

January - April 2019  
Issue 3



**the ODDfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**Leigh and Bolton District**



*Fred Dibnah statue Bolton*



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



*Visit to Bolton Steam Engine Museum – Saturday 9 March 2019*

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Leigh and Bolton Branch of Oddfellows.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from dining out to trips out plus lots of other activities. All our news is now included in this publication and that too has a new look and feel.

**Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy – we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.**

## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810.

## Contact Details

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Please bring your friends to our events, so they can enjoy all that the Oddfellows is about. Unless otherwise stated please contact Pam Casey on 0161 776 0945 or 07966 934747 or email [pamela.casey@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:pamela.casey@oddfellows.co.uk) to book or find out more information on any of our events.

# January 2019

WED  
02

## Branch Meeting



1.15pm



Free



To discuss the Branch's finances, correspondence and any other matters relating to the Branch. All members welcome. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ.



WED  
16

## Coffee Morning at Wyevale Garden Centre



10am



As per menu



Join us for our tea/coffee morning at Wyevale Garden Centre. This is the perfect opportunity to socialise and make new friends, as well as finding out about all the benefits of the Oddfellows. Everyone welcome. Please feel free to bring family and friends. From 10am onwards. Wyevale Garden Centre, Wigan Road, Deane, Bolton BL3 4RD. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

SAT  
12

## Ten Pin Bowling - Middlebrook



3pm



TBC



Join us for a game of ten pin bowling at Hollywood Bowl. Cost to be confirmed. Book by 5 January 2019. Hollywood Bowl, 25-27 The Linkway, Middlebrook BL6 6JA. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



# January 2019

FRI  
**18**

## Games Night



7.30pm



Members £3.50  
Guests £4.50



Come and join us for a games evening with supper included. Book by 11 January 2019. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



FRI  
**25**

## Let's Meet for Lunch at Olympus Restaurant



12 noon



As per menu



Join us in for a lunch at one of our members favourite fish and chip restaurant The Olympus. All members and non-members are welcome to join us having good food and drinks along with new and old friends. Book by 18 January 2019. The Olympus, 35-41 Great Moor Street, Bolton BL1 1SW. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



# February

WED  
**06**

## Branch Meeting



1.15pm



Free



To discuss the Branch's finances, correspondence and any other matters relating to the branch. All members welcome. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ.

SAT  
**09**

## Visit to Botany Bay



10am



TBC



Join us for a visit to Botany Bay, Chorley a chance to spend any of your leftover cash from Christmas at the floor mill shopping centre outlet, including a restaurant, gardening area. Early booking essential. Time 10am, for further details contact Fely. Botany Bay, Canal Mill, Botany Brow, Chorley PR6 9AF. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

# February

**FRI**  
**15**

## Presentation on 'A Taste of the Philippines'



7.30pm



Members £3.50  
Guests £4.50



A presentation by Richard Silvester on the Philippines and the culture, with supper included. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



**WED**  
**20**

## Coffee Morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre



10am



As per menu



Join us for our tea/coffee morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre. This is the perfect opportunity to socialise and make new friends, as well as finding out about all the benefits of the Oddfellows. Everyone welcome, please feel free to bring family and friends. From 10am onwards. Bradley Fold Garden Centre, Radcliffe Moor Road, Bradley Fold, Bolton BL2 6RE. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



**WED**  
**20**

## Social Branch Meeting (Farmer's Glory/Pride of England)



1.15pm



Free



To arrange and discuss social events/activities. Also to learn about the Branch and the society. All members welcome. Starts 1.15pm at Ladybridge Community Centre, Bolton. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Pamela on 07966 934747 or Fely on 07809 295366.



**THURS**  
**28**

## Let's Meet for Lunch at The Tavern on the Hill



12 noon



As per menu



Join us in for a lunch at the Tavern on the Hill, Bolton. All members and non-members are welcome to join us having good food and drinks along with new and old friends. Tavern on the Hill, 761 Wigan Road, Bolton BL3 4RH. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



# March



## **WED** **06** Branch Meeting

 7.30pm  Free



To discuss the Branch's finances, correspondence and any other matters relating to the branch. All members welcome. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ.

## **SAT** **09** Visit to Bolton Steam Engine Museum

 10am  Free



Meeting at the Bolton Steam Engine Museum, the largest collection of working mill steam engines in the UK, we will take a walk around this amazing place. Cost is free but donations are welcome. Bolton Steam Museum, Mornington Road, Bolton BL1 4EU. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

## **FRI** **15** Craft fair for Guide Dogs for the Blind

 7.30pm  Members £3.50  
Guests £4.50



Join us for an amazing craft fair with the Guide Dogs for the blind, with supper included. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



## **WED** **20** Coffee Morning at Wyevale Garden Centre

 10am  As per menu



Join us for our tea/coffee morning at Wyevale Garden Centre. This is the perfect opportunity to socialise and make new friends, as well as finding out about all the benefits of the Oddfellows. Everyone welcome. Please feel free to bring family and friends. From 10am onwards. Wyevale Garden Centre, Wigan Road, Deane, Bolton BL3 4RD. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



# March

WED  
20

## Social Branch Annual General Meeting and Degrees



7.30pm



Free



Our Social Branch Annual General Meeting, where degrees can be taken by any member wishing to do so. To arrange and discuss social events/activities. Also to learn about the Branch and the society. All members welcome. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Pamela on 07966 934747 or Fely on 07809 295366.

THURS  
28

## Let's Meet for Lunch at Signature Restaurant, Bolton University



12 noon



As per menu



Meeting at the Signature restaurant, Bolton where not only do you eat at an amazing price, you are supporting the development of our dedicated Catering and Hospitality students. All welcome to attend so bring your friends and family along. Book by 21 March 2019. Signature Restaurant, Deane Road Campus, Deane Road, Bolton BL3 5BG. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



# April

WED  
03

## Annual General Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



The accounts and financial statements for year ending 2018 will be presented for approval. To discuss the Branch's finance, correspondence and any other branch matters. All members welcome. Starts at 7.15pm, Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Ladybridge, Bolton BL 3 4RZ. Contact Pamela on 07966 934747 or Fely on 07809 295366.

SAT  
06

## Picnic at Anderton Lift Park



10am



TBC



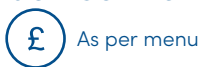
Picnic at Anderton Lift Park - We are taking a trip back to this popular place to enjoy a lovely picnic by the canal, with possible trip down the boat lift (to be confirmed). Watch this space for further details. Book by 30 March 2019. Anderton Lift Park, Lift Lane, Anderton, Northwich CW9 6FW. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

# April

## WED 17 Coffee Morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre



10am



As per menu



Join us for our tea/coffee morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre. This is the perfect opportunity to socialise and make new friends, as well as finding out about all the benefits of the Oddfellows. Everyone welcome, please feel free to bring family and friends. From 10am onwards. Bradley Fold Garden Centre, Radcliffe Moor Road, Bradley Fold, Bolton BL2 6RE. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.



## WED 17 Social Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



To arrange and discuss social events/activities. Also to learn about the Branch and the society. All members welcome. To be confirmed. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Pamela on 07966 934747 or Fely on 07809 295366.

## FRI 19 Easter Eggs/Bonnet Parade



7.30pm



Members £3.50  
Guests £4.50



Come and join us for an 'Eggciting' evening of a traditional Easter Bonnet parade, so get creative and show of your skills. Followed by supper and games. Ladybridge Community Centre, Beaumont Drive, Bolton BL3 4RZ. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

## FRI 26 Let's Meet for Lunch at The Victoria Walshaw Restaurant



12 noon



As per menu



Meeting at the Victoria for our monthly lunch, The Victoria Walshaw is located in the attractive rural setting of Walshaw Village, Bury. Bring long friends and family. The Victoria Walshaw Restaurant, 12-14 Hall Street, Walshaw, Bury BL8 3BD. Contact Fely on 07809 295366.

# Holmfirth Visit

**Some months earlier, someone in their wisdom, or lack of it, decided that Sunday 15 July would be a good day to visit Holmfirth, Yorkshire, the filming back ground of 'The Last of The Summer Wine'. Fast forward three months, The day was an unusually hot sultry, more suited for a comfortable chair in the back garden under a large umbrella with a good book and a cold drink.**

Sixteen hardy souls clambered onto a mini bus in Ladybridge and headed across the Pennines to indulge themselves in the fantasy world of Nora Batty and Compo. It is not clear if the experience lived up to the expectations of the enthusiasts. The small ugly house sitting awkwardly on the banks of a small river could be problematical. Refreshed by a tasty buffet at a local eatery the group set off for, who would have guessed it, a vineyard in Yorkshire.

The visit to the vineyard was greatly enhanced by the knowledgeable and likeable presenter who at times got more than a bit too technical. Not everyone understands or wants to know about the process of grafting a desired vine plant onto a hardy root stock. Later it was a bit disappointing to learn that the process of turning grapes into wine was carried out in sterile stainless-steel equipment. Whatever happened to barefoot men with rolled up trousers trampling grapes in an old wooden vat? One can almost hear the squelching sound of partially crushed grapes slipping through between their toes. At least we now know we are not going to find the odd toenail in a glass of their finest.

Having sat through a detailed lecture on how to plant and nurture hardy root stock, graft on the fruit bearing vine, process the ripened grapes through a hygienic stainless- system it was time to taste the wine. Satisfied that they would not find a toenail or part of a Verruca in their glass the group settled down amongst the equipment to enjoy the only freebie of the day. Three varieties were on offer White, Red, and Rosé. Accompanied by much smelling, whispering, and lip smacking all three appeared to meet with approval, all to soon it was time for the gift shop. Holmfirth is a small town, a very small town with a residential population of just over five thousand which is probably doubled at weekends by visitors. The town is located at the confluence of the Holme and Ribble rivers. In the 13th century the town grew up around a road bridge and corn mill which in those days was driven by a water wheel.

**Two enterprising young boys decided to make some pocket money by knocking on neighbourhood doors and offering to do odd jobs.**

Eventually a kind neighbour decided to employ them. He gave them a can of bright yellow paint and two brushes, pointed in the direction of a small porch next to the garage. He told them that he was going out for a couple of hours and if they painted the porch he would pay them £5. When he returned he was met by two young smiling faces, but his mood suddenly changed when he saw that his recently acquired expensive metallic silver Porsche 911 Carrera T was now bright yellow.



## Bowling

Sunday 2 September 2018

**Another beautiful summer's day, a friendly group of enthusiasts straining at the lease to get on the green, what's not to like about that?**

The playing schedule was arranged to give everyone maximum time on the green with the winner being decided by a brief sudden-death play-off. For the first

time in recent years the winner Rosemary Sutherland was not a member of The Oddfellows. Congratulations to Rosemary who is highly regarded as very skilful bowler at other venues.

To round off the occasion Fely excelled herself by preparing an unusually delicious buffet.

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## Mediumship

Friday 20 July 2018

**By popular demand, a return visit by Gina Evonston a lady with a pleasant personality and outwardly no sign of a Mystic Meg.**

Mediumship is the practice of certain people known as mediums to purportedly mediate communication between spirits of the dead and living human beings.

Humans have been fascinated with contacting the dead from the beginning of time. Cave painting's and many other artefacts, some dating back thousands of years have been found in isolated communities around the world that did not know that other communities existed with similar thoughts.

The modus operandi seems to be that the medium casts a subject at their audience and hopefully get a response, and if not,

they broaden the cast, and so on until someone responds. It's a bit like an antiques auctioneer who has no foreknowledge of who, if anyone has an interest in the object for sale or how strong the appeal, added to which, unlike the proverbial Lemming's there is a resistant to jumping first.

Those who have lost a loved one are very vulnerable and receptive to the slightest possibility of communicating with their dear departed friend and, therefore are easily exploited. We live in a well organised country with laws that protect us from exploitation. Mediumship and spiritualism have been used by the unscrupulous to defraud the innocent seeking solace. This subject seems to attract more support from the female of the species who turned out in record numbers on this occasion, and hopefully went home happy.



## 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 Pamela on **0161 776 0945** or **07966 934747** or email **pamela.casey@oddfellows.co.uk**

### Oddfellows 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](mailto: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](mailto:care@oddfellows.co.uk)

# Oddfellows Summer Holiday

**Discover the best of Hampshire's Coastline with Oddfellows members and friends at the Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel.**

Situated on Hayling Island, Sinah Warren is a large, comfortable hotel surrounded by elegant gardens and spectacular view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:  
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from  
only £280 per person**

With evening entertainment, activities and use of leisure facilities.



**To book call Warner's on 0330 1009 772**

(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS

# Bolton's Favourite Son

**Fred Dibnah MBE, was born on the 29 April 1938 into a working- class family in Alfred street, Bolton, Lancashire. Later in life he was to become Bolton's favourite son and a national treasure. In 1938, throughout the forties and well into the fifties coal was the nation's main source of energy, creating steam that powered 'steam turbines' to produce electricity and many other types of steam engines that powered the factories.**

In the 1930's the country relied on the railway system to transport goods and passengers to their destination. The major companies vied with each other to build ever more powerful and faster engines. The LNER company who ran the Flying Scotsman Service from London to Edinburgh, generally known as the east coast line commissioned the Doncaster Rail Works to build a powerful fast engine that would reduce the journey time. In 1923 Sir Nigel Gresley designed what was to become the most famous steam engine in the world. The engine derived its name from the service it ran, the 'Flying Scotsman' was born. The locomotive set two world records for steam traction, becoming the first steam locomotive to be officially authenticated at reaching 100 miles per hour on 30th November 1934, and then setting a record for the longest non-stop journey by a steam locomotive when it ran 422 miles on the 8th August 1989 while in Australia.

There are claims that a Great Western Railway steam engine 'The City of Truro' was the first locomotive to reach the speed of 100 miles per hour on the 9 May 1904 but the occasion was not planned or officially

authenticated. The engine was designed by William Dean and built at the Swindon's Rail Works. The City of Truro is currently undergoing a refit and will remain a working engine for a few more years, then retired to the national museum in York. Ironically, in 1938, fifteen years after designing the 'Flying Scotsman', Sir Nigel Gresley designed another world beater. The 'Mallard' was born, same year as Fred, and they both became famous in their own way.

Fred would have been just sixteen months old when WWII started and too young to understand what war was. But when Bolton was bombed several times in 1941 he would have been three years and four months old and would have sensed the anxiety felt by his parents. As the crow flies it is only a few hundred metres from where they lived in Alfred street to where some of the bombs fell around Ashburner Street.

During Fred's school years it became obvious he was more 'Hands on' than 'academic'. Leaving school at the age of sixteen he found employment with a company of undertakers but left after a few weeks to become an apprentice carpenter. Clearly undertaking was not the 'hands on' type of work he enjoyed.

Aged about 17 years old Fred climbed the 262 feet Barrow Bridge chimney for a ten-shilling bet. During the night he took two Union flags and attached them to the lightning conductors on top of the chimney. The Barrow Bridge chimney is one of the few still standing in Bolton, probably due to its location near some very valuable property. Generally, the conscription age for National Service was 18 but Fred was not called up until the age of 22. He was sent

to Aldershot for the normal 6 weeks basic training, otherwise known as square bashing prior to being sent to Catterick to learn the basics of army catering. He was then posted with the 14th/20th King's Hussars who were part of the British Army on the Rhine, West Germany as it was in those days.

In any branch of the armed forces the cook house is regarded as the worst place to work. Fred somehow managed to persuade his commanding officer to let him repair the regiments farmhouse used to stable the horses and hounds. He was soon given a more permanent position as a builder and handyman. He dug a 35 feet deep shaft into which the horse manure and dog faeces would be emptied. Part of his work was to feed and look after the animals. He was chastised when he was found in possession of a 1914 Luger P08 pistol which he had bought from a fellow soldier. Initially Fred resented being called into the service but later in life became more positive about the experience.

On his return from National Service in 1962 Fred gathered his tools together, bought an old AJS motorcycle and started looking for work. At that time Bolton was in a post-industrial decline. Between 1957 and 1965 70 mills closed in the town leaving just 37 operational. Work was hard to find, and Fred eked out an existence on small domestic jobs until he accumulated enough money to buy his own set of ladders. He struggled to obtain meaningful work until he met Lonsdale Bonner, one of his school teachers. The two agreed a deal whereby Bonner would be paid a commission for each job he got for Fred. His first job was dismantling a chimney alongside the Manchester and

Bolton railway, a difficult proposition as any mistake would temporarily close the railway. The two managed to gain several jobs but the arrangement was terminated when Fred was called upon to undertake another six months National Service.

On completion of his second stint with the military Fred returned to his steeple-jacking career. As everyone knows 'you can't keep a good man down'. Fred went on to become a huge success in his chosen profession and often the centre of attention. When Fred came to the attention of the television producers his career took-off in a new direction, at first featuring in exciting programmes about his dangerous exploits downing chimneys around the country, and then presenting programmes in his own right.

In 2000, Fred was awarded an honorary degree Doctor of Technology by the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. In 2004, he was made an honorary Doctor of the University by the University of Birmingham. To cap it all Fred was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the 2004 New Year Honours List. He joked that he might buy a new flat cap for the ceremony. Fred turned up at Buckingham Palace on 7th July 2004 wearing morning dress and top hat to receive his award from the Queen.

There is an eight foot larger than life statue of Fred in Bolton town centre, a fitting tribute to larger than life personality who became a legend in his own lifetime.

# Knowsley Safari Park

Saturday 13 October 2018



**You know you have got out of the wrong side of the bed when you find yourself travelling north on the M61 when your destination is Knowsley near Liverpool. To complete our misery, it was raining buckets and the coach roof was made of chicken wire.**

Having driven north to Preston on the M61 motorway the driver decided to abandon the motorway system, do a 'U' turn and drive south on the A59 coast road in the general direction of Liverpool city centre. By this time some were grateful that the government had not built a bridge to the Isle-of-Man as they had no desire to do a tour of the TT circuit. Others who only had a light breakfast were threatening to eat a lion if they ever got to the Safari park. A lifetime and many miles later Liverpool city centre signs began to appear. Another change in direction, east onto the M570, then another turn and a familiar sign the A580, we had almost completed a full circle.

The café was a welcome sight and just in time to avoid cannibalism from taking hold, not to mention saving a lion from being eaten alive. It was cold and raining when we toured the animal park, the exotic animals from warmer climes were huddled

together in the shelters the only thing visible was their behinds. The rain on the windows meant taking sharp photographs was impossible. The monkeys clambered all over the coach but most of them soon disappeared, whether it was the rain or the glum faces staring back at them we shall never know. Following another visit to the café and the side shows it was time for another coach experience. One would think that if you lived in Bolton you would recognise the A580 East Lancs road and its relation to the A58 which runs through Bolton. Not our driver whose logic seems to have deserted them, or maybe they thought we would want to experience Wigan in the evening rush hour, and that's what we got. Eventually after one of the most harrowing journeys imaginable we arrived back at Ladybridge. Thank god for small mercies.

St Christopher, where were you, in our time of need.

## Reminder

**All social evenings include as much tea or coffee as you can consume, and a substantial tasty supper prepared by Fely Doloroso. All members and non-members are welcome to participate in the coffee/tea mornings and the monthly Lunches. Mid-day lunches are booked at different venues each month. A quick 'At a Glance' list of activities is printed on the back cover of this Newsletter.**

## Hawaiian Night

Friday 17 August 2018

Perhaps we should be grateful, not a single male knobbly knee in sight but there were lots of Lancashire style grass skirts on display. Dancing barefoot, swaying hips in true Hawaiian style was an unexpected bonus. Congratulations ladies it was a joy to watch the ladies young and old enjoy themselves on the dance floor. Thanks, to Fely for arranging the appropriate music and the delicious variety of Pizzas. Bingo and the hugely popular raffle rounded off the evening.



## Karaoke Evening

Friday 21 September 2018

A bit tongue-in cheek approach, slow to get going but as shyness gave to confidence there was an avalanche of participants. Perhaps Fely had laced the Lancashire Hotpot with something to loosen the vocal chords. Sadly, there was nothing to suggest that a star was born, or that anyone should give up their day job, perhaps next time.

## Visit to Blackpool

Saturday 11 August 2018

**Tacky, brash, vulgar, outrageous, the word conjures up a bucket full of adjectives, yet we all need an annual top-up of the golden mile. It was another beautiful summer's day, everyone was in high spirits. On arrival it was clear that at least half the population of England was in town, wall to wall people, the numbers increasing by the minute.**

Finding somewhere to sit on the promenade to watch the air show was impossible but someone or something recognized our plight and guided us to a small café where we found the last available seats in Blackpool with a view of the air show. It did mean ordering food and drink at regular intervals but well worth the cost to sit in the shade of a canopy on one of the hottest days of the summer and watch the hordes walk aimlessly by. A visit to Blackpool is not complete without a visit to the market where the gullible will be separated from their hard-earned cash for useless artefacts that will be hidden away out of sight forever in fear of the dreaded question 'where did you buy that?' Foot sore and weary of the 'kiss me quick' tacky atmosphere the group headed for home and a more peaceful way of life.



*Members on one of our Let's meet for Lunch...*

## Celebrating members who Make a Difference

**Say hello to our new member recognition scheme – the Oddfellows' Making a Difference Award!**

While we're bidding adieu to the Portraits Scheme, the new Making a Difference Award will support a more inclusive framework, where any member can nominate another for recognition. It hopes to find and reward those who truly go the extra mile in reflecting our Society's core values.



**And the categories are:**

- **Enriching lives socially** – any member who loves contributing to social activity.
- **Giving something back** – this member helps raise money or 'in kind' charitable support.
- **Working in the spirit of mutuality** – this member's passion lies in the running of the Branch and Society as a whole.
- **A helping hand** – a member who loves looking after other members, such as a Welfare Visitor or other caring volunteer.

**Do you know any shining 'stars'?**

If you'd like to nominate another member for a Making a Difference Award, ask your Branch Secretary for a nomination form. You just fill it in and hand it back to them as soon as you can. Your District Committee of Management will assess all local nominations, with up to four from each Branch (one from each category) moving forward to the final round. Final award winners will be selected by the Fraternal Board in February 2019. All four winners will receive an invitation to attend the AMC in May 2019 to receive their award, which will be presented by the Grand Master. There will also be a professional photoshoot and a feature in a forthcoming edition of *Society News*.

# Golden Boy

**We're thrilled to announce Barry Bedford, a volunteer Welfare Officer and Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) at Nene and Welland District Branch, has become the Society's first gold recruiter.**

Barry has made a rapid ascent up the rungs of the Refer a Friend ladder, reaching gold status by recruiting 33 new members – helping his Branch and our Society to thrive!

Not one to rest on his laurels, Barry has set his sights on a new goal – recruiting another 30 members by the end of year!

When asked how he was going to spend his £120 reward, in true Oddfellows spirit, Barry answered: "I'd like to organise a high tea party for the Branch. New membership is all about creating new friendships after all."

If you would like more details about our rewarding Refer a Friend scheme visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/offers](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/offers)



## Barry's top three tips for recruitment success

- **Make the most of family ties** – “As a Welfare Officer, I get to visit many different members and meet their families. Their sons and daughters are always excited to hear about the Society. I make the time to chat with them about our benefits and, on occasion, some of them become members.”
- **Focus on members' interests** – “Members' passions can spark ideas for new events. I gave a talk on wood carving, which proved popular. As a result, my wife and I set up a new craft club where we have seen many new faces.”
- **Be inventive** – “Don't let money be the object of your creativity – a little can go a long way. We tried a local history night, regaling over our traditions and heritage with a good cup of tea and slice of cake.”

**Wendy Atkins** from Ipswich District Branch has just become our second member to reach gold recruiter status! Way to go!

# Memorial Fund makes life-changing research a reality

**Autumn 2018 marked the conclusion of a three-year funding partnership with Bradford's Plastic Surgery and Burns Research Unit (PSBRU) at the University of Bradford with a final cheque presentation of £29,000.**

As the most recent benefactor of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, PSBRU has received a total of £88,000, thanks to the fundraising efforts of members across the Society. The money has been used to directly support the Unit's delivery of a potentially life-changing project into hard-to-heal wounds and burns.

The project was successfully nominated for funding in 2015 by members from the Huddersfield and Bradford Districts, who brought the Unit's life-changing work to the attention of the Board. During a laboratory tour, Oddfellows visiting guests, which included CEO Jane Nelson, Grand Master (Chairman) William Henchliff and members from Bradford District were presented with the project's latest findings and thanked for their support.

The funding has helped the research team grow fibroblast cells found in human hair follicles, and through new technologies investigate their importance in the wound healing process. Their research has paid particular attention to diabetic patients where the healing process is compromised. Speaking about its work, Dr Stephen Sikkink, Experimental Officer of the University of Bradford's Centre for Skin Sciences, said: "We'd like to thank the Oddfellows for their support in



funding our research project. We're at the stage where we can now utilise new technologies, which could help us provide valuable insight into why the wound healing process in diabetic patients is impaired."

The Fund's next recipient will be announced at next year's AMC. For more information on our HA Andrews Memorial Fund, visit **[www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back/ha-andrews-memorial-fund](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back/ha-andrews-memorial-fund)**

## A heartfelt thank you

Healthy Heart Month was a great success. Contributions from everyone who attended the fundraising events helped us beat last year's donation of £2,000, raising £2,532 for the British Heart Foundation.

# How to get cheap theatre tickets online

**Love grabbing a show AND a bargain? There are some great discounts to be had when booking theatre tickets online.**

Be careful of dubious operators with similar names to the official theatre websites. Always look at the small print and never buy a ticket without seeing a seating plan. It's your legal right. Ticket touts also operate online, so check you are buying from legitimate agents, such as members of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (Star). Here are some tried and tested sites...

## **Central Tickets ([centraltickets.co.uk](http://centraltickets.co.uk)):**

A seat-filling operation. It offers free and cheap tickets to London productions for the same day and the following week. You must become a member to be emailed with the latest availability.

## **Last minute ([www.lastminute.com/entertainment](http://www.lastminute.com/entertainment)):**

The go-to site for all big theatrical productions in London. Have a look at the under £15 categories and its top 10 deals to secure good seats at a discount.

**Today Tix ([www.todaytix.com](http://www.todaytix.com)):** Cheap same-day tickets or book a month in advance. Enter daily lotteries for a chance to win £20 front row tickets for shows like *Kinky Boots*. There are also "Rush tickets" released at 10am each day.

## **Love Theatre ([www.lovetheatre.com](http://www.lovetheatre.com)):**

A good general theatre site with flash sales, cut prices and deals.

## **Theatre Monkey ([www.theatremonkey.com](http://www.theatremonkey.com)):**

Discounted tickets and a treasure trove of theatre information, including seat-specific reviews await you on this site.

## **See Tickets ([www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com)):**

Great for groups. Look at their special site for discounted bookings for more than 10 people - [www.seetickets.com/content/groups](http://www.seetickets.com/content/groups).

## **Theatre companies**

Tickets are cheaper online from some theatre groups. For example, take a look at [www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com) for Ambassador Theatres and [www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk](http://www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk) for Delfont Mackintosh Theatres.

**DISCLAIMER:** Details correct at time of writing. Throughout this article, we reference third party websites and contact details. These references do not constitute an endorsement by the Oddfellows the use of their services is entirely at your own risk. The Oddfellows does not accept any liability or responsibility for any third-party material on other websites.

# At a glance

## January 2019

<b>Wed 2</b>	Branch Meeting	1.15pm
<b>Sat 12</b>	Ten Pin Bowling – Middlebrook	3pm
<b>Wed 16</b>	Coffee Morning at Wyevale Garden Centre	10am
<b>Fri 18</b>	Games Night	7.30pm
<b>Fri 25</b>	Let's Meet For Lunch at Olympus Restaurant	12 noon

## February

<b>Wed 6</b>	Branch Meeting	1.15pm
<b>Sat 9</b>	Visit to Botany Bay	10am
<b>Fri 15</b>	Presentation on A Taste of the Philippines	7.30pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Coffee Morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre	10am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Social Branch Meeting (Farmer's Glory/Pride of England)	1.15pm
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Let's Meet For Lunch at The Tavern on the Hill	12 noon

## March

<b>Wed 6</b>	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Sat 9</b>	Visit to Bolton Steam Engine Museum	10am
<b>Fri 15</b>	Craft Fair for Guide Dogs for the Blind	7.30pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Coffee Morning at Wyevale Garden Centre	10am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Social Branch Meeting AGM and Degrees	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Let's Meet For Lunch at Signature Restaurant, Bolton University	12 noon

## April

<b>Wed 3</b>	AGM Branch Meeting	7.15pm
<b>Sat 6</b>	Picnic at Anderton Lift Park	10am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Coffee Morning at Bradley Fold Garden Centre	10am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Social Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Fri 19</b>	Easter Eggs/Bonnet Parade	7.30pm
<b>Fri 26</b>	Let's Meet For Lunch at The Victoria Walshaw Restaurant	12 noon

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