

April – August 2024



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

# out & about

**St Marnock District – Covering East and West of Scotland Branches**



Arran



Royal Yacht Britannia



Quizzes



Sports



Travel



Dining Out



Talks



History



Social



Meetings



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



*Musical - Drifters Girl (Matinee) - Wednesday 10 April*

## Welcome to the new edition of the St Marnock District Out and About

Welcome to our Spring 2024 Events Diary. This is the first of our new format diary, incorporating events for both East and West of Scotland. You will also see an 'Events at a Glance' page on the back of the diary to let you see all events on a monthly basis.

I hope you like the variety of forthcoming events. To book, please either e-mail or call me and I will liaise with you prior to each event with full details.

I look forward to sharing some interesting and enjoyable days out over the next few months.

In addition to the main programme, the following regular events will also be held.

## Contact Details

### Social Events Organiser:

Christine Cuthbertson

**Telephone:** 07389 826328

### Email:

[christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk)

If I am unavailable or for any general enquires about the St Marnock District of Oddfellows, please contact Yvonne Rice on 01563 572727 or email her at [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk)

### Branch Address:

1 Howard Street  
Kilmarnock  
Ayrshire  
KA1 2BW

Further events are being added, see:  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events).

## Secret Edinburgh with Friends

Discover smaller and more unusual venues and locations with your friendly tour guides – Robert and Susan – who lead these popular walks. These wee hidden gems are too small to be included in our main events programme, but are equally deserving of a visit. All events are free of charge unless an entry fee is required.

## Books with Friends

If you would like to join our friendly book group, please let me know and I will supply the relevant details. The group meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Please note there are limited places available for this group. Thank you to the volunteers who organise and run the above groups.

## Coffee with Friends

We have regular 'Coffee with Friends' events in the West and East.

All dates are incorporated in 'Events at a Glance' section.

Coffee with Friends is an informal event where members meet for coffee, chat and an update on forthcoming outings. There is no need to book for these events. If you know someone who would benefit from membership of The Oddfellows, please feel free to bring them along for a coffee.

**Christine**

### Colour Key

● East of Scotland

● West of Scotland

## REFER A FRIEND

# Share the love and make someone smile

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



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

Ref 1644

# East of Scotland Events

## Regular Coffee with Friends



11.30am



Free



**Second Tuesday  
of the month**

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with cakes in the company of friends, old and new. Each 'Coffee with Friends' event takes place on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) in the Loudon's, New Waverley restaurant.

These are informal events and you can bring along a friend/family

member you think will benefit from membership of the Oddfellows.

Loudon's New Waverley, 2 Sibbald Walk, Edinburgh EH8 8FT. Please note there is no need to book for Coffee with Friends.



**9 April  
14 May**

**11 June  
9 July**

**13 August**

## April 2024

**TUES  
16**

**Johnnie Walker  
Experience and Lunch  
in Indigo Yard**



12 noon



Tour £30  
Lunch £23.95



Join us on a journey through Johnnie Walker's epic search for flavours that bring people together for enjoyment. We will learn about Johnnie Walker's pioneering spirit and how he created the whisky flavours enjoyed by people worldwide to this day. The experience includes: Full sensory 90 minute tour with guide, Three whiskies tailored to your preference (non-alcoholic option available), 10% off products in the retail section. This is a fantastic tour, completely different from any other whisky experience. Following the tour, we will enjoy a two course lunch in the Indigo Yard, located a short walk from Princes Street. Tour at 12 noon, lunch at 2pm. Costs: Tour at 145 Princes Street - £30 per person. Lunch: £23.95 at the Indigo Yard, 7 Charlotte Lane, Edinburgh EH2 4QZ. Book by Tuesday 9 April. Johnnie Walker Experience, 145 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BL. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# May

TUES  
21

## Tour of Royal Yacht Britannia - Coffee, Cake, Lunch in Royal Deck Café



11am



Admission/tour £19.50  
Food as per menu



Visit the former Royal Yacht of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, just two miles from Edinburgh's city centre, followed by coffee, cake and lunch in the Royal Deck Tea Room. You can enjoy a tour of the ship and discover Britannia's five decks with your free audio guide. Feel like the captain of the ship in the bridge. Follow in the footsteps of Royalty through the State Apartments. See The Queen's favourite room. Discover below decks, the Crew's Quarters. Admire a tour highlight, the gleaming Engine Room. Take in the Royal Sailing Exhibition. Enjoy soups, sandwiches, cakes and scones in the Royal Deck Tea Room and admire the stunning waterfront views. Please note they do not take reservations. Admission £19.50, coffee, cake and lunch in the Royal Deck Tea Room - pay individually on the day. Book by Monday 13 May. Royal Yacht Britannia, Ocean Drive, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# June

WED  
05

## Fleurs de Villes - Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and Afternoon Tea in Inverleith House



12 noon



Fleurs de Villes £20  
Afternoon Tea £17



World-renowned experiential flower show Fleurs de Villes returns to Edinburgh for the UK premiere of Fleurs de Villes Artiste - a fresh floral celebration of remarkable artists. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh will be host to stunning fresh floral mannequins created by Edinburgh's talented local florists



and inspired by accomplished artists and artworks integral to Edinburgh's vibrant art scene. Watch floral demos and talks from local florists while admiring the floral masterpieces, then make your way to the historic Inverleith House to experience more Artiste themed rooms bursting with blooms. Following the tour, we will then enjoy an indulgent cream tea in Inverleith House. Cost: Tour £20. Cream Tea £17 at 1.30pm. Book by Tuesday 28 May. Royal Botanic Gardens, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# July

WED  
17

## Surgeons' Hall Museum Lunch in Blonde



11am



Tour £6  
Lunch £18.95



Surgeons' Hall Museum reopened in 2015 after a major £4.4 million Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment project. As one of the oldest museums in Scotland, the collections grew from 1699 after 'Natural and Artificial Curiosities' were publicly sought, with the Playfair Building opening in 1832 to house the Barclay and Bell collections. Whilst the museums were initially established as a medical teaching resource, all are now welcome to visit. The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes. We will then dine in nearby Blonde, where we will enjoy a two course lunch with a menu of Modern Scottish cuisine, cooked using local produce. Tour £6 at The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Lunch £18.95 at Blonde, 71-75 St Leonard's Street, Edinburgh EH8 9QR. Book by Wednesday 10 July. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# August

WED  
28

## Glasgow City Sightseeing Tour and Lunch in Banco di Roma



12 noon



Tour £15, Lunch £18.95



This is the perfect way to improve your knowledge of Glasgow, a city steeped in history and famous landmarks. The tour lasts approximately 90 minutes, with pick-up and drop-off in George Square. Following the tour, we will have lunch in Banco di Roma, one of Glasgow's newest Italian restaurants, where you can sample some excellent Italian



cuisine. You are then free to take the tour bus again from George Square and hop on, hop off at your leisure at the 21 stops or enjoy some retail therapy in Buchanan Street or Princes Square. Tour at 12 noon. Lunch at 1.30pm. Cost: Tour £15, lunch £17.95 (two courses) at Banco di Roma, 31 Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AJ. Book by Wednesday 21 August. City Sightseeing Tours, George Square, Glasgow G2 1AL. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.

# West of Scotland Events

## Regular Coffee with Friends



10.30am



Free



## Last Monday of the month

please check Events at a Glance  
for Bank Holiday changes

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with cakes in the company of friends, old and new. Each 'Coffee with Friends' event takes place on the last Monday of each month (except May when it will be the Wednesday) in the Café/Bar, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (opposite Buchanan Street Bus Station). These are informal events and you can bring along a friend/family member you think will benefit from membership of the Oddfellows. Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3NY. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



**29 April**  
**Wednesday 29 May**

**24 June**  
**29 July**

**26 August**

## April

WED  
**10**

## Musical - The Drifters Girl (Matinee)



2.30pm



£35



Story of The Drifters - Kings Theatre, Glasgow (Best Musical 2022).

Nominated for Best New Musical at the 2022 Olivier Awards, this smash-hit show has a phenomenal soundtrack, packed full of iconic The Drifters hits including 'Saturday Night At The Movies', 'Save The Last Dance For Me' and 'Stand By Me'. Discover the remarkable story of the Drifters and the truth about the woman who made them. From the highs of hit records to the lows of legal battles and personal tragedy, Faye Treadwell is the legendary manager of The Drifters who refused to give up on the group she loved. King's Theatre, 297 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JN. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# May

TUES

28

## New Lanark with Lunch



9am



£49 including entry and lunch



The award-winning New Lanark Visitor Centre tells the fascinating story of the cotton mill village of New Lanark which was founded in the 18th century. Follow the life of Annie McLeod, a local mill girl in the 1820s. On the Annie McLeod Experience dark ride, Annie magically appears to tell the spellbinding story of her life. Departure: Edinburgh at 7.30am, Glasgow at 9am. New Lanark, New Lanark Road, Lanark ML11 9DB. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# June

WED

19

## Trip to Arran with Lunch in Douglas Hotel



11am



Approximately £20 for ferry and lunch



We will travel from Ardrossan to Brodick on Arran. On arrival, we will have lunch in the Douglas Hotel, before the short trip to visit Arran Aromatics and Arran Cheese factory. If members prefer to have a leisurely stroll and look at the individual shops, then they are free to do so. Ferry: Approximately £10, Lunch – soup and sandwich £10. Arran, Isle of Arran KA27 8AW. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



## 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](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'Ayr' in the place name search box

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# July

WED  
24

## Open Top Bus Tour of Edinburgh followed by Lunch in Amarone

L 9am

£ Tour £16  
Lunch £20



Following the success of the open top bus trip in Glasgow, we will travel to Edinburgh to take the tour of Edinburgh, taking in Royal Botanic Garden, Water of Leith Shore and Edinburgh Castle. The tour bus leaves from St Andrew's Square (outside Edinburgh bus station). On return, we will have lunch in Amarone. Bus tour £16. Lunch approximately £20 per person. Edinburgh, St Andrew's Square EH2 2AF. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



# August

WED  
21

## Afternoon Tea in Queen Charlotte Rooms (Orient Express)

L 1pm

£ £20 per person



Back by popular demand - members requested a return visit to Queen Charlotte Rooms to experience afternoon tea in the replication of the Orient Express. Enjoy a relaxing Afternoon Tea in the sumptuous grandeur of the Orient Express Experience. The splendour of this magnificent train has been replicated within the Queen Charlotte Rooms, down to the authentic sounds of the train and piano. Contact Christine on 07389 826328.



## 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.

# Annual Holiday 2024

## Stratford upon Avon, The Cotswolds and Oxford

This is a Glenton's coach trip lasting 5 days, leaving on Monday 12 August 2024 and is open to all members.

The cost is £599 which includes single room supplement.

There are pick ups in Edinburgh (Ingliston) and Glasgow (Buchanan Street Bus Station).  
The hotel is The Mercure Warwickshire Walton Hall.



**Places are very limited but if you would like more details, please contact Christine on 07389 826328.**

## Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

### You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Christine by phone on 07389 826328 or email [christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk)

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# Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra\* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

## Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/login](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/login)

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\*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.  
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

# At a glance

● East of Scotland

● West of Scotland

## April 2024

● <b>Tues 9</b>	Coffee with Friends East	11.30am
● <b>Wed 10</b>	Musical - The Drifters Girl (Matinee)	2.30pm
● <b>Tues 16</b>	Johnnie Walker Experience and Lunch in Indigo Yard	12 noon
● <b>Mon 29</b>	Coffee with Friends West	10.30am

## May

● <b>Tues 14</b>	Coffee with Friends East	11.30am
● <b>Tues 21</b>	Tour of Royal Yacht Britannia - Coffee, Cake, Lunch in Royal Deck Café	11am
● <b>Tues 28</b>	New Lanark with Lunch	9am
● <b>Wed 29</b>	Coffee with Friends West	10.30am

## June

● <b>Wed 5</b>	Fleurs de Villes - Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and Afternoon Tea in Inverleith House	12 noon
● <b>Tues 11</b>	Coffee with Friends East	11.30am
● <b>Wed 19</b>	Trip to Arran with Lunch in Douglas Hotel	11am
● <b>Mon 24</b>	Coffee with Friends West	10.30am

## July

● <b>Tues 9</b>	Coffee with Friends East	11.30am
● <b>Wed 17</b>	Surgeons' Hall Museum - Lunch in Blonde	11am
● <b>Wed 24</b>	Open Top Bus Tour of Edinburgh followed by Lunch in Amarone	9am
● <b>Mon 29</b>	Coffee with Friends West	10.30am

## August

● <b>Tues 13</b>	Coffee with Friends East	11.30am
● <b>Mon 26</b>	Coffee with Friends West	10.30am
● <b>Wed 21</b>	Afternoon Tea in Queen Charlotte Rooms (Orient Express)	1pm
● <b>Wed 28</b>	Glasgow City Sightseeing Tour and Lunch in Banco di Roma	12 noon

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





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Spring 2024 | Issue 21  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

# St Marnock News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

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Scotland**  
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**West of  
Scotland**  
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**Oddfellows  
Members:  
Do you need help?**  
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*Belfast – Annual Holiday, page 7*



**'Room with a View'**



**Sir Walter Scott  
Steamship Cruise**



**2023 Christmas Lunch**





## Welcome to our Spring 2024 newsletter!

As you will see, we have enjoyed a wide range of events – visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia, our annual holiday to Belfast and afternoon tea on the Orient Express.

We have had great support from members for all our events and Coffee with Friends continue to grow in popularity.

The true ethos of The Oddfellows is friendship and it's lovely to see people getting together for an informal chat and coffee on a monthly basis.

There is an exciting programme of events organised for the forthcoming months. I hope you are able to join us.

**Christine**

## Contact Details

**District Secretary:**

David Fleming

Telephone: 01563 572727

**Treasurer/Assistant Secretary:**

Yvonne Rice

T: 01563 572727

E: [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Events Organiser East of Scotland and West of Scotland:**

Christine Cuthbertson

T: 07389 826328

E: [christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk)

**District Address:**

1 Howard Street, Kilmarnock  
Ayrshire KA1 2BP

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## Message from Chairman – thank you, Amanda

**As you may know, Amanda recently resigned from her role as Social Organiser for St Marnock District, East of Scotland.**

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank Amanda for her valued contribution over the years. Amanda organised fantastic events, some of which I was fortunate to attend.

They were always enjoyable and provided members with an opportunity to participate in interesting outings and dining experiences.

I know Amanda has many friends within The Oddfellows and I am sure you will all join me in wishing her all the very best for the future.

**Ken Hastings, Chairman**

# What's been happening in the East of Scotland

**It's been a busy six months in Edinburgh with a diverse range of events plus three bus trips as well as the monthly 'Coffee with Friends' events.**

## July

We kicked off with what should have been a leisurely Afternoon Tea canal cruise. Unfortunately, despite the sunny weather, the planned cruise was cancelled at the last moment due to high winds! Thankfully, everyone who was due to board the barge opted to travel to The Bridge Inn at Ratho where we enjoyed a lovely Afternoon Tea together.

## August

A trip to Scottish Lavender Oils was the highlight of August's programme.



A full bus travelled to Loch Leven, the location for the first part of our day trip.

The highly charismatic owner of Scottish Lavender Oils treated us to a hugely entertaining tour and talk about his passion for creating the very best lavender products. Lunch was at the Grouse & Claret where we enjoyed a delicious meal before setting off for a fun afternoon in nearby Falkland.



A visit to the Museum of Fire Heritage was a real treat as we spent time with the retired Firemaster whose passion for the artefacts shone through. Some of the group had visited the Museum of Fire in Lauriston Place, so this was a great introduction to the new home of fire heritage in Edinburgh. Lunch was at La Casa and delivered extremely good Mediterranean food, friendly service and comes highly recommended.



### Later in September

A group set off to Doune for a visit to the Scottish Antiques & Arts Centre.

With dozens of individual stands selling an eclectic mix of antiques and collectables, plus contemporary items, this one-stop shop offered a dazzling array of gift possibilities. Lunch at The Woodside in Doune was the highlight of the day with wonderful food and exceptionally friendly service.

A trip to the Hamilton Toy Museum in Callander rounded off an enjoyable day before we headed back to Edinburgh.

### October

Saw us heading to the Usher Hall where we enjoyed a wonderful classical music concert featuring the Basel Chamber Orchestra with guest soloist and renowned pianist, Angela Hewitt. Combined with lunch at favourite restaurant Dine, this was an afternoon to remember. The concert featured music by Mozart, Bach, Shostakovich and Vaughan Williams.

### November

The Barnton Nuclear Bunker was the scene for our day out in November. We met for brunch at friendly neighbourhood cafe The Village Bistro where we enjoyed some lovely food before heading 100ft underground for a tour of this little known Edinburgh gem.



It was a truly fascinating tour and we learnt so much about this historic 1940s RAF and Cold War era Nuclear Bunker. By a lucky coincidence, one of the tour group had worked at the Bunker so we enjoyed first hand tales of life underground.

A bus trip to the annual Christmas Fair at Hopetoun House was our next event. An Edinburgh institution, the beautiful setting of Hopetoun House did not disappoint.



With a huge selection of exhibitors this event provided the perfect opportunity for Christmas gift shopping. Lunch was a real treat with a trip to the shoreline at Aberdour and a restaurant with the most beautiful views in Fife, the aptly named 'Room with a View'.



This gem is a bit of a hidden secret and served up delicious food before we set off back up the hill to enjoy some free time in beautiful Aberdour.

## December

Christmas Lunch was hugely popular with almost 40 diners enjoying a delicious three course meal in perfect surroundings. Howies is an Edinburgh institution and never disappoints. Using ingredients from Scotland's natural larder and the best of local producers, meals at Howies are sure to please. It was a lovely opportunity to wish each other well as we headed into the Festive Season.

**Amanda Fraser**





# What's been happening in the West of Scotland

## July

### Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story

This was a fabulous afternoon of music, featuring all the well known Buddy Holly classics. The Buddy Holly story tells of an amazingly talented musician, whose life was cut short by a tragic plane crash at the age of 22. The West End production had everyone on their feet, dancing and singing to well known hits such as 'That'll Be The Day', 'Peggy Sue' and 'True Love Ways' to name but a few.



## August

### Royal Yacht Britannia

We boarded the former Royal Yacht of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, where we learned about the life of royalty and crew on board the wonderful yacht.



An informative and well structured audio guide led us through the Britannia's five decks with ease.







Members had lunch in The Royal Deck Tearoom, enjoying quality food and admiring views from the deck. Another outing we will repeat in the future!

### **Belfast – Annual Holiday**

Eight members travelled by coach and ferry for our annual holiday to Belfast. It was an enjoyable and informative trip.

We visited the Titanic Exhibition, Giant's Causeway, Bushmills Distillery and Down Cathedral, where St Patrick is buried.

This was a busy week but we did get some free time, with half the party taking the city bus tour and half visiting Crumlin Road Gaol, both extremely interesting. Our hotel was well located within walking distance of the bustling shopping area and bars. A great week enjoyed by all.



## Friendship Month

Thirty eight members attended our September Coffee Event. We were lucky enough to have Susan Waller attend the September Coffee Morning. Susan and her family have been lifelong members of The Oddfellows and has a wealth of knowledge which she imparted to those attending.

It was interesting to hear not only about the history of The Oddfellows, but also her family's personal experience of how they enjoyed the social aspect of membership – holidays, dances and conferences. This was our busiest coffee event since lockdown, definitely boosted by Susan's attendance.

## October

### Sir Walter Scott Steamship Cruise – Loch Katrine

Thirty members headed from Glasgow to The Trossachs for a cruise on the Steamship, Sir Walter Scott.



We left Glasgow on a dreary morning, however our sailing was calm as we sailed up the Loch, admiring the beautiful scenery. A guide aboard the Steamship kept us informed of the local history of the Loch and the Steamship.

We had an added bonus of a further short cruise on The Lady of the Loch where we enjoyed a lovely lunch, before heading back to Glasgow.



## November

### Mitchell Library Tour and Lunch in Bon Accord - Glasgow

**Wednesday 15 November, 11am**

The Mitchell Library is one of Europe's largest public libraries with over one million items of stock and is the hub of a city-wide information service.



Twenty Eight members enjoyed a tour of the fabulous Mitchell Library, hearing about the extensive book collection and history of the Library.

We were given an additional bonus of an overview of how to trace family history. Definitely a place to visit in the future, even if it's just to enjoy a coffee in the bright café situated within the library area. We then walked the short distance to Bon Accord for lunch. This is a lovely, cosy bar/restaurant serving traditional pub food with something for everyone.

Another great day out!

## Christmas Charity Donation

Members once again showed their generosity by bringing selection boxes to our November coffee event. We donated over 50 selection boxes and gifts to members' chosen charity, CHAS (Childrens' Hospices Across Scotland).

The charity was extremely grateful and patients and their siblings at Robin House, Balloch benefited from the gifts.

Thank you again, to you all.





## December

### 2023 Christmas Lunch

Over thirty members enjoyed a lovely festive lunch in Amarone, Glasgow. The atmosphere, food and service were fantastic – the staff really worked hard to make sure we had a great time.

It was lovely to welcome two of our Oddfellows' members from Belfast who made the journey over from Ireland especially for the lunch. Thank you Chris and Sandra – we look forward to seeing you at future events. The lunch was a wonderful way to end 2023.



## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

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- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Christine by phone on **07389 826328** or email [christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.cuthbertson@oddfellows.co.uk)

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## REFER A FRIEND

# Share the love and make someone smile



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

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Ref 1644



# Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



**None of us know what is around the corner...**

## Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Yvonne Rice on **01563 572727** or email [yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk).

## Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)



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

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

## Care and Welfare Helpline

**Call 0800 0149 822**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

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

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

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

## Society-funded cancer research on track

**The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.**



*Nur updating AMC last year*

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

### Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student."

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

### On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer



*Dr Tim Fenton*

vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."

### HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews)

## Our fantastic four

**Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.**

### George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk  
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

### Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

**Jamie Messett**

Loyal Lord Byron  
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

**Charlotte Stevenson,**

Pride of Woolwich  
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.

The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."



Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards)

## Striving for a greener future

**The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.**

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

## Investing in futures

**Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.**

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course\*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



*Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show*

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

\*T&Cs apply.