

April - July 2022



O^{the} Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Capital of the Fens Branch



Wisbech in Bloom – photo by kind permission of our member Alan Wheeldon



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Online



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Wisbech has won 14 consecutive gold medals in 'Anglia in Bloom' and has won 'Britain in Bloom' twice. In 2018 the Wisbech in Bloom team were filmed as part of the BBC 2 programme 'Britain in Bloom'.

Welcome to this edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Capital of the Fens District.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you 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 dining out to trips out plus lots of other activities.

Contact Details

District Secretary:

Hilary Morgan-Thorpe,

Address: 72 Docking Road, Great Bircham, Norfolk PE31 6QP

Telephone: 07939 860968

Email:

hilary.morgan-thorpe@
oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser:

Maureen Norgate,

Address: 29 Grove Park, Magazine Lane, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 1LF

Telephone: 07751 777862

Email:

maureen.norgate@oddfellows.co.uk



Introducing our new Branch Secretary, Hilary Morgan-Thorpe and new Social Organiser, Maureen Norgate

Dental & Optical Claim Forms

Just a reminder that the Wisbech office is now closed. Please forward any claim forms to our District Secretary, Hilary, to the above address. Alternatively, you can always hand any forms to Hilary, Maureen or Stewart when we meet up.

Regular Events

Seated Exercises



A relaxing afternoon with gentle exercises, all performed sitting down and played to music to help with our rhythm. Followed by tea or coffee and biscuits and of course a chance to have a chat. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

**Second Monday
of the month**



11 April

9 May

13 June

11 July

Monthly Coffee Morning



Join us for our monthly coffee morning and catch up with friends and members. Hear the latest Oddfellows news and an opportunity to ask any questions. Also open to family and friends who wish to learn more about the Oddfellows. First cuppa free. Crown Lodge Hotel, Downham Road, Outwell PE14 8SE. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

**First Wednesday
of the month**



6 April

4 May

1 June

6 July

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 guarantee you a good time.

For further details or to book on any of the following events please contact Hilary on 07939 860968 or email hilary.morgan-thorpe@oddfellows.co.uk or Maureen Norgate on 07751 777862 or email maureen.norgate@oddfellows.co.uk. Anyone requiring a lift to any event, please contact either Hilary or Maureen.

April 2022

WED 20 Coffee Morning in Littleport



10.15am



Free



Come and join us for a complimentary coffee or tea and biscuits and catch up on the latest Oddfellows news. There will also be bacon rolls on sale. Family and friends always welcome. Littleport Bowls Club, Hempfield Place, Littleport CB6 1NP. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

TUES 26 Coffee Morning in Marshland St James



9.45am



Free



Coffee morning at a new venue. A warm welcome is extended to the residents of Marshland St James to come along for complimentary coffee or tea and biscuits. Find out all about the Oddfellows or just have a chat and meet new people. Marshland St James Community Centre, Smeeth Road, Marshland St James PE14 8JB. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.



TUES 26 Curry Night



7pm



As per menu



If you like your curry mild or hot and spicy the buffet menu has something for everyone. Book by Wednesday 20 April. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.



May

WED 11 Lunch at the Station Bar, Wisbech St Mary



12.30pm



See below



A new venue for us. Enjoy a mid week carvery. Desserts are also available. The Station Bar has a modern setting, all on the flat and plenty of parking. Book by Wednesday 4 May. Costs: £8.95 for carvery plus £4.25 for dessert. The Station Bar, Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre, Beeching Close, Wisbech St Mary PE13 4SS. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

June

THURS
02

Jubilee Celebration Afternoon Tea



2.15pm



£12.50



Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee with a lovely afternoon tea – come dressed in red white and blue and bring your flags as well. Book by Wednesday 20 May. Marshland St James Community Centre, Smeeth Road, Marshland St James PE14 8JB. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

TUES

07

Breakfast at Lillie's



10am



As per
menu



We meet again at this popular venue for breakfast – plenty of choice and friendly atmosphere. Numbers are limited, so if you are unable to make this date, join us on Tuesday 14 June. Book by Tuesday 31 May. Lillie's, Retail Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

SUN
12

Oddfellows Brass Band Concert



2.30pm



Members £15, Guests £17.50



A joint event with King's Lynn, Fenland and Capital of the Fens Branches. Come and listen to our well known brass band. Afternoon tea of scones, jam, cream, cakes, tea and coffee will be served at our tables during the interval and is included in the ticket price. Doors open at 2pm for 2.30pm start. Raffle tickets will be on sale and proceeds will go to Sheringham Lifeboat. Each Branch will have an information stand. The bar will also be open. Book by Wednesday 1 June. Great Barn, Knight's Hill, King's Lynn PE30 3HQ. Contact Alison on 07860 483578, Maureen on 07751 777862 or Claire on 01354 984322.

For regular events information, please see page 3 for more details

June

TUES
14

Breakfast at Lillie's

L 10am

£ As per menu



Repeat event for those who wish to join us but were unable to make last week. Book by Tuesday 7 June. Lillie's, Retail Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

TUES
28

Curry Night

L 7pm

£ As per menu



If you like your curry mild or hot and spicy the buffet menu has something for everyone. Book by Tuesday 21 June. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

July

TUES
19

Lunch at Lillie's

L 12 noon

£ £8.75



Enjoy a two course lunch, reasonably priced at this popular venue. If you are unable to make this date we will be holding another lunch next week. Book by Tuesday 12 July. Lillie's, Retail Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

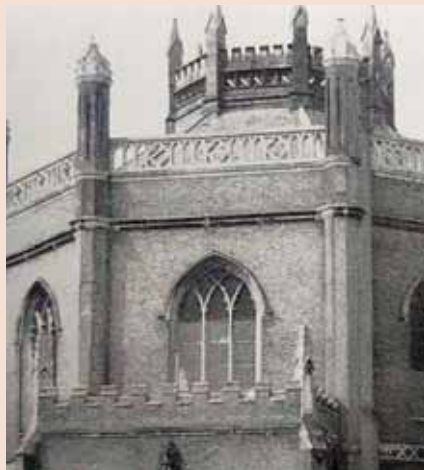
July

THURS
07

Octagon Graveyard

L 7pm

£ Free



An evening event. Meet in Wisbech Rugby Club for a slide show and talk about the Octagon Graveyard by our member Alan Weeldon. Coffee, tea and cakes will be served. A visit to the graveyard will follow for those who wish to. Booking is advisable, so we know how many to cater for, but it is not essential. This may be an event for family and friends who are not members to come along. Book by Wednesday 6 July. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

July

TUES

26

Lunch at Lillie's



12 noon



£8.75



A repeat of last week's meal, for those unable to make it then. Book by Tuesday 19 July. Lillie's, Retail Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.



WED

27

Quacks and Quackery Talk



6.30pm



Free



A local favourite, Dr Eric Somerville, will give a presentation on 'Quacks and Quackery', followed by light refreshments. This will be preceded by a Branch meeting. Family and friends and non-members very welcome. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Maureen on 07751 777862.



Please note that there is a list of these events - 'At a glance' at the back of the events diary.

New to the Oddfellows?

Join us at one of our new member welcome events

Tues 12 July, 7pm
Wed 13 July, 1.30pm

Tues 18 October, 7pm
Wed 19 October, 1.30pm

For further information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome



Curry Night at Alishan's

Local Capital of the Fens News

Here are some photos from our recent trips and events



Lunch at The Woolpack



Breakfast at Lillie's



Our Past Provincial Grand Master (Past District Chairman) Maureen Norgate and Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) presenting a cheque for £600 to Wisbech Girls Venture Corps. A presentation was made to Wisbech Sea Cadets also for £600. These donations were the amount raised at various functions throughout the year. Many thanks to all members, family and friends who contributed in many ways to enable this amount to be raised. Photo by kind permission of Barbara Oliver.

Obituary – Alison Adamson

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Alison Adamson, Prov CS of Capital of the Fens District Lodge last Autumn.

Alison also served as Secretary to the East Anglian Group Conference and on several of the committees at Unity offices, making the journey from Wisbech to Manchester on many occasions.

In May 2021 the AMC awarded Alison the Meritorious Service Jewel which is a great honour.

Sheringham Lifeboat remained her main charity appeal and was presented to the Duke of Kent (President of RNLI) with her late husband, Keith for all the work she contributed to. Our meetings and social events will not be the same without her. Our thoughts go out to all her family.



Newly Elected

Our new Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) Michael Hill has been a member for many years and served on the Committee of Management, attended our Annual Movable Conferences and East Anglian Group Conferences.



Michael's chosen charities are Prostate Cancer and East Anglia Air Ambulance. We hope you will all be able to support these worthy charities at our various fundraising events.

He has a family connection with the Farquharson Clan.

We share one of his many favourite Scottish recipes – which of course includes malt whisky, see page 10.



Whisky Cake Recipe:

Ingredients

1. 230g self-raising flour
2. 2 eggs
3. 230g seedless raisins
4. 1 teaspoon mixed spice
5. 115g soft butter
6. 1 teaspoon cinnamon
7. 115g chopped walnuts or mixed nuts
8. 1 lemon, juice and grated rind
9. 115g soft brown sugar
10. 3 tablespoons malt whisky
11. Pinch of salt

For the topping

1. 60g softened butter,
2. 60g icing sugar,
3. Malt whisky

Overnight, leave the raisins soaking in the whisky. Grease and line an 8 inch cake tin and pre-heat oven to 190°C, 375°F or Mark 5. Sift all the dry ingredients into a bowl, add the softened butter, sugar and eggs and beat well. Add the raisins, lemon rind and juice and the whisky (if any left from the raisins) adding a little more until mixture is right consistency. Fill the prepared tin and bake for about 45 minutes checking with a skewer. Cool on a wire rack.

For the topping fold the icing sugar into the butter and add a dash of whisky. Spread evenly over the cake.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

 OddfellowsUK

 OddfellowsUK

A message from Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows CEO

Dear friends

For me, two things really stood out in 2021 – how resilient everyone has been, and how well we’ve adapted to so much change.

It’s been a tough 12 months on top of a previous tough nine months, and who knows how many more? However, as Oddfellows, you’ve looked out for one another, stayed open to doing things differently, and it’s getting us through. Your actions have made an amazing difference to so many of our members’ lives.

Gratitude

I want to thank you all for everything you have done. When speaking with our members and volunteers, and working alongside our Branches and staff in Manchester and Liverpool, I have felt immense pride – about our Society, everyone involved, and in Oddfellowship. By working together, we’ve shown that Oddfellows do what we say we do, no matter what challenges are thrown at us.

“Being there for our members continues to be our priority.”



At the start of 2021, we had hoped that by the end of the year things would feel a little brighter. We’ve made huge strides in our understanding of Covid, but the landscape is still very unpredictable. And when faced with uncertainty over a sustained period, it can make us feel overwhelmed and anxious.

One thing I’ve been doing to try and manage these feelings is to focus on what I can control, and acknowledging what I cannot. It’s not always easy, but it really has helped. Sitting with your thoughts or worries and working out what you can influence is time well spent. You can then identify the bits you can take action to change, which puts you in a more positive frame of mind. Covid is here to stay and the challenge for us all now is learning to live alongside it.

If you’ve needed support from us, I hope we’ve been able to help you where we can. Being there for our members continues to be our priority.

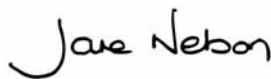
Online events are here to stay for as long as there is a need to keep people in touch with others from the comfort of their home. And our local and national care and welfare teams, and advice lines, will always be there for anyone who needs help to work through a problem or worry.

We sadly lost many people we cared about in 2021. To those that passed, we will always remember you. Our condolences go out to family and friends, and rest assured they'll always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

We are having to cope with higher levels of uncertainty and worry at the moment, so we must make sure we rest well, smile as often as we can and be kind to ourselves and others. These are all totally within our control.

On behalf of the Society and my family, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

Stay safe and well. Yours always in friendship



Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows

Lupus research team skills up for the future

In November we visited Guy's Hospital to see members of the Lupus Trust research team who have been the recipients of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund since 2019. Lockdown had the unintended consequence of sending the research in a new direction.

The restrictions meant they had to abandon the laboratory to work from home but this gave them time to focus on learning how to analyse big data, a skill that will benefit the research well into the future.

Pictured is the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Ogden handing over a cheque of £29,000



to Professor Jo Spencer and PHD student Bekki Velounias.

The donation marks the final instalment of a major three-year funding partnership, which totalled £85,000.

Oddfellows Travel – travel with confidence and in great company in 2022

We can't wait to get members and guests together for an exciting range of holidays in 2022. There's such a selection, something is sure to float your boat. Here's what's on offer...

London Theatre Weekend

17–19 June 2022

(2 nights. Bed and breakfast)

£245 per person



For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

We kick off the season with a trip to London to enjoy restaurants, shopping and musical theatre. We couldn't get closer to the buzzing West End than the 3* St Giles Hotel, located just yards from Oxford Street and Leicester Square. Join us for welcome drinks on Friday with our host, member Debra Haley. On Saturday, we head to the Victoria Apollo Theatre to see highly acclaimed musical, **Wicked**. On Sunday, we will make the most of the location with a shopping trip, ending our weekend with lunch before the journey home.

An unforgettable cruise exploring Norway and the Arctic Circle

22 June–7 July 2022

(15 nights. Full board)

From £2,899 per person

All aboard the Fred. Olsen cruise ship Balmoral on this exploration of Norway's northernmost reaches – an unforgettable journey of a lifetime. Setting off from Newcastle, join Oddfellows host Wendy Atkins as we journey to the Arctic Circle to the famous island of Spitsbergen, just 700 nautical miles from the North Pole. We will experience the remote beauty and eerie silence of distant towns situated in the stunning Arctic landscape. Our magical journey continues to the Norwegian mainland, to the 'top of Europe', the North Cape plateau and Tromsø, taking in stunning sights of lakes, mountains and glaciers on a journey that's unforgettable.



For more information, contact host Wendy Atkins at wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01437 251 867

Oddfellows Summer Holiday 4–8 July 2022

(4 nights. Half board)

Warner Leisure Hotel's Nidd Hall, Harrogate. From £351 per person for a Standard room or £381 per person for a Signature room

Treat yourself to a break in a Grade II listed Georgian mansion in the Yorkshire countryside on our annual hosted summer getaway. Oddfellows Travel summer holidays are legendary and this year promises to be no exception. Set in 45 acres of award-winning gardens in the North Yorkshire countryside, we will be staying at Nidd Hall Hotel – where rumour has it Edward VIII met Wallis Simpson at a party.

For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

Unwind with friends

The group holiday, which will be hosted by David Ogden, our Grand Master, is open to any members and their guests from across the UK. Together we'll be enjoying drinks, mouth-watering meals and superb live evening entertainment. You'll be free to choose how to spend your day – exploring the stunning location, sharing a game of bowls in the glorious gardens or relaxing in the swimming pool and spa. There's a host of activities to entertain you. Join us – bring a friend – and enjoy this beautiful 18th century mansion near Harrogate.



The spectacular grounds at Nidd Hall, Harrogate

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 Hilary on **07939 860968** or email **hilary.morgan-thorpe@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



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**

At a glance

April 2022

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Wed 6 | Monthly Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Mon 11 | Seated Exercises | 2pm |
| Wed 20 | Coffee Morning in Littleport | 10.15am |
| Tues 26 | Coffee Morning in Marshland St James | 9.45am |
| Tues 26 | Curry Night | 7pm |

May

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| Wed 4 | Monthly Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Mon 9 | Seated Exercises | 2pm |
| Wed 11 | Lunch at the Station Bar, Wisbech St Mary | 12.30pm |

June

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Wed 1 | Monthly Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Thurs 2 | Jubilee Celebration Afternoon Tea | 2.15pm |
| Tues 7 | Breakfast at Lillie's | 10am |
| Sun 12 | Oddfellows Brass Band Concert | 2.30pm |
| Mon 13 | Seated Exercises | 2pm |
| Tues 14 | Breakfast at Lillie's | 10am |
| Tues 28 | Curry Night | 7pm |

July

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Wed 6 | Monthly Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| Thurs 7 | Octagon Graveyard | 7pm |
| Mon 11 | Seated Exercises | 2pm |
| Tues 19 | Lunch at Lillie's | 12 noon |
| Tues 26 | Lunch at Lillie's | 12 noon |
| Wed 27 | Quacks and Quackery Talk | 6.30pm |

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 where necessary.

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