Nur Zainal addresses AMC.*

**Find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews)**

# East of Scotland - Events Diary

## August

### Friday 25 - Visit to Whitehouse & Grange Bowling Club

Whitehouse & Grange Bowling Club celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. The Clubhouse dates from 1872 with the addition of a mock Tudor storey in 1912 designed by renowned Edinburgh architect Sir George Washington Browne who was also responsible for the Caledonian Hotel and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.



The Club has a rich and fascinating history waiting to be explored. Enjoy a tour of the Rose Garden - replanted in 2021 - and the Clubhouse before we sit down for Strawberry Afternoon Tea. 18a Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AR at 2pm. Cost: Tour - Free, donations welcome. Strawberry Afternoon Tea £10. Please book as soon as possible.

## September - Friendship Month

### Thursday 7 - Visit to the Museum of Fire Heritage

Opening in summer 2023, the museum explores the origins of the world's first municipal service and its evolution to become the world's 4th largest fire service. From the large windows in the museum, you'll be able to view the drills/training yard at McDonald Road Community Fire Station. The museum contains lots of newly acquired artefacts.

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Lunch is at La Casa - a highly-rated Mediterranean restaurant specialising in authentic tapas and mezze. Starts at Museum of Fire Heritage, McDonald Road Fire Station, Edinburgh, EH7 4NS at 11am. Cost: Tour - Free. Lunch £13.95 for two courses. Please book as soon as possible.

### Monday 18 - Day trip to Scottish Antiques & Arts Centre

The Scottish Antique & Arts Centre in Doune offers an unrivalled selection of antiques and collectables which are complimented by carefully chosen contemporary gifts, furniture, home accessories and quality brands of ladies clothing. The result is a unique and fascinating shopping experience.



Situated in Callander, the Hamilton Toy Museum offers the opportunity to step back in time. Five nostalgia fuelled rooms, everything you ever had, everything you ever wanted and everything the kid next door had. We'll enjoy a wonderful three course lunch at the lovely Woodside restaurant in Doune. Starts at 9.30am in Waterloo Place, Edinburgh. Cost: £42 (members), £45 (non members). Please book as soon as possible.

# Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

**All welcome**

**ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



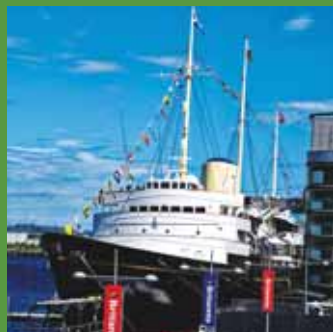
**Make friends with the Oddfellows**



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

## **West of Scotland - Royal Yacht Britannia** **Thursday 17 August, 1pm** **Ocean Drive, Leith,** **Edinburgh EH6 6JJ**

Visit the former Royal Yacht of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, just two miles from Edinburgh's city centre, followed by coffee and cake in the Royal Deck Tea Room. Cost: Admission £18.50. Coffee and cake in Royal Deck Tea Room £10 approximately.



## **September - Friendship Month**

Members will be asked to invite a friend or family member along to our coffee event in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday 26 September at 10.30am.

Potential new members will hear about the many benefits of joining The Oddfellows and will be encouraged to spread the word to their friendship group.

**The West of Scotland Events diary for September 2023 – February 2024 is currently being compiled with many exciting visits to keep us busy over the winter months.**