

July - October 2022
Summer Issue



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

out & about

Making friends across Beds and Bucks District



Biggleswade Town Centre and War Memorial



Travel



Social



Games



Dining Out



Music



Talks



Quizzes



Tasting Event



Walk



Theatre



Meeting



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea

www.oddfellows.co.uk



OddfellowsBedfordshireBuckinghamshire



*Visit to the Jordans Mill -
Wednesday 24 August*

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

It's hard to believe we're over half way through the year, and for many of us the restrictions caused by the pandemic are just a memory. We're all starting to get out and about again, and as you can see from our schedule, the Oddfellows Branches in the Beds & Bucks District have a lot of activities for you to join in. All we need now is a couple of months of warm sunny weather (with overnight rain for the garden), to cheer us up and help us to get outdoors.

I've been in post for over 6 months now, and the cycle of events and activities is slowly starting to make sense. I attended the Annual Summoned Meetings for each of

the four Branches in April and in May I was lucky to be able to go to the Annual Movable Conference in Scarborough as a visitor and learn more about the national Oddfellows traditions and business, as well as taking part in some of the social activities. I even volunteered to be a Scrutineer to count and confirm votes, which gave me an understanding of how seriously the voting is taken.

The Beds & Bucks District Half-Yearly Meeting will be taking place in August, and Branches are currently nominating their Deputies to and represent them at the meeting. This is my first Half-Yearly meeting, so another learning curve about purpose, content and process, but another part of the annual cycle to tick off my list.

And, of course, I look forward to visiting all the Branches and meeting you, the Members, as often as I can in the coming months.

Have a happy summer!

Yours fraternally

Helen

Who are the Oddfellows?

The Beds and Bucks District is a group of four Branches across Bedfordshire, Buckingham, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. Each branch has a monthly business meeting and as many social events as they can fit in. Through friendship and social events we help our members to get more enjoyment out of life. With the help of the Unity office in Manchester we offer care and support in times of need. We welcome every one of all ages – our youngest member being four months and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810 or contact the Branch Secretaries.

Branch Contacts

Beds & Bucks District

District Secretary: Helen Aird

Postal Address: 21, Northfield Avenue, Ringstead, Northants NN14 4DX

Telephone: 01933 623459 **Email:** helen.aird@oddfellows.co.uk

Bedford Loyal Bedford Branch

Secretary: Amanda Buckmaster

Postal Address: Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

Telephone: 01234 768914 **Email:** amanda.buckmaster@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB at 7.45pm

Buckingham Loyal Grenville Branch

Secretary: Doreen Sams

Postal Address: 116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ

Telephone: 01280 822399 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the second Monday of the month at Buckingham Library, Verny Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP at 12 noon.

Hitchin Loyal Albert Branch

Secretary: Emily Ellis

Postal Address: 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP

Telephone: 01462 432321 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Monday of the month at 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP at 7.30pm

Wellingborough Loyal Victoria Branch

Secretary: Emily Ellis

Postal Address: 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL

Telephone: 01933 228538 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the second Monday of the month at Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon, Northants NN9 5LZ

If you would like to attend any of the meetings or events at any Branch, or would like further information, please contact the Branch **Secretary** via phone, email or post at the contact details given above.

Note: Colour coding of branches is used – corresponds to articles later in the magazine

Brown = Bedford **Blue** = Grenville **Orange** = Albert **Purple** = Victoria

Key: The coloured dates relate to our four Branches, see page 3 for details.

July 2022

FRI
01

Lunch at Bromham Mill



12 noon



£15



Join friends and members of the Bedford Branch for a spot of lunch. Bromham



Mill, Bridge End, Bromham, Beds MK43 8LP. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

MON
04

Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Do you feel crafty? Come and join friends and members at our new monthly craft session from 10am to 12 noon. All abilities welcome. Try your hand at something new, or further your practice with a familiar craft. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.



MON
04

Monthly Meeting and Quiz



12 noon



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly meeting and lite bite. Make time in your diary to refresh your James Bond knowledge as we will hold a quiz about this fictional character created by novelist Ian Fleming in 1953. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



TUES
05

Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Pop down to the Buckingham Library for our monthly bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzle fundraiser and coffee morning. Join members for a chat and help raise funds for our local nominated charity and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

July 2022

SUN
10

Walk and Picnic at Stanborough Park



11am



Free



Stanborough Park is a beautiful countryside park with two lakes and other attractions. The perfect spot for a walk and a picnic with friends. Meeting at 11am – parking charges apply – don't forget your picnic. Please advise Paul or the Branch Secretary if you are joining us. Book by Wednesday 6 July. Stanborough Park, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6XF. Contact Emily on 01933 228538 or Paul on 07761 250654.

MON
11

Victoria Branch Night – Guest Speaker Dan Reid – The Nene Valley



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Guest speaker Dan Reid – The Nene Valley. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

WED
13

Walk Around Buckingham Town and Lunch at Prezzo



11am



Free



Join members and friends and explore Buckingham's hidden treasures in the town and lunch afterwards at Prezzo. Meet outside at the Old Gaol at 11am. Buckingham Old Gaol, Market Hill, Buckingham MK18 1JX. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

SUN
17

District Church Service



3pm



Free



The Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) Annual Church Service is being held this year at Putnoe Heights Methodist Church and will be led by the Reverend Andrew Hollins. All are welcome and refreshments will be served after. Putnoe Heights Methodist Church, Putnoe Heights, Bedford MK41 8EB. Contact the District Secretary on 07771 735860 for more details.

July 2022

MON
18

Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES
19

Bedford Branch Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

WED
20

Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre



12 noon



As per menu



Branch members will meet in this local independent garden centre on the third Wednesday of the month for lunch at the Gardeners' Retreat Restaurant. Please let Doreen know if you plan to drop in. Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

THURS
21

Lunch at the Pumphouse



12 noon



£10



Come and join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a spot of lunch and a wander around Nene Court. Book by Thursday 14 July. The Pumphouse Cafe, Unit 6 Nene Court, The Embankment, Wellingborough NN8 1LD. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



WED
27

Albert Social Branch



11am



£10



Meet members and friends of the Albert Branch at this lovely garden centre. Enjoy a wander around the shop and plants. Then enjoy a spot of lunch in the cafe. Please let the Branch Secretary know if you can join us, so she can book a table. Book by Wednesday 20 July. Hitchin Garden Centre, Cambridge Road, Hitchin SG4 0JT. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

August

MON
01

Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Do you feel crafty? Come and join friends and members at our new monthly craft session from 10am to 12 noon. All abilities welcome. Try your hand at something new, or further your practice with a familiar craft. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

TUES
02

Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



FRI
05

Thenford Arboretum



2pm



£16



Lord and Lady Heseltine have created a garden of major importance at Thenford, one of the most impressive, varied and fascinating to have been made over the last 40 years anywhere in the world. Spread over seventy acres, Thenford Arboretum features a collection of more than three thousand different trees and shrubs and extensive herbaceous borders, an alpine trough garden, a sculpture garden, a rose garden and a rill, as well as water gardens, medieval fish ponds and lakes. Book by Friday 1 July. Thenford Arboretum, Thenford, Near Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 2BX. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

Image by David P Howard and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

August

MON 08 Victoria Branch Night - Table Top Treasure Hunt



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Table top treasure hunt. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

SUN 14 Countryside Walk



A short circular walk taking in Deacons Hill and Telegraph Hill near Hitchin promises some stunning views over the area as we go for a gentle stroll. Meet at The View Pub. Book by Wednesday 10 August. The View Pub, Pegsdon, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3JX. Contact Emily on 01933 228538 or Paul on 07761 250654.



MON 15 Albert Branch Meeting



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES 16 Trip to the Queen Eleanor Garden Centre



The Wellibus is picking up from The Gladstone in Fineon at 9.45am, then will collect from Castle Way, Wellingborough at 10am to go to the Queen Eleanor Garden Centre in Northampton. For a wonder around the shop and a spot of lunch in the cafe. In order to travel on the Wellibus you must have an in date bus pass and be registered with them. Please call 01933 223636 to arrange registration with Shires Community Services. Let the Branch Secretary know if you would like to go on the bus or if you are meeting us there. Book by Wednesday 10 August. Queen Eleanor Garden Centre, Newport Pagnell Road, Northampton NN4 6HP. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



August

TUES **16** Bedford Branch Business Meeting



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

THURS **18** Coffee Morning



Come and join friends and members of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

September

ODDFELLOWS **FRIENDSHIP MONTH** 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON **05** Craft and Chat



Do you feel crafty? Come and join friends and members at our new monthly craft session from 10am to 12 noon. All abilities welcome. Try your hand at something new, or further your practice with a familiar craft. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

WED **24** Social Branches - Visit to the Jordans Mill



Come and join members and friends of the Albert Branch and Bedford Branch for a wander around the Mill and enjoy some lunch. Book by Wednesday 17 August. Jordans Mill, Southill Road, Broom, Biggleswade SG18 9JX. Contact Emily on 01933 228538 or Amanda on 01234 768914.

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September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON 05 **Grenville Monthly Meeting**



Join members and friends for a quick monthly meeting and a subsidised lite bite. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

TUES 06 **Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning**



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always

available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



THURS 08 **Visit to Bickerdikes Garden Centre**



Join members and friends for a trip around a local garden centre to get some inspiration for the season. Then having a cuppa and cake in the cafe Book by Monday 5 September. Bickerdikes Garden Centre, 115 Norton Road, Norton, Letchworth Garden City SG6 1AG. Contact Emily on 01933 228538 or Paul on 07761 250654.

MON 12 **Victoria Branch Night - Fish and Chips Night**



Short business meeting followed by a fish and chips supper When you arrive for the meeting your supper order will be taken and then hopefully supper will arrive just as the business meeting end. Costs will depend on what you order. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

September

MON 19 Albert Branch Meeting



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES 20 Bedford Branch Business Meeting



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

WED 21 Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre



Branch members meet in this local independent garden centre on the third Wednesday of the month for lunch at the Gardeners' Retreat Restaurant. Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

WED 21 Lunch at the Pumphouse



Come and join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a spot of lunch and a wander around Nene Court Book by Wednesday 14 September. The Pumphouse Cafe, Unit 6 Nene Court, The Embankment, Wellingborough NN8 1LD. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

FRI 23 Friendship Dinner - Overstone Manner



Meet members and friends of the Victoria Branch as we celebrate Friendship Month. A social evening at The Overstone Manor. Order from the menu or enjoy the carvery. Just let the Branch Secretary know if you will be there. Book by Friday 16 September. Overstone Manor, 180 Ecton Lane, Sywell, Northampton NN6 0BB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

September

SAT
24

Croquet



10.15am



£5



Come and play croquet with friends and members of Albert Branch. Remember your flat shoes and packed lunch. Book by Monday 19 September. Stoney Stratford Croquet Club, Ancell Trust Sports Ground, Ostlers Lane, Stoney Stratford, Bucks MK11 1BN. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
28

Albert Socal Branch - Coffee Morning



10.30am



£5



Meet up with Branch members at this lovely tea room for a cuppa and cake. Book by Wednesday 21 September. Molly's Tea Room, 96 Bancroft, Hitchin SG5 1NQ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



WED
28

Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility



10am



Free



Join members and friends on a visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste facility. An EfW (Energy from Waste) is a facility where non-recyclable waste is burned, with the resulting steam powering a turbine, which generates electricity. Some EfW plants are also able to provide direct heating for local properties. The waste going to an EfW would otherwise have been disposed of in a landfill site. As this is a morning visit, members who wish to will meet to have lunch in a nearby restaurant. Book by Monday 5 September. Greatmoor EfW, Greatmoor Road Woodham, Aylesbury HP18 0AF. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

October

MON
03

Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Do you feel crafty? Come and join friends and members at our new monthly craft session from 10am to 12 noon. All abilities welcome. Try your hand at something new, or further your practice with a familiar craft. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.



MON
03

Grenville Monthly Meeting and Guest Speaker



12 noon



Free, Lunch £2



Join members and friends for a quick monthly meeting and a subsidised lite bite. Diane will share with us the ups and downs in performing in a band. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



TUES
04

Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

MON
10

Victoria Branch Night - Food Tasting Evening



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Taste Testing - will you know the difference from supermarket's own and branded products? Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

October

FRI
14

Outing to Tea Room



12 noon



Free



The quiet pretty village of Southill has a Vintage Tea Room with gardens where we can have a bite to eat and enjoy the atmosphere. Cost will depend on what you order. Book by Monday 10 October. Southill Vintage Tea Room, 55 High Street, Southill, Bedfordshire SG18 9JB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538 or Paul on 07761 250654.

MON
17

Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES
18

Trip to Emmaus, Carlton



9.45am



£1



The Wellibus is picking up from The Gladstone in Fineon at 09.45am, then will collect from Castle Way, Wellingborough at 10am to go to the Emmaus, Carlton. For a wonder around the shop and a spot of lunch in the cafe. In order to travel on the Wellibus you must have an in date bus pass and be registered with them. Please call 01933 223636 to arrange registration with Shires Community Services. Let the Branch Secretary know if you would like to go on the bus or if you are meeting us there. Book by Wednesday 10 August. Emmaus Village, School Lane, Carlton MK43 7LQ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES
18

Bedford Branch Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Amanda on 01234 768914.

October

WED
19

Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre



12 noon



As per
menu



Branch members meet in this local independent garden centre on the third Wednesday of the month for lunch at the Gardeners' Retreat Restaurant. Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham Mk18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

WED
26

Albert Social Branch



12.30pm



£10



Meet up with friends for lunch. Book by Wednesday 19 October. Anchor Inn, 84 Cambridge Road, Hitchin SG4 0JH. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

Shropshire Discovery Tour Church Stretton

19–23 September 2022
(4 nights)

From £655 per person (Full board)

Rooms for solo travellers available

Join us as we explore Shropshire, famous for the beauty of its hills, picturesque market towns and fascinating history.



For further information and to book contact Mike Hall
0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224) travel@oddfellows.co.uk

Grenville Branch News

Buckingham Library

At last we are back meeting in the Buckingham Library on the first Monday of the month 12-3pm. We are grateful that the Youth Centre was able to accommodate us for a temporary period, however we did miss the Library.

Grenville members now meet on average four times a month. A warm welcome is always at hand should you wish to join us on any of our events. Here are a selection of photos and descriptions of events to give a flavour of what we have been up to.

Milton Keynes Museum

Members enjoyed a relaxed and interesting visit to Milton Keynes Museum in March. Who knew that Liz Leyh was the artist in residence of the farmhouse which is the main building of the museum? She was the creator of the famous MK concrete cows as well as this fabulous snowman.

We had fun in the connected to earth collection with the variety of historic and novelty phones. A walk around the garden was a must, sitting on a bench and soaking up some of the lovely March sunshine on offer. We'd certainly recommend a visit, your entry fee allows you free entry for a year.



Jigsaw Bring Buy and Swap Fundraiser

Our monthly fundraising event in the Buckingham Library continues to be a popular community service, and a fabulous way to raise funds. For the first six months of this year we have raised £138 with 50% donated to The Buckingham Food Bank and 50% to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. For the remainder of the year we will be supporting The Brodey Centre at The Horton Hospital in Banbury and also the Chairman's charity.

Lunch at The Kings Head Aylesbury

Grenville members enjoyed lunch in one of the oldest public houses in the South of England. Fish and chips proved to be the popular choice. Sadly, the weather had changed and we were unable to sit outside in the cobbled courtyard but we enjoyed sitting in our historical surroundings in the bar.



Marathon Update



Doreen preparing for the London Marathon in October.

Doreen is excited to announce that she is running the London Marathon again in October. "I hope to miss the acrobatics and broken bones this year and make a good for age time. I am very excited to have this opportunity." This year Doreen is running to raise funds for the RFU injured player foundation. I have never played rugby but both my sons and husband have. The foundation supports injured players from grass roots to professional level as well as researching and developing techniques to keep players safe. "I am proud to support this charity look forward to wearing their running vest on the 2 October."

Bedford Branch News

The Bedford Branch is delighted that Valerie Symon will be coming in November to give a talk about her visits to Malawi with The Bananabox Trust, a charity helping to provide much needed school equipment, uniforms, sports equipment and health care to children in North Malawi.

Over the past 11 years Valerie, a former teacher, and the Bananabox Trust have supported 27 primary schools and 3 secondary schools sending boxes containing pencils, pens, paper, rulers,



Bananabox Trust boxes arrive in Ekwendeni for distribution to Schools and Hospitals in North Malawi .

note books, educational books, uniforms (school and sports) and much more.



Children learning about dental hygiene and receiving toothbrushes



Valerie Symon and Amanda Buckmaster

Valerie also helps re-distribute glasses to the Malawi people. Any glasses that are donated are washed, checked by an optometrist and then sent to the hospital eye department in Malawi, providing much needed support for those that desperately need help with their vision. Old sunglasses are also needed.

If you have any educational equipment or old glasses you can donate please contact Amanda Buckmaster, Bedford Branch Secretary at amanda.buckmaster@oddfellows.co.uk. To hear more about Valerie and her work, please put Wednesday 16th November 2022, 7.30pm in your diary. The talk will be held at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 9JB.

Victoria Branch News



Henry James, born Tuesday 17 May 2022 with brother Noah, aged 3.

Congratulations to Victoria Branch trustee Maria Kelly on the birth of her son Henry James on Tuesday 17 May 2022. Henry is the youngest and newest member of Victoria Branch and is seen her with his big brother Noah, aged 3, who is also a member.

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 'Kelso' in the place name search box

OE/0122A6



Annual Movable Conference May 2022, Scarborough

The Oddfellows hold their Annual Movable Conference (AMC) every year in May, and each District sends appointed Deputies to take part in the business of the Society. This year the conference was held in The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough. Due to the disruption caused by Covid there hasn't been an 'in person' conference for the last two years, so this year's was especially welcome.

As well as the business side of the conference there were a range of social activities, starting with the Grand Master's (Chairman of the Society) Celebration and Firework Display. The traditional Church Service was held on Sunday morning, followed by a wreath laying ceremony and in the afternoon The Oddfellows Brass Band performed a fantastic concert in the iconic Sun Court.

The business began on Monday morning in the Grand Hall, Scarborough Spa, with an address by the Mayor of Scarborough and the Opening Ritual, which as well as providing the opportunity to parade banners and regalia also afforded the display of some pretty fancy hats and fascinators.



Adrian Taylor, Ann Boyle and Emily Ellis, Deputies for the Beds and Bucks District.

Elections of Officers, Directors and Committee members were held, along with the acceptance of various financial and business reports. Deputies from the floor had the opportunity to raise questions and put their viewpoints and also vote on items. This year saw the introduction of electronic voting, which proved very successful, although the more usual 'show of hands' was the preferred method of showing acceptance. There were approximately 300 delegates in attendance, with Adrian Taylor, Ann Boyle and Emily Ellis the Deputies nominated by the Beds and Bucks District.



The Oddfellows Brass Band Concert held in The Sun Court of the Scarborough Spa Hotel.

After the conclusion of all the business there was a farewell dance on the Wednesday evening with 60s and 70s hits performed by The Sonics. Then it was time to pack our suitcases, and say goodbye to Scarborough until next time!



Scarborough at night.



The Sonics at the Farewell Dance.

Photo top: The view of Scarborough from the hotel window.



Ann, Emily and Adrian, third table from the front on the right.



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 Sue on **01234 353859** or email **sue.doultonsmith@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**

Our Branches raised a magnificent £151,000 for charitable causes in 2021!

Congratulations to our Branches and their members for a tremendous fundraising achievement in 2021. Helping struggling communities and those in need is something the Oddfellows has been doing for over two centuries. And despite the pandemic, last year was no exception.

Branches and their members raised over £151,000 to support causes close to their hearts, a figure up on 2020's already significant total of £145,700. Fifth generation Oddfellow, Society historian and South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Branch member, Paul Eyre,



West London Branch

reflects on the tradition of local giving. He said: "For many years, it has been fairly common practice for the Provincial Grand Master of a District to choose a charity to support during their year of office, with funds being raised by raffles, donations or other fundraising activities."

Oddfellows CEO, Jane Nelson, added: "It always astounds me when we look at the collective yearly fundraising figure. The generosity of our members and Branches, especially at such times where household budgets are becoming increasingly tight and unpredictable, is incredible.



South East Lancashire Branch

“I feel immensely proud to represent such a caring bunch of people, those who don’t hesitate to help a neighbour in need.

“For those who receive support, it’s not just about the financial help, it’s knowing that their situation is acknowledged and that there are people out there who care and listen.”



Concord Branch

Fundraising for Ukraine

The Society is collecting donations to support the work the Red Cross is doing in Ukraine. The Red Cross is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response.

In some areas in Ukraine, water, electricity, and phone connectivity have been affected. Many people are taking cover from the shelling in basements and bomb shelters, but are going without the most basic supplies, like food and water.

Any donations will be used to reach people in urgent need, If you would like to contribute,



cheques should be made payable to “The Oddfellows”, and sent to:

**Ukraine Support
The Oddfellows
Oddfellows House
184-186 Deansgate
Manchester, M3 3WB**

The Society has already pledged £10,000 from central Funds in support of this appeal.

Access to expert legal help

From day one of membership, all members have access to the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme.*

We hope it's something you never have to call on, but if you do it gives you access to the expert help of our appointed solicitors should you need to make a claim for medical negligence, a personal injury, or an employment dispute which is at pre or tribunal stage. It also covers your family members for personal injury and medical negligence cases.

Help with a medical negligence claim

Medical negligence is when a healthcare provider – NHS or private – has failed in their duty to take care of you and you have suffered an injury. This could be, for example, that you've been given a wrong drug, they've made a mistake during a treatment, or failed to diagnose your condition, or made a wrong one.

Matthew Heap, a Solicitor and Partner at CL Medilaw (www.clmedilaw.co.uk), which is one of the Society's approved solicitors, further explained: "Some people get in touch with us and they know the exact point at which they feel they've been failed. For others, it's less clear-cut, but they know that somewhere along the line, the care they've received has fallen short of medically-acceptable standards.

"Knowing how to raise your case, and to be heard, can be daunting when you don't know the process, have the contacts, or legal knowledge.

"But the support that's available through the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme can help you to get the answers you need and, hopefully, the compensation you deserve."

Who can make a claim?

You can bring the legal action yourself or, as the executor or next of kin, on behalf of someone who has died because of medical negligence, or on behalf of a family member if that person is unable to take action themselves because they don't have capacity.

Oddfellows members and their family can receive Legal Aid Scheme support as long as the accident, incident or issue happened while you were a member and you have remained a member since that time.

You must start your legal claim within three years from the date that you either realised you'd been injured or when the incident occurred. For children, this three-year time limit doesn't start until the child's 18th birthday.

If you're looking to make a claim on behalf of someone close to you because they don't have capacity, such as they're unable to manage their own affairs or have a mental disability, then the three-year time limit doesn't apply, unless they recover from this incapacity.

"Taking legal action for compensation is a way to try and secure the support that you now need and deserve – financial or medical. The Oddfellows and CL Medilaw will have your back every step of the way," added Matthew.

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How to apply for the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme

The first step is to call the Care and Welfare Helpline for a non-committal conversation. If you wish to move forward, you'll need to fill in an Oddfellows Legal Aid application form. The Care and Welfare Helpline number can be found on your membership card or by calling **0800 028 1810**.

Further information

Read this article in full at:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-to-make-a-claim-for-medical-negligence

The Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/legal-aid-scheme

*Terms and conditions apply to all financial benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Read the full list of Oddfellows member benefit terms and conditions at www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-fcs or call Membership on 0800 028 1810.

Member-only offers from Unity Mutual

Unity Mutual is the Society's financial services brand and they've created a dedicated section on their website to share special deals and rates that are only available to Oddfellows members.

Unity Mutual's current member-only deal, launched in spring 2022, is a 5 Year Guaranteed Investment Bond with a special fixed rate of 1.75% annual interest, which equates to 9.06% over the full term. It also offers a guaranteed return on your savings and 100% capital protection. The minimum single investment per member is £1,000.

They're only accepting a limited number of applications, however, so this product will be offered to Oddfellows members on a first-come, first-served basis.

*T&Cs apply.



To find out more, or view their full range of savings, investment and protection products, call **0161 214 4628** or go to **www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows**



*To view Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bond terms and conditions, go to **www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib**. If you're in any doubt about whether any Unity Mutual product is right for you, it's a good idea to talk to an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). You can find a local financial advisor by visiting **www.unbiased.co.uk**. You may need to pay for a financial advisor's help, so make sure you ask them about their fees first.

At a glance

July 2022

Fri 1	Lunch at Bromham Mill	12 noon
Mon 4	Craft and Chat	10am
Mon 4	Monthly Meeting and Quiz	12 noon
Tues 5	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning	10am
Sun 10	Walk and Picnic at Stanborough Park	11am
Mon 11	Victoria Branch Night - Guest Speaker Dan Reid - The Nene Valley	7.30pm
Wed 13	Walk Around Buckingham Town and Lunch at Prezzo	11am
Sun 17	District Church Service	3pm
Mon 18	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 19	Bedford Branch Business Meeting	7.45pm
Wed 20	Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	12 noon
Thurs 21	Lunch at the Pumphouse	12 noon
Wed 27	Albert Social Branch	11am

August

Mon 1	Craft and Chat	10am
Tues 2	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning	10am
Fri 5	Thenford Arboretum	2pm
Mon 8	Victoria Branch Night - Table Top Treasure Hunt	7.30pm
Sun 14	Countryside Walk	1pm
Mon 15	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 16	Trip to the Queen Eleanor Garden Centre	9.45am
Tues 16	Bedford Branch Business Meeting	7.45pm
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning	11am
Wed 24	Social Branches - Visit to the Jordans Mill	11am

September - Friendship Month

Mon 5	Craft and Chat	10am
Mon 5	Grenville Monthly Meeting	12 noon
Tues 6	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning	10am

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Thurs 8	Visit to Bickerdikes Garden Centre	11am
Mon 12	Victoria Branch Night - Fish and Chips Night	7.30pm
Mon 19	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 20	Bedford Branch Business Meeting	7.45pm
Wed 21	Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	12 noon
Wed 21	Lunch at the Pumphouse	12 noon
Fri 23	Friendship Dinner - Overstone Manner	6pm
Sat 24	Croquet	10.15am
Wed 28	Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility	10am
Wed 28	Albert Social Branch - Coffee Morning	10.30am

October

Mon 3	Craft and Chat	10am
Mon 3	Grenville Monthly Meeting and Guest Speaker	12 noon
Tues 4	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles, Fundraising and Coffee Morning	10am
Mon 10	Victoria Branch Night - Food Tasting Evening	7.30pm
Fri 14	Outing to Tea Room	12 noon
Mon 17	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 18	Trip to Emmaus, Carlton	9.45am
Tues 18	Bedford Branch Business Meeting	7.45pm
Wed 19	Monthly Lunch Drop In at The Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre	12 noon
Wed 26	Albert Social Branch	12.30pm

Booking and cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.