

October 2021 – January 2022



the
ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Heart of Norfolk



Dereham Market Place by David Richardson



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Health and
Wellbeing



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Cinema



Afternoon Tea at Hamptons Barn, Bawdeswell - Saturday 20 November 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of your events diary and newsletter for Heart of Norfolk Branch of Oddfellows.

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.

Contact Details

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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 - we like to think that we can guarantee 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.

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

October 2021

THURS 14 Social Evening - Chat around the table



7.30pm



Free



Hurrah! We should be back at our indoor venue (Covid rules permitting). This evening will be an opportunity to catch up with friends and new members. What has everyone been up to? It's your chance to find out. Please bring your own cups and any drinks. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

MON 18 Walk from Beetley and Coffee Stop at Gressenhall Workhouse



10.30am



Free



Do come and join us for a walk around Beetley, we will



meet at Gressenhall Workhouse. Returning to the Mardlers Rest Café for a cuppa break. If you are not able to come for the walk why not meet us for a coffee, the walkers should be back for about 11.30am - tables are on first served basis at the café. Gressenhall Museum Car Park, Gressenhall NR20 4DR. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

We look forward to recommencing our regular monthly socials (Covid guidance permitting) on the second Thursday of the month at Dereham Meeting Point at 7.30pm.

We want you to feel as safe as possible, so we will ensure we have adequate ventilation - so do wear suitable clothing as it could be chilly.

To offer protection to others we would like you to wear a face covering at all times when you are not eating or drinking, as there may be people who are vulnerable or nervous of attending an indoor venue.

November

THURS 11 Social Evening - Reflecting back and looking forward



7.30pm



Free



Covid restrictions permitting, this evening will be a time to reflect on the past 20 months. We will celebrate the lives of those we have lost. Read our own personal poems reflecting our thoughts. It would be lovely if you brought one along with you, we would love to hear it. Most of all we will look forward to the future. Please bring your own refreshments. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

November

SAT **20** Afternoon Tea at Hamptons Barn, Bawdeswell

 2.30pm

 £15.95





We have booked a scrumptious afternoon tea at the Hamptons Barn, set in the leafy Norfolk countryside. Cost is £15.95 per person with a £10 deposit required to book your seat. We welcome non-members with open arms. Book by Thursday 4 November 2021. The Barn at Hamptons, Dereham Road, Bawdeswell, Norfolk NR20 4AA. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

December

THURS **09** It's our Christmas Party with Patsy Rose

 7.30pm

 Members Free
Guests £2 

Do join us for our Christmas celebration night.

Musician Patsy Rose

will entertain us, with a mix of well known songs and music. Please bring your own party picnic food and drinks. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.



December

SUN **19** Christmas Luncheon at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh

 12.30pm

 See below



We are going out for a festive roast lunch.

The restaurant is situated by the beautiful



grounds of the golf club. You can choose one, two or three courses of delicious food. Please do book in advance. Cost: £15 one course, £22 two courses and £28 three courses. Book by Thursday 9 December 2021. Glen Lodge, Marlingford Road, Bawburgh, Norwich NR9 3LU. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

January 2022

THURS **13** Regular Monthly Evening Social

 7.30pm

 Free



Our first social evening of 2022. We hope to have a beer and lager tasting for the men in the group and a pamper session for the ladies. We will hold a raffle for our appeal of the year 'Tapping House Hospice'. Please bring your own refreshments. Dereham Meeting Point, St Withburga Lane, Dereham NR19 1ED. Contact Paula on 01362 696536.

Outdoor events and face to face social gatherings

By May, at last, we were able to start meeting up outdoors for social distanced walks, the first one took us up Sandy Lane, Dereham to just outside Gressenhall and back down Quebec Road.

In June, the sun shone kindly for our first outdoor picnic (off Girling Road), it was the first proper chance to chat with people

old and new, some of whom we had not seen for such a long time.

We were also able to host a welcome ceremony and undertook minor degrees outside. With thanks to one of our social committee who donated use of her garden. Even though we wore face coverings to protect everyone we still enjoyed getting out, the weather was fabulous - almost too hot!



Walk at Sandy Lane, Dereham.



Minor degrees, hosting outside.



Members enjoying the outside.



Out again!

The power of Zoom

Early in 2021, we all learnt the art of Zooming, as it was the only way of seeing each other.

Our online Zoom events consisted of coffee mornings, talking about the

new activities we had taken up over the lockdowns, games sessions, poem recitals and even seated exercises. There was also the opportunity to join other online events around the country for talks, games and quizzes.



Visit to Dereham Windmill



In July, we encompassed a walk with a coffee stop at the Dereham Windmill. Those who fancied a walk around the area rambled for an hour and then met up with the rest of the group for coffee and cake.

Lunch sitting outside in the Herb Garden of the Old Dairy, Stanfield was August's main event, it was lovely to see three new faces come along to meet us.

Everyone seems so pleased to be able to get out and about and we hope this will continue for the remainder of 2021.

We also managed an additional walk in August from the Dereham Neatherd, it was a lovely stroll around the greenspace of Dereham and another well deserved break for a cuppa and a naughty but nice cake!

We are raising money for our appeal of the year 'Tapping House Hospice'. So we have restarted our raffles, with proceeds going towards the hospice. If you would like to donate a prize - do bring one along to one of our forthcoming events.



The Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC)

As much as we were all hoping for the opportunity to get together and host our 2021 AMC in person, the global pandemic had other plans and so we saw the conference held virtually over Zoom, and broadcast live via YouTube.

This is only the second time since 1944 that there hasn't been an in-person Annual Movable Conference. The AMC is usually a three-day conference which gives our network of 115 Branches a chance to have their say in the way the Society is run, celebrate its successes and developments over the past 12 months, and enjoy a catch-up with other Branches over dinner.

This year however, the Directors gathered in the Unity Office Boardroom whilst everyone else stayed at home and Deputies logged in via Zoom to listen in and make their contributions to conference.

Despite the distance between us all, the AMC was its usual hive of activity, and thanks go to all the Deputies who attended, debated and voted on the different clauses. We would also like to extend our thanks to the incredible IT team who worked tirelessly to ensure all Deputies were able to log in successfully, the conference was broadcast seamlessly, and everything ran as it should.

Welcoming our newest Grand Master, David Ogden

One of the key elements of AMC is the installation of the new Grand Master, or Chairman of the Society. This is the most prestigious and respected roles in the Society, and requires a considerable commitment. As Grand Masters, they need to have progressed through the ceremonial side of the Society and usually will have served for at least four years as a Director, before being nominated to be Grand Master.

Our Immediate Past Grand Master, David Randall, spent two years in the role, instead of the usual one, due to the coronavirus

pandemic, and has this year welcomed his successor, David Ogden. Despite there being no live audience, the ceremony featuring his installation as Grand Master was streamed on YouTube.



The Society would like to thank David Randall for his hard work during his time as Grand Master, and wish David Ogden all the best for his term. Keep an eye out for our interview with the new Grand Master in the next edition of Society News!

Congratulations to our Making a Difference Award winners!



Each year, we recognise and celebrate the efforts of members who have gone above and beyond for their local Branch, fellow members, and the Society as a whole. Without these individuals (and there are many!), the Oddfellows wouldn't be the warm and welcoming organisation it is today.

This year, faced with a global pandemic and numerous lockdowns which left many members isolated, the kindness and dedication of our Making a Difference Award nominees truly shone through. Our judges were blown away by the way Oddfellows communities rallied together to help each other through such a difficult year, and so choosing the winners was more difficult than ever. Without further ado, our 2021 Making a Difference Award winners are...

Wendy Atkins, from Ipswich Oddfellows, for Working in the spirit of mutuality

Wendy said: "It was a big surprise and I feel honoured to have won. I've done all sorts for the Ipswich Oddfellows over the years, but I enjoy my role as social organiser most of all. Since we've started running online events, I've had to think outside the box and see how our in-person events can translate onto Zoom, which has been a fun challenge."



Wendy, from Ipswich Oddfellows

I've extended the hand of friendship to other Branches to offer help and support with their online meetings."



Paul, from South London Oddfellows

Paul Fitton, from South London Oddfellows, for Enriching lives socially

Paul said: "It was a lovely surprise when I found out I'd won. Organising social events for my local group is more than just a job for me, it's fun and fulfilling. Helping people meet and make new friends in the area is wonderful."

Janice Tomlin, from Reading Oddfellows, for Giving a helping hand

Janice said: "I had no idea I'd even been nominated, so it was a shock when I was told I'd won the award, but I was incredibly pleased! I know how it feels to be on your own a lot, so being a listening ear for other members during such a difficult year has been a tonic for me as well, in many ways."



Janice, from Reading Oddfellows

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "Our members are at the heart of everything we do as a Society, and it's people like Paul, Wendy and Janice who keep the wheels turning."

"As much-loved members of their local Branches and the Society as a whole, these Awards are truly well-deserved."

Working together to Make a Difference for 2022

We are excited to introduce a new 'Achieving Together' category for our Making a Difference Awards.

Members nominated for the Achieving Together Award should be a team of two, and could be married, partners, family relations, or good friends who collaborate with, and support each other, to achieve more than they could alone.



Have your say!

If you know a Society star who goes above and beyond, or a duo whose combined efforts make your Branch a warm and welcoming place for all, download a Member Nomination form from www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference, or contact your Branch Secretary to have a form sent to you.

Face-to-face get-togethers are back, but online events are here to stay

Many members have been missing that wonderful feeling of seeing and socialising with friends in a group setting, and we're pleased to let you know that our Branches have restarted their face-to-face events, or are getting ready to restart them again very soon.

So whether you're feeling up to a walk in the great outdoors, or you're keen to get back to your local coffee morning, our Branches are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure their events are COVID-secure, and our members are safe.

Not feeling up to getting together yet? That's fine too. Lots of people will still feel anxious about mixing with groups indoors or outdoors, and we know it will take a while for things to feel "normal" again. But we don't want you to miss out, which is why our online events are here to stay.



From local guest talks streamed live from your Branch, to our weekly national coffee mornings, online events will continue for as long as our members would like them to.

Help is available to get you set up to access the online events, should you need it. Call our membership team on **0800 028 1810**, or email **events@oddfellows.co.uk** to receive a how-to guide for using Zoom video conferencing.

If you'd like to join in with one of our events, in-person or online, find out what's coming up by visiting our website: **www.oddfellows.co.uk/events** or speak to your local Branch Secretary to request a local events diary.



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 Paula on **01362 696536** or email **paula.grigglesstone@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@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

October 2021

Thurs 14	Social Evening - Chat around the table	7.30pm
Mon 18	Walk from Beetley and Coffee Stop at Gressenhall Workhouse	10.30am

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Sat 20	Afternoon Tea at Hamptons Barn, Bawdeswell	2.30pm

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Sun 19	Christmas Luncheon at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh	12.30pm

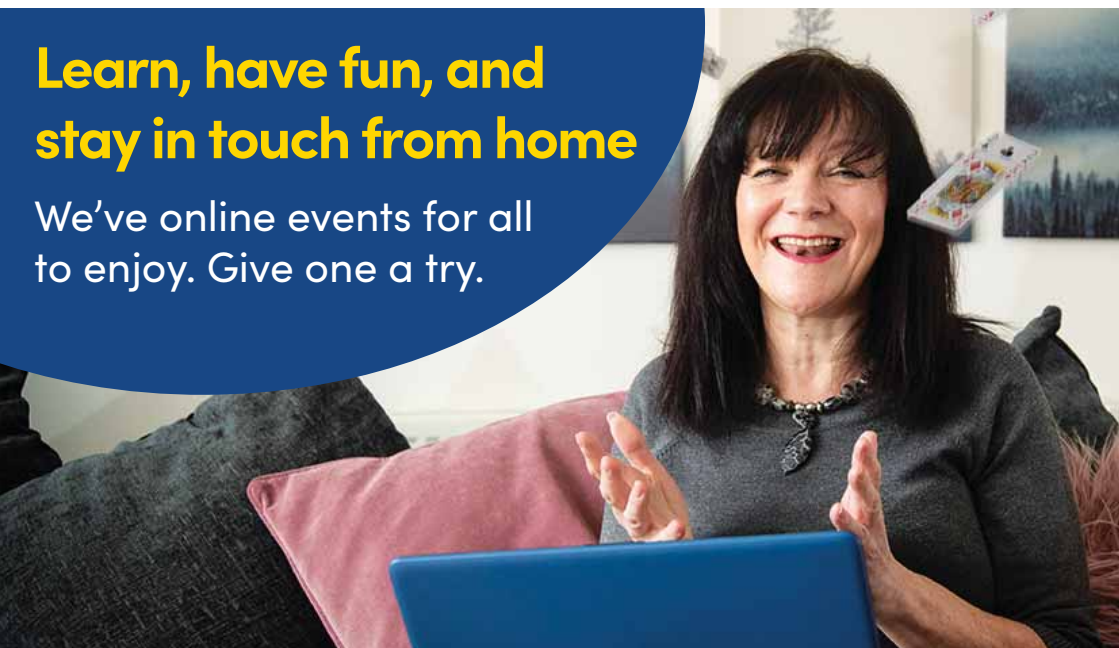
January 2022

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Further events for 2022 will be organised,
these can be found at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

**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 'online' in the place name search box