



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

Winter 2020-2021
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Nene and Welland

News and views from your local friendship group

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Telling you my story



Welcome to the latest edition of the Nene and Welland District Branch Newsletter

Hello again from June, Christine, John, Barry, Roly, Karen, Andrew and all your friends here at Nene & Welland Branch of the Oddfellows. We hope you are all still keeping well and safe.

Six months ago we produced our first newsletter instead of our usual 'Out and About' diary because we had to cancel all our events for the summer. At that time we all thought that by the end of the year we would be producing our diary for the New Year. Well, we all know what thought did. So here we are again with another newsletter to keep you in touch, bring you up to date with what has been going on within the Society and our Branch over the summer months, share stories from our members, send you some more 'Boredom Busters'. Also, this time some fun things to cut out and make to hang on your Christmas trees to remind us of what being a member of the Oddfellows is about, sharing friendship.

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OddfellowsNeneWelland

We have tried to keep in touch with as many members as possible, with Christine and Barry as our Welfare Officers having their telephones welded to their ears, calling members to check all is well and for just a friendly chat. Also, many of you have set up your own contact groups calling each other for chats and to maintain friendships. Many of us have been learning new skills on our computers with Zoom. Several of us get together once a week for a chat and to play games, which has helped to pass some of the lockdown time. Please do remember to keep us

updated of any changes to your contact details, telephone numbers and email addresses. Also, we are always here for you, if you need help or just a friendly chat.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and you will see we are thinking positive for 2021 with some events listed for the New Year in the hope that we can once again be together. Of course these are all subject to the Government saying "Yes" or we will once again have to move them to the back burner again. We will keep you in touch with these.

Social Organisers Report

Well six months on and we are still in lockdown. How I hoped for better times by now for all of us. I was thinking by now I would be organising some great events for us all both out and about and in our hall.

Once lockdown was eased I began along with Barry preparing our hall for re-opening. I was busy making signs and buying in all the extra items we needed. Then came in the rule of six. Not deterred we prepared to open up and have groups of six at a time in the hall for coffee and a chat. So now our hall stands ready and waiting for when we can finally open up. The only thing happening in the hall at



the moment I should think is the spiders are having a field day. Also, as Friendship Month approached, I was back in my role organising things for us to do yet still be socially distanced. I organised a picnic in the park at Pinchbeck, afternoon tea at Waterside Garden Centre, a walking treasure hunt and a visit to the Exotic Pet Refuge.



I got quite giddy at the thought of us all being together again although distanced. Then the rules all changed again, so, we had our picnic in the park and what a

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great afternoon we had. The sun shone and 28 of us all sat well distanced other than in our own bubbles. We each had a picnic box from Ginger Fox of Bourne with loads of lovely goodies in. There was lots of friendly banter and some new friends visiting for their first event. We even managed a raffle raising £54 for the Pet Refuge funds. It felt as if the world was finally turning in some way back to normal. Unfortunately, this was the only event we managed for the month, because of the rule changes I was forced to cancel our other events. Oh dear. I was back to a social canceller!

We have all learnt new things throughout this year not least to use Zoom. I have had to learn this new medium using it for meetings with colleagues around the country and Unity staff. By this we have kept up with guidelines and swapped ideas for things to do online for our members. Some of our members gave it a try and now join us regularly for our weekly games and quizzes. If anyone would like to give it a go but you are not sure of how to get on Zoom all you need to do is, give me a call or email giving me your email address I am happy to arrange one to one tuition and help you join us. It is really very easy and it is a chance to pass some time with your friends and have some fun with lots of chat.



I have managed to get several members on line and they now enjoy not only our weekly meet up but other events from branches around the country, giving a fantastic range of things to do on virtually every day of the week. There are a variety of talks, games, quizzes and much more nationally. Every branch makes everyone very welcome. On Wednesday 16 December 2020 we are going to hold our annual Carol Service on Zoom so please do join us for a sing along together. Bring your sherry and mince pie too. Plus we have lots of other things to join in. For any other information please get in touch.

Following discussions with our Trustees it has been decided to think positive (I'm all for that) and I am going back to my real job, organising events for us in the New Year. So, further in this newsletter you will find a small list of things we hope to do in the coming months. We'll start small and build up as the year progresses, keep your fingers crossed. Not least we hope to hold our annual lunch at Bourne Corn Exchange on Sunday 28 February 2021. Unfortunately, all events are subject to Government guidelines so I may have to be the canceller again. Let's think positive. For now do remember that Christine, Barry, Karen and I are always here for you for whatever reason, help or chat, don't be alone.

Chairman's Charity Update

You will remember when June Holt (picture right) was elected as our District Chairman for this year. She chose the Exotic Pet Refuge as her charity to support for her year of office.



Well the refuge has struggled on over the summer months relying on donations of food from local supermarkets and people around the area. Along with food they also need towels blankets duvets and anything else to use as bedding. As we could not raise the funds we normally do through our events we did send them a donation of £200 from the Branch.

Following on from our appeal in our last newsletter some members sorted out their cupboards and have provided several bags of towels and bedding, which Andrew has collected and delivered to the refuge. In fact, four car loads. One of our members along with his friends and neighbours collected dried and tinned pet foods which they bought in addition to their normal weekly shop. This all amounted to yet another car full for Andrew to deliver. Many of you then sent cheque donations to Karen at the office which we will pass on to the refuge shortly. So, whilst we have not been able to raise as much as normal in cash terms we certainly have done well with all the bedding and food so far. June would like to send a big thank you and a big virtual hug to everyone who has helped in any way to support her charity this year.

We recently spoke to Caz the manager at the refuge and she has asked us to pass on her and Pam's thanks for all we have done so far this year, she says it is much appreciated. She told us that due to the lockdown they were unable to hold their usual spring and summer open days which meant they lost over £10,000 of income. She also told us as winter approaches, they are in desperate need of towels and bedding along with food as they are filling up with orphaned hedgehogs. So, June pulled out the stops and Andrew delivered another car load of towels and bedding recently.

Please, if you are sorting your cupboards out don't throw away your old towels etc. Alternatively if you can order an extra tin of pet food, pet biscuits, nuts and bird seed on your shopping orders let Andrew know and we will sort out a way of getting it all to the refuge. You can also still send any donations to Karen at the office just put a note in saying "For pet refuge". Please make cheques payable to I.O.O.F.M.U.F.S Nene & Welland District. Thank you for all you have done so far.



Pet food delivered to the Exotic Pet Refuge

Museum Update

In our last newsletter we told you of our plans for our new museum at the hall. By early 2020 some of the new display cabinets were made and ready to install and our hopes were to have the whole thing finished and in use by the end of the year.

Well we all know what happened to those ideas. When lockdown was eased Angus Grooby our carpenter was able to finally install the first of the display cabinets. Chris Briance supplied the muscle power helping Angus to lift the

units up the stairs. Then Angus began putting the units in place. These units go down the middle of the room with glass tops for the displays, then bookshelves underneath for many of the interesting old branch books we have.

It took Angus a long time to get the units level, not because of his workmanship but the floor in the room has plenty of slope. He then installed lighting to the display cabinets. They really look fabulous now. Having got these units in place Angus now has room in his workshop to start



Display units in the museum



Display units arrive in museum



Angus putting the units together



Display units in place

making the rest of the wall display units. Unfortunately, like all the best plans we are a little behind time, but, we look forward to finishing in 2021, hopefully!



Display units in place

50 Glorious Years

Congratulations to Barry and Janice Bedford who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary just as the second lockdown was announced. So, that put an end to their celebrations of a weekend away.



50 Glorious years Barry and Janice

Sad Loss to District



Past Provincial Grand Master (Past District Chairman) Alan Wyles sadly passed away on Tuesday 3 November 2020 aged 86 years. Alan was Past Grand Master (Past Chairman) of the District in 2012.

Alan and his wife Doreen spent many enjoyable hours with their friends playing badminton, dancing and going on holidays. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 2017.

Alan was a member of the District Committee of Management for many years and although a very private and quiet person his experience helped guide the District through many changes. Alan will be sadly missed in the District and our condolences go to his wife Doreen.

Why am I telling you my story, well the answer is at the end

I think 2020 is a year we will never forget, it has been a strange year like no other and even those of us who have been lucky enough not to catch Covid-19 have been affected both physically and emotionally. I hope you are managing to cope with the impact it has brought on your life and that you have the support you need, but if you don't, then remember we are always here for you.

I have been an Oddfellow Welfare Visitor for several years but my experience during the past four months has given me a new insight into the problems people can be faced with. As some of you know my husband was ill at home for two or three weeks before being admitted to hospital where he spent ten long weeks and underwent major surgery.

Sadly his care at times left something to be desired and caused further health problems which we had to battle with whilst he was in there. One problem arose when they doubled up his diabetes medication and put him at risk of a hypoglycaemic coma so we had to forbid them from giving him insulin. The doctor then said to him "I can't believe how much better you look since we stopped the insulin!" Then John had to wait four days for a replacement inhaler for his COPD which caused a serious chest infection and I had to lose my temper to get it sorted! There was no visiting at all for the first



Christine and John in happier times

two weeks John was in hospital which was really hard although we chatted on the phone several times a day but I couldn't see how he looked or if he really was ok when he told me he was (or was he just keeping me happy lol). Then after I was able to visit they put a patient in his bay who tested positive for Covid and as I had visited I had to isolate for another two weeks so no visiting again but then I found out I was the only one isolating so I had a moan about that because they could be spreading it.

After my moan they sorted it but that was four days too late. When they were getting ready to send John home after four false starts, during one visit I saw the physio and told him they had done nothing to help John regain the strength

to get up out of bed or out of a chair to stand on his own, telling him I am 70 not a 30 something like him and I couldn't lift John at home on my own. He promptly went off and came back to start John on exercises to help with this. Connor (the physio) came to say goodbye to us when John was leaving five days later and I told him I was sorry I had a go at him but his reply was "no, you were right and it needed saying".

John and I got home about 7pm on Wednesday with no offers of help or ongoing support from anyone at the hospital and struggled on for a couple of days when Carers First told me we should have been offered four weeks reablement carers by the hospital but as they didn't I should speak to my GP which I was going to do anyway as we did not have enough medication for the weekend. Nothing happened! I then did a self-referral to the Community Nurses on the Friday and by Monday lunchtime had seen four of them got equipment to help us and the reablement carers sorted too, as well as an emergency visit from a physio at our local cottage hospital, they were amazing and saved our situation. BUT how did I know to do a self-referral, well a friend of mine is one of their administrators otherwise I wouldn't have known, so how is anyone else supposed to know, that is the really scary question. I must add at this point that the nurses on all three wards John was on were absolute angels and working very hard under extremely trying circumstances but the management and organisation leaves a lot to be desired. Everyone looks at their little piece but no-one looks at

the whole picture which is a real problem when you have various medical needs as John does. John now had two stoma bags which we manage well and are not ashamed of, but he is still very frail and can't be left to do anything on his own but we keep on fighting to get him as well as we can.

So why am I telling you this well there are various reasons:

Firstly how are ordinary people supposed to know what their entitlements are in similar situations – ASK OUR CARE DEPARTMENT for help and guidance or get your Welfare Visitor to speak to them on your behalf.

What if you or someone close to you is not receiving the right treatment, DON'T BE FRIGHTENED TO SPEAK UP and point out what you perceive is a problem, you can be firm without being rude. If you need help or guidance speak to our CARE DEPARTMENT or your Welfare Visitor.

For me the frightening part is if someone has no family or friends to help and support them, and maybe are very frail and frightened or have dementia or Alzheimer's what happens to these poor people.

Everyone should know there is help out there when you are poorly or have been in hospital, you may not know what it is or how to access it, but speak to someone, we are Oddfellows and have an amazing CARE DEPARTMENT and wonderful voluntary Welfare Visitors who can help you find the help you need.

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We are ODDFELLOWS and proud to be here to help and support each other, I don't know how I would have coped without the help and support of my amazing Oddfellow friends both old and new as well as our close family friends, so you can do the same for just by being there for someone who is going through difficult time, it might be a quick call, a card, a message or email, flowers or in normal times a visit, you have no idea how much of a boost this gesture will give that person, I know from personal experience.

When you are put in a situation like ours your relationship changes overnight in my case from being a wife to becoming a full time carer, you will shed tears over it and have a sense of loss. Don't be ashamed of your feelings and don't hide them, share how you feel with someone, have a shoulder to cry on until you have made the adjustment to your new normal.

John and I will have been married 48 years next week and living together 50 years, we have always done everything together whether gardening renovating the house, holidays, shopping, everything, so this was a major jolt with John not being able to do this any longer. On bad days like when there is another battle to be fought I still shed tears of frustration and hurt but I'm grateful to have John home with me, not everyone is that lucky, but I have people I can off load onto and we all need that. That is part of what we ODDFELLOWS are here for, to listen if you need a friendly ear, to help you in times of need, but we

also need to know you would like our support so please talk to us, we are here for you always.

Thank goodness I am an Oddfellow and thank goodness there is a Society called the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited known affectionately as The Oddfellows with amazing Oddfellow members across the globe. I say to all of you, you being you is what gets us all through when the going gets tough. Thank you seems so little to say but it comes from the heart, so thank you to all Oddfellows but especially my own Branch, Nene and Welland District Branch.

Christine Sargeant

Joke



Barry Bedford wins 'Making a Difference' Award



After a lifetimes work with the Oddfellows, our several times Past Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Trustee of our Branch, Welfare Officer and Committee member, Barry Bedford wins a national 'Making a Difference' award from the Society. The Oddfellows' Making a Difference Awards recognise and celebrate the individual contributions of members nationwide to their local Branch and the Society as a whole. Barry won 'Working in the spirit of mutuality' award.

Speaking about his award win, Barry says: "I was initially very shocked when I heard I had won, but I'm very proud, too. There are over 100 Branches across the UK, so to be chosen is a great honour. I've been a member since I was 21, and love the

Oddfellows ethos of making friends and helping people." He adds, "I'm like a stick of rock, if you split me down the middle, I'd have Oddfellows running all the way through! I just love how we all help each other whenever and however we can. It's a life-saver for many."

Barry and Janice were also very proud earlier this year to welcome their first grandchild into the world, Bertie Bedford. Bertie became a junior Oddfellows member at two hours old and is currently our youngest member at Nene & Welland Oddfellows Branch. Here is Bertie to say hello to all his fellow Oddfellows.



Bertie Bedford Junior Oddfellow



Junior Football Team Sponsorship

At the end of 2019 a member of our Branch approached the Branch Committee to ask if we could help towards the sponsorship of the junior football team her grandson was a member of, Sporting Hand U12 Blues. The team was totally self-funding and was desperate to buy a team strip but, much of their funds went in pitch fees and match expenses.

The team play in Division 4 of the Peterborough & District Junior Alliance. Paul Gibbons and Steve Fairhurst are the volunteer coaches. The committee considered that by supporting the team and sponsoring the full strip in Oddfellows colours and logo, it would give the youngsters what they needed and encourage their confidence turning out in matching strip.

It would also be a great outreach to the community putting the Oddfellows

name on the pitch for all to see. It would also show that Oddfellows is there for both young and old. The team took up our offer and we asked them to find a supplier and cost. Then Unity Marketing Department stepped in to work with the supplier for the artwork on our behalf. We were able within the cost to not only supply the team strip but also fleece jackets for the boys. The team were overjoyed with the strip.

Unfortunately by the time we had the strip we were in lockdown so we have not been able to formally present the strip. The team started using the strip as soon as lockdown was eased. Here's a photograph of the team looking very professional in their Oddfellows strip.

Picture above: Sporting Hand U12 Blues in their Oddfellows strip

Sparkly Bauble Craft

Instructions for your sparkly bauble with our Good Wishes for Christmas and hopes for a Brighter New Year.

1. Cut out both baubles. Do not separate them.
2. Fold in half and glue together.
3. Make a hole in the ring at the top and insert ribbon.
4. Hang on your tree or in your window.

Merry Christmas



Poetry Corner

Our Chairman June Holt shares a memory of childhood.

I was born in a small mining village in Derbyshire. At the end of our street there was a small Congregation Chapel where most of the village children went to Sunday school. Each year we had an Anniversary when a tiered platform was erected in the Chapel. The children would recite poetry or sing songs during the Service.

My brother, who was a little older than me, (he would have been about 10 years old at the time,) stood up to recite a poem called 'Somebody's Mother'. It's a poem I still remember very well, although I never knew who wrote it until today. It's the miracle of modern technology, when my husband typed in the first two lines and we discovered it was written by Mary Dow Brine who lived from 1816 - 1913. It's a poem that challenges the disrespectful behaviour of some young people and the gratitude of an elderly lady for the caring intervention of one boy.

'The woman was old and ragged and grey
And bent with the chill of the winter's day.

The street was wet with a recent snow
And the woman's feet were aged and slow.

She stood at the crossing and waited long.
Alone, uncared for, amid the throng

Of human beings who passed her by
Nor heeded her glance of her anxious eyes.

Down the street, with laughter and shout,
Glad in the freedom of 'school let out'.

Came the boys like a flock of sheep,
Hailing the snow piled white and deep.

Past the woman so old and grey,
Hastened the children on their way.

Non offered a helping hand to her -
So meek, so timid, afraid to stir.

Lest the carriage wheels or the horses'
feet should crowd her down in the
slippery street.

At last came one of the merry troop,
The gayest lad of all the group.

He paused beside her and whispered low,
"I'll help you cross, if you wish to go."

Her aged hand on his strong young arm,
She placed, and so, without hurt or harm.

He guided the trembling feet along,
Proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went,
His young heart happy and well content.

"She's somebody's mother, boys, you know,
for all she's aged and poor and slow.

And I hope some fellow will lend a hand,
To help my mother, you understand.

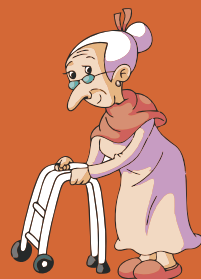
If ever she's poor and old and grey,
When her own dear boy is far away."

And 'somebody's mother' bowed low her
head in her home that night, and the

prayer she said was
"God be kind to that noble boy,
Who is somebody's son, and pride
and joy!"

Alan Holt penned a memory of his Grandmother

Alan's Grandfather was injured in a mining accident and had his right leg amputated. This poem is his tribute to his Grandmother and his memories of her.



Our Grandmother

Eleven kids our Grandma had-back in the old, old days. Not that things were always bad. They just had different ways of doing all the things we do. They coped as best they could.

Holidays and treats were few-like a walk in Scarcliffe wood. Those who went to Vernon Street-will remember I feel sure, how Granddad would his cronies meet-smoke Woodbines by the score. Cap and crutches in their place, he'd stand and with a grin-as he recognised my face-he'd say, "Eh up youth! - How's tha bin". Then he'd hop and swing to his local pub to quench his thirst with ale. Then wander back. It wasn't far. To tell a merry tale-of how this dog had lost the race and Billy Dean had said that no way would it stand the pace. The dog was too well fed.

There were pigeon lofts and gas works near to Grandma's house, and life was rough with no real perks. No time to stand and grouse.

The smell of bread, a new pegged rug, a fire always lit. Milk delivered in a jug! A strike at Warsop pit! Families all lived close by. They helped each other cope. They didn't ask the reason why. They lived with love and hope-that one day WE would have a life in a better place. But not forget the toil and strife grandparents had to face.

So let us all remember please-our Grandma need a cheer!

COS HAD SHE NOT HAD
ALL THOSE KIDS-THEN WE
WOULD NOT BE HERE!

Our Oddfellows Hall in Lockdown

We closed our hall at the end of March as lockdown began, Karen moved to working from home, our cleaner was laid off, and all meeting and events were cancelled. All our posters were removed from the windows and replaced by formal contact information notices. One of which said we would hope to be back in June.

Well June came and went lockdown continued and all our notices faded in the sunlight. Then came the easing of lockdown and we had hoped to open the hall once again. So, we began investigating what was going to be required for the re-opening of the hall. One of the first and most noticeable things that needed doing was the car park needed weeding. With the lack of use it had turned into the land of the Triffid's. Chris and Myra Briance volunteered to take on the task of clearing the weeds. They spent the whole day fighting the roots, see their photographic journey. What a fantastic job they did.



Hall car park before



Hall car park after

After this Barry and Andrew began the task of getting the hall ready for use again. Barry undertook the daunting task of producing a risk assessment of the premises and Andrew began producing all the necessary signage and cleaning schedules for the premises also purchasing everything needed to make the hall a safe environment for our members.

Once Barry had produced the risk assessment and had it approved by our local council and insurers, he and Andrew met at the hall and set out the hall to comply with the assessment. All the signage was put in place and the premises were sanitised. We really thought we were ready to go in November with some trial visits by members. Well we all know how that turned out on Thursday 5 November, no re-opening, no fireworks, stay closed until at least Wednesday 2 December. We live in hope but, at least we are ready once the Government say we can. See some of the photographs of the measures we have taken ready to re-open.



Our hall made Covid safe.

With the hall standing closed for so long and looking so sad from the outside we have been putting some window displays on to let people know we are still here and active. Thanks to Janice for producing a

Halloween window and in November our remembrance window. Along with this we have put new Oddfellow information and contact notices for people to find out more or contact us if they need us.

Remembrance Day 2020

June Holt Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) and Christine Sargeant, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past District Chairman) both attended

the local Remembrance Day laying of wreaths. They laid the Oddfellows wreath in remembrance of members who gave their lives in the two World Wars.



Jokes



Quizzes, puzzles and a bit of fun

Is a Computer Male or Female?

A Spanish teacher was explaining that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine. 'House' for instance is feminine: 'la casa'. 'Pencil', is masculine: 'el lapiz'. One student asked, "what gender is a computer?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The **men's** group decided that 'computer' was definitely feminine (la computadora) because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.

3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your money on accessories for it.

The **women's** group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine (el computador), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you had to turn them on.
2. They have lots of data but still can't think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they are the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer. You could have had a better model.

Rather unfairly the women won, because in reality, the Spanish word for computer is feminine (la computadora).

What happened when Santa's cat swallowed a ball of wool?

Answer: It had mittens!



What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar?

Answer: He got 25 days!



Instruments Puzzle

Put these stringed instruments in order of size – starting with the smallest. Answer on the back page.

- A. Cello
- B. Double bass
- C. Violin
- D. Viola



Numbers Puzzle

An 8-year-old child is given four cards with numbers 2,3,4,5. Written on them.

2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---

		+			=	?
--	--	---	--	--	---	---

By making two, two-digit numbers (using each number once) and adding them together, what is the highest number that can be made? Answer on the back page.

Barbers Puzzle

In a large village, nowhere near a town, there were two barbers. Each had his own shop and charged similar prices.

One was very, very good and the other was very, very bad. One day, a man from the village decided to have his hair cut. He went to the bad barber. Why?

Answer on the back page.

Ode to Covid-19

By Jane Heany

With many thanks to George and Ira
Gershwin (to the tune Summertime)

It's muzzle -time and the livin' ain't easy
Fleas are jumpin', and the cat don't care
Shelves are empty, loo rolls nowhere

Yo daddy's poor and Yo mama's despairing
So yes little baby. Let's cry, cry, cry

One of these mornin's you gonna
rise up singin'
You gonna spread your little wings and
you'll take to the sky

But 'till that mornin' there ain't
nothin' happenin'
With yo mama and daddy unemployed

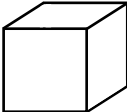

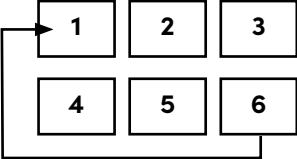

Oh it's muzzle time and the
livin' ain't easy
The muzzle's hurtin' but
the fines are high

Yo' daddy's poor and, ya know yo'
mama's gone crazy
No hope left. Cry, cry, cry

Ah, said. It's Muzzle-time

Dingbats Quiz: Say what you see

Answers on the back page

Thinking 	Bon  net	
1.	2.	3.
PASS FLYING	R O B N I	S T ONE
4.	5.	6.
i ✓ i	RO FORK AD	 COLT BERETTA DERRINGER SMITH & WESTON
7.	8.	9.
110d	HAMLET WORD WORD	L I B E R T Y
10.	11.	12.

New recipes to try

Our member Caroline Murphy has two new recipes for us to try. Baking is a great and tasty way to pass time in lockdown.

Diabetic Fruit Cake

Ingredients

500gm mixed fruit
1 Small tin crushed pineapple
2 teaspoons sweet sherry
4oz margarine
1 level teaspoon bi-carbonate of soda
1 tub glace cherries chopped
2 beaten eggs
8oz self raising flour
1 tablespoon brandy

Method

Hold back the flour and eggs. Place all other ingredients in a large saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for three minutes. Leave to cool. Add the beaten egg and flour. Mix well. Pour mixture in to a lined 2lb loaf tin. Bake, middle shelf, at gas mark 2, 300°F or 150°C for two and half hours. Cool in tin for 15 minutes then turn out on to wire rack.



Dorset Apple Cake

Ingredients

1 packet of butter, melted
8oz caster sugar
8oz self raising flour
4 eggs beaten
4 eating apples peeled and chopped
1 teaspoon cinnamon

For the topping

2 dessert spoons granulated sugar

Method

In a bowl mix well the melted butter and caster sugar. Add the eggs and beat in to the mixture. Add the flour and cinnamon mix well. Stir in the chopped apple.



Pour mixture in to a greased and lined baking tray. Level the top and sprinkle the granulated sugar over. Bake in the centre of the oven at, 160°C for approximately 45 minutes. Test with a knife if the knife comes out clean your done.

Leave to cool for 10 minutes in tray then turn out on to wire rack.

The life of the District Secretary in lockdown Karen Earth

‘Unprecedented’, seemingly the trademark descriptor of 2020. When news seeped out about an enigmatic new virus early on in the year, it is clear that few anticipated the wide spread disruption of the everyday life of the individual.



In amongst all of the initial chaos as the government scrambled among scientists, economists and advisors to enforce life-saving policies here at the Oddfellows the pre-emptive decision was made for myself, as District Secretary and many in similar roles to pack their office essentials and work from home. Almost overnight our home became ever more multi-purpose, with the dining room being transformed into the home office of my husband, and for the short while when A-Level exams still loomed on the horizon my daughter's bedroom became her temporary classroom.

Given the nature of my work I adapted fairly smoothly to working from home, something which I was used to in my pre-pandemic duties, and apart from some trips back and forth to collect items I'd forgotten and to check the post, I became more distanced from my solitary office dwelling than ever before. Despite a fairly

dramatic decrease in demand for benefit claims as dentists and opticians closed their doors in accordance with the initial rules of lockdown, work was steady and there was seldom a day where I was not kept busy with work.

As with almost everyone on the planet, maybe with exception to those on remote islands or yurt-dwellers in the Gobi desert, the lack of familiarity with the new routine of daily life as well as the constant threat of this invisible enemy took a toll. The stress of arming oneself with hand sanitiser for shopping as well as the scarcity of necessities such as loo roll and flour was at some points a lot to handle in conjunction with ever present everyday duties yet as the months passed this soon faded into a sort of begrudging acceptance, of dare I say, 'the new normal'.

Just as it seemed a return to the office was becoming ever closer, the positive test result of a close contact of ours slipped us back into old routines as we entered our household's 14 day isolation period. This whole experience has simultaneously reminded us of the ever insistent nature of the virus and its ability to affect those we know and love, and has reinforced belief that no matter the circumstances, life still goes on.

Karen Earth, District Secretary
Written by Rebecca Earth



Finally Christine presents her cheque to the Deeping Youth Group

Christine Sargeant our Chairman of 2019-2020 chose to continue our support for the Deepings Youth Group in her year of office following on from Barry Bedford, who chose to support the club in his year of office 2018-2019.

We all worked very hard to raise funds for the club throughout the year and as always it was intended to present the money, £4,709.89, to the Youth Group in March at the end of Christine's year of office. Well

we all know what happened in March, our hall closed and we all had to stay at home. Unfortunately during lockdown Christine's husband John became very ill and spent some 10 weeks in hospital. As lockdown continued for longer than we ever thought, we kept having to delay the presentation throughout the summer. When things began to ease and we were able to move about again the opportunity arose for Christine to present her cheque. We met at the Exotic Pet Refuge, which is our current Chairman June Holt's chosen charity for this year.

You can see Christine presenting her cheque to Jane the Chairman of the Youth Group along with Caz the leader of the Youth Group, Andrew and Caz the Manager of the Exotic Pet Refuge.



Picture above: Presentation of cheque £4,709.89 to Deepings Youth Group

Meet your Nene and Welland 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.



Barry Bedford
Near Bourne,
Lincolnshire

Telephone:
07852 282776



John Sargeant
Near Spalding,
Lincolnshire

Telephone:
01775 769487



Christine Sargeant
Near Spalding,
Lincolnshire

Telephone:
01775 769487
07714 096801

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings and would like a visit for a cup of tea and a chat?

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!

All our Welfare Visitors 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 when they visit.

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Karen Earth on **01778 571555** or email **karen.earth@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@manchestercab.org

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

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/

*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

Planned Events for 2021

Whilst we have done everything we can to make our hall a safe and comfortable place for us to meet, only you can decide when you feel comfortable enough to do so.

All the events listed here are of course subject to cancellation due to any further changes in Government guidelines. We are starting slowly with coffee mornings in the hall and as time moves on we hope it will be safe to expand our offerings.

All events must be booked through Andrew, so we can control the numbers attending. By this we can adhere to Government guideline and keep our hall a safe environment for us to meet. We may change or add more events and we will let those we have email addresses for know of any changes.

Alternatively you can contact Andrew for updates any time. Contact Andrew on 07729 519122 or email Andrew.spencer@oddfellows.co.uk.

We will also continue with our regular Zoom meetings throughout. If you have not tried Zoom but would like to contact Andrew and he will help you get set up.

February

Thursday 11 – Lunch at the Waggon and Horses, Langtoft, 12.30pm

This delightful village pub offers great food and service. Join us for lunch together. To book your place and make your menu choices contact Andrew.

Friday 19 – Fun Quiz Afternoon, 2pm

Join us at the hall for a fun quiz along with tea and coffee, lots of chat with friends face to face and great prizes for the top scores.

Annual District Lunch

Sunday 28 February, 12.30pm for 1pm

Bourne Corn Exchange, 3 Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF

Having cancelled our annual lunch way back in 2019, we can enjoy the afternoon at Bourne Corn Exchange. So, invite your family and friends to join us for this wonderful afternoon. You will find the menu and booking form in this newsletter.



March

Thursday 4 - Remember the days of 'Come Dancing' when the men wore dinner suites and ladies wore those enormous dresses, 2pm

Come and hear the story of one of the most famous formation dance teams lead by the legendary Peggy Spencer. Hear the story of Peggy's life and work and those behind the scenes stories. This talk by Sue Jakeman promises to be both funny and informative. A great afternoon together all for only £4 per person.

Friday 12 - Visit to the Exotic Pet Refuge, 1.30pm

We had to cancel visits twice since June Holt chose it as her charity for her year of office as Branch Chairman, so come and see the amazing range of animals all cared for at the refuge. £8 per person payable on the day.

April

Tuesday 6 - Visit to Burtrey Fen Collection, Pinchbeck, 2pm

Come and enjoy the sounds of two mighty cinema organs, the Wurlitzer and the Compton, in the purpose built 1930's music hall. Along with this enjoy taking a look round the vast display of theatre and music memorabilia. At the interval enjoy refreshments in the theatre bar. All this for only £9 per person. We will meet in the car park from 1.30pm. Book your place with Andrew.



Wednesday 14 - Drum Roll!, 2pm

Once again our great craft leader returns with her fun afternoon of 'Craft Club'! If you have missed your regular dose of fun and craft join Janice at the hall as she once again shows you how. To get you started she will show you how to make a 'Welcome Wreath' Booking is essential with Janice on 01778 560059 as places may be limited.

Thursday 22 - Waterside Garden Centre Visit, 2.30pm

Having cancelled our visit to Waterside Garden Centre twice because of lockdown, let's make it third time lucky. Get together and enjoy a wonderful afternoon tea along with a chance to enjoy the delights of the garden centre. Book with Andrew £10 per person.



May

Tuesday 4 - Pudding Evening, 7pm

For the first time in over a year we are once again able to share those wonderful puddings we all make. Bring a pudding to share with the group £1 or to just come and enjoy the fabulous tastes £2. Remember booking is essential.



May

Wednesday 12 - Craft Club, 2pm

Once again Janice is opening the doors to our ever popular Craft Club. No matter what your skill level come and have a fun afternoon. Janice will take you every step of the way as you learn to make a Pyramid Card. Booking essential with Janice on 01778 560059

Monday 17- Woodwork Talk by Angus Grooby, 2pm

You are invited to come and meet our carpenter Angus Grooby, who has made all the beautiful purpose built units for our new museum. Angus will tell us about the materials he has used and how he created all the cabinets. You will also have the opportunity to tour the museum for the first time.



Friday 28 - Lunch at Waggon and Horses, 12.30pm

Join us for good food, great chat and friendship at the Waggon and Horses for another lunch afternoon. Places are limited so book early.

June 2021

Tuesday 1 - Pork Pie Making, 12 noon

Pork Pie Making at Melton Mowbray. The last time we went to Brocklebys to learn how to make our own pork pie we had so much fun. Don't miss out on this chance to have a go. We meet at the onsite garden centre for lunch first then go on to learn the skill of pork pie making and you get to take your pie home with you. Places are limited.



Friday 4 - Fish and Chips with Quiz, 1pm:

Join us at the hall for a fish and chip lunch followed by a fun quiz. So, no cooking along with fun and friendship.

Wednesday 9 - Craft Club, 2pm

This month Janice will show you how to create a Shaker Card. So, come and learn something new whilst having fun with friends. Book your place with Janice on 01778 560059

Sunday 20 - Annual Church Service, 6pm

Come and celebrate and give thanks for the work of the Oddfellows Society locally and nationally, at Deeping Methodist Chapel. Then after the service join us for a light buffet supper.

Tuesday 22 - Lunch at Waggon and Horses, 12.30pm

Once again we meet at the Waggon and Horses to enjoy lunch together for no other reason than friendship.

Planned Events for 2021

Pinchbeck Carnival

We hope this will take place in June with our Oddfellows stalls there. We are also looking to book other events in the Spalding area, so contact Andrew for updates.

Saturday 3 July - Oddfellows Brass Band in Concert with Spalding Community Choir at St John's Church Spalding, 7.30pm

District Business Meetings

Branch business meetings are open for all members to attend and are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10am.

Our January meeting will be held online on Thursday 7 January at 10am for the link contact Andrew Spencer. There will be no meeting on Tuesday 9 February as we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23 February at 10am at Oddfellows Hall Market Deeping (subject to Government guidelines).

Thereafter we will revert to the second Tuesday of each month, meeting at Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street, Market Deeping PE6 8AN. The dates are as follows: 9 March, 13 April, 11 May and 8 June.

It is best to contact Karen at the office prior to making a special journey to check for any meeting changes.

Sunday Lunch

Let's get together and enjoy a carvery Sunday lunch at Bourne Corn Exchange. Invite family and friends to make up a table or just come alone and join your Oddfellows friends. Two courses with complimentary soup available all for £13.95 per head. Meet at 12.30pm. Call Andrew to book your table seven days before the event. **Dates are: 21 March, 11 April and 9 May**



Sunday 27 June at Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey

We missed out on this last year. Let's make it a good afternoon this year. This Olde English coaching inn offers a carvery lunch, so, invite your family and friends to join us. Cost as per menu. Call Andrew to book your table seven days before the event.

Coffee and Tea at the Hall

Join us for a chat and enjoy some quality friendship time. We will also have some quiz sheets and games to have a go at with your friends and feel we are free again. Start at 10am.



Saturday 9 January
Thursday 14 January

Monday 18 January
Monday 15 February

Surprise Bingo

It's time for a fun afternoon of our of playing Surprise Bingo. Enjoy a great afternoon with friends, win fun prizes and enjoy tea, cake and loads of laughs. All for only £1 per book. All proceed from the afternoon go to the Chairman's charity to help the Exotic Pet Refuge. Start at 2pm.



Tuesday 26 January
Tuesday 2 February
Tuesday 30 March

Monday 19 April
Friday 30 April
Tuesday 25 May

Tuesday 29 June

Quiz and Puzzle Answers

Page 18: Instruments answer – c, d, a, b

Page 19: Numbers puzzle answer – 95

Page 19: Barbers puzzle answer – he was the good barber

Dingbats Quiz Answers on page 20

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Thinking outside the box | 7. Right between the eyes |
| 2. Bee in your bonnet | 8. Fork in the road |
| 3. Back to square one | 9. Top gun |
| 4. Pass with flying colours | 10. Pullover |
| 5. Round robin | 11. Play on words |
| 6. Corner Stone | 12. Downright liberty |

Nene and Welland Annual District Lunch

**Sunday 28 February, 12.30pm for 1pm
Bourne Corn Exchange**

Menu

Starter

Home-made Vegetable Soup with Roll and Butter
Chef's Choice pate on a Bed of Crisp Salad with a side of Chutney
Prawn Cocktail with Brown Bread and Butter

Main Course

Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
Baked Cod Mornay
Chicken Chasseur
Brie, Mushroom and Cranberry Wellington

Dessert

Eaton Mess
Warm French Apple Tart with Vanilla Ice Cream
Fresh Fruit Salad

Tea, Coffee and Mints

£22 per head

**Bookings, menu choices and payment to
Andrew Spencer by Monday 15 February 2021**

District Event Booking Form

Event: Annual District Lunch

Date: Sunday 28 February 2021, 12.30pm for 1pm

Name:

Telephone/Email:

Number of tickets Cheque total enclosed £22 per head
payable to I.O.O.F.M.U.F.S. Nene & Welland Oddfellows.

Send completed form to: Andrew Spencer, Oddfellows Hall, 57 Church Street,
Market Deeping, PE8 6AN.

Name of guest and menu choices below

Name	Starter	Main Course	Dessert

Bookings to be made by Monday 15 February 2021.



Christmas Rosette

1. Cut out all components.
Gently curl the petals upwards from the base between your thumb and forefinger. Starting with the green leaves, put a spot of glue in the centre and stick the large red petals on top, offsetting them.





2. Continue this, offsetting each size until you have a complete flower.



3. Tape a paper clip to the back and attach to a present or tree.

Our Making a Difference 2020 Award winners!

Our annual Making a Difference Awards identify and celebrate the people who make the Oddfellows the warm and welcoming Society we know and love.

We would normally present the winners with a trophy at our annual AMC, but unfortunately lockdown meant we've had to reschedule the presentation until 2021. Regardless, these four fabulous members deserve every ounce of recognition, and so we're pleased to announce this year's winners in their respective categories.

Jane Nelson, CEO, says: "All of our members make the Society a wonderful place to form friendships, access advice and provide support, but we also believe it's important to recognise when somebody goes above and beyond for their Branch. A huge congratulations to this year's winners, and of course thank you to everybody else who was nominated! Your hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed, and we hope to see you nominated again next year."

Member nominations for 2021 are now open, so if you know somebody who always goes the extra mile when volunteering, raising money, checking in on other members, or doing their very best for the Branch, fill in the member nomination form overleaf and hand it to your Branch Secretary. Additional nomination forms and further information can also be found at www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.



Winners have been sent a certificate to mark their achievement (for now!) but are invited to the AMC 2021 to be presented with their specially engraved award.

2020 Making a Difference Award Winners

FOR GIVING A HELPING HAND

Bruce Nicole

Concord Branch

FOR WORKING IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUALITY

Barry Bedford

Nene and Welland Branch

FOR GIVING SOMETHING BACK

Effie Bowman

Burton-on-Trent Branch

FOR ENRICHING LIVES SOCIALLY

Margaret Wells

Cleveland and Durham Branch

5 ways to stay connected

As the UK has seen tight social restrictions in place throughout 2020, to help fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a huge shift in the way we live, work, and most importantly, socialise.

1. Telephone



If you've not heard from someone for a while, why not drop them a line? If you can't commit to a call, even a text message would be more than welcome.

2. Postcards

Letter writing is fast falling out of fashion, but an email or handwritten note only needs to be a few lines. If you live close by, why not hand deliver? A great way to get out and get moving at the same time.



3. Neighbourhood Watch

When was the last time you talked to your neighbours? You don't need to be the best of friends, a quick hello over the hedge will help you and them feel more connected.

4. Get Online



You don't just have to use online video conferencing to stay in touch, getting online offers lots of other ways to socialise too: find your tribe on social media, join an online hobby group, learn with an online course, follow along with an exercise class or join a chatroom. If you're online, why not check out the Oddfellows on Facebook and Twitter?

5. Park Life

Head to your local park to meet a friend for a socially-distanced walk or picnic. Parks are busy places – you could always try striking up a conversation with some of the familiar faces you see on your walks.

If you feel in need of company or a regular chat, or you just need help getting set up online, please give your local Branch a call so we can look at ways to stay in touch more.



the
Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people



Member Nomination Card

My name is:

I would like to nominate *(insert the member's name and Branch they belong to)*
.....

Category *(please tick as appropriate – descriptions on reverse of card):*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enriching lives socially | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving something back |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working in the spirit of mutuality | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving a helping hand |

In less than 50 words, please explain why this member should be shortlisted for this award:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Once you have filled in your member nomination, please return this form to your Branch Secretary.

Making a Difference Award



1. *Enriching lives socially*

This member loves contributing to social activity, whether as a frontline organiser or backroom support. Whatever they do, they can always be relied on to get everything together for the get-togethers and without their input your events just wouldn't be as good as they are.

3. *Working in the spirit of mutuality*

This member's passion lies in the running of the Branch and Society as a whole. Typically they will have held one or a number of formal roles and worked collaboratively with their management committee to make positive things happen.

2. *Giving something back*

The focus of this member is to raise as much money as possible for worthy causes. They may be involved in organising or participating in fundraising activities or events and will use every opportunity to help raise money or 'in kind' charitable support.

4. *Giving a helping hand*

Looking after other members is what this member loves best. They are likely to be a Welfare Visitor or other caring volunteer who goes out of their way to look after the wellbeing of members – whether phoning, writing or visiting, they can always be counted on when it matters or in times of need.