

OUL Cabout

Mulberry Branch



Covering Old Harlow, Barnet, Potters Bar, Watford and Hemel Hempstead

Potters bar friendship lunch





Crafts





Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social





Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



We hope you can join us for our various social events in 2024!

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Mulberry District

As a local District of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and to enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when they need them.

We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from eating out to trips out. All our news is now included in this publication and that too has a new look and feel.

Contact Details

District Secretary: John S Jemison

Registered Office:
Oddfellows Hall,
Broadway Avenue,
Old Harlow CM17 0AG

Telephone: 07582 546160

Email:

johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can quarantee you a good time.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Keys

- Ware Branch
 Old Harlow area
- Cassio Branch
 Watford area
- Mulberry District

- Chiltern Branch
 Hemel Hempstead area
- Wrotham Branch
 Barnet area
- Oakmere Branch
 Potters Bar area

Weekly Event

Online Events Thursday Thinking

The District will continue to run
Thursday Thinking which is the last
Thursday of every month 4.30pm to
5.30pm. A different topic every month,
may be a quiz, a talk or just a general
catch up. Zoom Meeting ID:
849 9983 6863. Passcode: 709336.

25 January 28 March 29 February 25 April



Branches up and down the country are also still doing online events, if you would like to receive a list of all the online events on a monthly basis please let Lauren know at lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter (X), make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at **f** OddfellowsUK **Y** OddfellowsUK

January 2024



Join us for a New Year coffee morning and quiz! Bring your thinking caps! Who will win? Chaulden Community Centre, Lona Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Malcolm on 07942 735952.



Coffee Morning & Old time style sing-along (Watford)



10.30am





Please join us for a coffee morning with a good sing song. All welcome but please contact Rose-Mary if you plan to go along for catering purposes. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS, Contact Rose-Mary on 01923 242790.





Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)







Everybody is welcome at our coffee mornings, hot sausage rolls, pasties and a hot cuppa or two! Bring a friend along! Hope to see you there! Baptist Hall, Fore Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AB. Contact Christine on 01279 860521.





New Year Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)







Join us for our Potters Bar coffee morning at The Wyllyotts, bring a friend! The more the merrier! *Price starts from £1.60. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ, Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



January 2024



Scottish Themed Fraternal Meal





Members £15



Please join us for a traditional three course Scottish themed fraternal lunch. Cock-a-Leekie soup to start, haggis, neeps and vegetables for the main and to finish us off we will be having Sherry trifle with teas or coffees afterwards. Please bring your own drinks. Transport is available for those who need it for an additional £5 charge. Book by Monday 15 January. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS, Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



New Year Coffee Morning (Barnet)



10.30am





Come along to our coffee morning in Barnet, celebrate the new year with friends, old and new! (We hold a raffle at this event, if you can, please bring along a raffle prize). St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3Fl. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

Coffee Morning (Hemel)

February







Please join us for a free coffee morning, pull up a chair and chat the hours away with friends. Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Malcolm on 07942 735952.



New Year Dinner -Hosted by Chiltern Branch







Please join us for a New Year Celebration at the Oddfellows Hall in Watford, where we will be having a lunch by Kings Catering. £15.99 for a two course or £18.99 for a three course. Book by Saturday 27 January. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS, Contact Lauren on 07949 439127 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.

February



Coffee Morning (Watford)



) 10.30am *(*





The tea is hot, the cakes are freshly bakes by Rose-Mary herself (and they are delicious!). Join us for two hours to catch up with friends, old and new! Cakes, scones and a hot cuppa! Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Rose-Mary on 01923 242790.



Fraternal Meal at The Red Lion in Barnet



12.30pm







Back by popular demand but with a change of time! Please join us for a much loved social event which is always well attended. We meet at The Red Lion in Barnet for lunch. Order off the menu or enjoy a delicious carvery! Book by Monday 5 February. Red Lion, 31 High Street, Barnet EN5 5UW. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

Coffee Morning and Quiz (Potters Bar)





£)£1.60*



Join us for our Potters Bar coffee morning and guiz at The Wyllyotts, bring a friend! The more the merrier! *Price starts from £1.60. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)



10am





Everybody is welcome at our coffee mornings, hot sausage rolls, pasties and a hot cuppa or two! Bring a friend along! Hope to see you there!



Baptist Hall, Fore Street, Old Harlow. Essex CM17 0AB. Contact Christine on 01279 860521.

February



Coffee Morning and Quiz (Barnet)



10.30am



Members £1 Guests £2



Please join us on the last Tuesday of every month, 10.30am to 12.30pm for our monthly coffee morning. This month we will be doing a quiz, so make sure to put on your thinking cap! (Raffle will be held, please bring along a raffle prize, if you can). St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



March



Coffee Morning (Hemel)







Come down to Chaulden Community Centre and join us for a free coffee morning! Hot drinks, biscuits and maybe a cake or two? Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Malcolm on 07942 735952.

TUES 12

Coffee Morning (Watford)



10.30am







The tea is hot, the cakes are freshly bakes by Rose–Mary herself (and they are delicious!). Join us for two hours to catch up with friends, old and new! Cakes, scones and a hot cuppa! Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Rose–Mary on 01923 242790.

TUES 19

Afternoon Gathering – Ware (Old Harlow)



–) 1.30pm



Members £3 Guests £5



Plenty of refreshments and a natter with friends, old and new! Come and join us! Baptist Hall, Fore Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AB. Contact Christine on 01279 860521.

March



Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)



10.30am (£



£1.60*



Join us for our Potters Bar coffee morning at The Wyllyotts, bring a friend! The more the merrier! *Price starts from £1.60. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.





Coffee Morning (Barnet)



10.30am

Members £1 Guests £2



Please join us for our monthly coffee morning! Refreshments included in the price! St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



April



Coffee Morning and Quiz (Hemel)



£





Spring is here! Come down and join us for a free coffee morning at Chaulden Community Centre! Bring a friend, the more the merrier! Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Malcolm on 07942 735952.

TUES)

Coffee Morning (Watford)



10.30am





The tea is hot, the cakes are freshly bakes by Rose-Mary herself (and they are delicious!). Join us for two hours to catch up with friends, old and new! Cakes, scones and a hot cuppa! Oddfellows



Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Rose–Mary on 01923 242790.

April



Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)







Everybody is welcome at our coffee mornings, hot sausage rolls, pasties and a hot cuppa or two! Bring a friend along! Hope to see you there! Baptist Hall, Fore Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AB. Contact Christine on 01279 860521.



THURS 18

Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)



) 10.30am (

£)£1.60*



Join us for our Potters Bar coffee morning at The Wyllyotts, bring a friend! The more the merrier!
*Price starts from £1.60. Wyllyotts
Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place,
Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

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.

27

Skittles with Fish and Chips (Barnet)





*Members £3 Guests £4





Please join us for what always proves to be a popular event, you do not have to take part in the skittles to be able to come along! Who will win this time? Book by Thursday 18 April. St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. *Price does not include fish and chips - please contact Lauren on 07949 439127 for more information/prices.

TUES 30

Coffee Morning (Barnet)



L) 10.30am



Members £1 Guests £2



Sausage roll, cakes, hot cuppa? What's not to love! Join us on the last Tuesday of every month for our monthly coffee morning! St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

A message from our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)

It has been very busy for the first six months as my tenure as Provincial Grand Master, I have tried to get round as many Branch functions as possible but this has been very difficult, because for most of the time I have not been able to drive due to operations on my eyes and I have to thank Colin Peacefull for acting as my chauffeur, we called this the Grand Masters tour.

Thank you all for making us most welcome and your hospitability.

We have managed to recruit new members which is always good news. A big thank you to Lauren who works tirelessly on our behalf and



our members efforts, especially in September Friendship Month. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy new year!

Christmas wishes from the Mulberry District Branch



As we approach the last two months of the year (at the time of writing this) the days are getting darker, the weather is definitely getting colder. During the last four months we have had some great social events, Friendship Month was great fun with new members coming along to their first social event, we had coffee mornings, afternoon teas, skittles and a lunch just during September alone.

In November we went on a boat trip up the Grand Union Canal with 27 members and non-members in attendance.

Despite the wet weather we had a lovely day and we all thoroughly



enjoyed the fish and chip lunch which was brought to the boat. Jamie, one of our young oddfellows was given a certificate of excellence in his help steering the boat and assisting with the locks. Well done Jamie! We have some lovely events coming up next year, please see the events listings for further information

News from Chiltern (Hemel)

You will see from the pictures we have had a great few months with social events including a skittles tournament and the winner Mel Allum being presented the cup by our young member, Jamie. In June and July we had a quiz at our coffee morning. September we had a very good talk by Oakhouse Foods.



In September to celebrate friendship month we had another skittles tournament with Michael Holloway winning the cup. Our coffee morning in October was a flight over Egypt with a video given by Malcolm Allum, in November we had a wonderful quiz and our winner was Janet Manning. Happy Christmas and New Year to you all from the Chiltern Branch.













The Oddfellows

It's nice to be an Oddfellow, and we're not odd at all, the benefits are many and the outlay very small, we do our bit for charity, to help out those in need, and as for social life, we like it very full indeed!

But when life's not so sunny, but confusing, like a maze, the Oddfellows support me in a hundred different ways, it's very reassuring, though I may be on my own, that someone will advise me if I just pick up the phone.

And when misfortune finds me, when skies are looking stormy, I'll have someone to turn to, to fight my corner for me, to join the Oddfellows, one of the oldest, newest, trends, is to feel a little safer, in the company of friends.

Pam Ayres





REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile

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

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

Ref 1644

Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

Meet the Grand Master

Vale of York
Oddfellows' Barbara
Needham was
officially welcomed
as the Society's
Grand Master
(Chairman) during



the annual conference in May, a position she'll hold for two years.

The oldest of five in a close family, at weekends they would often travel around Yorkshire and go camping. It was during these trips she met Peter, a member of the Oddfellows since birth who would go on to become Grand Master himself.

Barbara joined the Oddfellows' Good Samaritan Lodge in Goole when she married Peter in 1973. "It was all arranged within four weeks," she said. "Nothing like the expensive events that happen today!

"I borrowed my sister-in-law's wedding dress. Peter got a new suit. We catered ourselves in the local village hall. I think the wedding cost us £14, which is all you had to pay for the licence, and then we went away camping for our honeymoon."

Barbara and Peter would later welcome daughter Claire into the world, herself an Oddfellow, who would go on to have a successful accountancy career.

Barbara's career was in primary education, most notably a 30-year stint at a school

in Broughton where she ultimately became Head Teacher.

"It was something that I'd always wanted to do ever since I went to school. I never wanted to do anything else," Barbara said.

Despite representing the Society in a variety of roles, Barbara says that never in her wildest dreams did she anticipate becoming Grand Master.

"It's a great honour because you're just a custodian," she said. "Although you wear the chain and you're the figurehead, that's not what makes you an Oddfellow. What makes you an Oddfellow is what's in your heart."

"I just want to do my best, because the ethos of Oddfellows is what we should all live by. The whole world would be a better place if people looked after each other."

Find out all the ways you can get involved in the Society by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/society-involvement



Barbara Needham (middle right) with daughter Claire (left), husband Peter (middle left) and sister Vivienne (right).

Society News Issue 23

Thanks for filling your September with friendship!

Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows' CEO, has reflected on another successful Friendship Month:

"Wow, what a brilliant Friendship Month we had! All our Branches have worked extremely hard to make each and every one of near 250 special taster events a great success.

"Be it coffee mornings, music events, walks, meals or games, we've loved seeing

the happy, smiling faces of people enjoying the benefits of friendship.

"To everybody who attended, hosted or volunteered at our Branches' Friendship Month events this year, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU! It's your hard work that ensures our continued success."

Take a look at some of the fun that's been had by some of our Branches!



Brighton and Sussex members enjoying a coffee morning.



THE POSITIVE PARTY.

A friendly game of badminton in Mid-Surrey.



Mitcham, Reigate and Crawley friends keeping cool from the sunshine.

Society News Issue 23



Delicious pancakes at a Handforth and Altrincham event.





Relishing friendship and fresh air on a walk in Nottingham Trent.

Society News Issue 23

Help with Lasting Power of Attorneys

Arranging a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) can seem daunting, so our Head of Care and Welfare, John Aitken (pictured



right), has answered some frequently asked questions about them.

What is an LPA?

There are two types and you can do one or both:

A property and financial affairs LPA covers decisions about money matters, for example buying and selling property, dealing with bills and running bank accounts. You can start using this at any time.

A health and welfare LPA covers decisions about health and care matters including medical treatment, where someone should live and who they should have contact with. This can only be used once the person has lost capacity.

What is 'losing capacity'?

This means no longer having the understanding or mental faculties to make decisions. Once someone loses capacity it is too late to set up a Power of Attorney. If this were to happen, family members would need to apply to the Court of Protection to take control of their assets and finances, which can be a lengthy and costly process.

How do LPAs work?

The person making the application is the 'donor' and can give power to an 'attorney' to make decisions and take actions on their behalf.

The donor can choose multiple attorneys and specify which decisions they can make. If there is more than one attorney, the donor can specify whether they can act alone or must make decisions together.

The LPA must be signed either by a solicitor or someone else of the donor's choosing to certify the LPA and confirm that they understand and have not been pressured into it.

Family members can't do an LPA for someone. Like a will, people must do it for themselves with no coercion.

How much does it cost?

It costs £82 to register each type of LPA (so £164 in total) with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). People on meanstested benefits or a low income can get an exemption or reduction of this fee. If you choose to use a solicitor, their costs will need to be added.

For more advice on LPAs, including how to make an application and links to relevant websites, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/helpwith-lasting-power-of-attorneys





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 John S on **07582 546160** or email **johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk.**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number) Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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 EDCWA50223

Branch Meeting

Mulberry District Branch

District Secretary: John S Jemison **Telephone:** 07582 546160

Email:

johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk

District Development Officer:

Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127

Email:

lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Registered Office: Oddfellows Hall, Broadway Avenue, Old Harlow

CM17 0AG

Branch meetings: On the third Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30pm.

Meetings are held as a hybrid 'Room and Zoom' held at Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS, Oddfellows Hall, Broadway Avenue, Old Harlow CM17 0AG and via video link (Meeting ID: 880 2328 7070 please contact John or Lauren for the passcode).

Social Branches

Cassio Branch

Admin: John S Jemison **Telephone:** 07582 546160

Email:

johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk

Cassio Branch continue...

Events Organiser: Rosemary Lancaster

Telephone: 01923 242790

Branch meetings: On the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am except December when a Christmas lunch is held. Meetings are held at 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS.

Chiltern Branch

Admin: Lauren Prountzou Telephone: 07949 439127

Email:

lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Events Organiser: Malcolm Allum

Telephone: 07942 735952

Branch meetings: On the first Friday of each month at 11am except December when a Christmas lunch is held.

Meetings are held at Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2HX.

Oakmere Branch

Admin and Events Organiser:

Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127

Email

lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the third Thursday of each month at 10.30am except December when a Christmas lunch is held.

Meetings are held at The Wyllyotts Theatre, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ

Branch Meeting

Ware Branch

Admin: John S Jemison

Telephone: 07582 546160 Email: johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Secretary: Christine Peacefull

Telephone: 01279 860521

Branch meetings: On the first
Tuesday of each month, except
August at the Baptist Hall, Fore
Street, Harlow Essex CM17 0AB.

Wrotham Branch

Admin: Lauren Prountzou Telephone: 07949 439127

Email:

lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Wrotham Branch continue...

Events Organisers:Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127

Email:

lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the last Tuesday of each month at 10.30am except December when a Christmas lunch is held.

Meetings are held at St Peters Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley EN5 3|F.

At a glance

January 2024

Fri 5	New Year Coffee Morning and Quiz (Hemel)	11am
Tues 9	Coffee Morning & Old time style sing-along (Watford)	10.30am
Tues 16	Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)	10am
Wed 17	Business Meeting	1.30pm
Thurs 18	New Year Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Wed 24	Scottish Themed Fraternal Meal	12.30pm
Thurs 25	Thursday Thinking – Online	4.30pm
Tues 30	New Year Coffee Morning (Barnet)	10.30am

February

Fri 2	Coffee Morning (Hemel)	11am	
Sun 4	New Year Dinner - Hosted by Chiltern Branch	12 noon	
Tues 13	Coffee Morning (Watford)	10.30am	
Tues 13	Fraternal Meal at The Red Lion in Barnet	12.30pm	
Thurs 15	Coffee Morning and Quiz (Potters Bar)	10.30am	
Tues 20	Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)	10am	

At a glance

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Business Meeting	1.30pm
Coffee Morning and Quiz (Barnet)	10.30am
Thursday Thinking - Online	4.30pm
Coffee Morning (Hemel)	11am
Coffee Morning (Watford)	10.30am
Afternoon Gathering - Ware (Old Harlow)	1.30pm
Business Meeting	1.30pm
Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Coffee Morning (Barnet)	10.30am
Thursday Thinking - Online	4.30pm
Coffee Morning and Quiz (Hemel)	11am
Coffee Morning (Watford)	10.30am
Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow)	10am
Business Meeting	1.30pm
Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Thursday Thinking - Online	4.30pm
Skittles with Fish and Chips (Barnet)	6.30pm
Coffee Morning (Barnet)	10.30am
	Coffee Morning and Quiz (Barnet) Thursday Thinking - Online Coffee Morning (Hemel) Coffee Morning (Watford) Afternoon Gathering - Ware (Old Harlow) Business Meeting Coffee Morning (Potters Bar) Coffee Morning (Barnet) Thursday Thinking - Online Coffee Morning (Watford) Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow) Business Meeting Coffee Morning and Quiz (Hemel) Coffee Morning (Watford) Coffee Morning - Ware (Old Harlow) Business Meeting Coffee Morning (Potters Bar) Thursday Thinking - Online Skittles with Fish and Chips (Barnet)

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy. Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit **oddfellows.co.uk/events** and enter 'Ayr' in the place name search box

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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. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB