

Autumn 2021



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making friends, helping people

Events & News

Making Friends in Coventry Godiva - Coventry, City of Culture 2021



Welcome to our latest combined Newsletter and Events Diary.

We are continuing to use Zoom for our weekly coffee mornings and monthly quiz nights; these are events that have reached out to a new audience and are I believe here to stay, regardless of what happens going forwards with Covid. If you still haven't ventured into the world of Zoom and need some help, do let us know and we will do all we can to assist.

We have taken some tentative steps to re-instating our popular 'Dine Around' and so far two groups of six have enjoyed a meal out; the first went to the White Lion at Church Lawford and the other to the Wing Wah Chinese in Coventry. It was lovely to see some old friends in the flesh again and, hopefully, more such evenings will follow - government restrictions permitting!

Everyone here has had at least one vaccination and the majority have had two. We are itching to get back to 'Oddfellows business as usual' as far as events go and we have some great ideas for the future as soon as we are allowed. Being optimistic, we are advertising our Annual Dinner and visit to the Memorial Park the

Contact Details

For details about membership and the wide range of benefits available please contact:

Secretary: Christine Lockett

Address:

Oddfellows House,
2 Queen Victoria Road,
Coventry CV1 3JH

Telephone: 024 76632900 or
07974 362077

Email:

christine.lockett@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Co-ordinator

Jan Lewis

Telephone: 07579 766208

Email: jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

following day for Remembrance Sunday. However, please do closely monitor our Facebook page in case government restrictions mean these have to be cancelled. It is via our Facebook page that you will also find details of any ad hoc events that we are able to put on. As ever, we are always at the end of a phone for any queries or indeed just a chat.

Christine Lockett
Branch Secretary

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**.

Social Events

Coffee and a Chat!

⌚ Every Friday at 11am, apart from last Friday of the month when 10am

£ Free

Every Friday

Our regular coffee morning now happens via Zoom video conferencing. To receive the link to the event you will need to email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk. These events are always lively and are guaranteed to make you smile – not least because of the regular unscheduled ‘guest appearances’ from various cats, dogs, grandchildren and other family members! Give it a try... you will amaze yourself at how easy it is to join. New friendships have already been forged and it is lovely being able to see our friends in their own homes.



Quiz Night

⌚ 7pm

£ Free

Every Month

Each month Coventry Oddfellows will be putting together a fun quiz covering a variety of subjects to test and challenge you. The quiz will run over a number of rounds, giving everyone the chance to find their strengths (and weaknesses!). In order to participate you will need to email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk in order to obtain the Zoom link.



Wednesday 20 October 2021
Wednesday 17 November 2021
Wednesday 15 December 2021

Wednesday 19 January 2022
Wednesday 16 February 2022
Wednesday 16 March 2022

Diary reminders for each of the above events will be posted on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsCoventry>), along with any additional information: For instance, some of the quizzes may have a particular theme, so the super-keen amongst you may want to do a bit of research beforehand!

November

THURS
11

The Territorial Army (aka the Army Reserve)



7pm



Free



Join us for an insightful and often hilarious talk on the Territorial Army. Our guest speaker is David Bent who served in the TA for more years than he cares to remember, retiring recently as a Colour Sergeant. His son is currently actively serving. For the Zoom link to join please email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk



SAT
13

Annual District Dinner and Dance



6pm



£27



We all like a good dance and this is an opportunity to get together with members from all over the country, for an evening of fun and entertainment. The annual dinner and dance is always one of the highlights of our year, but it is going to be extra special this year as we sadly had to cancel last year due to Covid. This is a members and their guests only event; further details, including the menu, can be found on page six or obtained from the District Office. Booking is required by Monday 31 October. The Strawberry Bank, Main Road, Meriden CV7 7NF. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or 07974 362077 or Jan on 07579 766208.

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.



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

November

SUN
14

Remembrance Parade



9.30am



Free



Come and join the District Officers and Midland Group Conference Officers as they parade to the War Memorial Park in Coventry for the Remembrance Service and laying of the wreaths.

Meet at the Oddfellows office 9.30am or Spencer Road at 10am. Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH.



Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or 07974 362077 or Jan on 07579 766208.

Coventry Coat of Arms Quiz

Answers on the back page.

1. The cat-a-mountain or wild cat is a symbol of what?
2. Identify the two supporters, one either side of the elephant.
3. What does the motto 'Camera Principis' mean?
4. Why is the shield coloured red and green?



Coventry Godiva District Branch

Annual Dinner and Dance

Saturday 13 November 2021, 6.30pm for 7pm

The Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden

Menu

Leek and Potato Soup

Or

Crispy Beef Salad

Roasted Chicken Breast, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding
and Stuffing with Red Wine Gravy

Or

British Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding and
Stuffing with Red Wine Gravy

Or

Roasted Vegetable Tartlet, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding and Stuffing

Apple Crumble and Custard

Or

Raspberry Tart and Chantilly Cream

Coffee and After Dinner Mints

Please ring the Coventry District Office on 024 76632900

To book your tickets.

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.

Branch Contacts

Nelson Branch

Secretary: Peter Matthews, 6 Eastern Green Road, Coventry CV5 7LH.

Telephone: 024 76471692.

Earl of Craven Branch, Good Intent Branch, Admiral Lord Nelson Branch

Secretary: Matthew Redmond, 17 Alexandra Street, Nuneaton CV11 5RN.

Telephone: 024 77989963

Half Yearly Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 6 October at our offices in Queen Victoria Road. Booking is essential for catering purposes as a light snack will be provided. Contact Christine Luckett on 024 76632900 or email christine.luckett@oddfellows.co.uk for more information.

**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

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Coventry Coat of Quiz (answers from page 5)

1. Watchfulness
2. The black one on the left is the Eagle of Leofric (the husband of Lady Godiva) and the one on the right is the Phoenix arising from the flames to represent the new Coventry born from the ashes of the old.
3. Camera Principis (the Prince's Chamber) is believed to refer to Edward, the Black Prince. The Manor of Cheylesmore was once owned by his grandmother, Queen Isabella, and eventually passed to him.
4. These were the traditional colours of the city dating back to at least 1441.

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 Christine on **024 76632900** or email **christine.luckett@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



*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