



the **ODDFELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Spring 2021
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Beds and Bucks News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

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Did you know?



Jigsaws



Spring is coming



Welcome to the latest edition of the Beds and Bucks District Newsletter.

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the Beds and Bucks District Newsletter.

This year, due to the current situation we will not be able to hold a face to face Annual District Meeting. Instead we will be holding a conference call meeting focusing on matters that are most important to the running of the District.

Unfortunately also due to Covid-19 our District Annual Church Service in Thornborough has been postponed. Our Provincial Grand

Master (Chairman) hopes that we can reschedule this for an autumn service and looks forward to welcoming you then.

In this spring edition we catch up with David H Woods who is fundraising for the NHS. I am impressed by David and Sally's efforts, I am sure you will be too.

We have investigated our towns and shared with you some facts you may or may not know about your town and some recipes inspired by your region.

I hope you enjoy this spring edition, stay safe.

Doreen

Who are the Oddfellows?

The Beds and Bucks District are a group of four Branches across Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. Each Branch has a monthly business meeting and as many social events as they can fit in.

Through friendship and social events we help our members to get more enjoyment out of life. With the help of the Unity office in Manchester we offer care and support in times of need. We welcome people of all ages – our youngest member being four months and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk, call on 0800 028 1810, or contact the Branch Secretaries.

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:



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A Message from our Chairman

I would like to wish all our friends and members a happy and healthy New Year.

I do hope that you are keeping well and that the current situation isn't getting you down. I know of some members who are finding this particular lockdown difficult, I would like to say to them my thoughts are with you. If you are struggling we are still here for you, our Lodges have welfare officers who will do their best to help whatever the reason.

I have had my vaccination, I hope that you have too or have had an indication of when you will receive it. In Buckingham our vaccination centre is in the community centre. I was impressed by how efficient

it was run and staff and volunteers were marvellous in their dealings with people.

In our District we have so much to be thankful for, we live in a fabulous part of the country and if we don't have a garden we are not so far away from a park or a walk in our glorious countryside. Fresh air is a huge mood booster, don your hats, gloves and coats and enjoy your local area.

I am looking forward to when we can meet and hold events again. I hope it will be sooner rather than later. In the meantime remember Hands, Face and Space.

Stay safe my friends.

Michael F McStraw

Some interesting and perhaps unknown facts about Buckingham, Wellingborough, Bedford and Hitchin. I have also added some recipes from around these regions for you to try.

Did you know?

Buckingham

That some of Buckingham's leading residents had friends in high places. The Fowlers were Henry VII's hosts when he visited Buckingham and the same family also entertained Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife, in 1513. Catherine is an important figure in Buckingham's history; a devotional crucifix, which is supposed to have belonged to her, can still be seen in Buckingham's Old Gaol Museum.



Buckingham Old Gaol



St Rumbold's Well

That tucked away on the western side of Buckingham town is the site of a medieval holy well, St Rumbold's Well. St Rumbold, born back in 650AD, was a Saxon infant saint who was reputed to have lived only three days and performed many miracles in that short time.

Buckinghamshire Bacon Badger

Serves 8-10

Ingredients

400g bacon lardons
2 Maris Piper potatoes
1 large onion
200g self-raising flour
90g shredded beef suet
1 handful each of fresh
parsley, sage and thyme
1 tbsp milk
Black pepper
Kitchen string

Method

In a frying pan, dry fry the bacon lardons for 10 minutes until crispy. Remove with a slotted spoon onto a plate lined with kitchen roll, and leave to cool. Slice the potato into thin, small batons, and chop onion finely. Sift the flour into a mixing bowl, mix in the suet and season with pepper. Add 100ml cold water to the mixture very gradually, mixing well as you go, until it is a sticky dough.

On a clean, floured surface, roll the pastry out to A4, then transfer to a



greased piece of greaseproof paper, 10cm larger than the pastry. Sprinkle with the cooled lardons, onion and potato, then chop the parsley, sage and thyme and sprinkle on top. Roll up into a long log, sealing at the ends, then wrap in the greaseproof paper. Wrap this again in a clean tea towel and tie up the ends with kitchen string. Steam over a large saucepan of boiling water in a steamer or metal colander for one hour and 30 minutes. Unwrap the roll from the tea towel and the paper, then transfer to a greased flat baking tin. Brush the milk over the pastry and bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/gas mark 4 for 25 minutes. Serve with salad and pickles.

Did you know?

Hitchin

That St Mary's Church in Hitchin, is the largest parish church in Hertfordshire and the tower dates back to 1190. It is linked with the 8th century king of Mercia King Offa and it has been suggested that he founded a church on the same site.

That Butts Close is so called because it was supposedly an archery ground in medieval times. The 11 acre park is located just outside the town centre between Bedford Road and Fishponds Road.



St Mary's Church Hitchin

Hertfordshire Oven Scones

Ingredients

10 oz (283g) flour
1 tsp sugar
4 tbsp butter
4 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
Cream and water (or milk)

Method

Sift flour salt, baking powder and sugar into a basin. Rub butter thoroughly but lightly, into dry ingredients.

Stir in enough rich milk or half cream to make a soft dough (scarcely stiff enough to roll out). Turn on to a floured pastry board or surface. Roll to a quarter of an inch (1cm) thickness. Cut into rounds.



Bake on a hot greased baking-sheet in the oven at Gas 8, 230°C, 450°F for 10 - 12 minutes. Whisk ¼ pint (150ml) whipping cream until stiff.

Cut open the warm scones and spread with cream and jam. Sandwich together and serve.

Did you know?

Wellingborough

That Wellingborough is an Anglo-Saxon origin settlement, however some archaeological findings and historical records shed light upon it being prehistoric and also populated by Roman civilisation.

It was originally named 'Wendelingburgh' (the stronghold of Wændel's people), the



These Silver Belles greet you as you enter Wellingborough on the A509.

Anglo-Saxon settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Wendelburie'.

That Wellingborough is surrounded by five wells: Redwell, Hemmingwell, Witche's Well, Lady's Well and Whytewell, which appear on its coat of arms.



Croyland Hall, Wellingborough

Northamptonshire Cheesecake

Ingredients

- ½ lb ounces shortcrust pastry
- 6 oz curds or cream cheese
- 2 oz butter
- 2 eggs
- 3 oz caster sugar
- 4 oz currants
- 1 finely grated lemon, rind of
- 1/4 tsp almond extract
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg, for dusting



Method

Roll out the pastry use to line 14 to 16 lightly greased patty tins. Set oven

to 350°F or mark 4. Beat the curd or cheese until smooth.

Put the butter, eggs and sugar in a saucepan and heat gently, stirring, until thickened, but do not allow to boil! Remove from the heat and stir in the curd or cheese, then add the currants, lemon rind and almond essence. Combine well and fill the tins.

Sprinkle a little nutmeg over each and bake for 20 to 25 minutes until well risen and golden.

Did you know?

Bedford

That in 1660 John Bunyan was imprisoned for 12 years in Bedford Gaol. It was here that he wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which is regarded as one of the most significant works of religious



Town Bridge built in 1811/13 as you drive into Bedford town centre.

literature. That Bedford Castle was built after 1100 by Henry I and that Henry III besieged the castle in 1224 following a disagreement with Falkes de Breaute.



The Faces erected in December 2009 to represent the diversity of ethnic backgrounds in the town and its links with brick and lace

Did you know...

... that it is no mean thing to be one of the Judges of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice.

There is no other single post open to a commoner in which he/she receives the honours due to royalty; by virtue of which he/she is summoned to attend Coronations, the opening of Parliament, the opening of the Legal Year and other State functions; from which cannot be dismissed except by resolution of both Houses of Parliament, unless perhaps for serious misbehaviour. There is an old story which emphasizes in what

a real sense a judge represents his/her Sovereign.

At Liverpool in the late 19th century two judges, Mr Justice Huddleston and Mr Justice Manisty, were at an official banquet. When the Queen's health was proposed, Manisty stood up with the rest of the guests. His companion, it is said, did not rise, but tugged the other's sleeve, whispering, 'Sit down, Manisty, you old fool! We are the Queen.' Now you know.

By Rosa Munoz

Bedfordshire Clanger

Ingredients

2 tbsp vegetable oil
 2 onions, finely chopped
 500g beef skirt, chopped
 1 tin beef consommé (stock)
 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
 2-3 ripe pears, peeled, cored and roughly chopped
 Salt and pepper to taste
 For the pastry
 300g-350g self raising flour
 1 tsp salt
 85g shredded beef suet
 60g butter, chilled and coarsely grated
 1 free-range egg
 150ml water

Method

Make the meaty bit of the filling: heat half the vegetable oil in a large heavy-based frying pan and gently cook the onions for two to three minutes until soft and translucent. Remove from the pan and put to one side.

Heat the pan again over a high heat, add the rest of the vegetable oil, season with salt and pepper to taste and add the chopped meat. Cook over a high heat for 3-4 minutes, turning, until evenly browned. Remove the meat from the pan and mix with the onions.

Add the stock to the pan together with the Worcestershire sauce, and boil until you have only two to three tablespoons

left, then add the meat and onions back to the pan and cook over a high heat until the sauce has reduced until it is just coating the meat. Remove from heat and keep warm.

Preheat the oven to 200°C/Gas 6.

Meanwhile, make the pastry: mix the flour, salt, suet and grated butter with your fingers into a fine breadcrumb-like consistency. Mix in about 150-160ml water and the beaten egg to form a smooth dough and knead.

Next, spoon the meat filling in one half and the pear into the other, using a little piece of moulded spare pastry to separate the two in the centre. Roll the pastry over into a large sausage roll shape, place on a lightly greased or non-stick baking tray.

Bake for 45 minutes, or until the pastry is golden.



Jigsaws



Regular readers of our newsletter may recall that Grenville Branch held a monthly jigsaw puzzle bring, buy and swap at our local library. Sadly because of the current pandemic situation we are unable to raise funds or provide this service to the local community.

This got us wondering as to what kind of jigsaw puzzles our friends and members were doing to keep themselves occupied and if they were able to swap with friends and family.

Chris and Tom Hammerton from the Bedford branch shared their jigsaw story. “We thought we would send you this photo of the jigsaw that kept Tom occupied for a couple of weeks in the first Lockdown.

It was one of my Christmas presents last year but we didn’t get round to it until we ‘found’ it again during a clear-out! Tom found it very challenging but he soldiered on and got it finished! A real triumph!

We have had some jigsaws in our Community Bookshare and they are always snapped up quickly.”

Bedford Lodge secretary Amanda Buckmaster told us that “I got this Beatles jigsaw this year for Christmas and am quite enjoying it at the moment, although I have to limit how long I sit and do it.



The poolside jigsaw I thought looked cool but the tiles were a pain to do. I have done it twice with help from my husband.”



Amanda added that “I have also swapped jigsaws with three neighbours so that has helped give us all a variety of puzzles”.

Pat Flynn from Bedford Branch who regularly supplied jigsaws to Grenville Branch’s jigsaw bring, buy and swap, shared her jigsaw puzzle lockdown thoughts.

“I have enjoyed doing Jigsaw puzzles for more years than I care to remember, when I was young there was a trend for puzzles which depicted the Royal family and I have recollections of puzzles for the coronation, royal weddings and even christenings. We used to do these as a family.

Over the years things change and puzzles ceased to become so interesting but in the periods like now when you are on your own and forced to stay home, they are a great source of enjoyment for many reasons. They keep the mind working and you need to concentrate and they help to keep the fingers agile. You can do them and listen to the radio you can do them when you have the TV on and the programme does not demand your full attention. My biggest problem is that when I start a puzzle, I have great difficulty in passing it without stopping to “just add another piece”.

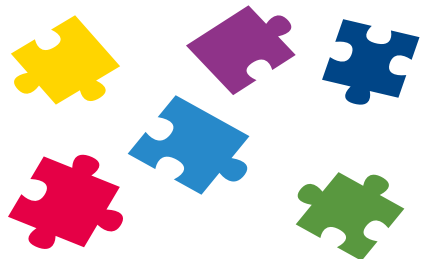
During the past year I have done many puzzles, I started off doing all the ones I had on the shelf and then looking for a new supplier, not easy in the first lockdown when everything was closed, so I search the internet and found “The Yorkshire Jigsaw Co “. They have proved

to be an excellent source and I recommend them (other companies are available).

My sister and I have used them regularly and we swap puzzles. I enjoy most of the “Gibson Puzzles” some are more challenging than others and their artists work is to a high standard. House of Puzzles with all the different shape pieces can be both frustrating and fun. I have noticed that more and more puzzles are coming from abroad with weird and wonderful designs though I am not sure whether or not I will try them. I need to like the picture before I start.

I would recommend the following titles for you to try from the Gibson range, - Norwich Market, Romance on the River, Wheelbarrows and Wellies and to really test you try Castle Cutaway. House of Puzzles Mountain Rescue was a challenge and the Pedlar man great fun. A good seasonal puzzle was Falcon’s Christmas in York, a picture of Christmas in the early 1900’s.

I hope I’ve given you some ideas for puzzles, but lets all hope it’s not too long before we can put them back on the shelf and get out and about again”.



Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

Christine and David Saunders from Grenville Branch sent these photos of jigsaws that have been keeping them busy during lockdown.

This is a jigsaw puzzle box cover



This is the jigsaw



This one was twice as difficult when getting over flu (flu jab didn't cover this particular strain!)



This would have made a lovely picture if there wasn't 3 pieces missing!



In the Sams' house we often have a jigsaw puzzle on the go. A few years ago Rob bought me this architect drawing board to elevate our puzzles while we do them. I can now stand or sit for longer periods as I found that looking down on a jigsaw puzzle hurt my neck.



Like Amanda at Bedford Branch, we tackled a Beatles puzzle.



Spring is coming

Tim Harvey, Grenville Branch



Spring is on its way so lets be positive and start preparing by deciding what to grow.

The seeds are in the shops! Now is a good time to buy seed potatoes and set them upright in egg boxes in daylight to chit so they will establish quicker once planted. Onion sets and shallots can go in as soon as the ground is fit. Broad beans start in February. These are mine, they were sown in November.



First week in February I start sowing seed of lettuce, cabbage and some bedding plants. All will be done in pots in small quantities so I can have a succession of crops. Into the greenhouse beds will go carrots, radish and spring onions. The trailing geraniums are ready to take cutting from for hanging baskets.

So keep well and look to the future.

Building an Archive of Oddfellows Memories

Stuart Delvin has called for some memories – Oddfellows or otherwise – that could be recorded for posterity. Can he tempt you to write in with your memories? If you think you have an interesting tale to tell, we'd love to hear from you. You

can email doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk, perhaps including interesting old photos for publication. I look forward to receiving your responses!

David's Growing Plants for the NHS



In the last edition it was reported that Victoria Branch member David H Woods from Woodford, near Kettering, has been growing plants, since the first lockdown, to raise donations to help the NHS. He has now raised £3,434.87.

David has always had a keen interest in gardening, just like his late father and grandmother. Last year David grew plants from seed for local people in return for donations to help the NHS.

He grew all sorts of bedding plants, tomatoes, runner and broad beans, prepared hanging baskets and planted containers and supplied ready to eat home grown tomatoes, runner beans, apples, plums and fresh dug potatoes. One of David's specialities is bunches of fresh cut sweet peas. David's sister, Sally Reynolds, also supplied him with lots of home grown French beans which were snapped up as soon as they were placed on the stall.





His venture has become a ‘community’ project, with locals supplying him with pots, trays and even compost, and he has a Facebook group which has kept everyone interested in gardening. This includes daily posts of what is available on the stall on his drive, progress photos and videos from the greenhouses, weekend photo competitions and all sorts of gardening tips and advice.

At the end of last year David’s sister gave the donations a great boost by making over 50 Seasonal Wreaths, which added



£750 to his running total. Sally worked hard in her spare time to keep up with the many requests for wreaths.

Take a look at and join David’s page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158400812212160>. There’s a link on the page if you wish to support him raising donations to help the NHS.

The stall goes out every day and David has started to do ‘live’ posting, except Tuesday and Thursday when he says “if the day starts with a ‘T’ he is closed for tea”, but he probably isn’t resting, just growing lots more plants.

Penfellows[©]

Find a new Penfriend with the Oddfellows

Did you enjoy writing to a penfriend? Penfellows[©] is for members who would like to rekindle those feelings and memories and help you to make new friends with other Oddfellows members. To find your new penpal, simply write a short note about yourself and email

it to Doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk. Your profile should be up to 120 words. This great new service is confidential and your details will not be released without your permission. Use this email address as a first step to contacting other Penfellows[©].

More on Home Schooling

1. My mother taught me about **Behaviour Modification** "Stop acting like your father!".
2. My father taught me about **Envy** "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do".
3. My father taught me about **Anticipation** "Just you wait until we get home".
4. My mother taught me about **Receiving** "You are going to get it from your father when you get home".
5. My father taught me about **Humour** "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes don't come running to me".
6. My mother taught me **Wisdom** "When you get to my age, you'll understand".
7. My mother taught me about **Genetics** "You're just like your father".
8. My father taught me about **Justice** "One day you'll have kids and I hope they turnout just like you".

Call My Bluff

By Paul Fitton

Four possible meanings for the phrase *bucolic inference* from Paul's four guests. However, only one is telling the truth! Who is right? Answer on page 27.

Joss Stick

This phrase can be defined quite easily. It's indigestion.

Homer Lone

It's a reference to the pleasant aspect of the countryside and country life

Pearl Nicklaus

No! Surely it's a reference to the plague? Go with me on this.

Justin Thyme

Well I've been waiting for a long time for my turn with these word games. Now I have my chance, I can safely tell you that it's a reference to igneous rock formed by solidification at considerable depth beneath the earth's surface and its effects on the heat of the planet. A more popular term now associated with global warming.

Who Said That?

By Paul Fitton

Here's a series of catchphrases for you to identify. Taken from television, cinema and stage, with whom do you associate each of the following catchphrases? The answers are on 27.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Get this bus out of here, Butler! | 12. Exterminate! |
| 2. Who loves ya baby? | 13. D'oh! |
| 3. Hello my darlings! | 14. I have a cunning plan |
| 4. Fab-u-LOUS! | 15. You rang? |
| 5. Yabba-dabba-do! | 16. The truth is out there |
| 6. Ooh! You are awful... | 17. Book 'em Danno |
| 7. Cheap as chips | 18. Wakey, Waaay-kay! |
| 8. Here's looking at you kid | 19. To the Batmobile |
| 9. (Shrill whistle). Everybody out | 20. It's a cracker! |
| 10. Can you hear me mother? | |
| 11. Go ahead... make my day | |

I bet that you read them just like they're said!































Sudoku

Answers on page 27.

	4	3				1		
8			9				4	
2		9			3	6		
		6	7	1			3	5
		7		8	4	9		
					9	7	8	
7			2			5	1	
	9		4	5	1			6
		2		3				4

Can you name these logos?

Answers on page 27.

				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
				
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
				
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
				
16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
				
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
				
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.



Social distancing can still be social

**Your guide to online events you can enjoy
from the comfort of your own home**

March – May 2021

Social restrictions have meant that our usual face-to-face events had to be suspended, but that doesn't mean we can't get together! Our network of 121 Branches are running a huge variety of nationwide online events, and everybody is welcome to join – no matter where in the country you are.

This guide lists the current regular and featured events available for you to attend.

Not attended an online event yet – you don't even need to be on the internet? Need help? Check out our 'How to' overleaf...

How to join a Zoom event for the first time

You will need a device that is connected to the internet with a camera and microphone (most computers, laptops, smart phones and tablets have them). Don't worry if you don't have these, you can still join an event using your landline phone – you'll be able to hear and speak to everyone but not see them. Here's some simple steps to help get you started.

1. Connecting to Zoom via an app or website

You can download the free Zoom app from your app store – once you've 'signed in' and set up a password you'll be ready to start. Alternatively you can connect to Zoom via

www.zoom.us – just click on 'Join a Meeting' and enter the 'Meeting ID'.

2. Using the 'Meeting ID' to join an event

The 'Meeting ID' is a unique set of numbers listed with the event information in this leaflet – you need to enter these once you've logged onto Zoom (either via the app or website). For some events you may have to pre-register with the event organiser and/or enter a 'Passcode'.



3. Getting your audio and video settings right

When prompted, make sure your video and audio is on – if you see a red line through the microphone and/or camera icons, click on them to activate otherwise you won't be seen or heard!

4. Joining an event with a landline phone

You can use your landline to phone into an event – there is a charge, (please check your operator for details), but the standard rate number is **0330 0885830**. You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID number followed by # and may also be asked for a Passcode followed by # . For additional information on how to join meetings, here's a few useful links:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-joining-a-meeting>

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/trafford/how-to-use-zoom-for-the-first-time.pdf>

Monthly events

Frequency/time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
1st Mon 2pm	Prize winning Quiz	460 928 7642	1810	karen.pye-smith@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Mon 11am	Coffee in the virtual Potting Shed	848 9002 1785	493398	valerie.ashcroft@oddfellows.co.uk
4th Mon 4pm	Zingo Bingo	542 724 7603	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Brainiest Brain Fun Quiz	231 522 2288	1810	judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Word Games and Chat	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 2pm	Busy Fingers, Crafts and Coffee	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 4pm	Beetle Drive	542 724 7603	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk

Weekly events

Below are events that occur every week – for a full description visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events and type “online” in the location search box or contact the local organiser listed.

Time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
Monday				
10.30am	Online Games - All Welcome	950 0863 2889	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Chi Gung	824 6194 4085	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Monday Music & Musing	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Monday Games Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
Tuesday				
4pm	Art, Talks, Fun and games	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Fun quiz open to all	869 8507 8184	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
Wednesday				
11am	National Coffee Morning	988 3920 7187	-	peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Fun and Games	980 885 9304	-	andrew.spencer@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Fun quiz open to all	854 769 23503	-	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
Thursday				
10.30am	Coffee Morning	949 4131 7445	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
11am	Easy Zumba Gold	9468 1625 757	PRE-REG*	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Oddfellows Fun Thursdays	988 3920 7187	-	events@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Quiz Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
Friday				
2pm	The Weekend Starts Here!	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Friday Fun and Games	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk
Saturday				
11am	Fun, Quiz and Games	894 5983 8236		peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
Sunday				
5pm	Facebook Live @ 5 Quiz	www.facebook.com/Oddfellowslpswich		wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk

***please contact the event organiser to register in advance of the event**

2nd Tues	7.30pm	Games, quizzes and more	860 2803 8495	-	dawn.taylor@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Wed	2.30pm	Nationwide Quiz	852 9201 2067	1810	syd.goodwin@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	2pm	Sing Along	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	7pm	Talks from Tunbridge Wells	688 663 8622	1810	karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk
1st and 3rd Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd and 4th Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	845 7787 3384	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
Last Fri	10.30am	Corona Club Coffee Morning	231 522 2288	1810	judith.cotton@oddfellows.co.uk
Last Sat	5pm	Saturday Sing Along	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Sat	7pm	Saturday Night Fun	460 928 7642	1810	karen.pye-smith@oddfellows.co.uk

Featured events

Featured events are usually one-offs – they may be repeated but not necessarily weekly or monthly. As with the other listed events, you can find out more about them via www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or by contacting the event organiser.

Date/Time and Event		Meeting ID	Code	Contact
March				
2	4pm My Family & other Famous People Pt 1	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
3	2pm Remember the 70's	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
3	7pm How Science actually works	897 4265 3274		sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
4	7pm Chef to Four Prime Ministers	894 5983 8236		peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
5	2pm From Slave Girl to Heiress	910 7968 6020	1810	jackie.lancaster@oddfellows.co.uk
10	2pm Lesser Known Brontes	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
12	2pm The Mystery of Cleopatra	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
17	2pm The Victorian Photographer	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
19	2pm Edith Cavell	By Request		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
23	4pm My Family & other Famous People Pt 2	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
26	2pm Food and Drink Quiz	910 7968 6020	1810	jackie.lancaster@oddfellows.co.uk

April

2	2pm Marie Curie Charity	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
9	2pm The Great Unwatched - Bob Sinfield	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
13	4pm The Carry on Films and their Stars	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
14	2pm The Contrast of China	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
16	2pm RSPB	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
21	2pm Sing Along	896 1081 9201		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
23	2pm Scientific Errors - Ian Hutt	By Request	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
28	2pm Discovering Family History	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
30	2pm The History of Morris Dancing	979 6004 8870		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk

May

4	4pm Eric Sykes – What a Life!	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
5	2pm And So To Ted	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
7	2pm Dead and Breakfast - Bob Sinfield	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
11	4pm From Phil Silvers to Sergeant Bilko	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
14	2pm Sinatra	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
19	2pm Sing Along	896 1081 9201		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk

***please contact the event organiser to register in advance of the event**

More online events are added every week!

If you'd like the latest online event listing, email your Secretary or Social Organiser with the subject line 'Please send the online events list'. You can also receive the latest Oddfellows news straight to your inbox. Just make sure your Branch Secretary has your up-to-date email address or call our Membership team to check on **0800 028 1810**. You can opt out at any time by contacting your Branch Secretary or unsubscribe@oddfellows.co.uk. We'll never share your details with any third party without your consent.

Oddfellows spirit shines throughout Friendship Month 2020

Friendship Month looked very different this year, with many of our events held online, or restricted to a maximum of six people meeting face-to-face. However, we couldn't be more proud of the way that the Oddfellows spirit shone through, as we once again celebrated the power of friendship.

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



We saw Branches organising COVID-secure walks and outdoor picnics, making the most of the last bit of sunshine. Lots of Branches also turned their hands to organising virtual

events, Zooming across the country to link up with members and guests all over the UK! We've picked out a selection of our favourite pictures from September, to share with you a little warmth and happiness during these cold and difficult days. We know how important face-to-face events are to our members and as soon as Branches are able to safely hold these again, we will let you know.

If you have any pictures from an Oddfellows event that you'd like to share with us, feel free to tag us in them on Facebook! We're at www.facebook.com/OddfellowsUK



Ipswich Oddfellows celebrate the launch of a new Friendly Bench, Boston and Lincoln Oddfellows plant some seeds of friendship with their potted plants, Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows host a picnic in the park, Stockport and Combermere Oddfellows network with a Zoom guest talk from local radio stars and Bradford Oddfellows enjoy a stroll along the canal.

A year like no other...

2020 has been a year unlike any I've experienced before. In March, we entered our first lockdown. Among many others, it placed restrictions on how we could spend time with friends and family, make visits to loved ones in hospitals and care homes, and even how we all earn our living.

Most devastatingly, many people were held back from saying a proper, supported farewell to those friends and family members who passed. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost someone special in the recent months. I know from personal experience how difficult it is, so if you need any comfort or help please remember to lean on us.

Coming together

It's human nature to come together in a time of crisis – to squeeze a hand, to offer a shoulder to cry on, to hug, or to simply sit side-by-side. However, despite it all, we are finding ways around things, as best we can. Nothing will ever stop us resourceful Oddfellows from giving comfort and support to each other and those in desperate need.

This year, I've witnessed compassion and human kindness on a scale I've never known within the Society before, and this has really lifted me on my difficult days.



Being there for each other

I hope that if you needed help this year, you received it. I know that the staff and volunteers in our Branches have worked flat out to make sure members know they have someone to turn to. They've made thousands of calls and sent thousands of emails to check in with members and see if any help is needed. This has meant that many members were able to access critical food and medical supplies, as well as financial and emotional support. So, if anything is troubling you, please make sure you get in touch.

Keeping spirits lifted

I've seen some incredible innovation to keep spirits lifted and people connected. We'd only hosted a few online events here and there before 2020, but we're now broadcasting talks, quizzes, and even fitness sessions, straight into people's front rooms almost daily. I know online

events won't ever replace getting together in person, but they're a wonderful way to make sure we can still keep in touch, safely. I do hope you try one if you haven't already. I've also been kept in the loop on so many unexpected acts of kindness from members and Branches, such as quizzes and puzzles being posted through letterboxes, and afternoon tea hampers and flowers being dropped off on members' doorsteps. Such small gestures make a huge difference to people, so if there is anything you can do to keep this going, then please do. Kindness is infectious.

Helping others

Oddfellows have always looked further than their own front door when it comes to charitable giving, and this year was no exception. In spring, a nationwide appeal to raise critical funds for The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust resulted in a donation of £19,210. It helped some of those hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. £7,600 was also raised and sent overseas to help Australian people to rebuild their lives following the 2019/2020 bushfires.

We know there have been countless other examples of charitable giving made by members and Branches this year, so thank you for helping where you can, and being wonderful ambassadors for our Society. I would also like to give a special mention to this year's four Making a Difference Award winners, members Margaret Wells, Barry Bedford, Bruce Nicole and our youngest to date,

seven-year-old Effie Bowman. Our Society is powered by the hard work and selflessness of such wonderful members. Huge congratulations to them and all who were nominated. Shortlisting these awards is such a difficult task, but it's an absolute joy to know that we have so many members out there living and breathing our motto of friendship, love and truth.

A truly special family

Looking forward to 2021, please try and stay positive. We have news of a vaccine, and therefore hope that we can be back together again, and that we can resume our daily lives with less fear, difficulty and uncertainty.

I've always known this, but the events of 2020 have confirmed just how caring, supportive, generous, friendly, and resourceful our Oddfellows family is. I am immensely proud to be a member of something so incredibly special and purposeful. I do hope you feel the same. Please accept my very warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Until we're all able to meet together freely again, let's stay in touch. We're always here if you need us.

Take care, stay safe and stay well.
Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows

Lupus research pushes through pandemic

2020 has seen our second instalment of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund given to the research team at the Lupus Trust. The £28,000 donation supports the day to day running of the team, which includes Bekki Velounias, who is currently working towards completing her PhD through her research with the Lupus Trust.

The team is looking into what causes the breakdown of certain cells, triggering the autoimmune reaction in lupus. Throughout lockdown, the team managed to avoid too many significant setbacks, working in the lab when they could, and analysing huge datasets when national lockdown was enforced.



Member of Ware Branch, Paul, has lupus and inspired our decision to support the Lupus Trust over 3 years.

Professor Jo Spencer, from the Lupus Trust, says, “Bekki has been a fantastic addition to the research team, and her commitment to pushing forward with work throughout lockdown has been commendable. We’re pleased with how the research is progressing in the face of so many difficulties.”

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says, “We’re so pleased to hear that the research has been able to move forward despite social restrictions. It’s been a difficult year for many, and this research is needed more than ever.”

If you would like to find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, please visit the ‘Giving Back’ section of our website.



Professor Jo Spencer with Bekki Velounias and our very large cheque!

Answers to the Who Said That? (Catchphrases) on page 17

1. Inspector Blakey
2. Kojak
3. Charlie Drake
4. Craig Revel-Horwood
5. Fred Flintstone
6. Dick Emery
7. David Dickinson
8. Humphrey Bogart
9. Miriam Karlin
10. Sandy Powell
11. Harry Callahan played by Clint Eastwood in the Dirty Harry series of films
12. The Daleks
13. Homer Simpson
14. Baldrick
15. Lurch
16. Mulder or Simpson (The X-Files)
17. Steve McGarrett (Hawaii Five-0)
18. Billy Cotton
19. Batman
20. Comedian Frank Carson.

Answer to the Call my Bluff on page 16

The second answer is correct. Homer Lone said correctly that bubolic inference is a reference to the pleasant aspect of the countryside and country life.

Sudoku on page 17

6	4	3	8	7	5	1	2	9
8	1	5	9	2	6	3	4	7
2	7	9	1	4	3	6	5	8
9	8	6	7	1	2	4	3	5
5	2	7	3	8	4	9	6	1
4	3	1	5	6	9	7	8	2
7	6	4	2	9	8	5	1	3
3	9	8	4	5	1	2	7	6
1	5	2	6	3	7	8	9	4

Can you name these logos on page 18

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. British Heart Foundation | 12. Hallmark Cards | 23. Ellesse |
| 2. Ferrari | 13. Le Coq Sportif | 24. NBC - National Broadcasting (USA) |
| 3. Lloyds Bank | 14. Subaru | 25. Burger King |
| 4. Alfa Romeo | 15. Bank of America | 26. Cancer Research |
| 5. Nationwide | 16. ING Bank | 27. Arsenal Football Club |
| 6. Barclays Bank | 17. Aston Villa Football Club | 28. Playstation |
| 7. Tottenham Hotspur | 18. Premier League Football | 29. British Medical Association |
| 8. Raleigh Bikes | 19. Dodge Viper | 30. BAFTA's - British Academy of Film and Television |
| 9. UK Space Agency | 20. Toblerone | |
| 10. Bedford Blues Rugby Club | 21. Shell | |
| 11. Bentley Cars | 22. Brighton and Hove Albion | |

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 Doreen on **01280 822399** or email **doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
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