

February - July 2019  
Issue 10



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**Everyone Welcome - Deeside District - Croeso i Bawb**



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz

# Welcome to the latest edition of your Deeside Out and About

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. As my time in office comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the year. In particular I would like to thank the Management Team for their support and hard work throughout the year.

We continue to have a varied social programme providing something for everyone. We have had quizzes, bingo, dine outs, talks, walks, and a few trips out as well. These events are always enjoyed and are well attended. We look forward to another fun and entertaining programme of events in 2019. Many events are not just for members so please invite your family and friends along as well. We always welcome new ideas and suggestions so please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any.

Our Annual Conference in Llandudno was very successful with several of our members attending to either work or attend as visitors. My thanks to them all. This year's Conference will be held in Southport which, is quite local to us.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for giving me the privilege of being

## Office Opening Hours

Monday and Tuesday  
9am - 4.30pm

Wednesday - Closed

Thursday 9am - 4pm

Friday 9am - 2pm

(Answer phone available)

your District Chairman (Provincial Grand Master) for a second time. I would like to welcome Kevin Blackler as your District Chairman Elect (Provincial Grand Master Elect), and I am sure you will all join me in congratulating him. I look forward to his installation in February and wish him a successful and enjoyable year in office.

**Tracey Edwards**  
**District Chairman**  
**(Provincial Grand Master)**



*Kevin Blackler*  
*District Chairman Elect*  
*(Provincial Grand Master Elect)*

# Regular Events

Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street,  
Saltney, Chester CH4 8SG.

## Coffee Mornings

Every  
Thursday



10.30am



50p per person  
for refreshments

No need to book,  
just pop in.  
Everyone welcome.



## Contact Details

For more details on any of the  
events listed contact

**Secretary and Social Organiser**  
Denise Turner

# 01244 675757

Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street,  
Saltney, (Near Chester),  
Flintshire CH4 8SG

### Email:

denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk

### Website:

www.oddfellows.co.uk

For more information about  
membership and the wide range  
of benefits please call

# 0800 028 1810

Visit our Facebook page  
at [www.facebook.com/  
OddfellowsDeeside](http://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsDeeside)



## Scrabble Morning

Every  
Tuesday



10am



50p per person  
for refreshments

Open to non-  
members so bring  
your friends along  
as well. Friendly  
games, beginners  
welcome. No need  
to book, just turn up on the day.  
Tea, coffee and biscuits available.



## Baby and Toddlers Play Session

Every  
Tuesday



10am



£1 per session  
refreshments available.

We have a baby and  
toddlers play  
session running  
weekly. Pop along  
to meet new people  
and enjoy a coffee  
and a chat.



## Llandudno Coffee Morning

New  
Every Tuesday



Come and join us  
for our regular  
get together at the Links Hotel,  
Llandudno 11am. It's a perfect  
opportunity to socialise and make  
new friends. If you've never been  
to one of our events before, this  
is a great opportunity to come  
and find out what we are all  
about. Please feel free to pop in,  
everyone is most welcome.

# February 2019

WED  
**13**

## Lunch Meet Up



12.30pm



As per menu



Meet up lunch, come and join us at Goodwin's Bar and Restaurant in Upton Grange, Chester. Good traditional food with good company. If you would like to join us please let us know by Monday 11 February so we can arrange seating for us all to be together. Goodwins Bar and Restaurant, Upton Grange Chester CH2 1BL.



THURS  
**14**

## Valentine Coffee Morning



10.30am



Members 50p,  
Guests £1



Come and join us on this special day and wear something red. Starts 10.30am until 12 noon. No need to book, just pop in. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.



THURS  
**14**

## Healthy Heart Walk



12 noon



Free



Following on from the Valentines themed coffee morning we will be holding a healthy heart walk around the city walls in Chester. The city walls consist of a defensive structure built almost 2000 years ago to protect the City of Chester. They are the oldest, longest and most complete walls in Britain. The walk is approximately two miles taking in views of this historic city. There will be plenty of opportunity to have a relaxing coffee afterwards. Please let us know if you would like to join us as we will meet at Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.



To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)

# February 2019 March

SAT

23

## Annual Meeting and Buffet



2.15pm



Free



Come and join us for our Annual District Meeting. We report on all matters relating to the District including the finances. We conclude with the installation of the new District Chairman (Provincial Grand Master) This is a chance to see the historical side of the Society in action. Contributions of food towards the buffet will be gratefully received. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

## March

THURS

07

## Pancake Day Coffee Morning



10.30am



See below



Come and join us for a flipping good time! Pancakes with various toppings or bring your own.



Enjoy good company and a tasty pancake. Everyone welcome. No need to book, just pop in. Cost: Drinks 50p for members £1 for guests, pancakes £1. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

SAT

16

## Annual Dinner and Dance



6.30pm



£25



Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held at Farfield Hall. The evening is to



honour our new District Chairman (Provincial Grand Master) Kevin Blackler. Guest speaker will be the (CEO) Secretary of the Order Jane Nelson. Entertainment provided by Alan Murray. Menu available on request. Booking and full payment essential by Thursday 28 February 2019. Farfield Hall, Garthorpe Avenue, Connah's Quay, Flintshire CH5 4AP.

MON

18

## Branch Meeting with Refreshments



7.30pm



Free



The Branch Meeting commences at 7.30pm and follows a standard agenda. We will also install our new Branch Officers. To celebrate this event we will have some nice refreshments afterwards and there is a raffle. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)



# March

## TUES 19 Coffee Morning and Llandudno Lunch



12 noon



Following on from the Coffee Morning we are staying at the Links Hotel for lunch. They have a lovely selection of meals from light bites, daily specials to pub classics. Something there for everyone. Please book so we can all sit together. Book by Tuesday 5 March 2019. The Links Hotel, 77 Conway Road, Llandudno LL30 1PN. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530.

## THURS 21 Wirral Dine Out



7pm



Want to enjoy a relaxing evening amongst friends with good food. Why not join us? Everyone welcome. Bassett Hound, Thingwall, Wirral. Booking essential by Thursday 7 March. 107 Barnston Road, Thingwall, Wirral CH61 1AS.



# April

## SAT 13 Friendship Walking Group and Lunch at Northwich



10am



We will be holding a country walk in Marbury Park Cheshire. Meet in the Car Park (parking charges apply) and have a gentle stroll through the splendid woodlands and enjoy the views across Butterworth Mere. Afterwards we will head to the Spinner and Bergamot Inn at Comberbach, Northwich for lunch. Booking essential by Thursday 4 April 2019. Marbury Country Park, Marbury Lane, Marbury, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6AT.



To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)

# April

MON  
15

## Branch Meeting



Why not keep up to date with what is happening and come along to the Branch Meeting. The meeting follows a standard agenda with traditional ritual. Everyone welcome to observe or even participate if you wish. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

MON  
15

## Easter Social Night



To celebrate Easter we are going hopping mad with a Bunny themed Beetle Drive. Easter refreshments. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.



THURS  
18

## Easter Themed Coffee Morning



Come along and join in our Easter Themed coffee morning. Easter bonnet parade or decorate an egg. Prizes for the best bonnet and egg. Easter refreshments. Fun for all. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.



# May

THURS  
09

## Evening Dine Out Chester



Set on the banks of the Shropshire Union Canal, the Canaletto restaurant at The Mill Hotel, Milton Street, Chester CH1 3NF. It is a very popular venue for some fine evening dining. In addition the daily fixed price Table d'hôte menu they offer a fantastic range of dishes including steaks, pasta dishes, salads and burgers from the Chef's Grill Menu. Their menus change daily so they cater for all tastes. Please book by Friday 26 April so we can all sit together.



To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)

# May

THURS  
**16**

## Ploughman's Lunch with Musical Entertainment



11am



Members £7,  
Guests £10



Come and join us for a Ploughman's lunch and musical entertainment from Alan Murray. Music for all tastes. Booking essential. Book by Thursday 2 May 2019. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

MON  
**20**

## Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Why not keep up to date with what is happening and come along to the Branch Meeting before the monthly social? The meeting follows a standard agenda with traditional ritual. Everyone welcome to observe or even participate if you wish. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

MON  
**20**

## Social Evening



8.15pm



Member £1,  
Guests £1.50



Come and join Ann and Wendy for a pleasant evening's entertainment followed by strawberry scones. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

All  
welcome

## The Oddfellows Brass Band in concert

**Saturday 26 May 2019, 3pm**

**Southport Floral Theatre and  
Convention Centre, Promenade,  
Southport PR9 0DZ.**

Come along and enjoy  
popular classics performed  
by the Oddfellows Brass Band.

**Tickets: Free**  
(licensed bar available)

For more information contact  
Denise on **01244 675757**  
**[denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)**



**To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)**



# June

WED  
**05**

## Walk on The Wirral Way



11am



Free



This is a terrific walk that runs alongside a pleasant traffic-free path through the Wirral Countryside and along the coastal estuary of the River Dee. There are several places to start your walk. We will meet at Hooton Station and walk towards the old Station at Willaston. We can then branch off to stop for refreshments. Please let us know if you would like to join us. Hooton Station, Hooton Road, Wirral CH66 7NL.

MON  
**17**

## Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Why not keep up to date with what is happening and come along to the Branch meeting before the monthly social? The meeting follows a standard agenda with traditional ritual. Everyone welcome to observe or even participate if you wish. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

MON  
**17**

## Social Quiz



8.15pm



£1



Come and join us for a quiz and good company. Get the grey matter working! In the break enjoy a tea or coffee. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

THURS  
**13**

## Llandudno Summer Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



We are celebrating summer with a lunch at Home Cookin', a family run restaurant. It offers traditional home cooking, with a wide selection of dishes from their menu. Book by Thursday 6 June 2019. Home Cookin', 139 Mostyn Street, Llandudno LL30 2PE. Contact Gordon on 01492 515530 or Denise on 01244 675757.



To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)

# June

THURS  
**20**

## Bowls and Buffet at Crowton



The Woodhouse Lodge based around Northwich have invited us to join them at their Annual Bowls Match. It is open to everyone from Beginners to the more experienced bowler. Please wear flat shoes, spare bowls available. There will be a raffle and prizes for the winning bowlers. Please book by Friday 7 June. Crowton Village Hall, Kingsley Road, Crowton CW8 2RW.

# July

WED  
**10**

## Canal Trip and Afternoon Tea



12.30pm



See below



Do you fancy a scenic and historic experience in North Wales? If you do, why not join us as we board a canal boat in Trefor at 2pm for a two hour return trip crossing the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct twice whilst enjoying a lovely tea of sandwiches, scones and cakes. Places on the boat are limited to 20, so please book early. There will be a mini bus from Saltney, places limited to 12 people. Cost: £20 for canal trip with tea or £25 for canal trip with tea and bus. Please book boat/bus with full payment by Friday 7 June 2019. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

# July

MON  
**15**

## District Meeting and Buffet



7.30pm



Free



This meeting takes a brief look at the accounts with a short presentation of reports by the Committee of Management. Members are invited to contribute a plate of food for the buffet and there will be a raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 65 High Street, Saltney, Nr Chester, Flintshire CH4 8SG.

THURS  
**18**

## Dine Out Wirral



7pm



As per menu



No.1 Mostyn Square, Mostyn Square, Parkgate, Wirral CH64 6SL, on the historic parade at Parkgate with views across the Dee marshes to North Wales. It brings the experience of Modern British flavours delivered in a relaxed atmosphere. Uncompromising quality, excellent service and good, fresh food - all in a fabulous setting - make this the place to be, for classy yet casual dining with friends. Please book, so we all sit together, by Thursday 4 July 2019.



To book call 01244 675757 or email [denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk)



## Midland Group Conference Annual Quiz

**Sunday 5 August was the date set for the Midland Group Conference Annual Quiz, and, even though Deeside was the host District, having won the quiz last year, Stafford District agreed to hold it at their Oddfellows Hall which is more central for the other Districts attending.**

We had six members taking part; one team of four and the two remaining members who were joined by two members from Derby. Once again, Deeside's Team of four won and so we retain the shield for a further 12 months. The winning team consisted of husband and wife Meirion and Tracey Edwards together with Tracey's father and uncle, Michael Powell and Stephen Powell, Congratulations and very well done.

### Share the love

## Help your friends get more out of life...

**Why not invite them to become an Oddfellow? The more you refer that join, the greater rewards you'll receive – starting with a £10 Love2shop voucher.\***

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

#### **Terms and conditions apply\***

The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers).

# National Memorial Arboretum Visit

**Following our trip to the Arboretum I asked some of our members for their comments and here is what they had to say:**

On Wednesday 4 July, some of our Oddfellows members had a pleasant trip to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. On a beautiful, hot summer's day, it was a poignant and thought-provoking visit to this wonderful tribute to some 16,000 Armed Forces Personnel who have lost their lives since the end of the Second World War. These personnel are commemorated at the Armed Forces Memorial, a magnificent structure dominating the site, but there are 350 other memorials, some civilian, some military scattered all over the vast arboretum.

To save our weary legs, we took advantage of the Land Train, where we had a commentary and guidance of the other memorials. You could also have a tour on a buggy or have a guided walk around the grounds. I popped into the chapel, where they hold daily Acts of Remembrance including a two minutes silence. There are also numerous talks on different subjects at other times of the day. There are an amazing 30,000 trees at the Arboretum. I found the Armed Forces Memorial exceptionally interesting when one of the volunteers explained

in detail the significance of the statues and the inscriptions on the walls.

Some of us were able to walk round after our train ride to view in more detail those memorials that interested us. Others took advantage of a wander around the lovely gift shop and bought some souvenirs. There was a delightful restaurant serving a good range of food and drink and also a coffee shop, although I didn't visit this personally.

I would thoroughly recommend the Arboretum to anyone, whether they have a personal connection with a loved one remembered or just out of respect and admiration for what has been achieved since the idea first began in 1988.

**Estelle Roberts**





On Wednesday the 4 July I made the journey with other friends to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. It was a hot day and I knew little about the 150-acre site I was about to visit. As a Quaker, and an anti war person, and a medical person, you may be surprised that I decided to visit this collection of memorials to those who have lost their lives in circumstances of war.

It was the thought that there is so much more to war than we ever realize, and that it involves so many people's lives, that prompted me to investigate this site. I had never fully realized just how many regiments we had in the country, and just how many people supported those men and women who also give their lives to support and protect our country. Thank you to the Deeside District for organizing this trip, it was my first with them, and I look forward to other events they may organize. I also thank Denise for looking after us all.

**Iris Webster**

Not having seen the memorial to the Royal Engineers on the road train trip I asked at the desk for directions, which were basically "Walk three-quarters of the way around the building site and you'll come to it," so I did and found four enormous boulders each on four 'legs'. On my return from the memorial I felt I had to mention to the very helpful man that it seemed very appropriate that the Royal Engineers memorial was in the middle of a building site. His reply was "I hadn't thought of it like that!" On the way to that memorial I passed one to the War Widows, which was all roses, some smelling 'as roses used to smell' and one to children – white roses and white flowers. Not a stone or carving in sight, none needed, the signs said it all.

By the way, the significance of the Royal Engineers memorial? My late husband, Tony, was in the Royal Engineers when we were first married.

**Lynda Bantock**



**Many thanks to you all for your comments, they were much appreciated.**  
**Editor**





# The Russian Experience

By Stella Carson

## **How do you begin to describe the indescribable?**

When my son called to say that he had found cheap flights and accommodation to Moscow and St. Petersburg we all said 'yes, lets do it'. We applied for our visas and soon we were on our way to Russia.

The second we came off the plane having just said our thanks to the captain and crew, my wheelchair awaited with a porter in tow. He took charge of everything from there on, even to the point of taking us right through the spotlessly clean airport to our bus which was outside of the airport, and putting the chair on the bus for us! Although 'tips' aren't expected, he deserved it. He had three children and I'm sure it was appreciated. It certainly was a great help to us!

Moscow is such a beautiful city, with an architecture, so different from anything I had ever seen, absolutely exquisite! We bought a rail card and were able to travel all over Moscow very cheaply. People on trains and buses in fact all transport, give up their seats for you if you are elderly, infirm or pregnant.

There isn't a scrap of litter to be seen anywhere. When I showed a picture of a train station to a friend, she thought it was the inside of a palace! Each station has its own theme and it is all done in marble, quite a feat of engineering to say the least.

Surprisingly, we didn't expect to find English signs alongside the Russian ones but we did. On the trains the announcements were made in Russian and English. Wherever we went we found people friendly and helpful. If you were looking over a map they would come and offer help.

McDonald's, KFC and Subway fast food chains were populated by the young as is the case all over the world. One father of a young boy said 'that although his son enjoyed the food it was only on rare occasions that he was allowed to have it.' We didn't see any signs of obesity on our travels and wondered if it was just a matter of time!

Moscow was fascinating, St Basil's the beautifully turreted building, built by the order of 'Ivan the Terrible' is really worth visiting, not only beautiful on the outside



but really interesting and informative. Within each turret, is a church of various denominations. Red Square with its famous Russian leader Lenin, lying 'In State' was also worth visiting although quite formidable with its sombre atmosphere.

We were lucky to see Moscow so exquisitely lit up at night, with its tastefully decorated Christmas decorations. The buildings of importance were also lit. Had we visited in the Summer we wouldn't have experienced this as in the summer it stays light until 11 and 12 at night.

After Moscow we were on our way to St Petersburg known as the 'fairytale city' A city rich in architectural beauty, canals, palaces, rivers and parks. One of my sons, a history teacher, was able to research so much information on this. If we did not have this to hand, we could have missed out on so much.



We saw where Dostoyevsky, Chekov, Solzhenitsyn, Karl Marx, Shostakovitch Prokofiev and others lived, and before where Rasputin was murdered and the outstanding beauty of the palaces where the Tsars ruled from.



The Russians lost 22 million people in WW11 and seeing the monuments to the soldiers and their families makes you realize the utter futility of war with its consequences of lasting heartbreak and sadness.

Listening to the 'buskers' playing the wonderful Balalaikas was an unexpected treat for us especially when they played 'O Sole O Mio.' Elvis controversially recorded the song, 'It's now or never' to the same tune and outraged its classical audience at the time. I personally, think he made a great job of it!, But then I loved Elvis!

We completely fell in love with both Moscow and St. Petersburg. When someone asked the question 'Why on earth would you want to go to Russia? I should have replied... Why not? For its wonderful ballet, its amazing beauty, its long loved and well read authors. One young man said ' You really must visit the theatre whilst you are here' Sadly we didn't have enough time to do so... now there's a good excuse to go back again!

There's a saying that 'no one loves poetry like a Russian' Go and see for yourself it's a work of art!



## Deganwy to Llandudno Walk

### By Olwen Bellis

**On Thursday 30 August I arranged a walk for members of the Deeside Lodge and their friends, which would start at Deganwy, a small town to the left of the West Shore of Llandudnoin North Wales. A mini bus picked us up at our Hall in Saltney at 10am and took us to Deganwy, about a 45 minute drive away.**

There were fifteen of us on the bus – seventeen with our great driver Eddie and his friend - and we also met another three of our members at Deganwy Station as they lived near to the venue. Fortunately the weather was sunny but not too warm.

We were a mixed bunch of walkers, the oldest being around 76 and the youngest was Joseph aged five. We began at about 11am, walking along the coastal path of Conwy Bay which has recently been re-surfaced. On our left we were able to see the beautiful views running alongside the Conwy Strait with all the boats sailing up and down towards Conwy and to the sea.

A little further along we came to the sandy pathway which is always kept neat and tidy with bushes and shingle on either side. Some of the walkers were quicker than others and went ahead of the ‘slow coaches’.

This turned out well for the faster walkers who were able to enjoy coffee and a chat at the very pleasant blue cafe situated on the west beach. The slower walkers soon caught up. Everyone commented on the beautiful scenery, weather and the venue.

Up to that point the walk had covered about a mile and a half. After spending about half an hour in the cafe or on the patio outside, Eddie arrived with the mini bus to pick up those walkers who felt they had gone far enough, and drove them down to the shore of Llandudno.

The enthusiastic walkers who felt they could walk further (about five of us), continued on the West Shore beach before turning right and “mountaineering” up the pathway leading along the inside of the Great Orme, from where we were able to enjoy the spectacular views.

We continued strolling along to the Halfrey Gardens and then followed the pathway which led us towards Llandudno pier where we all (the short walkers and the long walkers) met up in the bar lounge of the Grand Hotel for a drink and a snack. I asked our driver, Eddie who picked us up outside the Grand Hotel at about 2.30pm if he would drive us home again by going through Rhos on Sea, another lovely seaside town, which he was only too pleased to agree to.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day out, and we have been talking about it ever since. Perhaps we can arrange another outing next year and take a trip to the top of the Great Orme on the mountain railway instead of a walking day out. There is also a cable car which runs to the top of the Orme in good weather. Alternatively you can drive to the top at no charge, but avoid going around the Orme as a way to get up there as there is a toll fee if you go that way. The facilities and the views from the summit are truly spectacular.

## Congratulations

**Deeside members Gordon and Katherine Hinett celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary in style by renewing their wedding vows. The ceremony took place in Llandudno Town Hall on Saturday 15 September and was attended by some 30 guests including family members and friends, several of whom were fellow members of our District.**

Following the ceremony everyone adjourned to the nearby Servicemen's Club for refreshments. Many congratulations to you both and best wishes for the next 25.



*Mary Schiavone (Kath's Mum)  
Kath and Gordon*





# 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 Denise on **01244 675757** or email **denise.turner@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](mailto: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](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**



**This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.**

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.

**Jane Nelson, CEO**



# Members of Distinction

**Whether through the old Portraits Scheme, or the recently launched Making a Difference Award – we love to recognise and celebrate members who go over-and-above in their support of the Society and its work.**

So thank you to three of Portraits 2018's final winners Gerald, Miriam and Adrian for everything you do for the Oddfellows. We appreciate it.



*Gerald Gordon Baxter  
Nene and Welland District*

**Meet Gerald, member of the Nene and Welland District, who was singled out for his long-standing support to the Society at many different levels – from local Branch through to International Conference.**

Some of Gerald's notable positions held over his seven decades as an Oddfellow include Noble Grand and Vice Grand

for his Branch, Provincial Grand Master for his District, 28 years' service as a District and Branch Trustee, as well as Past President (1988-1989) at East Anglia Group Conference.

Reflecting on his 71-year relationship with the Oddfellows, Gerald shared: "I liked the idea of what Oddfellowship stood for – Friendship, Love and Truth.

"We all need friends that we can turn to when we need them. There are times when we all need support and the Oddfellows has been there for me and my family."



*Miriam Witcomb  
Heart of England District*

**The Oddfellows is very fortunate to have people such as Miriam in its membership. She embodies the Society's humanitarian spirit through her commitment to helping others.**



Since joining in her 40s, Miriam has served as Noble Grand for Leigh and Knightly Branch, as well as Heart of England District Oddfellows Club President and Trustee.

However, what sets Miriam apart is her devotion to fundraising and volunteering. Year-round, she knits items to sell and organises regular tombolas to raise money for her Provincial Grand Master's chosen charities.

For over 20 years, she has provided fellow members with care and support in their times of need as Branch Welfare Officer.

In the words of her District Committee of Management, Miriam is 'a much loved member'. And as a Society, we couldn't agree more!

**Introduced to the Oddfellows by his father at age 16, Adrian's constant energy has kept him incredibly busy and active in his District and regional group conference.**

Since 2006, he has been a member of Beds and Bucks District Committee of Management, in which he serves as Trustee and second-time Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was during his tenure as Provincial Grand Master in 2009 that his career reached new heights – as he undertook a charity indoor skydive for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Other appreciated contributions include his time as Past Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands, Midland Group



*Adrian Taylor  
Beds and Bucks District*

Conference President and, while studying at university in Birmingham, attendance at monthly Branch meetings and District annual meetings.

Speaking about his time with the Oddfellows, he explained: "It provides excellent opportunities to be able to meet people at home and overseas. An example of this is when I travelled around Australia and New Zealand and visited Lodges in Brisbane and Wellington."

**Well done and thank you to all our members who've featured as portraits over the years. We can't wait to continue celebrating members who go the extra mile in supporting our Society through a Making A Difference Award. To nominate a member for 2019, contact your Branch Secretary for an application form.**



# On your marks, get set, parkrun

**There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.**

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk) and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer [www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events)



# Oddfellows Summer Holiday

**Discover the best of  
Hampshire's Coastline with  
Oddfellows members and  
friends at the Sinah Warren  
Coastal Hotel.**

Situated on Hayling  
Island, Sinah Warren is a  
large, comfortable hotel  
surrounded by elegant  
gardens and spectacular  
view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:  
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course  
evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from only  
£280 per person**

With evening entertainment,  
activities and use of leisure facilities.

**Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel,  
Ferry Road, Hayling Island,  
Hampshire, PO11 0BZ**

**To book call Warner's on 0330 1009 772**

(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS

# Deeside events - at a glance

In addition to our weekly Thursday Coffee Mornings, Weekly Tuesday Scrabble and Weekly Baby and Toddler Group (for more information see page 3)

## February 2019

<b>Wed 13</b>	Lunch Meet Up	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Valentine Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Healthy Heart Walk	12 noon
<b>Sat 23</b>	Annual Meeting and Buffet	2.15pm

## March

<b>Thurs 7</b>	Pancake Day Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sat 16</b>	Annual Dinner and Dance	6.30pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Wirral Dine Out	7pm

## April

<b>Sat 13</b>	Friendship Walking Group and Lunch at Northwich	10am
<b>Mon 15</b>	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Mon 15</b>	Easter Social Night	8.15pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Easter Themed Coffee Morning	10.30am

## May

<b>Thurs 9</b>	Evening Dine Out Chester	7pm
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Ploughman's Lunch with Musical Entertainment	11am
<b>Mon 20</b>	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Social Event	8.15pm
<b>Sun 26</b>	Brass Band Concert in Southport	3pm

## June

<b>Wed 5</b>	Walk on The Wirral Way	11am
<b>Mon 17</b>	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Mon 17</b>	Social Quiz	8.15pm
<b>Thurs 20</b>	Bowls and Buffet at Crowton	6pm

## July

<b>Weds 10</b>	Canal Trip and Afternoon Tea	12.30pm
<b>Mon 15</b>	District Meeting and Buffet	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Dine Out Wirral	7pm

# Llandudno events - at a glance

In addition to our Llandudno Coffee Morning every Tuesday (for more information see page 3)

## March

<b>Tues 19</b>	Llandudno Lunch	12 noon
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## June

<b>Thurs 13</b>	Llandudno Summer Lunch	12.30pm
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