

February – May 2024  
Issue 25



# out & about

## Derby District



*Derwent Reservoir*



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Friendship  
Month



*Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Dinner Dance – Saturday 17 February*

## Happy New Year everyone

Firstly let me introduce myself as your new Prov CS (District Secretary), I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you at our forthcoming social events.

I am particularly looking forward to attending my first District Annual Dinner Dance which is being held on Saturday 17 February at The Grange Banqueting Suite, with entertainment provided by the fabulous Rocks and Frocks and I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

We have re-introduced our Crafty Social evenings which are held once a fortnight. This is for all ages and abilities, if you would like to learn to knit or crochet then we have our members who would be more than willing to help you. Alternatively, if you

have a particular crafty hobby you enjoy then please come along and share it with our members.

## Volunteer

As always we are keen to encourage people to volunteer, so if you would like to get involved by helping out at our many varied social events then please pop into the office or give us a call to find out more.

Hopefully with the lighter evenings coming in and improvements in the weather (fingers crossed) you may feel it is time to get out and about, so please have a good look through the Diary and come along to some of our events that take your fancy.

We hope to see you soon.

**Lauretta Stokes**  
**District Secretary**

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# Weekly Events

The events below all take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

## Line Dancing

Every Monday

🕒 2pm - 3.30pm    💷 Members £3  
Guests £4

Everyone is welcome and it's a fun way to keep fit! 30p for tea or coffee and biscuits.

## Short Mat Bowls

Every Tuesday

🕒 2pm - 4pm    💷 Members £1.20  
Guests £2.20

Great fun, beginners are always welcome! 30p for tea or coffee and biscuits.



## Crafty Social

Fortnightly Monday

🕒 6.30pm    💷 £1 for members

Come and join us for a fun evening of any type of crafting whilst having a chat and refreshments. All abilities welcome.



12 February  
26 February  
11 March  
25 March

8 April  
22 April  
13 May  
20 May

## Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

**01332 345697**

Lauretta Stokes

**Email:**

[lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:lauretta.stokes@oddfellows.co.uk)

Alice Smyth

**Email:**

[alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk)

**f OddfellowsDerby**



**Lots of our events take place at the Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.**

Really easy to find with parking at the rear off Melbourne Street.

# Join us online...

For a catch up and some fun!

**Saturday at 10.30am**

## Zoom Countdown with Colin

3 February

2 March

30 March

27 April

25 May

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## Zoom Quiz

17 February

16 March

13 April

11 May

**Zoom Meeting ID:**

**777 935 4259**



**For more information contact Alice Smyth on 01332 345697.**

**Learn, have fun,  
and stay in touch  
from home**

Our online events are  
here to stay



To see what's coming up visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

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# February 2024

## WED 07 Walking Group at Staunton Harold Reservoir

🕒 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at Staunton Harold Reservoir Car Park (Melbourne end of reservoir - pay and display). For a five mile walk followed by a lunch at a venue to be decided. Staunton Harold Reservoir Car Park, Melbourne, Derby DE73 8DN. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



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## SAT 10 Coffee Morning

🕒 10.30am

£ £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits



Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. Also, bacon cobs will be on sale. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.



## TUES 13 Dining Out Experience at the Broadway

🕒 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Broadway, Duffield Road, Derby DE22 1JB. Call the office on 01332 345697 by Tuesday 6 February to book your place.

## SAT 17 Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Dinner Dance

🕒 6.30pm



£ Derby Members £31.50, Guests £39.50



Come and join us for our annual dinner dance in honour of our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Christine Shelton. Entertainment provided by Rocks and Frocks. Book by Wednesday 31 January. Grange Banqueting Suite, 457 Burton Road, Littleover, Derby DE23 6XX. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# February 2024 March

## WED 21 Walking Group at Hartshorne

L 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at the Manchester Lane Car Park for a six mile walk. Includes some hills and a few stiles. Followed by lunch at the Bull's Head, Woodville Road, Hartshorne DE11 7ET. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.



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## FRI 23 Lunch at the Derbion Food Court

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Start of something new. Meet outside TGI Friday's for lunch and a chat with friends at Derbion Food Court. Derby's



shopping Centre is easily accessible by bus for a midday meal. The Derbion Shopping Centre, London Road, Derby DE1 2PL. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.

## WED 06 Walking Group at Allestree

L 10am

£ As per menu



Meet at the Woodlands Road Car Park, Allestree for a five and half mile walk. Hilly in a couple of places, otherwise easy terrain. Followed by lunch afterwards at a place to be decided. Woodlands Road Car Park, Woodlands Road, Allestree DE22 2HH. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## THURS 07 Good Intent Branch Murder Mystery Afternoon

L 2.30pm

£ Free



There will be no Branch meeting on this date, as the Good Intent Branch is holding it's annual Murder Mystery event. It's called Murder at Downtown Abbey. Please dress in your best bib and tucker. Refreshments will be provided. This is a free event but you will need to book your place by Thursday 29 February. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Margaret on 01332 519062.

# March

SAT  
09

## Beetle Drive



2pm



Members £3  
Guests £4



Come and join us for an afternoon of fun at our beetle drive. There will be a prize for the winners. Tea or coffee and cake will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to book your place by 1 March.

TUES  
12

## Dining Out Experience at the Three Horseshoes, Morley



6.45pm



As per  
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Three Horseshoes, Main Road, Morley DE7 6DF.

Call the office on 01332 345697 by Tuesday 5 March to book your place.



THURS  
14

## Cheque Presentation Evening



7pm



Free



Christine will be making her presentation to Children First Derby. A buffet will be provided. All are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to let us know you wish to attend for catering purposes by Thursday 7 March.



WED  
20

## Walking Group at Alvaston



10am



As per menu



Walk from Alvaston Park (Meet at the car park by BMX track). Walk along the Derby Canal to Borrowash, returning along the river Derwent for five and half mile. Mostly flat paths with one flight of stairs. Followed by a pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Alvaston Car Park, Meadow Lane, Alvaston DE24 8QQ. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

# March

## **SAT 23** Derby District Annual Meeting



2pm



Free



Come along and find out how the District runs. All attending members may vote at the meeting. Our new Chairman, Diane Langford will be installed at this meeting. Book by Friday 8 March. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



# April

## **WED 03** Walking Group at Shardlow



10am



As per menu



Meet at the Clock Warehouse, Shardlow for a four and half mile walk in the Shardlow area. Followed by lunch with venue to be decided later. Clock Warehouse, Canal Bank, Shardlow DE72 2GL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

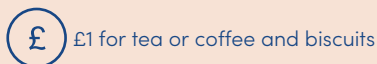


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## **TUES 26** Easter Coffee Morning



11am



£1 for tea or coffee and biscuits



Have a cuppa and join in the fun to celebrate Easter. There will be a make the Easter egg competition with a prize for the best decorated Easter Egg. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.

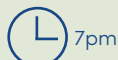




# April

FRI  
05

## Pudding Club



7pm



Members £4, Guests £5



Come along to our ever so popular Pudding Club. As before bring a pudding and don't pay. There will also be a fun game of Steal Bingo. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to book your place by Friday 29 March.

TUES  
09

## Dining Out Experience at the The Dog and Duck, Shardlow



6.45pm



As per  
menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Dog and Duck, Shardlow, Derby DE72 2GR. Call the office on 01332 345697 by Tuesday 2 April to book your place.

THURS  
11

## Coffee Morning



11am



£1 for tea or coffee  
and biscuits



Come and have a chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.

WED  
17

## Walking Group at Chester Green



10am



As per menu



Walk from Chester Green to Pride Park and return along the River Derwent. Park at Old Chester Road car park for a five mile walk. Flat, no stiles and paths. Followed by a pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Old Chester Road Car Park, Derby DE1 3SA. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

SAT  
20

## Tea Dance



2pm



Members £4  
Guests £5



Join us for an afternoon tea dance with refreshments of sandwiches and cake. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to book your place by Friday 12 April.



# May

WED  
01

## Walking at Melbourne

L 10am

£ As per menu



Meet by Melbourne Hall (Church Square) for a five mile walk. Followed by a pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Melbourne Church Square, Melbourne Pool, Melbourne DE73 8EN. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

THURS  
09

## Coffee Morning

L 11am

£ £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits



Come and have a chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Also, we will hopefully be having a guest speaker from the charity chosen by the new Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Diane Langford. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Alice on 01332 345697.

FRI  
03

## Cheese and Wine Evening - with Wine Tasting with Alice

L 7pm



£ Members £7, Guests £8



Come and join us for an evening of a selection of cheese and a blind wine tasting with Alice. There will also be a quiz. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Please contact the office on 01332 345697 to book your place by Friday 26 April.

TUES  
14

## Dining Out Experience at The Ragley Boat Stop, Sinfin

L 6.45pm

£ As per menu



Join us for an evening of food and friendship. The Ragley Boat Stop, Deep Dale Lane, Sinfin, Derby DE73 7FY. Call the office on 01332 345697 by Tuesday 7 May to book your place.



# May

## **WED** **15** **Walking at** **Weston-on-Trent**



10am



As per menu



Walk from Weston-on-Trent Village Hall. Five mile easy walk mainly along the canal. Followed by a pub lunch, venue to be decided later. Weston-on-Trent Village Hall, 47 Main Street, Weston-on-Trent DE72 2BL. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## **WED** **29** **Walking at Cotmanhay**



10am



As per menu



Meet on Bridge Street, Cotmanhay (On street parking) for a four and half mile figure of eight walk crossing Bennerley Viaduct. Mainly flat with a flight of steps. Followed by a pub lunch with venue to be decided later. Bennerley Viaduct Walk, Bridge Street, Cotmanhay DE7 8RD. Contact Colin on 01332 679851.

## **FRI** **24** **Lunch at the Derbion** **Food Court**



12.30pm



As per menu



Start of something new. Meet outside TGI Friday's for lunch and a chat with friends at Derbion Food Court. Derby's shopping Centre is easily accessible by bus for a midday meal. The Derbion Shopping Centre, London Road, Derby DE1 2PL. Contact Lauretta on 01332 345697.



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## **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.

# Branch Contact and Business Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and member support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings, if you'd like to know more or come along to one, please contact the Branch Secretary. See below for further meeting details.

## Contact Details

Contact Alice on 01332 345697  
Come along and find out how the District runs. Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

## Derby Derwent Valley District Branch

Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU, Held on Wednesday at 7pm.

**Wednesday 13 March 2024**

## Loyal King George IV

Contact Maureen Burgoyne on 01332 739538  
Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**6 February, 5 March, 2 April and 7 May**

## Loyal Good Samaritan

Contact Margaret Glanville on 01332 771964  
Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 11am at 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**12 February, 11 March, 8 April and 13 May**

## Loyal Good Intent

Contact Margaret Henchliff on 01332 519062  
Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU.

**1 February, 7 March, 4 April and 2 May**

## Loyal Pares

Contact Barbara Smith on 01159 465105  
Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at Coach and Horses Pub, Victoria Road, Draycott, Derby DE72 3PS.

**12 February, 11 March, 8 April and 13 May**

## Loyal Stanhope

Contact Doreen Swain on 01332 720064  
Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at 6.30pm at Hunters Arms Pub, Church Street, Kilburn, Derby DE56 0LU.

**3 February, 2 March, 6 April and 4 May**



# 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.  
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# At a glance

## February 2024

<b>Thurs 1</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Sat 3</b>	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
<b>Sat 3</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Tues 6</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Wed 7</b>	Walking Group at Staunton Harold Reservoir	10am
<b>Sat 10</b>	Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 12</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Mon 12</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Mon 12</b>	Pares Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Dining Out Experience at the Broadway	6.45pm
<b>Sat 17</b>	Zoom Quiz	10.30am
<b>Sat 17</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm
<b>Wed 21</b>	Walking Group at Hartshorne	10am
<b>Fri 23</b>	Lunch at the Derbion Food Court	12.30pm
<b>Mon 26</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm

## March

<b>Sat 2</b>	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
<b>Sat 2</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Tues 5</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Wed 6</b>	Walking Group at Allestree	10am
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Good Intent Branch Murder Mystery Afternoon	2.30pm
<b>Sat 9</b>	Beetle Drive	2pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Pares Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 12</b>	Dining Out Experience at the Three Horseshoes, Morley	6.45pm
<b>Wed 13</b>	Derby Derwent Valley District Branch	7pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Cheque Presentation Evening	7pm

# At a glance

## March

<b>Sat 16</b>	Zoom Quiz	10.30am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Walking Group at Alvaston	10am
<b>Sat 23</b>	Derby District Annual Meeting	2pm
<b>Mon 25</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Easter Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Sat 30</b>	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am

## April

<b>Tues 2</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Wed 3</b>	Walking Group at Shardlow	10am
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	Pudding Club	7pm
<b>Sat 6</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Mon 8</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Pares Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 9</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Dog and Duck, Shardlow	6.45pm
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Sat 13</b>	Zoom Quiz	10.30am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Walking Group at Chester Green	10am
<b>Sat 20</b>	Tea Dance	2pm
<b>Mon 22</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Sat 27</b>	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am

## May

<b>Wed 1</b>	Walking at Melbourne	10am
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Good Intent Branch Meeting	2.30pm
<b>Fri 3</b>	Cheese and Wine Evening - with Wine Tasting with Alice	7pm
<b>Sat 4</b>	Stanhope Branch Meeting	6.30pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	King George IV Branch Meeting	7.30pm

# At a glance

## May

<b>Thurs 9</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Sat 11</b>	Zoom Quiz	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Good Samaritan Branch Meeting	11am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Mon 13</b>	Pares Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Dining Out Experience at The Ragley Boat Stop, Sinfin	6.45pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Walking at Weston-on-Trent	10am
<b>Mon 20</b>	Crafty Social	6.30pm
<b>Fri 24</b>	Lunch at the Derbion Food Court	12.30pm
<b>Sat 25</b>	Zoom Countdown with Colin	10.30am
<b>Wed 29</b>	Walking at Cotmanhay	10am

## 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 Alice by phone on 01332 345697 or email [alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk)



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## Provincial Grand Master's Message

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

As I prepare this, we are all in the swing of preparing for Christmas and by the time you read the magazine it will be 2024.

We have had a very busy few months with special events such as Quiz Afternoon, Horse Racing Night, Inter Branch Bowls, Bus Trip to Tatton Park, plus our regular Coffee Mornings, Dining Out, Walking Group and monthly Zoom meetings by Colin and Mary. There are still lots of events and activities to look forward to in 2024, our New Year Coffee Morning on Thursday 11 January, plus special events such as Chocolate Bingo on Saturday 13 January and Play Your Cards Right on Saturday 27 January.

We do, of course, have a wonderful team of volunteers without whose help we would not be able to put on these events, so thank you to you all. If you have any ideas for social events, or would like to volunteer, please contact the Office.

My charity 'Children First' Derby has been very generously supported by you all and thank you to everyone for your donations. I shall be presenting the final cheque over to the charity in March.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

**Christine Shelton, Provincial Grand Master (Chairman)**



*Christine with junior members Skyla and Florence at the Childrens' Christmas Party.*

## Pieces of Time



New Years come  
and New Years go,  
Pieces of time all in a row.

As we live our lives, each  
second and minute,  
We know we're privileged to  
have you in it.

Our appreciation never ends,  
For our greatest blessing: our  
family and friends.

Happy New Year.

## New Branch Secretary

By the time you are reading this our new Branch Secretary/Provincial Corresponding Secretary, Lauretta Stokes will be in place in the newly refurbished office.

The Committee of Management hope you will join them in welcoming her and wishing her well in her new position.

I am sure she is looking forward to meeting you in due course.

# Friendship Walk



The Friendship Walk in September was beautifully sunny and everyone enjoyed walking through the shaded areas of Elvaston Castle. The park was very busy, young families enjoying the last day before the new school term was to begin. With ages 1 to 92, the pace was steady, giving everyone time to look around and take in the surroundings.

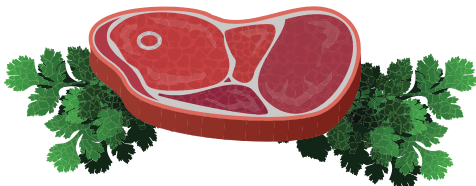
The Walled Garden, despite it being the end of summer was still very colourful and impressive. How wonderful it must have been in its hay day. With years of talk about the park's future, let's hope it is never lost to the people of Derby to enjoy.

At the end of the walk everyone, young and older sat round and enjoyed a picnic put together by Polly Cunningham and cakes baked by Margaret Henchcliff.

## Eating Out

In September, the Eating Out group visited The Forge in Blacksmiths Yard. What

a new experience it was for most of us. The meat or fish arrives just seared on a stone which has been heated to a temperature of 400 degrees. You then slice it and cook it to your requirements on the hot stone. It does come accompanied with chips and salad.



It was certainly different - quite expensive and you cook it yourself, more or less!

After the initial surprise we all got on with it and enjoyed a nice evening.

## Race Night



Members enjoyed an evening proving that only the bookies prosper, as at the end of the evening only the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity benefitted, everyone else went home a little bit poorer, although they had enjoyed the excitement of the races.

A lovely supper of soup and a roll followed by a Danish pastry was provided by Polly Cunningham and her mum Christine.

As usual Colin and Mary Smith did a sterling job as bookies, which was even more appreciated as they had to do quite a detour to get to the hall due to the flooding in Derby, following storm Babette - well done you two.

## Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing!



# Everest Base Camp Trek Nepal

**After finishing my second year exams at University, my friend and I had planned a trip to Nepal. I had a long flight to Kathmandu via Qatar. My first day in Kathmandu was spent exploring the city's extremely congested streets in the sweltering heat and humidity in order to purchase all the passes I would need to enter the Sagarmatha National Park and be allowed to trek in the Himalayas. The next morning at 3.30am in an extremely loud thunderstorm, we headed to Kathmandu domestic terminal to catch our flight to Lukla - the world's most dangerous airport. However, due to the monsoon weather, after waiting six hours we were informed our flight had been cancelled. The following two mornings, we followed the same routine; reaching the airport at 5am, sitting around for five to six hours and eventually, our flight was cancelled due to weather conditions.**

On the third day, after yet another flight cancellation, we were fortunate to find two empty seats in a helicopter that was taking villagers and vegetables up to the mountains. Even though it seemed like we were flying in a very rickety cable car, the helicopter trip was an amazing experience! After an hour long flight we landed in Surke, an hour away from Lukla (our original planned starting point for the trek), at an altitude of 2,535 metres above sea level and began our trek from there.

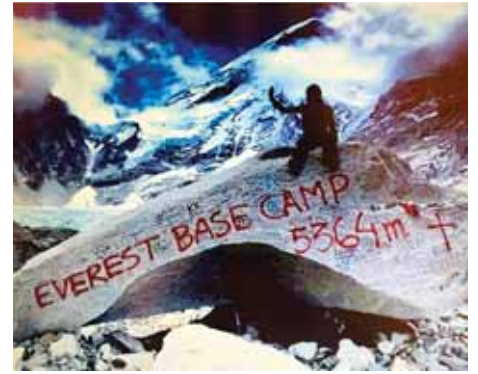
The first two days were spent walking through forests and thick cloud with little to no view. Despite the fact that it was incredibly humid, we had to wear sweaty waterproofs for most of the journey due to the rain. Furthermore, as there are no roads and only limited access, the main form of transportation is to carry goods on donkeys or cows, which led

to huge volumes of slippery animal poo along the paths!

On our second day we crossed the infamous Hillary Tenzing suspension bridge, which was very frightening since it was so high up and bounced when you walked on it. After arriving at Namche Bazaar at 3,340 metres above sea level, we continued on to Tengboche. To reach Tengboche we had a very steep 800 metre ascent. The following day we headed to Dingboche. We followed some friendly monks the entire way and the weather finally cleared up, giving us spectacular views of Mount Amadablam. At Dingboche, we were at an altitude of 4,350 metres and I was feeling the altitude. I didn't have much of an appetite (which may also have been due to eating the same dal baat everyday), had a bad headache and my cheeks were pink because of the thin air. We decided, since we didn't have a guide or any extra help, we would have another acclimatisation day. I was also happy to have a break from carrying my very heavy bag!

The following day was one of the most spectacular in terms of scenery. We followed the Dudh Koshi river through a narrow valley surrounded by snow capped mountains and glaciers. Most frightening was passing through landslide zones, where we could see evidence of quite recent landslides due to heavy rain. After crossing a rather scary bridge we had a long, steep 700m climb to Lobuche, in which we played Bollywood music to help motivate us.

Early on the final morning we headed out to base camp. After two slow hours, we finally reached Everest Base Camp, at an altitude of 5,365 metres. We had stunning views of the surrounding peaks and saw the famous Khumbu Icefall. We took photos and videos of the area, but did not stay too long as we had been



warned to make it quick as it is dangerous there.

It took us eight days to reach base camp, we zoomed back in just three days.

The following week was full of adventures in Pokhara, including paragliding, boating and cycling. Overall, it was an incredible trip and I am very proud of my achievement!

**Submitted by Fran Chatto**

## Traditional Terms

**Grand Master (GM):** Chairman

**Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM):** District Chairman

**Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):** District Deputy Chairman

**Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):** District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches

**Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM):** Past District Chairman

**Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):** Immediate Past District Chairman

**Lodge:** Branch

**Brother and Sister:** Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family.

# Annual Church Service

Our annual church service and rededication took place on Sunday 24 September at Boulton St Mary's Church. Although the weather forecast was not looking particularly pleasant, we were fortunate that the rain held off for the afternoon and we didn't end up wet! The theme for the service was 'Love and Truth' and the sermon on this subject was delivered by Susan Duffill, one of the church's lay readers. There were also Bible readings from Christine Shelton and Maureen

Burgoyne, whilst Bill Henchliff, read our Valediction.

The service was held jointly this year with the Midland Group Conference, as part of Maureen's term as President of the group. It was good to see friends from other Districts in attendance, with visitors hailing from Burton-on-Trent, Deeside, North Gloucester, Heart of England and Worcester Districts.

Following the service, we were welcomed into the church hall



*Silver Regalia.*

by our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Christine, for a buffet and refreshments was provided by Doreen and Polly, which was enjoyed by all. We would also like to thank the Burton-on-Trent District for the loan of their silver regalia and chains for the service.

Submitted by Tony Davies

## Photographic Competition



This year the category for the Photographic Competition was 'Leisure' and some lovely photographs were entered. Luke Smyth entered a photograph of his two daughters. They were fast asleep in the car and they had obviously had a very busy day and the photograph was entitled 'It's all been a bit too much!'. Congratulations to Luke and thank you to everyone who entered.

## 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 Alice Smyth on **01332 345697** or email [alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:alice.smyth@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@](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)

[citizensadvice@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:citizensadvice@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)

### 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)

\*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.



# Pares Lodge

**The Pares Lodge District Officers' visit is always a bit special as the Act of Remembrance takes place, it always being the Monday following Remembrance Sunday.**

There were also two other 'reasons to be cheerful' as the song goes, their Secretary, Barbara Smith and her husband David were awarded a Lodge Merit Jewel for all their hard

work for the Lodge. The Noble Grand, Margaret Gregory was very happy to present the jewels.

The other reason was our District Officers have now new chains following the burglary at the hall last year, and very nice they looked too. I am sure you will get the chance to see them soon.

It was a lovely evening in pleasant company.



## Thank You Letter

**Dear Oddfellows,**

I am writing with gratitude, to thank you for the Educational Award I have received.

I am currently in my second year of a Geography and Philosophy degree at the University of Glasgow. The award is going to be extremely helpful this year, as always, as it will help fund my first geographical field trip. The award will allow me to travel to Inverness for a required field trip, which will help further my studies in the coming years. As well as this, it will be going towards paying for required readings and other necessary supplies for my studies.

I am so grateful for the Educational Award, both this year and last year, that the Oddfellows has so graciously



offered and cannot express enough how lucky I am to be a part of such a supportive community.

Once again thank you.

**Pippa Mo**

## Inter Lodge Bowls Afternoon

This was a very enjoyable afternoon, with lots of banter and laughter despite only two Lodges taking part. Well done to the King George IV Lodge and Good Intent Lodge and what better result than a draw. Because of the low numbers members had to eat an extra large piece of cake at the refreshment break!



# Eleanor Smyth

Eleanor Smyth aged 7 has done a wonderful thing - she has had her lovely hair cut short and donated the hair that was cut off to The Princess Trust. Nine inches has been donated and it

will be made into wigs for poorly children. She also did a cake sale with her little sister, Florence and asked friends and family to donate - £180 was raised too for the charity. Well done Eleanor.



## 4 Ingredient Fruit Cake

### Ingredient

1kg mixed fruit  
400g can condensed milk  
175ml Baileys  
240g self rising flour

### Method

Grease and line eight inches cake tin or two loaf tins. Pre-heat the oven to 150°C/gas mark 2. In a large bowl, combine the dried fruit, condensed milk, Baileys and 125ml water.

Mix well, cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from the fridge and stir well, allowing it to come to room temperature. Fold in the flour and tip the mixture into the prepared tin/tins. Smooth the top. Put in the centre of the oven.

Bake for two hours until skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Check the cake after 1½ hours. If it is browning too quickly, cover with foil. Very easy and delicious. Keeps well in a tin.

## Christmas Bazaar

The hall was full for the Christmas Bazaar Coffee Morning with turkey and stuffing cobs on offer. There were various fundraising stalls with a Christmas theme. The Knit and Natter ladies had been busy making Christmas items, there were two blackouts, one for a Nativity wreath and a

chocolate tub Santa type collar, Doreen Swain had made some lovely wreaths with bows and flowers, Guess the Number of sweets in the jar and a very popular Bottle Tombola. £225 was raised for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity - Children First.





## Bedspread/Throw Raffle

Margaret Henchliff has again been busy crocheting a bedspread/throw in aid of the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. If you would like to have a chance to win it, just put your name and telephone number on one half of the enclosed raffle tickets and return to the Office. This winner will be drawn at the March Coffee Morning. Good luck.



## October Coffee Morning

This was a very interesting and enjoyable Coffee Morning. Isabel Murtough and her sister Erica who are independent antiques valuers came along to talk about antiques and to value some of the items members had brought along.

Isabel has been in the business for 20 years and she and Erica became business partners last year; Erica has a property background. Isabel explained her business and produced a little picture quiz where we were encouraged to guess what items had sold for and there were some surprises.

One of the photos was a selection of Suffragette items which sold for £16,000 and went to a museum. Isabel was asked what the strangest thing she had sold was and told us it was a piece of toast from Charles and Diana's wedding breakfast, which sold for £100 and went to America.

Isabel then spent quite a bit of time going round to value members items and in some cases telling them something about their items.



## Oddfellows

At first I thought their name seemed strange and wondered, was I odd?

I'm not a fellow either, but was often on my tod.

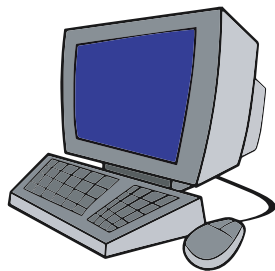
I read Oddfellows diary which is called 'Out and About'.

It names some eating venues and coach trips to get us out.

No longer need we be alone, we can be sure of that.

Oddfellows meet not just to eat, but like a good old chat.

Joan Zambelli, June 2023



## A Lovely Message

Once upon a time, when windows was just a square hole in a room and application was something written on paper. When keyboard was a piano and mouse just an animal. When file was an important office material and hard drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When cut was done with knife and paste with glue. When web was a spider's home and virus was flu. When apple and blackberry were just fruits - that's when we had a lot of time for family.



# Tatton Park Outing

**This was the coldest day we had experienced yet this winter (Sunday 26 November 2023), but everyone came well wrapped up. There was a bit of a hold up due to an accident at Stoke-on-Trent, so the driver had to do a bit of a detour. We arrived just in time for a spot of lunch and hot drink at the very busy restaurant - then off to the Mansion House.**

The Mansion House was beautifully decorated with the theme of Alice in Wonderland. One of the room volunteers told us that a specialist firm had come in for a week to install the displays in the rooms, whilst it was all hands on deck to decorate the corridors.

The garden was also very interesting although because of the time of year there was no colour, but the trees were wonderful.

The restaurant was a very popular meeting place with many members popping in at regular intervals for a hot drink and a warm. A lovely day getting everyone into the Christmas mode.



## Santa Comes to Oddfellows Hall

On the day of the first snow of the year we wondered if everyone would make it, but they all managed to arrive safely. Before the arrival of Santa, the 19 junior members excitedly had their faces painted (and so did some adults!) and all looked like little Rudolfs. They could also make a Christmas card with lots of messy paints and decorate some gingerbread men or Christmas trees. Tea was ready for them then, but things didn't quieten down much. After tea, Alice organised Pass the Parcel with some Christmassy forfeits. Now they were nicely revved up for the arrival of Santa. It's really funny to see them all excited for him to come and then they were a little afraid when he actually walks in. They were all very pleased with their presents and selection boxes and departed for home in the Christmas spirit. Thanks to all the volunteers.



## Santa Comes Again

The Good Intent Lodge's party was in full swing when Santa arrived with a present for everyone. The hall was full for the party with 48 members and friends. Members were content to listen to some lovely Christmas songs and music provided by Clive Allen and his lovely wife Lesley. After the buffet, the dancing began. A raffle raised £106 and the Christmas quiz was won by Lynn Grant.





## Bucket List

In October 2022, I reached a 'significant' birthday! and my family gave me a voucher for an activity that I have always wanted to try - pottery. So in August myself and my sister went along to a Pottery Throwing Experience at Denby Pottery. It was wonderful. Although it does look quite easy on the television - the clay is very hard to work, plus of course keeping the pottery

**wheel going with your leg! We did however manage to produce two bowls each, of which we are very proud. It was a lovely afternoon and we produced something that is useful.**

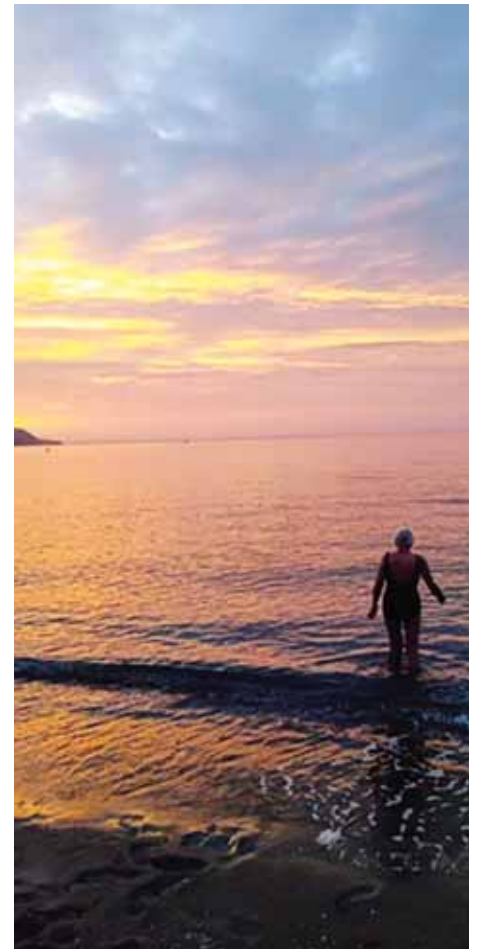
Not part of my birthday celebrations, but something that has been on my 'bucket list' to do is to see a sunrise over the sea. I have been lucky to see lots of sunsets, but have never got

up early enough to see the sun rise. However, whilst on holiday in Spain in October, I made it and watched the sun rise over the mountains while swimming in the sea. Absolutely fantastic. My next 'bucket list' wish is to see a ballet performed on stage - well I will not have to be up quite so early for that.

**Submitted by Christine Shelton**



*Christine's sister, Ellen deep in concentration.*



## Annual Quiz

We had a lovely afternoon with teams of four working together. Bob Rodgers and Grant Wright must have put quite a bit of effort into the preparation and it was much enjoyed, especially by those who knew the answers.

Four members of the Good Intent Lodge, Eileen and Ian Pettitt, and Pat and Colin Newcombe came out the winners. Well done!



## Embrace new experiences and perspectives

**The turn of the year is naturally a time when we look at our lives, reflect on the last 12 months, and consider any changes that may be needed for the next.**



Inevitably, our thoughts will turn to the support and encouragement we have received from those closest to us, but what about those friends we haven't yet met?

### Stay curious, keep learning

Staying open to meeting new people presents opportunities you might not have considered. They could open new doors and perspectives that might be uplifting and motivational, which can then be really beneficial to us.

It's one of the many things I really love about being part of our Society – having the chance to cross paths with so many

interesting people, from all corners of the country, and indeed the world! It's invigorating and helps keep a spring in my step!

It is fantastic that we have welcomed so many new members to our Society in 2023. If you are one of the new members, welcome, and I hope that you are enjoying getting to know other members at your Branch.

If you're a seasoned Oddfellow, and you see a new face at one of your Branch's social events, please make sure you say hello and pull out the chair next to you. Yes, it's about extending our trademark warm welcome, but it's also about what it can do for you. They just might introduce you to your new favourite thing.

### Strength in numbers

Bringing people together who care about the welfare of others is the bedrock of the Oddfellows. And, as a mutual organisation, it's one of our strengths. We know that by



working as a supportive collective, we can achieve so much more than we could alone.

So make sure you add 'stay open to new friendships' to your list of resolutions for 2024. It really is a wonderful way to stay curious about life and remain open to all its joyful possibilities.

On behalf of the Society, my fellow Directors, all the staff at Unity Office and my family, I would like to wish each of you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2024.

Yours always in friendship,

**Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows**

## The 'Generous Generation'



**Unity Mutual is the Oddfellows' financial services brand. Earlier this year, it undertook a piece of research which involved customers who are over 50 – and the findings were nothing short of eye-opening.**

Unity Mutual has since dubbed this demographic the 'Generous Generation', after discovering that 30 per cent spend between £50 and £100 per month to help their adult children out. Others within this age group spend even more, with some giving up retirement plans to help their offspring, both financially and with childcare.

### Rewarding generosity

To shine a light on such generosity, Unity Mutual launched the 'Generous Generation Awards', with £500 among the prizes.

Julie Oakley, nominated by daughter, Sam, was the deserving winner. She's raised tens-of-thousands-of-pounds for charity via The Project Dragonfly CIC, supporting kids and young adults with mental health challenges.

### More on Unity Mutual

You can read Julie's story and find out what she thought of her big win by heading to [www.unitymutual.co.uk/awards](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/awards)

As part of the 'Generous Generation' campaign, Unity Mutual is helping the over 50s to live up to its kind-hearted



*Julie Oakley and her daughter, Sam.*

moniker. It's Over 50s Life Insurance\* allows anyone between the ages of 50 and 80 to leave a fixed lump sum to their loved ones – learn more at [www.unitymutual.co.uk/over50s](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/over50s)

*\*Terms and conditions apply.*



# Time to plan your next getaway?

Oddfellows Travel has announced its holidays for 2024, and there are six cracking trips on offer.

## Something for everyone

We want to make sure that you travel in confidence and in great company, that's why all our Oddfellows Travel group holidays are hosted by an Oddfellows member and we only use experienced partners we trust.

### Eastbourne, Brighton and Hastings

10-14 April 2024 (4 nights)

Join us as we head to the south coast with Alfa Travel.

Staying at the Queens Hotel, Eastbourne. £295 per person based on 2 people sharing a twin room. £355 per person for sole use of a Cosy Double room. Half board. Includes coach pick up and drop off from certain locations, or a self-arrival option.\*



### Maritime Cities and the Baltics Cruise

27 June-11 July 2024 (14 nights)

Come sail with us as we explore maritime cities and cultural delights of the Baltics.

From £1,949 per person. Full board. Departing from Dover on Fred. Olsen's Borealis.\*



### Oddfellows Summer Holiday to Warwickshire

1-5 July 2024 (4 nights)

Come and holiday among friends and relax in this rural retreat.

Warner Hotels, Studley Castle in Warwickshire. Half board from £376 per person, based on 2 people sharing a double or twin room.\*



### Discovering Normandy and the Channel Islands Cruise

23-28 August 2024 (5 nights)

Make the most of your Bank Holiday weekend and sail with us on this cruise to the Isles of Scilly, the Channel Isles and Normandy, France.

From £799 per person. Full board. Departing from Southampton on Fred. Olsen's Borealis.\*



### Yorkshire Dales Discovery Tour

11-14 October 2024 (3 nights)

Join us on this HF Holidays active getaway to the Yorkshire Dales.

Newfield Hall, near Malham. Full board. £454 for a Classic single room. £454 per person, based on 2 people sharing a Classic twin or double room.\*



### Mystery Cruise

12-23 November 2024 (11 nights)

Sail on this exciting mystery cruise with us and enjoy the thrill of destinations unknown.

From £1,209 per person. Full board. Departing from Southampton, arriving back in Portsmouth on Fred. Olsen's Borealis.\*



For full details, including how to book, go to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)

\*Oddfellows Travel holidays are arranged through third party providers, please reference their terms and conditions before booking.  
Find out more at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)

# Congratulations

Congratulations to **Oliver Mo** on his GCSE results.

Congratulations to **James McConnell** and his partner **Chelsey** on the birth of their daughter, Elsie Mae, little sister for Skyla, granddaughter to Polly Cunningham and great granddaughter to Christine Cunningham.

Congratulations to **Ann Taylor** on guessing the weight of the pumpkin grown by Colin Smith. The huge pumpkin weighed in at 27lbs 12 ozs. The total takings were £28 which was split between Ann and the charity. Soup was then made and sold for £1 per portion. Well done Colin.



Congratulations to **Luke Smyth** on winning the photographic competition.

Congratulations to the Luncheon Club Blackout winners,

**1st - Brenda Gratton**

**2nd - Stewart Wharton**

**3rd - Margaret Glanville**

## As the year comes to an end

I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents, because spare parts for old models like you and I are no longer in stock! Share this with other older models you care about.

# Obituaries

**Audrey Barrass**, Pares Lodge

**Roy Stockton**, Good Intent Lodge

**Arthur Gregory**, Good Intent Lodge

**Valerie Wilson**, Pares Lodge

I am not truly gone  
If you keep me in your heart.  
I'll forever be alive,  
And we'll never have to part.



May your coming year be filled with magic  
and dreams and good madness.

I hope you read some fine books,  
and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful,

and don't forget to make some art -  
write or draw or build or sing,

Or live as only you can,

And I hope somewhere in the  
next year you surprise yourself.

**Neil Gaiman**

## Message from the Editor

If you have anything you would like to share with members, all contributions to the next magazine will be gratefully received. They can be email to the office address: [alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:alice.smyth@oddfellows.co.uk) for Margaret's attention or posted to Margaret Henchliff, Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Many thanks in anticipation.