

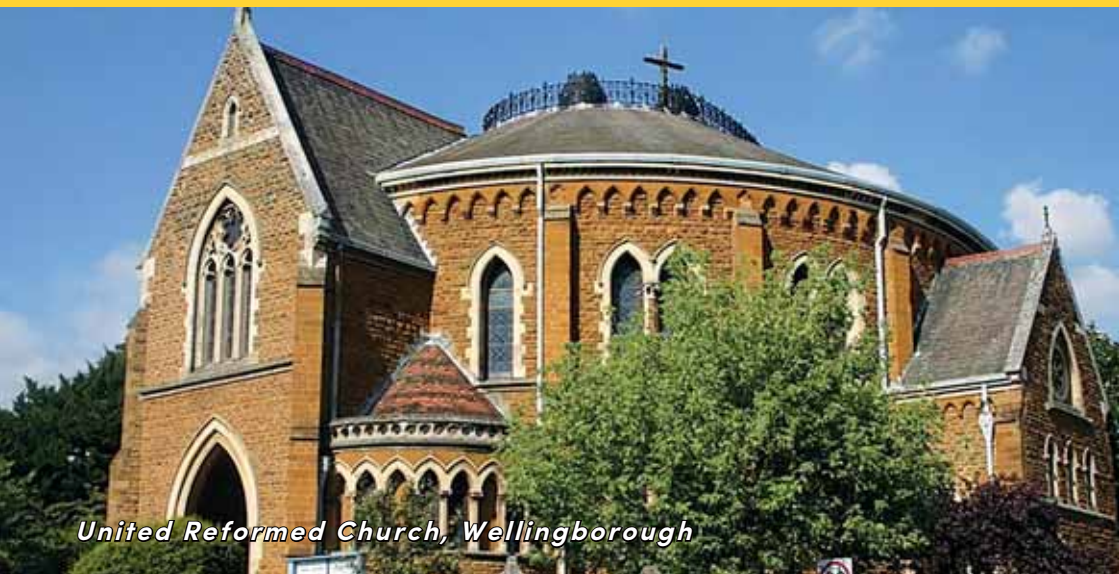
September - December 2019
Autumn Issue



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

out & about

Making friends across Beds and Bucks District



United Reformed Church, Wellingborough



Travel



Social



Games



Dining Out



Music



Talks



Quizzes



Tasting Event



Walk



Theatre



Meeting



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea

www.oddfellows.co.uk



OddfellowsBedfordshireBuckinghamshire



Remembrance Day Parade – Sunday 10 November

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

Regular readers will know me as the Branch Secretary for Grenville, a post I still hold. In July, I was also appointed the District Secretary after the post became vacant. The District Secretary and the Branch Secretary roles are very different, and I look forward to the challenge that lays ahead.

In September we celebrate our 10th anniversary of Friendship Month. Branches in the Beds and Bucks District have geared up to celebrate and, have organised a range of events, we hope that you will join us and make this friendship month the best yet.

As I write this, we are heading for our second heatwave of the summer! So I feel

I am a bit ahead of myself when I think about the Christmas meals that have been arranged. Spaces are usually limited so if you are thinking of joining us at one of these celebratory meals please let the Branch Secretary know as soon as possible.



You are invited to every event in this diary even if you are not a member. Oddfellows are a friendly society and a warm welcome awaits you regardless if you are a member or not at any of our events.

Hope to see you soon

Doreen

Who are the Oddfellows?

The Beds and Bucks District is a group of four Branches across Bedfordshire, Buckingham, 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 every one of all ages – our youngest member being four months and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call on 0800 028 1810 or the Branch Secretaries.

Front cover: United Reformed Church, Wellingborough by Bn11andy and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

Branch Contacts

District Secretary: Doreen Sams

116 Pillow Way, Buckingham, MK18 7RQ.

Telephone: 07707 818001 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Bedford Loyal Bedford Branch



Contact the Office

The office can be contacted on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

Telephone: 01234 768914 **Email:** pat.flynn@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday each month at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB at 7.45pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Buckingham Loyal Grenville Branch



Secretary: Doreen Sams

116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ.

Telephone: 01280 822399 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the first Monday each month at Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP at 7pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Hitchin Loyal Albert Branch



Secretary: Helen Lindsey

8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP

Telephone: 01462 432321 **Email:** helen.lindsey@oddfellows.co.uk.

The Branch meets at 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Wellingborough Loyal Victoria Branch



Secretary: Emily Ellis

19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL.

Telephone: 01933 228538 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

The Branch meets at 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL on the second Monday of each month. We commence at 7.30pm with a short business meeting followed by an activity. The Branch also meets on one afternoon each month depending on the members choice of activity. If you would like to come along or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary. A warm welcome awaits you.

Key: The coloured dates relate to our four Branches, see page 3 for details.

September 2019

MON 02 Grenville Branch Meeting and Talk on Thimbles



7pm



Free



Monthly business meeting.

Afterwards we are delighted to invite Phyllis to share with us her hobby

of collecting thimbles. All welcome, refreshments will be served.

Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



MON 09 Victoria Branch Meeting Guest Speakers from The Daylight Centre



7.30pm



Free



Short business meeting followed by a presentation from the guys from The Daylight Centre, a local charity. Refreshments will be served and the normal monthly raffle. Georges Dreams, 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES 03 Friendship Coffee Morning and Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles



10am



Free



Join members for our friendship coffee morning. We will also be hosting our bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles. We will credit you 50p for your old puzzle when you buy another. All money raised will be donated to charity. We would love for you to come along. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Celebrating 10 years



September 2019

THURS 12 **Friendship Month Dinner**



7.30pm



TBC



The Albert Branch Friendship Month Dinner. Book by Sunday 1 September. The Plume of Feathers, Upper Green, Ickleford, Hitchin SG5 3YB. Contact Helen on 07707 699513 or 01462 432321.

MON 16 **Albert Branch Meeting**



7.30pm



Free



Come and join us for our short business meeting. Oddfellows Hall, 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Helen on 07707 699513.

THURS 12 **Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire**



11am



See below



Harcourt Arboretum boasts some impressive collections of trees including Acers and Conifers. Autumn always brings some spectacular colours so come along to enjoy the sight. Cost: Tickets: Adults £5.45, children under 16 free. Harcourt Arboretum, Oxford Branch, Peacock Gate, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford OX44 9PX. Contact Paul on 07761 250654.

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WED 18 **Social Outing to Gates Garden Centre in Oakham**



10am



Free



Join the Victoria Branch for a wonder around this lovely location. Meeting around 11.15am, the Wellibus will be picking up from The Gladstone in Finedon at 10am then from Georges Dreams in Wellingborough. Returning around 3pm. There is a £2 charge for the use of the bus. Book by Wednesday 11 September. Gates Garden Centre, Somerby Road, Cold Overton, Oakham LE15 7QB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

September 2019

WED
18

Friendship Lunch at The Cock Hotel



12 noon



As per
menu



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Celebrating 10 years



Join members at this 15th century hotel in Stony Stratford. The restaurant area is traditionally set but comfortable. Booking required. Book by Friday 13 September. The Cock Hotel, 72-74 High Street, Stony Stratford MK11 1AH. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

THURS
26

Trip to Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood



1pm



Free



The Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood is the UK's National Museum of Childhood and the largest institution of its kind in the world, so why not join us to explore the collections and rekindle fond memories of growing up. Victoria and Albert Museum Of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA. Contact Paul on 07761 250654.

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SAT
21

Lunch at Tavistock



12.30pm



£7.50



Lunch at the Tavistock. Book by Saturday 7 September. The Tavistock, 117 Tavistock Street, Bedford MK40 2SB. Contact Maureen on 01234 266440.



September 2019

THURS
26

River Trip on the John Bunyan Community Boat



2pm



£12



Join the members and friends of the Bedford Branch for a trip down the Great Ouse from Bedford to Cardington Refreshment by prior arrangement. Book by Thursday 12 September. Sovereigns Quay, Bedford MK40 1TE. Contact the Bedford Office to book on 01234 768914.

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SAT
28

Friendship Month Dinner



7pm



£15



Join friends and members of the Victoria Branch for a social evening at The Overstone Manor. Meet at 7pm for a drink and to share a meal. Costs are hard to predict as it will depend on if you order carvery or from the menu. Please let Emily know if you are coming so we can make sure we have enough tables!

Book by Saturday 21 September. Overstone Manor, Ecton Road, Sywell, Northampton NN6 0BB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



October

TUES
01

Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles



10am



Free



Love Jigsaw Puzzles? Come along and bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles. We will credit



you 50p for your old puzzle when you buy another. All money raised will be donated to charity. There is always tea/coffee and a natter available. Pop in and Join us. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

October

MON 07 Grenville Branch Meeting and Quiz Night



Monthly business meeting followed by a quiz night. Donation for quiz. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

MON 07 Bedford Branch Social Evening with Guest Speaker Andy Garner



Join friends and members of Bedford Branch for 'A Snappy Day' Photography talk by Andy Garner. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB.



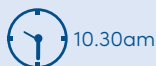
Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

MON 14 Victoria Branch Meeting with Guest Speaker Karen Burt



Short monthly business meeting followed by a talk from the lovely Karen Burt. Georges Dreams, 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

WED 16 Visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park



Lets get closer to wildlife at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Not only are there a range of activities to take part in and an abundance of beautiful animals to look at, the park has a large walled garden and a wonderful collection of mature trees. Join members and make this a memorable visit. Cost: E Ticket (purchased 30 days before) £14, 65 and over £9.50 or gate price £16 and £10.50 respectively. Book by Friday 11 October. Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens, Bradwell Grove, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



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MON 21 Albert Branch Meeting



Come and join us for our short business meeting. Oddfellows Hall, 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Helen on 07707 699513.

October

WED 23 Social Afternoon with Charles Taylor Woodwork



2pm



Free



Social afternoon with refreshments and guest speakers from Charles Taylor Woodwork. Georges Dreams, 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



November

TUES 05 Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles



10am



Free



Love Jigsaw Puzzles? Come along and bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles. We will credit you 50p for your old puzzle when you buy another. All money raised will be donated to charity. There is always tea/coffee and a natter available. Pop in and Join us. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

November

MON 04 Grenville Branch Meeting and Country Western Night



7pm



Free



A quick business meeting followed by a Country Western night. Join us for some tunes! Yee haw. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

MON 04 Bedford Branch Games Night and Quiz



7.45pm



Free



Join friends and members for a games and quiz evening - old style table games. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

SUN 10 Remembrance Day Parade



10am



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch to mark Remembrance Day. Railway Station Forecourt, Station Road, Biggleswade SG18 8AL. Contact Pat on 01234 768914.

November

MON 11 Victoria Branch Meeting Guest Speaker John Sugars



Short business meeting followed by a talk by John from the Rushden Transport Society. Refreshments will be provided and raffle. Georges Dreams, 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

MON 18 Albert Branch Meeting



Come and join us for our short business meeting. Oddfellows Hall, 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Helen on 07707 699513.

FRI 22 Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility



Come and join friends and members at Greatmoor. The fully accessible Visitor Centre is designed to promote and inform visitors about benefits of using waste to produce renewable energy as well as educating about waste reduction, reuse and recycling. Book by Friday 8 November. Greatmoor EfW, Greatmoor Road Woodham, Aylesbury HP18 0AF. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

WED 20 Social Outing to The Olde Watermill Shopping Village



All are welcome to join members and friends of the Victoria Branch to go and explore this lovely venue. Meet at Georges Dreams to get on the Wellibus to go to this lovely shopping area at 10am or outside the Gladstone in Finedon at 10.15am. Please book your spot on the bus. Book by Wednesday 13 November. The Olde Watermill Shopping Village, Faldo Road, Barton-Le-Clay, Beds MK45 4RF. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



November

SAT
30

Bedford Branch Annual Lunch



12.30pm



£20



Join friends and members for the Annual Lunch. Menus will be available from the Bedford Office, please book your spot to avoid disappointment. Ticket price to be confirmed. Book by Saturday 16 November. The Green Man, Southill Road, Stanford, Biggleswade SG18 9JD. Contact Susan or Pat on 01234 768914.

December

MON
02

Grenville Branch Meeting, Mince Pie Tasting and Christmas Quiz Night



7pm



£2



A quick monthly business meeting followed by our annual mince pie tasting session and Christmas quiz. Donation for Christmas quiz. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

December

TUES
03

Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles



10am



Free



Love Jigsaw Puzzles? Come along and bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles. We will credit you 50p for your old puzzle when you buy another. All money raised will be donated to charity. There is always tea/coffee and a natter available. Pop in and Join us. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

SUN
08

Grenville Branch Christmas Lunch



12.30pm



TBC



Join friends and members for our annual Christmas lunch. Christmas crackers at the ready. Book by Saturday 16 November. The Bell Inn, Main Street, Beachampton MK19 6DX. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

December

MON 09 Victoria Branch Festive Night



Join the members and friends of the Victoria Branch at the last business meeting of the year. Refreshments will be provided with raffle and plenty of mince pies! Georges Dreams, 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



MON 16 Albert Branch Meeting



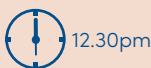
Come and join us for our short business meeting. Oddfellows Hall, 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Helen on 07707 699513.

WED 18 Victoria Branch Lunch at the Pumphouse



Join members and friend of the Victoria Branch at the Pumphouse for a spot of lunch and a wander around the shops. The Pumphouse has a very reasonably price menu. Book by Wednesday 11 December. The Pumphouse, Nene Court, The Embankment, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1LD. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

SUN 15 Sunday Lunch at The Woburn Hotel



The Woburn Hotel provides a luxurious venue for lunch, so where better to enjoy a festive meal and really get into the mood for Christmas? Book by Friday 15 November. Woburn Hotel, George Street, Woburn MK17 9PX. Contact Helen on 07707 699513.

It's Panto Time

(Oh no it isn't, not yet anyway!)

This year's pantomimes are

Wellingborough Panto

Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday 18 January 2020, 2pm

Adults £16.50, junior members free

Or

Stevenage, Gordon Craig

Beauty and the Beast

Saturday 25 January 2020, 12 noon

Adults £22/24, junior members free.

**Please book with Doreen before
Friday 1 November 2019.**



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.

"We've a really friendly and supportive online network of thousands of Oddfellows members from across the UK and the world," explained the Society Social Media team. "Our official Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated, often daily, with topical national Oddfellows and Branch news. We also love reading your comments and posts!"

Find us at:



OddfellowsBedfordshireBuckinghamshire

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

News from the District

Annual Movable Conference



Adrian Taylor Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman), Ann Boyle Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past District Chairman), and Pat Flynn Past Provincial Grand Master (Past District Chairman) had pleasure in representing the Beds and Bucks District at the Conference this year which proved interesting as usual. They would like to thank the District for the opportunity to attend and the accommodation provided.

District Lunch



On Sunday 4 August the Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) had great pleasure in hosting the Beds and Bucks District Lunch at the Bedford Golf Course.

The guest of honour was the Grand Master David Randall and members from the district were joined by three Past Grand Masters and their consorts and members from around the country stretching from Dover to Lancashire and Deeside to Suffolk.

Over £250 was raised for Adrian's appeal for Prostate Cancer.

Oddfellows War Memorial

On Thursday 1 August we unveiled a new memorial at the National Arboretum, Staffordshire to honour the tens of thousands of Society members who have fought and lost their lives in combat.

More than 70 Oddfellow members came together from across the country to remember the fallen in a special ceremony and to officially mark the monument's place within the UK's largest site of remembrance.

The polished blue granite memorial stands approximately six feet tall and has been funded by a donation of over £11,000 from 62 Oddfellow Branches.



Travel places with Friendly Faces

With group holidays, short breaks, exclusive discounts, travel offers and the opportunity to get to know other Oddfellows travellers, the Active Travel Club has something for everyone to enjoy.



**Fred. Olsen
Cruise Lines**



**Haven
Holidays**



**Warner Leisure
Holidays**



**Travel
Insurance***

Check out the latest holidays at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Contact **0161 832 9361** or email active@oddfellows.co.uk

All holidays are booked through third party travel companies and terms and conditions apply.

Please ask for further details before booking.

Holidays are open to Oddfellows members and their guests.

*Oddfellows Support Services Limited will introduce members to the above organisation. Oddfellows Support Services Limited receives a commission payment for any introduction. Oddfellows Support Services Limited is registered in England and Wales, Company No. 8309175. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB and is a non-regulated wholly owned subsidiary of The Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited.

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News from the Grenville Branch

Oddfellows Hall

Loyal Grenville Branch Trustees, Committee of Management and members are please to finally announce that we have sold the Oddfellows Hall in Buckingham.

Three years ago, our long-term tenants decided that the Hall was not suitable for their use and it was decided that the best option was to sell. It has been a bumpy road with interest from various groups. On Thursday 1 August we exchanged contracts with Mr and Mrs Smith. We wish them well in their new venture while we remember our Oddfellows hall with fond memories.



Breakfast at Limes Farm

Breakfast at Limes Farm on Friday 17 May where members enjoyed a hearty breakfast and cake! Limes Farm has found a place for the Grenville Branch to house its Banner and we thought it would be a fitting way to say Thank You.



Wear It Beat It BHF Fundraiser

At our monthly the Grenville Branch meeting in June, members and friends wore red and ate red velvet to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation's wear it beat it campaign. After our meeting we held an auction of all things red and raised £63.50 for this worthy cause. In June we were six months into our monthly jigsaw puzzle bring, buy and swap days. We raised a fantastic £132. A **Big Thank You** to everyone who has donated and



bought our puzzles. A **Big Thank You** to our Oddfellow helpers and Library staff who have made this possible. The money will be split between the Children's Air Ambulance and our Chairman's nominated charity Prostate Cancer UK. Come along and join in on our next Jigsaw, Bring, Buy and Swap day on Tuesday 3 September.

Coffee/Shop/Cake

Friends and members met for coffee and shop at the Preston Bissett Nurseries and coffee shop. We enjoyed the lovely tranquil Nurseries and a very well stocked quaint Country Shop. Tea, coffee and delicious cake a plenty. What more can you ask for?



Buckingham Walk About

In June we had a beautiful tree walk around the Buckingham area with Una. It was fascinating, Una has heaps of information with regards to what trees and their history all within 10 minutes walk away from town. Una also shared with us the location of a less well known café in the University area. We are looking forward to walking with her again.



BBQ

In July members and friends enjoyed the fruits of our fundraising. Last year we raised funds for the Verney Centre in Buckingham to help them develop their garden. The Centre kindly donated to us the use of their garden area and hall to hold a BBQ.



Trip of a Lifetime

To personally celebrate our two 'nought' birthdays and my retirement from the Board Steve and I decided to have a holiday of a lifetime - especially as we now had the time to be away! We cruised the bottom of Australia, Bay of Islands, North Island of New Zealand and the Sounds followed by Fiji, Samoa and Tonga. It was a great experience and we met some super people.

I thought you might be interested in the Oddfellows buildings that we photographed rather than the cricket grounds we toured!

The Melbourne building is the most interesting having been built on the corner of Collins Street & Swanston Street at the time of the Great Depression and providing employment for many. The land was purchased for £335,000 in 1928 but the lease for the business in the existing building didn't expire until the end of 1931. So on the 1 January 1932



demolition of the buildings on the site took place and construction of the Art Deco building began.

As you can probably see from the photo there are twelve floors and a tower to the building which when completed was the tallest in Melbourne; it was also the first with escalators and had three high-speed lifts. On the ground floor there is a shopping arcade with mosaic floor and tiled and painted walls with symbols and pictures well known to us from our banners and regalia. The names of the Board members and Grandmaster of the time are prominent on the walls and as you can see above the lifts. The building was opened on 12 December 1932.





During World War II the building was used by the Australian Army and it was compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth in 1947. In September 1979, having decided against an expensive refurbishment, the MU100F sold the building for \$5.25 million but retained a main lease for its offices.

Since our return home I have found that you can have tours of the Boardroom and the building which would have been interesting and are linked to meals in the restaurant. So if you're going to Melbourne look online to book a tour!

Don't forget the first Lodge in Australia was Strangers Refuge in 1840

The less imposing Odd Fellows building is at Dunedin (Otago District) New Zealand no longer in use and I haven't had any joy finding out any history so far. Like so many of the Odd Fellows Halls in this country, those overseas now have other uses as theatres or shops or offices.

Sue Doulton Smith and Steve Smith

News From Victoria Branch

90th Birthday

At our meeting in July we had great pleasure in surprising Eileen and celebrate her 90th birthday. Eileen is a life member and has been one of our most faithful members attending our meetings regularly over the last 20 years. She has joined us on most of our outings coming with us to the flower festivals in Lincolnshire each spring and on several of the district holidays. We look forward to seeing her for many years to come.



News from the Bedford and Victoria Branches

Visit to Kimbolton Castle

On Wednesday 24 July (almost the hottest day in the year!) 19 members from the Victoria and Bedford Branches enjoyed a private guided tour of the Castle followed by tea and cake in the village church.

Divided into two groups we moved between trees for shade in the grounds whilst learning about the various adaptations of the building and identifying them from the exterior although very little of the mediaeval castle can be identified.

The first castle or fortified, moated manor house on the site dated back to 1200. Much of the Tudor and Jacobean manor house which followed remains on the ground floor but it is principally a late Stuart house, undergoing a Great Rebuilding by the 4th Earl of Manchester between 1690-1720. The ceilings, paintings, murals, chapel and staircase were a revelation to those of us who only knew the castle from its stone exterior, the Adam Gatehouse, and its reputation as a public school.

Most people will have heard of the Castle as the last residence of Queen Katherine of Aragon who lived there from May 1534 until her death on 7th January 1536. Her embalmed body lay in the Chapel for nearly three weeks before it was carried to the Abbey Church at Peterborough for



burial. During the Second World War the Castle was occupied by the Royal Army Medical Corps and in 1950 it was bought by Kimbolton School. The upper rooms are teaching rooms, the State Rooms are used by the Sixth Form and Staff, and the lower rooms are common rooms, offices and store rooms. New Science blocks and Bursar's office etc are built in the grounds screened by trees.

We chose to go partly because there used to be a Lodge in Kimbolton (Duke of Manchester established 1842) which was part of the Wellingborough District (now Victoria Lodge) with an Odd Fellows Hall in East Street. We hope to do a guided walk in Kimbolton next spring.

The Castle is open twice a year on the first Sunday in March and November or at other times by prior arrangement. It's well worth a visit!

News from the Albert Branch

A Day Out to Ely



The small city of Ely in Cambridgeshire is renowned for its magnificent Cathedral, affectionately referred to as “The Ship of the Fens’ and the very famous character from English history, Oliver Cromwell. Our trip this day was to visit the Cathedral.

No journey would be complete without tea and cake at a good garden centre on the way and we were recommended to stop at the Twenty Pence Garden Centre at Wilburton and it did not disappoint.

With tea drunk and cake eaten we entered Ely past Oliver Cromwell’s house but visiting that place will be for another day. The Cathedral is on an immense scale and the decoration is breath-taking. With the sun shining the stained glass windows

shone like jewels. One could only marvel at the skill of the builders able to construct such a building by hand nearly a thousand years ago. It’s amazing that stone hewn from the ground could be converted with such precision into a building still standing.

A place of worship commands peace and tranquillity and it was pleasant just to sit quietly and enjoy the beauty all around. In a place of such an age and prestige one cannot help but wonder how many people had passed through its doors over the years and been awestruck by it. How we wished we were able to travel back in time to when the building was newly completed, it must have looked amazing.

All in all it was very nice day out.



Convalescence

Most of last summer I did not feel at all well, so I did the barest minimum in the garden and reserved my energy to ensure that we could get into the nearest supermarkets for our shopping. I went to see my doctor who sent me to Kettering Hospital to be fitted with a pacemaker, this took a bit longer than I hoped, and before I came home my only daughter had collapsed and died. I think the stress of this was the reason why I had to return to the hospital a few days later for treatment for a DVT.

The chance of a convalescent break was offered to me by the Victoria Branch and on 14 March this year I went, with my wife, to the Lansdowne Hotel in Eastbourne. By this time I did not need medical care, just a chance to relax and rest, and this proved to be the ideal place. The rooms were comfortable and quite large, the food was good and was served

to table, and there were several lounges which had large sofas, chairs and tables and refreshments could be brought to you there. However, my main reason for taking this break was to recover some of my energy and to speed up my walking, and Eastbourne proved to be ideal -0 we started by walking a short way along the Parade, and tried to extend it each day. The Parade is a sheltered path near the sea and proved ideal when the March winds were blowing. On the last day we got to the pier and enjoyed a Victorian cream tea in the cafe half-way along it: on that day we travelled back to the hotel on the local bus. Thanks to this timely respite I regained my strength and am now able to live a more normal life. So I would like to thank all the Oddfellows for giving us this break which gave us both the strength to cope with the difficult times which have followed the death of Roz.

Bruce Horton

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 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

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

*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.

Our Making a Difference 2019 Award winners!

To celebrate our wonderful members and their contributions to the Society as a whole, we launched the first official Making a Difference Awards late last year, and after careful consideration from the judges, we're ready to reveal the winners!

The judges had a hard time selecting this year's winners, with many worthy nominations received across the awards' categories. But after much deliberation, four fabulous members were announced at this year's annual conference.

Jane Nelson, CEO said: "So many of our members make the Society a wonderful place to form friendships, access advice and get support. It's important that we reward those who go above and beyond for their Branch when we can and the Making a Difference Awards is the perfect way to do this.

"Huge congratulations to this year's winners, and thank you to everybody else who was nominated! Your hard work and dedication is much appreciated, and doesn't go unnoticed."

Member nominations for 2020 are now open. Do you know someone who always goes the extra mile when volunteering, fundraising, caring for other members, or doing their very best for the Branch? Download a member nomination form from www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference or contact your Branch Secretary.



Bill, Vivienne, David and Faye with Grand Master Bill Henchcliff after being presented with their awards.

2019 Making a Difference Award Winners

FOR GIVING A HELPING HAND

Vivienne Simpson

Burton-on-Trent District

FOR WORKING IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUALITY

Bill Rainsbury

North West Kent District

FOR GIVING SOMETHING BACK

David Smith

Cleveland and Durham District

FOR ENRICHING LIVES SOCIALLY

Faye Chadwick

Huddersfield District

Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference takes place in Sunny Southport

For 2019, our Annual Movable Conference (AMC) returned to Southport and we really did have the weather on our side! Each year our members get together to catch up, celebrate the past 12 months, vote on important Society matters, and of course, welcome the new Grand Master (Society Chairman).

With a jam-packed schedule mixing business with pleasure, AMC is a great opportunity for members to learn about the business side of the Society and our traditions, as well as meet and mingle with other Branches.



Oddfellows members enjoyed the annual bowls competition



Business began by paying tribute to some of our late Past Grand Masters: Sydney Bolton, Andrew Porter, and Keith Adamson



Oddfellows Brass gave a rousing public performance on Sunday



A 60s themed dance kicked off the celebrations at the Grand Master's Welcome Party

At our conference, Deputies vote on decisions that will impact the Society's business focus moving forward. For example, this year it was decided that our H A Andrews Memorial Fund would support Lupus Trust with a donation of £85,000 over three years. Plus, to celebrate our growing membership, we presented a number of Branches with our annual recruitment awards.

These include the Ken Hughes Silver Salver Award, won this year by Pride of Woolwich Branch, and the Lillian Ogden Recruitment trophy, awarded to Ormskirk and Southport Branch. Members can help their Branches to win awards too, as we also present the Refer a Friend Awards, to recognise Branches which have a great network of strong member advocates.



An array of Oddfellows merchandise was available for members to purchase



The "Refer a Friend" Award for the highest number of member advocates was awarded to Ormskirk and Southport Branch, with 31 members recruiting a new member in 2018

Thank you Bill Henchliff

A huge thank you as always to our now Immediate Past Grand Master Bill Henchliff, who says:

"It has been a great honour to be Grand Master of the Order. I couldn't possibly choose a favourite moment from the past year, but meeting all the members across the country, especially the two Centenarians from Hartlepool and Derby, has been quite special. The support and advice I have received from my colleagues on the Board, from the CEO and Insurance Director, and the External Non-Executive Directors has been invaluable."

Bill has some sound words of advice to welcome the new Grand Master, David Randall: "Be yourself and enjoy the year, it goes very quickly!"



If you have a business head, or a passion for organisation, why not get involved with your Branch's Committee of Management? And if you'd be interested in becoming a Deputy at a future AMC, you can find out how by visiting our website, or speaking to your Branch Secretary.

Meet our new Grand Master:

David Randall, Gipping Branch Secretary

How did it feel being installed in front of such a large crowd at the AMC?

It was such a proud moment and one I will cherish forever. My involvement in the Oddfellows is something I take very seriously, and I'm pleased to be able to use my time as Grand Master to raise awareness of the Oddfellows and the benefits of becoming a member with the general public, as well as doing my best to meet as many members as possible around the country.



So what's your Oddfellows background?

I became a member in 1992. However, I had been attending the local Branch's social events for about 20 years prior. So recruiters... never give up on a possible new member! My father-in-law was a long-serving Castle Branch (Colchester) officer and trustee, so he encouraged me to finally sign up. I guess I was always going to join once I married his daughter! For those of you who don't know, my wife of 47 years is Diana Randall, Secretary of Castle Branch, so there's always a little healthy Branch competition.

Do you have a standout memory from your 47 years of being involved with the Society?

Yes – the pride I felt when attending my District's Provincial Grand Master Dinner in 2010. We were celebrating 200 years of Oddfellowship, my wife was the Provincial Grand Master and the then Grand Master, Alan Cole, was our guest of honour. I was Provincial Deputy Grand Master and I couldn't have felt happier to be part of such a meaningful Society.

How would you sum up the Oddfellows in just six words?

Friendship that just keeps giving more.

And now for some less serious questions...

Where's your favourite place in the world?

That would have to be the Amalfi Coast in Italy.

Who is your favourite author?

John Grisham, I have read every one of his fiction books and his one non-fiction book.

You're stranded on a desert island.... What three items would you take with you?

Matches, a sharp knife and the woman I love, if she'd come with me! If she wouldn't, then I'd probably take a fishing line.

Who would play you in the movie of your life?

Matt Damon.

At a glance

September 2019 - Friendship Month

Mon 2	Grenville Branch Meeting and Talk on Thimbles	7pm
Tues 3	Grenville Branch Friendship Coffee Morning and Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles	10am
Mon 9	Victoria Branch Meeting Guest Speakers Dick Smart and Vicky Humphrey from The Daylight Centre	7.30pm
Thurs 12	Albert Branch Friendship Month Dinner	7.30pm
Thurs 12	Albert Branch Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire	11am
Mon 16	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 18	Victoria Branch Social Outing to Gates Garden Centre in Oakham	10am
Wed 18	Grenville Branch Friendship Lunch at The Cock Hotel	12 noon
Sat 21	Bedford Branch Lunch at Tavistock	12.30pm
Thurs 26	Albert Branch Trip to Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood, London	1pm
Thurs 26	Bedford Branch Trip on the John Bunyan Community Boat	2pm
Sat 28	Victoria Branch Friendship Month Dinner	7pm

October

Tues 1	Grenville Branch Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles	10am
Mon 7	Grenville Branch Meeting and Quiz Night	7pm
Mon 7	Bedford Branch Social Evening with Guest Speaker Andy Garner	7.45pm
Mon 14	Victoria Branch Meeting with Guest Speaker Karen Burt - Social Worker to Therapist	7.30pm
Wed 16	Grenville Branch Visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park	10.30am
Mon 21	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 23	Victoria Branch Social Afternoon with Charles Taylor Woodwork	2pm

November

Mon 4	Grenville Branch Meeting and Country Western Night	7pm
Mon 4	Bedford Branch Games Night and Quiz	7.45pm
Tues 5	Grenville Branch Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles	10am
Sun 10	Bedford Branch Remembrance Day Parade	10am

At a glance

November

Mon 11	Victoria Branch Meeting Guest Speaker John Sugars from Rushden Transport Society	7.30pm
Mon 18	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 20	Victoria Branch Social Outing to The Olde Watermill Shopping Village	10am
Fri 22	Grenville Branch Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility	10am
Sat 30	Bedford Branch Annual Lunch	12.30pm

December

Mon 2	Grenville Branch Meeting, Mince Pie Tasting and Christmas Quiz Night	7pm
Tues 3	Grenville Branch Bring Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles	10am
Sun 8	Grenville Branch Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
Mon 9	Victoria Branch Festive Night	7.30pm
Sun 15	Albert Branch Sunday Lunch At The Woburn Hotel	12.30pm
Mon 16	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 18	Victoria Branch Lunch at the Pumphouse	12 noon

Is there someone you know who'd enjoy what we do?

Refer a friend today

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

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

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