

November 2023 – March 2024



# out & about

## Cambridge District



*Clare Bridge in Cambridge*



Dining Out



Games



Trips



Talks



Walks



Social



Quiz



Meetings



Music/Concerts



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Friendship



*Welcome to Winter*

## Dear Member

Welcome to the latest edition of your newsletter in a new format, showing details of the various social events that our Secretary, Linda, has organised for you. She and I would love to hear your opinion of it so please have a good read then send your comments to the District Office in Cambridge.

It is usual for the Chairman, in their year of office, to raise money for a local charity. For this year, I have chosen EACH – the East Anglian Children's Hospice based in Milton, this being the first one opened in East Anglia (there are now three) and the fifth across the country. I am currently raising money by holding raffles at the various social events and some donations have already been gratefully received. Also, should you

## Contact Details

**Secretary:** Linda Miller

**Telephone:** 01223 351197

**Email:**

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**Address:**

Oddfellows Hall,  
131 Newmarket Road,  
Cambridge CB5 8HA.

visit the office, there is an array of books/puzzles for you to buy.

With that in mind, if you have any ideas for a social event that we can arrange, and that you would love to attend, please let us know.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

**Mike Park**  
**Chairman**

# November 2023

THURS  
09

## Table-Top Treasure Hunt



2pm



Free



For the intrepid among you why not come and try your hand at our table-top treasure hunt and find your way from one point to another until the treasure reveals itself? Refreshments will be provided! Book by Tuesday 7 November 2023. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.



Join the  
conversation @  
OddfellowsUK

Find us at:



CambridgeOddfellows



OddfellowsUK

THURS  
30

## Huntingdon Christmas Party



2pm



Free



It's Christmas and that means party time! Our celebration begins with our first offering which is Hartford School Choir, who are coming to sing Christmas songs to get us in the mood. Afterwards, we will be entertained by Jim Stebbings, who will present his Sentiments of Christmas, which will involve some audience participation! And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas unless there was food and once again we will be providing our famous Christmas lunch in a box, anything left over can be easily taken home! Sounds great doesn't it? To be able to enjoy this extravaganza you will need to book, so don't delay and do it today! Book by Tuesday 14 November 2023. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridge PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

# December

THURS  
14

## Cambridge Christmas Party



2pm



Free



Christmas has come to Cambridge! We can't guarantee snow but we can say that you will be very entertained by our party this year! Your senses will be overloaded as you listen to St Galfrieds School Choir singing us some festive songs. When you've recovered from that, 'Burlesque Bombshells' will keep the fun going, possibly with audience participation! And a party wouldn't be a party without food, which will come in the form of a festive lunch box - all your favourite Christmas goodies in a box. What's not to like? Don't delay book your place today! We look forward to seeing you. Book by Thursday 30 November 2023. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.



# January 2024

THURS  
11

## Film Afternoon with Soup and a Roll



2pm



Free



It's likely to be cold and miserable in January, just after Christmas, so why not join us to brighten your week a little by coming to have lunch with us and watch a film at the same time? It's pot luck as to what film you get, but soup and a roll will always be warming and welcoming! Book by Tuesday 9 January 2024. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.





# January 2024

THURS  
25

## Bridges, Brewers and Barges



2pm



Free



Our Huntingdon group will be entertained today by the speaker we have coming from the Morris Museum in St Ives. St Ives is an historic town, with its foundations steeped in Jurassic times and today we will uncover just a tiny bit of that history during the talk called 'Bridges, Brewers and Barges'. We'd love you to come along and hear about the last 1,500 years of this very historic riverside town - you never know what we will uncover! Refreshments will be provided. Trinity Free Church, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridge PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.



## 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.

# February

THURS  
08

## Caring for the Fallen



2pm



Free



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission honour and care for the men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring that they will never be forgotten. Today we listen to Mac MacDonald from the Commission, who will tell us about their efforts to put right the wrongs of the past, centred on local engagement, collaboration and partnership. Refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

THURS  
29

## Late Valentines Lunch



1pm



Pay for what you order



Enjoy a lovely carvery meal at the Hartford Marina, just perfect for



a late Valentines lunch! Book by Tuesday 27 February 2024. The Hartford Mill, Hartford Marina, Huntingdon Road, Banks End, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambridge PE28 2AA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

# March

## THURS 14 Cambridge Acorn Project



2pm



Free



Come along and listen to a representative from the Cambridge Acorn Project, who provide long-term support for children and their families who have experienced trauma and abuse. As a charity, they offer complete support including therapy, family support, practical support (things like carpets and beds if the families don't have them) and enrichment activities (like bushcraft, swimming and football). Refreshments will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

## THURS 28 Treasure Hunt



2pm



Free



There's treasure in them thar hills! Try to beat Cap'n Hook and his merry band of men to the chest and you could be sailing away with the gold! Answer the clues and find your way from one point to another until the treasure reveals itself? Easy right? Refreshments will be provided. Book by Tuesday 26 March 2024. Trinity Free Church, Butts Grove Way, Huntingdon, Cambridge PE29 1LY. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.



## 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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# 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.  
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.



## Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. 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 teas/coffees
- 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

### Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, like a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

**If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Linda by phone on 01223 351197, email at [linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk)**

"Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".

*Cynthia, volunteer*



# Make the most of your membership



## Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

**Standard £25 a year membership\* gives you access to...**

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

**£35 a year membership\* provides you with additional benefits of...**

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits).

\*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions), or call us on 0800 028 1810.

# Meet your Cambridge Care and Welfare Team

**The Oddfellows looking after you**  
Care, Advice and Support



**We would like to introduce you to our friendly Welfare Visitor team who are here to help you.**



**Robert Monk**  
Welfare Visitor



**Rosemary Monk**  
Welfare Visitor



**Peter Jackson**  
Welfare Visitor

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone?

Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

*Our Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.*

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Linda on **01223 351197** or email **[linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:linda.miller@oddfellows.co.uk)**.

# National Oddfellows Helplines



As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

## 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@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)

Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

*Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.*

## 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)

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits\* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

[www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/)

\*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs)

## Meet the Grand Master

**Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham was officially welcomed as the Society's Grand Master (Chairman) during the annual conference in May, a position she'll hold for two years.**



The oldest of five in a close family, at weekends they would often travel around Yorkshire and go camping. It was during these trips she met Peter, a member of the Oddfellows since birth who would go on to become Grand Master himself.

Barbara joined the Oddfellows' Good Samaritan Lodge in Goole when she married Peter in 1973. "It was all arranged within four weeks," she said. "Nothing like the expensive events that happen today!"

"I borrowed my sister-in-law's wedding dress. Peter got a new suit. We catered ourselves in the local village hall. I think the wedding cost us £14, which is all you had to pay for the licence, and then we went away camping for our honeymoon."

Barbara and Peter would later welcome daughter Claire into the world, herself an Oddfellow, who would go on to have a successful accountancy career.

Barbara's career was in primary education, most notably a 30-year stint at a school

in Broughton where she ultimately became Head Teacher.

"It was something that I'd always wanted to do ever since I went to school. I never wanted to do anything else," Barbara said.

Despite representing the Society in a variety of roles, Barbara says that never in her wildest dreams did she anticipate becoming Grand Master.

"It's a great honour because you're just a custodian," she said. "Although you wear the chain and you're the figurehead, that's not what makes you an Oddfellow. What makes you an Oddfellow is what's in your heart."

"I just want to do my best, because the ethos of Oddfellows is what we should all live by. The whole world would be a better place if people looked after each other."

**Find out all the ways you can get involved in the Society by visiting**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/society-involvement](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/society-involvement)



*Barbara Needham (middle right) with daughter Claire (left), husband Peter (middle left) and sister Vivienne (right).*

# Help with Lasting Power of Attorneys

**Arranging a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) can seem daunting, so our Head of Care and Welfare, John Aitken (pictured right), has answered some frequently asked questions about them.**



## What is an LPA?

There are two types and you can do one or both:

A property and financial affairs LPA covers decisions about money matters, for example buying and selling property, dealing with bills and running bank accounts. You can start using this at any time.

A health and welfare LPA covers decisions about health and care matters including medical treatment, where someone should live and who they should have contact with. This can only be used once the person has lost capacity.

## What is 'losing capacity'?

This means no longer having the understanding or mental faculties to make decisions. Once someone loses capacity it is too late to set up a Power of Attorney. If this were to happen, family members would need to apply to the Court of Protection to take control of their assets and finances, which can be a lengthy and costly process.

## How do LPAs work?

The person making the application is the 'donor' and can give power to an 'attorney' to make decisions and take actions on their behalf.

The donor can choose multiple attorneys and specify which decisions they can make. If there is more than one attorney, the donor can specify whether they can act alone or must make decisions together.

The LPA must be signed either by a solicitor or someone else of the donor's choosing to certify the LPA and confirm that they understand and have not been pressured into it.

Family members can't do an LPA for someone. Like a will, people must do it for themselves with no coercion.

## How much does it cost?

It costs £82 to register each type of LPA (so £164 in total) with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). People on means-tested benefits or a low income can get an exemption or reduction of this fee. If you choose to use a solicitor, their costs will need to be added.

For more advice on LPAs, including how to make an application and links to relevant websites, go to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-with-lasting-power-of-attorneys](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-with-lasting-power-of-attorneys)





# Thanks for filling your September with friendship!

**Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows' CEO, has reflected on another successful Friendship Month:**

"Wow, what a brilliant Friendship Month we had! All our Branches have worked extremely hard to make each and every one of near 250 special taster events a great success.

"Be it coffee mornings, music events, walks, meals or games, we've loved seeing

the happy, smiling faces of people enjoying the benefits of friendship.

"To everybody who attended, hosted or volunteered at our Branches' Friendship Month events this year, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU! It's your hard work that ensures our continued success."

Take a look at some of the fun that's been had by some of our Branches!



*Brighton and Sussex members enjoying a coffee morning.*



*Dog race night at Dorset and Yeovil.*



*Mitcham, Reigate and Crawley friends keeping cool from the sunshine.*



*A friendly game of badminton in Mid-Surrey.*



*Delicious pancakes at a Handforth and Altrincham event.*



*Too many friends to fit in a frame at Ipswich.*



*Relishing friendship and fresh air on a walk in Nottingham Trent.*

# At a glance

## November 2023

<b>Thurs 9</b>	Table-Top Treasure Hunt	2pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Branch Meeting	2pm
<b>Thurs 30</b>	Huntingdon Christmas Party	2pm

## December

<b>Thurs 14</b>	Cambridge Christmas Party	2pm
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## January 2024

<b>Thurs 11</b>	Film Afternoon with Soup and a Roll	2pm
<b>Wed 17</b>	Branch Meeting	2pm
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Bridges, Brewers and Barges	2pm

## February

<b>Thurs 8</b>	Caring for the Fallen	2pm
<b>Wed 21</b>	Branch Meeting	2pm
<b>Thurs 29</b>	Late Valentines Lunch	1pm

## March

<b>Thurs 14</b>	Cambridge Acorn Project	2pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Branch Meeting	2pm
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Treasure Hunt	2pm

## Branch Meeting

This will be the District Branch meeting where we discuss all the matters of running the Branch. All members are welcome to attend. Starts at 2pm on Wednesday at Oddfellows Hall, 131 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8HA. Contact Linda on 01223 351197.

**15 November 2023**

**No meeting in December**

**17 January 2024**

**21 February 2024**

**20 March 2024**

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