

Capital of the Fens News

News and views from your local friendship group

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A Warm Welcome

Hello Everyone

We are still in uncertain times and although a lot of entertainment premises have now opened, I am sure a number of us are quite cautious about venturing out and meeting in groups.

As our Events Diary ran out at the end of June we thought a Newsletter would be a good way of keeping in touch. We know a lot of Oddfellows are not up with modern technology and it is good to have something to pick up and read and refer to now and again.

We have included some photos of past events and trust it won't be too long before we can enjoy each other's company again.

In the meantime should you have any concerns, worries, need any information or just a chat, please do not hesitate to contact our District Secretary Alison Adamson either by phone on 01945 465909 or email alison.adamson@oddfellows.co.uk

Maureen, Social Organiser

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Oddfellow Member Private John Bridgement

John was the son of widow Mrs Sarah Bridgement of Victoria Street, Littleport and saw action in the Boer War.

This extract is from the Ely Gazette 28th June 1901 and reprinted recently in the Littleport Society magazine

Home from the war

Information was received, in Littleport, on Monday that J W Bridgement, Suffolk Regiment, Militia Reserve,

who has been on active service at the front, would return home on the following day. Being a member of the Loyal 'Hereward' Lodge of Oddfellows, his brother members decided to give him a hearty reception. The Littleport Brass Band was present and Mr Joseph Martin, kindly offered the loan of his carriage. A large number of people made their way to the station by the time the 7.26 train arrived. Bridgement was accompanied by his sister. They took their places in the carriage, from

which the horses had been previously unharnessed, and with several of the Oddfellows between the shafts, and preceded by the band, they were drawn to his home accompanied by many cheering spectators. Bridgement was wounded at Corolina on 25th January whilst with a stretcher party looking for the wounded. The bullet entered the calf of the leg, and passed out at the front fracturing the small bone of the leg.

Contributed by Roger Rudderham

Applause for Pauline Frusher

Whilst in lockdown many of us have been occupying ourselves with many hobbies, projects etc. Pauline has used this time to knit

hats for the King's Lynn Hospital Baby Unit. So far the total is just in excess of 100. Well done and a round of applause for her.

Getting a shave

Michael Hill, Trustee and Past Provincial Grand Master of our Lodge, has now completed his year as Mayor of Wisbech. He decided

to have a sponsored head and beard shave as part of his chosen charities. So, after losing a year's growth we hardly recognised him!



Before



After

The Woolpack

Lunch at The Woolpack, Terrington St John. A popular venue and hope it is not to long before we can revisit with our members and friends.



Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master

(Prov DGM): District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS): District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM): Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

Charity Fundraiser

In 2019, Oddfellows Branches raised £155,000 for good causes and charities. And this is on top of donations to life-changing medical research, the RNLI and the Orphan Gift Fund.

We have recently sent £7,600 to Rotary International to help rebuild communities devastated by the recent Australian fires. And our current Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, in aid of The Silver Line and National Emergencies Trust, has now reached a staggering £10,000+.

We always say, "where we can help, we must". And we do. We are saving and changing lives and giving comfort to people in their darkest hours. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously.

History of Wisbech District



The Society as a whole was formed in 1810 in Manchester.

Wisbech District held its first meeting in 1837 at the Kings Head Public House on the Old Market in Wisbech which is still open today. From the Wisbech District both Kings Lynn and Cambridge Districts were formed. Attached to the District there were 20 Lodges in all the villages around.

List of Lodges and places where they all met

Neptune Lodge founded in the month of March 1837 and met in the Working Men's Club and Institute in Wisbech once every two weeks on a Monday.

Anchor of Hope Lodge which was formed 1 April 1839, they also met at the Working Men's Club and Institute in Wisbech every two weeks on a Tuesday.

Benevolent Lodge founded 26 October 1840 they met at the Public Hall in March town every other Monday.

Princess Royal Lodge founded 28 January 1941 they held meetings in the Town Hall Downham Market every fourth Monday.

Whitting Lodge founded in October 1942 they held their meetings at the Royal Oak Public House, Manea. Every fourth Tuesday.

Prince of Wales Lodge founded 1842 they held meetings at the George Inn, Doddington, every fourth Monday.

George Lodge founded in 1842, held their meetings at The George Hotel, Chatteris every fourth Monday.

Victoria Lodge founded on 12 May 1842 they held their meetings in the Public Hall, Upwell every other Monday.

Pride of the Fens Lodge founded 1842 and used to meet at the Cherry Tree Inn, Welney every fourth Tuesday.

Osborne Lodge founded on the 14 September 1853 and used to meet at Royal Hotel, Wisbech every other Tuesday.

King William Lodge founded 10 October 1859 and used to meet at the King William IV Inn in Chatteris every fourth Monday.

Oxford Lodge was founded in 1861 and used to meet at the Goat Inn Gorfield every fourth Tuesday.

Alfred House Lodge was founded 7 April 1868 and used to meet at the Working Men's Club and Institute Wisbech every other Tuesday.

Peak of Comfort Lodge founded in 1871 and used to meet at the Boot and Slipper Inn, Benwick every fourth Monday.

Jubilee Lodge founded in 1887 and used to meet at New Bridge Inn, Nordelph, they used to meet every fourth Saturday.

Hereward Lodge founded on 7 August 1895 they used to meet at the Public Hall in Littleport every other Monday.

Beaupre Lodge founded 15 February 1896 they used to meet at the Schools, Outwell and would meet every other Monday.

Camp of Refuge Lodge founded November 1897 and used to meet at Fox and Hounds Inn, Little Downham.

National Lodge founded on 9 August 1898 they used to meet at the Schools Guyhirn every fourth Tuesday.

Coronation Lodge founded 11 August 1902 they used to meet at Butches Arms Inn, Parson Drove every fourth Tuesday.

There were also **Juvenile Lodges** attached to some of the Lodges, they were in Benwick, Chatteris, Downham Market, Downham (Isle), Doddington, Guyhirn, Littleport, March, Parsons Drove, and Wisbech.

There was also a female Lodge in Wisbech meeting at the Working Men's Institute.

Past Grands Lodge was held at the Working Men's Club and Institute.

As you can see there were 20 Lodges in the Wisbech District and they were all formed in different locations in order that the Lodge could give money to the sick and those who had died before the National Health Service came along.

Before 1948 the members used to put pennies in a pot each month and were provided free of charge medical and funeral benefit but if the member was off sick and he was caught filling the coal scuttle up he would have to pay a fine, the Lodges retained their own Doctors to see to the sick, and after the WWI when so many men had been killed a Widows and Orphans fund was set up by the Office in Manchester which is still running today, as the Orphan Gift Fund.

The last amalgamation took place on 1 January 1990 when four of the Lodges formed what was then the Neptune Lodge in Wisbech and the Pride of the Fens took the other four based in Manea.

The Lodges went their separate ways in January of 2005 one becoming the Capital of the Fens District Lodge in Wisbech, and the Fenland District Lodge in Manea. Both these Districts are still up and running today.



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 Alison on **01945 465909** or email **alison.adamson@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care for care and welfare information

Garden

Stan Spinks, Deputy Provincial Grand Master has used his time at home to produce lovely gardens both front and back



Annual Lunch

Rosemary Richardson Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Alison Adamson District Secretary, Jack Norgate and Maureen Norgate Provincial Grand Master enjoying their meal at Nottingham Trent's Annual Lunch.



Is there someone you know who'd enjoy what we do?

Refer a friend today

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at www.oddfellows.co.uk or fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary



*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644



HA Andrews and the Lupus Trust

For the next three years, the Oddfellows' HA Andrews Memorial Fund is supporting the Lupus Trust with its research into how Lupus develops, in order to find ways to prevent or cure this lifelong condition.

So what is Lupus?

Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which antibodies, which usually work with the immune system to protect us from infection, instead attack the body and cause disease. It is not known why these antibodies are made in Lupus patients, or even how the system in healthy people stops this from happening.

The Lupus Research Team at Guy's Hospital recently identified an immune response pathway that is defective in patients with the most severe forms of Lupus. The HA Andrews Memorial Fund will support the team's research into understanding B-cell defects in Lupus patients, and what causes them.

Why did we choose the Lupus Trust?

The Lupus Trust was suggested as a beneficiary of the HA Andrews Memorial



The Oddfellows' team is shown around the lab

Fund by members of Ware Lodge, Brian and Pamela Weavers. Their son, Paul, was diagnosed with the condition at just 17, and as there's no cure, he has lived with the effects ever since.

Paul now 53, says: "Lupus leaves me feeling constantly exhausted and the skin rashes which flare up occasionally have caused permanent scarring. Holidays are difficult, as I have to avoid the sunshine, and sand can irritate my skin. As a college lecturer, I try not to let it get in the way of anything I do. When I found out the Oddfellows was supporting the Lupus Trust, I was genuinely over the moon."

When we visited the Lupus Trust, to present the first of three annual donations which will total £85,000, we spoke to Professor D'Cruz, Professor and Consultant Rheumatologist at Guy's Hospital, London. He's working closely with the research team and says: "This is a vital and very exciting piece of research into Lupus, so we are extremely grateful for the kind grant the Lupus Trust has received from the Oddfellows to fund the project for 3 years."

Lupus is often called "the great mimic", as it can affect different parts of the body and is often misdiagnosed. It is currently unknown what causes Lupus, although studies have identified a definite genetic tendency, which may be triggered and become active. It isn't a contagious disease, but there isn't yet a cure, only treatments which help to control symptoms.

To learn more about Lupus, the Lupus Trust and the work they do, please visit www.lupus.org.uk



Paul takes a closer look at the research



The fund will support the addition of Bekki Velounias (pictured) to the research team



CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Randall at the lab

Time to say “Thank you!”



It's true that lights shine brightest on the darkest of days as, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, we've witnessed countless acts of kindness and the best of humankind.

Jane Nelson, CEO, says, “Oddfellows has its own very special brand of friendship which goes a long way in helping our members through some difficult times, and these past few weeks have been extremely difficult for so many people. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Branches and all our

volunteers for the fantastic way that they all rose to the challenge, and we can't thank them enough for their efforts.”

As with other local organisations supporting older or vulnerable people, including many who live alone or who are shielding, our volunteers make a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as making welfare check-in calls, organising essential shopping and providing company through befriending and online events.

Once again, our most heartfelt thanks go to the individuals who have given their time freely to be a friend to those in desperate need. We will not forget your kindness, and we hope that their example continues to inspire many others to offer their help where possible, long into the future.

Interested in becoming an Oddfellows member volunteer? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or take a look at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering/

Our emergency appeals

At times of crisis, the Society has always looked for ways to help. Which is why, when our friends in Australia were fighting against bush fires at the end of 2019, our members rallied to offer their support.



We're pleased to tell you that the total amount raised by our members was £7,600. This money

has gone directly to those affected, to help rebuild communities and provide valuable support.

We also launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, in support of The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust's critical work during the pandemic. Both organisations work hard to ensure help and comfort is provided to those who desperately need it.



Reflecting on the donations, Oddfellows CEO Jane Nelson said: “Thank you again to all who have contributed to the Appeals, and for enabling those in need to receive the support they so desperately need, as well as to draw comfort from the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.”



We'd love to see you at our online events

Just because you aren't able to come along to our usual face-to-face events at the moment, it doesn't mean that you should have to miss out on all of the fun!

Lots of our Branches are hosting online events, open to members from across the country, through Facebook Live or Zoom video conferencing. Don't have a smartphone or a computer with a camera? There's a phone-in option as well, so it's accessible to all.

Whether you're looking for exercise motivation with our Seated Yoga class,

hosted by Swansea and Bridgend, or you'd like to test your general knowledge with Ipswich's weekly trivia quizzes, there is something for everyone. If you're struggling to get set up on Zoom, our Branches are on hand to help.

Give your local Social Organiser a call and they can talk you through the process. It's a free-to-use video conferencing tool, and it's a great way for you to stay in touch with your fellow members.

Facebook is another option. Lots of Branches have their own Facebook page updated regularly with events, news, fun



quizzes and a little bit of humour to keep us smiling through these tough times. If you haven't liked your local Oddfellows page yet, get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ask for the link.

Oddfellows Travel Unveiled

Despite there being restrictions on how and where we can travel at the moment, we're busy behind the scenes creating a brand new line-up of short breaks, longer trips and cruises for 2021 under the new name Oddfellows Travel (formerly Active Travel Club).

Rest assured, we're still working with our trusted third-party travel partners, Fred. Olsen, Warner Leisure Hotels, Haven and

Leger Holidays who are ABTA and ATOL protected, so you can be confident your booking is in good hands. When you're thinking about taking your next trip, don't forget to look at what we have to offer. Whether you're a foodie, a culture vulture or a history buff, we hope to have a holiday that you'll love.

Visit Oddfellows Travel at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Boredom busters

We've put together some fun puzzles to help distract your mind and pass the time. How quickly can you crack them?

Anagrams – rearrange the letters to guess the word!

Doledwolfs Henisfirpd Clodkonw Behpmimers Beefnits

Riddles

Can you guess the answers to these quarrelsome questions?

1. What has to be broken before you can use it?
2. What goes up, but never comes down?
3. What question can you never honestly answer yes to?
4. This belongs to you, but everybody else uses it. What is it?
5. How can a pocket be empty, but still have something in it?

Where is the ping pong ball? (C)

Riddle: 1. An egg, 2. Your age!, 3. Are you asleep?, 4. Your name, 5. There's a hole in the pocket!

Dingbats: Eyes wide open

Anagrams: Oddfellows, Friendship, Lockdown, Membership, Benefits.

Answers:

Where is the ping pong ball?



Dingbats

What's this well-known phrase?

E Y E S