



the
Oddfellows
making friends, helping people

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www.oddfellows.co.uk

St Marnock News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

**What's been
happening in
East of Scotland**
Page 4

**What's been
happening in
West of Scotland**
Page 6

**Our Making a
Difference 2019
Award Winners!**
Page 11



Guide Dogs

Page 3



Community Enterprise



Trip to Ireland



Events Diary



Welcome to the latest edition of St Marnock News and Views

It's a pleasure to bring you this summer edition of our Newsletter and to extend a warm welcome to all our new members who will be receiving this publication for the first time.

We have had another busy six months filled with interesting events and friendly social meetings. As always, we look forward to welcoming new people to come along and join us at any of our events and hope everyone enjoys being part of our friendly society.

We are always looking for new ideas for events, if you have any suggestions or feedback please get in touch – our contact details are on the right.

Amanda and Shirley

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Guide Dogs

As part of the East of Scotland's ongoing commitment to supporting local and national charities, the Branch Events Organiser - Amanda Fraser - handed over a cheque to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association during a visit to the Forfar Training Centre in June.

It's part of an ongoing initiative to raise funds from within our local group. Every time we visit buildings and organisations, we give donations to our hosts. This allows people to give as much - or as little - as they can afford during each visit. In turn, the hosts appreciate our donations whether to go directly to their funds, or to be gifted to a nominated charity.



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.

Ref 1644



What's been happening in the East of Scotland

Events in the East of Scotland continue to be enormously popular and well attended. And that's all thanks to the support of our members.

In January, we enjoyed an outstanding sell-out concert by the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. This was followed by a fascinating visit to Leith School of Art when everyone enjoyed an entertaining tour of the building.

A large group assembled for a peek behind the scenes at The Edinburgh Grand. The City's newest five star accommodation is housed in a former RBS building. A Flamenco lesson proved to be great fun and hugely enjoyed by all present.



In a visit to Murthly Castle we enjoyed a tour in the company of the Laird and his wife who could not have been any more welcoming. The Estate Chapel proved to be an unexpected delight and lunch at Ballathie House Hotel rounded off an exceptional trip.





The Royal College of Physicians was the stunning destination for our group who were keen to find out more about the organisation and the impressive building it calls home.

Our visit to The Edinburgh Remakery was eye-opening and we learnt lots about repurposing and recycling. The visit prompted plenty of interesting conversations, as did the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop where we enjoyed another excellent tour.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre opened its doors to us in what turned out to be one of the best theatre tours in the City. This beautiful building is the centrepiece for a vibrant and creative arts community offering a busy programme and plenty of community involvement.



A day trip to Forfar took us to the Guide Dog Training School where we met some trainee guide dogs and discovered lots more about this busy centre.



St Mark's Unitarian Church was a lovely inclusive venue and we were warmly welcomed by our kind hosts.

Amanda Fraser





What's been happening in the West of Scotland

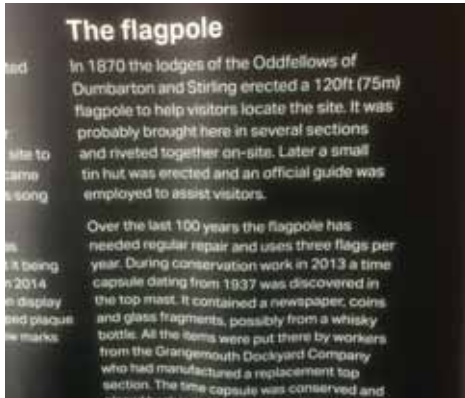
Our first event of the year started with an enjoyable lunch in the Baby Grand Bar & Grill before we spent the afternoon watching the award winning show 'The Glasgow Girls'; at the Kings Theatre. This was a thought provoking performance which told the story about a group of young females who highlighted the poor treatment of asylum seekers living in Glasgow.

In February we visited the Giffnock Synagogue where our guide explained some of the history of the Glasgow Jewish community and of their religion and customs. After our tour we had a lovely lunch at the Orchard Park Hotel where we were joined by a few other members.

A coach trip in March took us to visit to the Bannockburn Experience followed by some free time to have a wander and



lunch in Stirling. Interestingly, whilst in the Bannockburn visitors centre, there was an exhibit showing a picture and explanation of how in 1870 the lodges of the Oddfellows Dumbarton and Stirling erected a 120ft flagpole to help visitors locate the site.



Our group holiday to Ireland in April went very well. The coach was comfortable and driver Pete, was impressive, he ensured there was plenty of stops and was very helpful.



Our base for the 4 night stay was the excellent Bloomfield House Hotel which had great facilities, nice rooms and food a plenty! It's right beside a lovely Loch and has copious grounds for a pre-dinner stroll.

Galway and Dublin were beautiful, interesting and lively. We also visited Lullymore Heritage Centre where we were shown how to cut peat (he didn't mind) and learned the story of how peat is formed and can regrow.

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A surprise cuppa and a very tasty home baked scone rounded off an excellent day out. The ferry trips were smooth and uneventful with tea and cake on the way out and a one course meal on the way back. All in all an excellent trip.

We spent a very warm and sunny day at Culzean Castle in May. We met for lunch in the Home Farm Restaurant then had some free time to explore the beautiful grounds before having a very informative tour of the Castle.



A night out at the theatre in June started with a tasty Italian meal at Di Maggios. We later went to the Theatre Royal for

a great evening of music, reminiscing and even some dancing to the amazingly talented touring cast of the Everly Brothers Story.



Our Social meetings continue to be popular with numbers increasing especially at the Glasgow meetings, this might be to do with the tasty bacon rolls!

In May we were pleased to welcome Mary Moran a Volunteer from Mary's Meals who gave a very interesting presentation on the Charity which started in a Tin Hut in Dalmally, Argyll and how it set up a school feeding programme in communities where poverty prevents children going to school. They now provide more than a million meals daily for children in places including Africa, Caribbean and Eastern Europe. We were pleased to present Mary with a cheque for £150 from Oddfellows and everyone at the meeting kindly donated a further £64 at the meeting.



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

10% off your
first booking
over and above
offers currently
in the market.



Haven Holidays

Save up to 10%
on top of Haven's
best prices
through exclusive
member benefits.



Warner Leisure Holidays

Save up to 10%
on top of Haven's
best prices through
exclusive member
benefits.



Travel Insurance*

10% discount on
JustTravelcover.com
insurance policies.

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.

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Oddfellows Group Holiday 2020

The destination and date for our 2020 group holiday are still to be confirmed. As places will be limited, please note your interest to Shirley or Yvonne and we will keep you updated once we have more information.



Monthly Social Meetings

Everyone is very welcome to come along to our regular monthly social meetings where the coffee/tea and cake is on us!

East Coast - Meeting second Tuesday of every month at 11.30am at the Turquoise Thistle, 51-59 York Place, Edinburgh. Please contact Amanda to book your place.

West Coast - Meeting last Monday of the month at 11am in the Café at the Royal Concert Hall or sometimes afternoon/evenings at Fenwick Hotel. An email/text will be sent when possible, to confirm details - if you do not have email or a mobile please contact Yvonne or Shirley for information.

Some dates for your diary:

Monday 26 August - East meets West, Afternoon Tea - Fenwick Hotel Prestwick, 2pm.

Monday 30 September - Half Yearly Meeting - Fenwick Hotel, 7pm.

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 Centurions 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 Deputy Provincial 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.



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**.

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**

Events Diary

Sunday 4 August - Visit to the Dunedin Halls

This is an impressive Edwardian Baroque building with a Masonic Temple on the first floor and large hall on the second floor. Originally the meeting place of two church congregations and The Morningside Unionist Club, the halls were purchased in 1926 by Lodge Dunedin and are now home to four Masonic Lodges and The Morningside School of Dance. Lunch is at The Hermitage - a hugely popular gastropub. Starts at 11-23 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5LZ at 11am. **Cost:** Tour - Free. Lunch £16.95 for two courses. To book, please contact Amanda as soon as possible.



Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 September - Overnight Trip to Newcastle, Northumberland and Beamish

Join us on a two day heritage-themed holiday with a visit to Cragside House and a full day at Beamish. We'll stay at the centrally-located Four Star Maldron Hotel in Newcastle and enjoy dinner at Blackfriars restaurant which is located in a 13th Century former Medieval Friary. **Cost:** Twin/double p/p £121. Single £155.50. Includes one night's accommodation, dinner, two lunches, breakfast, entry to both attractions and transport from Edinburgh. To book, please contact Amanda as soon as possible. A £60 deposit will secure your booking.



Beamish image by Mjobling (CC BY 3.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>).

Monday 21 October - Day Trip to Samye Ling Monastery, 9am

We are visiting the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre established in the west. There will be a tour of the centre followed by a chance to attend a prayer session and guided meditation. **Cost:** £20 includes lunch in the dining room and coach travel from Ayr, Prestwick, Glasgow & Hamilton. To book, please contact Shirley.



Wednesday 13 November - Tour of Scottish Fire and Rescue Training Centre, 2pm

We are visiting the Scottish Fire & Rescue Training Centre which is the fourth largest in the world. During our tour we will visit the Fire Simulator within the Fire Village, the Safe and Well House and learn about risk. Lunch will be arranged for 12 noon at the Velvet Bar & Grill. **Cost:** No charge, lunch payable on the day. To book, please contact Shirley.



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