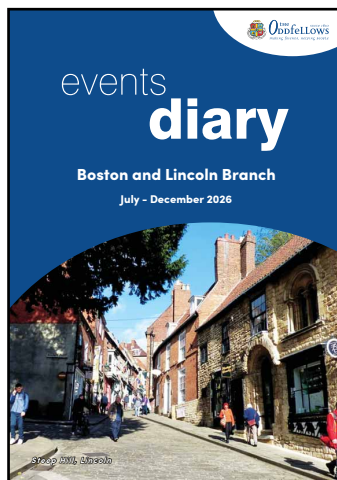


Boston and Lincoln Event Diary and The LINKS Newsletter

Please scroll down to the first page for Boston and Lincoln Events Diary and page 13 for Boston and Lincoln The LINKS Newsletter

Please scroll to page 1 or click
the link below
[Boston and Lincoln
Events Diary](#)



Please scroll to page 13 or click
the link below
[Boston and Lincoln
The LINKS Newsletter](#)



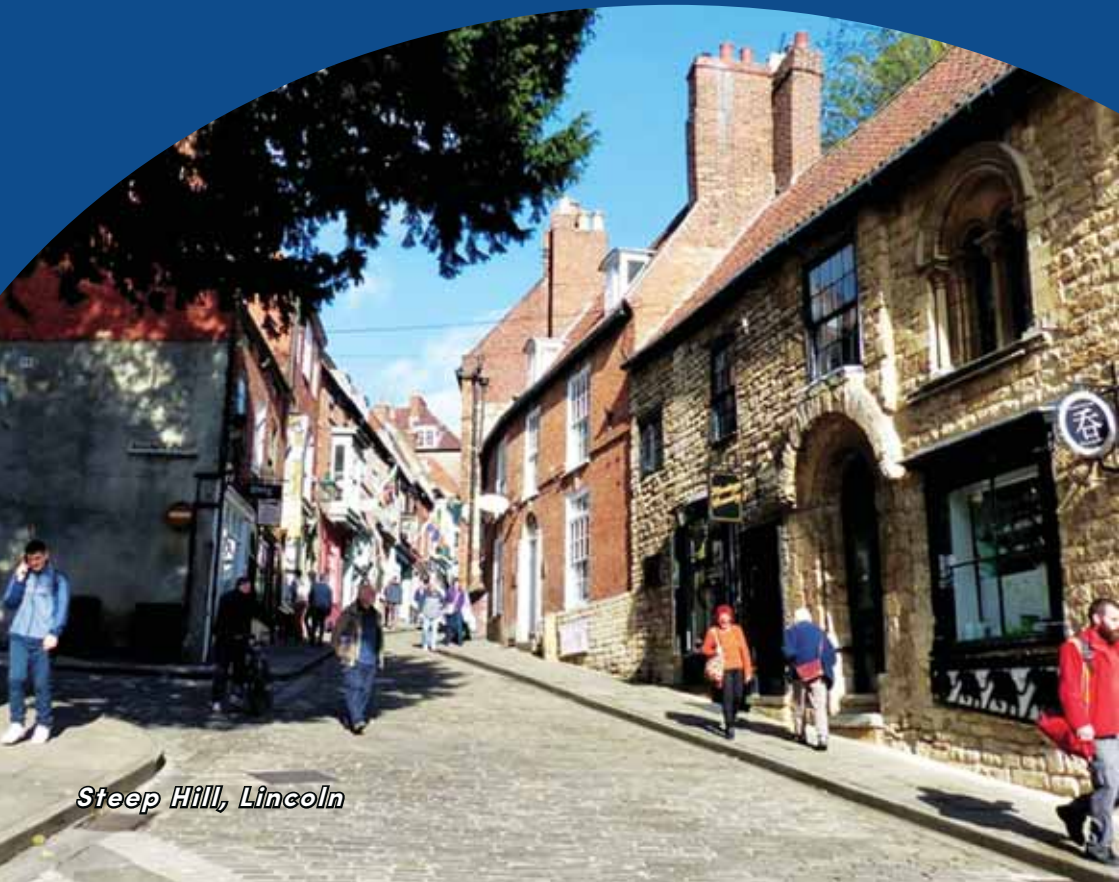


the **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends. helping people

events diary

Boston and Lincoln Branch

July - December 2026



Steep Hill, Lincoln



Friendship Walk around Boutham Park - Thursday 17 September

Welcome to the latest edition of Boston and Lincoln Oddfellows Events Diary

Inside you'll find local and national Oddfellows news, information about our events, and plenty of useful information about your membership – so do have a read and keep it somewhere handy.

We have lots of great events coming up and we'd love to see you at one soon. All our events are open to everyone, so feel free to bring a friend or family member along.

Branches across the country also host a wide range of free online events, giving you the chance to enjoy friendship from the comfort of your own home. You can check out the

Contact Details

Branch Secretary:

Debra Cunningham

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f [OddfellowsBostonLincoln](#)

latest online events on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/

Remember, you can always find details of Branch events, member benefits and the latest Oddfellows news on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk.

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. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

A message from the Social Co-ordinators

Dear members,

Please read through this diary of events. If you have not attended an event with us before, you will be most welcome. We would love it if you were able to join us. As Social Organisers, we try our best to produce a varied programme of events and we look forward to seeing more of you take part. For those of you who attend regularly, we thank you.

If anyone has difficulty finding transport to get to the events, you have only to contact one of the Coordinators and they will do their best to find a lift share/someone

to assist you. We look forward to meeting even more of our members.

Boston Social Organiser

Derek Green - Newsletter Editor
51 Camelot Gardens, Boston,
Lincolnshire PE21 9RP.

Telephone: 01205 367434

Lincoln Social Organisers

Eileen Lake
14 Chiltern Road, Lincoln LN5 8SD.

Telephone: 01522 544447

Mary Daulton
27 Woodfield Avenue, Lincoln LN6 0LJ.

Telephone: 01522 823676

**Learn, have fun,
and stay in touch
from home**

**Our online events are
here to stay**



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

OEM/1024A6

You must book your place on our social events as they may be subject to change. Other social events are available locally, search online at www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

July 2026

Wednesday 1 - Jane's Day with Angela, 2pm

Our yearly visit to see our friend Angela and to remember our dear friend Jane. This is a wonderful afternoon sitting in the beautiful garden with a cream tea and chatting with friends. Family and friends are most welcome to join us. Book by Wednesday 17 June. **Address:** Angela's, Pode Lane, Old Leake, Boston PE22 9NB. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Tuesday 7 - Scattergories, 7pm

This is a fun game to play in pairs and is enjoyed by everyone. There will be a prize for the highest score. Refreshments will be available along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.

Cake and Coffee

Wednesday 15 July, 2pm

District Office, 9 Priory Road,
Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0RA

Please come along to Debbie's garden to enjoy a coffee and chat, fingers crossed for sunshine. Please bring with you your favourite cake or biscuits. We will hold a raffle and the lucky draw. Friends and family are always welcome. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Thursday 23 - Dine Around at The Plough, 12 noon

Come and join us with friends for some delicious lunch at The Plough. A wide variety of choices are on the menu. Cost as per menu. **Address:** The Plough, 393 Newark Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln LN6 8RJ. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.



August

Tuesday 4 - Talk by Horace Liberty, 7pm

Horace Liberty will be joining us to talk about the 'Lincoln Sculptures'. Please do come along to what will be a very interesting evening. Family and friends are most welcome to join us. Refreshments will be provided and a raffle will be held. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.



Photo by Peter Rowarth / Art UK

Games Afternoon

Wednesday 5 August, 2pm

Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH

Come along and join us for a game of dominoes. There could be some surprises along the way and definitely lots of laughter.

Refreshments will be available, also a raffle and the lucky draw. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Wednesday 19 - Dine Around at The Burton Inn, 12 noon

Traditional British pub grub is on offer at the Brewers Fayre pub. Lots of choices on the menu for everyone and great offers to be had. Book by Wednesday 5 August. Cost as per menu. **Address:** Brewers Fayre, Wainfleet Road, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 9RW. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



September - Friendship Month

Tuesday 1 - Picture Quiz, 7pm

A picture quiz set by our very own quiz mistress Rita. Get your thinking caps on as there will be a prize for the highest score. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served and a raffle will be held.

Address: Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



September - Friendship Month

Wednesday 2 - Beetle Drive, 2pm

Come along and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter with this ever so popular game of beetle drive. There will be refreshments, along with a raffle and the lucky draw. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

Friends in the Garden

Wednesday 16 September, 2pm

District Office, 9 Priory Road,
Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0RA

Once again, Debbie is inviting members, friends and family to celebrate Friendship Month in the garden. There will be refreshments and a quiz, so please join us for this great, relaxed afternoon. Book by Wednesday 2 September. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Thursday 17 - Friendship Walk, 10am

Join us with members, friends and family for a stroll around the beautiful Boultham Park, then enjoy some refreshments at the café in the park. Please meet in the car park off Hall Drive. **Address:** Boultham Park, 55 Hall Drive, Lincoln LN6 7SW. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.



Photo by Matthew Smith

Half Yearly Meeting

Saturday 26 September, 11am

District Office, 9 Priory Road, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 0RA

All members are welcome to attend, so that our full support can be given to the Branch Committee, who work so hard throughout the year for the benefit of our members. Members attending for their first time will be made especially welcome. Light refreshments will be provide! Book by Wednesday 16 September. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

October

Tuesday 6 - Harvest Festival, 7pm

Please bring along a contribution of fruit or vegetables for us to auction. All proceeds will go to the Chairman's charity - 'The Butterfly Hospice'. Refreshments and a raffle will be available. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.



Wednesday 7 - Games Afternoon, 2pm

Can you pick the lucky numbers? Please come along and join us for a fun filled afternoon of bingo with a difference. Refreshments will be served along with a raffle and lucky draw. **Cost:** Free for members and £1.50 for guests. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

Annual Lunch

Sunday 18 October, 12 noon

Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH

Our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Gwen Kirkham would like to invite members, family and friends to join her for a buffet lunch. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to her chosen charity - 'The Butterfly Hospice'. Donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. Book by Wednesday 7 October. **Cost:** £12 for members and £15 for guests. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Thursday 22 - Dine Around at The Windmill, 12 noon

Please join us for lunch at The Windmill. There is a wide selection of choices on the menu. Members are most welcome to bring along a family member or friend. Cost as per menu. **Address:** The Windmill, off Runcorn Road, Whisby Road, Lincoln LN6 3QZ. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.



Joe Morton Sings

Tuesday 3 November, 7pm

Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB



Join us for a night of celebration. Joe Morton will be singing and we will be celebrating our very own Eileen's special birthday. A buffet will be served and we are sure a birthday cake. There will be a raffle held. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.

November

Wednesday 4 - Sip Chat and Relax, 2pm

Let's do coffee, chat and relax. Chat with friends and drink coffee and eat cake, what better way to spend an afternoon. Derek will entertain us with his legendary jokes! A raffle and the lucky draw will be held. **Address:** Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.

December

Tuesday 1 - Christmas Party, 7pm

Christmas has begun! Please bring a plate of food to share and a wrapped gift to the value of £5 for male/female (please mark for the male) to be distributed by our very own Santa. Tea or coffee will be served, along with a raffle. **Address:** Holy Cross Church Hall, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln LN6 7RB. Contact Eileen on 01522 544447.

Christmas Wreath Making

Wednesday 2 December, 2pm

Wings Meadow, Freiston Road, Boston PE21 0JH

Karen Payne has kindly offered to give a demonstration on wreath making, along with a chance to make your very own Christmas wreath. There will be warm mince pies served along with tea or coffee. A free lucky draw and raffle will be held. Let's get into the Christmas spirit by wearing our Christmas jumpers. Please bring a wrapped gift up to the value of £5 for the Secret Santa. Book by Wednesday 18 November. Contact Derek on 01205 367434 or Debbie on 01205 358217.



Oddfellows Online Events

Discover the five Rs for a happier retirement with Dr Anna Machin

Tuesday 14 July, 7pm

Join author, broadcaster and world-renowned Anthropologist, Dr Anna Machin as she offers her expert advice on how to navigate the emotional and social aspect of retirement.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/AnnaMachin2

Murder Most Austen

Tuesday 28 July, 7pm

Whether you're a fan of Austen or just thrilled by a good detective story, join crime writer and scholar Dr Lucy Andrew for this engaging talk on how Austen's works have shaped the evolution of detective fiction.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/MurderMostAusten

Staying Safe from Financial Scams

Tuesday 18 August, 7pm

Financial scams are becoming more sophisticated, using new tactics to exploit trust. This talk with Unity Mutual explains how these scams work, highlights key warning signs, and provides practical strategies to help you protect yourself and your finances.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/FinancialScams1

Understanding Diabetes

Tuesday 15 September, 7pm

Join us for this informative talk covering what type 1 and type 2 Diabetes are, signs and symptoms, who's at risk of type 2 Diabetes, how to access support, and how to live well.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/OddfellowsDiabetesUK

More Ghostly Tales to be Told

Tuesday 27 October, 7pm

Get ready for Halloween with another fascinating evening of stories and poems by Dr Ann Featherstone, a retired university lecturer, teacher and writer who has appeared on numerous BBC programmes and documentaries.

To register, type this link into your browser:
tinyurl.com/MoreGhostlyTales



Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login



***Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.**

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

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Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Debbie by phone on 01205 358217 or email debra.cunningham@oddfellows.co.uk

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making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Get the most out of your membership



As well as making friends and meeting new people, the Oddfellows offers a wide range of benefits to members.

From advice and financial aid through to travel opportunities, we provide a helping hand to make life a little easier. With your standard benefit membership, for £25 a year*, you have access to:

- Local social events
- Money saving partner offers
- Care and Welfare Helpline and local support
- Dedicated Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Convalescence and Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Benevolence Grants
- Member referral rewards scheme
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Access to group holidays and travel discounts
- Educational and Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

If you're an extra benefit member, your £35 a year membership* enables access to additional benefits of:

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

Find out more about the benefits and support available

You'll find more information about member benefits in your member handbook. You can also call **0800 028 1810** 9am-5pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-4pm Fri, or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits

To make sure you receive our monthly emails for updates on benefits and offers, just email us with your full name, postcode and membership number (if you know it): membership@oddfellows.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services. For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.



The Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

At a glance

July 2026

Wed 1	Jane's Day with Angela	2pm
Tues 7	Scattergories	7pm
Wed 15	Cake and Coffee	2pm
Thurs 23	Dine Around at The Plough	12 noon

August

Tues 4	Talk by Horace Liberty	7pm
Wed 5	Games Afternoon	2pm
Wed 19	Dine Around at The Burton Inn	12 noon

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Picture Quiz	7pm
Wed 2	Beetle Drive	2pm
Wed 16	Friends in the Garden	2pm
Thurs 17	Friendship Walk	10am
Sat 26	Half Yearly Meeting	11am

October

Tues 6	Harvest Festival	7pm
Wed 7	Games Afternoon	2pm
Sun 18	Annual Lunch	12 noon
Thurs 22	Dine Around at The Windmill	12 noon

November

Tues 3	Joe Morton Sings	7pm
Wed 4	Sip Chat and Relax	2pm

December

Tues 1	Christmas Party	7pm
Wed 2	Christmas Wreath Making	2pm

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The LINCS Newsletter

News and views from your local friendship group

**Provincial Grand
Master's Address
Annual Meeting 2026**

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**Boston Branch
Afternoon with Friends**

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**An interview
with our
Branch Chairman**

Page 4



Officers Installed 2026

Page 2



Oddfellow Roses



Lincoln Dine Around



Nene and Welland Annual Dinner

A Warm Welcome to all members and friends

Welcome to your Spring/Summer 2026 Edition of 'The Lincs'

Hello to everyone, and welcome to our 42nd edition. Remember to look through your Events



Diary, which has come to you with this Newsletter, to see what we have planned for you and your friends and family over the coming six months. Some events take place separately at both Boston and

Lincoln, and on occasions, we plan events that are jointly held. Events are held on different days and at different times so that members can attend and enjoy both Lincoln events and Boston events. Also, your friends, family, and acquaintances will be warmly welcomed at any of our events, so why not see if you can encourage them to come along?

Your Social Organisers work hard to create an interesting diary of events for you to come and enjoy, and when you have, it gives them satisfaction.

We hope you have enjoyed those events that you have attended, and should you have any thoughts regarding future events to be organised, just let us know, and they will, of course, be considered. We look forward to hearing from you. Also, members of both Lincoln and Boston Branches are given sincere thanks for their support of raffles and lucky draws to help boost funds raised for our Chairman's charity each year.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition of your Newsletter 'THE LINC'S'.

**Yours in Friendship,
Your Editor Derek**

Officers Installed 2026

Gwen Kirkham was installed as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Chris Pilkington was installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Deputy Chairman), and Derek Green was installed as Past Provincial Grand Master (Past Chairman). All members present gave congratulations and wished them a happy year in each of their respective roles. Gwen has chosen the Boston Butterfly Trust as her chosen charity during her term of office.



Boston Branch March Dine Around

A mix of Boston and Lincoln members attended the popular venue of the Brewers Fayre on a warm and sunny day. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and the chance to catch up with a jolly good natter.

Provincial Grand Master's Address Annual Meeting 2026

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) again over the last year. The support of our members attending our events, which they have done at both Boston and Lincoln which in turn gives a lot of encouragement to the hard-working Social Organisers, who do their best to organise all the varied events each year.

Our branch has been successful in terms of the level of membership and

attendance of our social events at both the Lincoln Branch and Boston.

I would like to give thanks to all members and friends for the generous support they have given towards my chosen charity the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance, during my term of office.

Also, thanks to my fellow Branch Trustees and our Boston and Lincoln Welfare Officers for their dedication over the past year, and to each of our Committee of Management Members for their

commitment. I also take this opportunity to wish a successful and enjoyable year to our incoming Chairman, Sister Gwen.

And lastly, but not least a big thank you to our Branch Secretary, Debbie, for all her hard work and dedication she has given on behalf of all our branch members.

Thank you, Sisters and Brothers.

Derek

Obituary

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Jane Newton on Thursday 5 March 2026.

Jane was enrolled as a member of our Society in 1976. As a member of our Lincoln District Branch, she quickly joined the Branch Committee of Management. Jane continued in that role until the amalgamation of the Lincoln Branch with the Boston Branch. She continued her service in the newly formed Boston and Lincoln District Branch, where she had served on the Committee of Management and was elected Provincial Grand Master on three occasions: 2010, 2014, and 2019. Jane was also a Branch Trustee until her passing.

On occasions, whether it be management meetings or social events, Jane would bake wonderful cakes for all to enjoy. Jane never let your Editor down, knowing my favourite was her wonderful coconut tarts, always providing enough for me to take home and enjoy. God bless you, Jane, from all your Oddfellow friends. You will always be remembered and never forgotten.

Boston Branch Pick Your Own Numbers

Another exciting game in choosing your very own numbers on your cards to see if you could be first to get a full house for the cash prize. Members prefer this more than the cards with their numbers already printed on them. As usual, it gets exciting when two or three are wanting their very last number to be called. Refreshments were enjoyed prior to the raffle, which is in aid of our Chairman's chosen charity, which is the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance. Everyone went home happy, even though it was a very cold winter day. Apologies for no photographs being taken.

Boston Branch Dine Around February

Nineteen members gathered and enjoyed a return to the Brewers Fayre for another enjoyable lunch. The service, like the food, was absolutely first class. Considering our previous event had to be cancelled due to severe weather conditions, there was lots to catch up on and this time the sun was shining for us. Following the

meal and all the catch up the usual lucky draw was held and Graham was given the honour to draw the winner and the name that came out was Derek. As Derek is the Branch Chairman he decided to donate his winnings to his chosen charity, which this year is the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance.

Boston Branch Afternoon with Friends event was held at Dobbies

Attendees were able to enjoy their food as well as a good chat. As the photograph (right) shows our two juvenile members, Hattie and Harry, along with Nanny Debbie, were so hungry they could not wait until everyone arrived and were first to be served. And so we all left with bellies full, truly satisfied.



Lincoln Dine Around

Lincoln members enjoyed their first dine around of the New Year at the Elite Restaurant - many thanks, Pauline, for the photograph for publication. The event provided a

fantastic chance for members to reconnect and greet newcomers. Attendees enjoyed the delicious food and vibrant discussions, creating a memorable beginning to the New Year.



Lincoln Branch Dine Around

Members met up at Pennells Garden Centre for another popular dine around on Thursday 16 October 2025. After winding through the maze of many Christmas items, the restaurant was found, and the reserved table was located. Everyone said how

much they had enjoyed their chosen meal, and the chance to have a good natter and put the world to right. A lovely, relaxing time was had by all, and we look forward to the next time (many thanks to Edmund for his report to the Editor).

This is your life - An interview with Boston and Lincoln District Branch Chairman Derek Green

By Debbie Cunningham (Branch Secretary)

Firstly, may I thank Derek for agreeing to this interview and to congratulate him on his 10th time as Provincial Grand Master.

When did you become a member of the Oddfellows? I joined the Heart of Oak Lodge of the Boston District in 1964 at the age of 24.

How were you introduced to the Oddfellows? A recommendation by a work colleague, his name was Jack Ogden. He explained the benefits of being a member and invited me to attend the next lodge meeting, which I did, and I immediately joined. I suppose the rest is history.

How long were you a member before you took an active role in the society? In 1965, I became Assistant Secretary of the branch, and then, following in-house training, I became the Branch Secretary in 1970 until 1974, but then had to retire as Branch Secretary due to change in occupation. I began working for a national insurance company, which created a conflict of interest, as the Oddfellows Branches were offering insurance to members. If I hadn't changed occupation, I might still be a secretary. (Laughter).

Have you held any other posts? Yes, in fact quite a few. I became Lodge Sick Visitor for the Boston District (five Lodges) in 1973, through to the amalgamation into the Lincoln District. I served as a Lodge Trustee and District Trustee from 1975 and again through to amalgamation into the Lincoln District. I then became a District Trustee in 1987 until 2007 when the Lincoln District was transferred to Boston Lodge and we became Boston and Lincoln District Lodge. I was elected to serve as Trustee and still hold the position to date.

Do you realise you have served a total of 43 years as a trustee? Yes, and I have enjoyed every minute. I am still a Sick Visitor, although we are now known as Welfare Officers. I am a Social Co-ordinator and Editor of the twice-yearly newsletter and have been for 15 years and as you know I am the Provincial Grand Master until the end of March 2028.

When did you first become Provincial Grand Master? In 1973, when it was the Boston District and again in 1978 and

1983. I have served as Provincial Grand Master on the following occasions: 1988, 1997, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2017.

So how do you become a Provincial Grand Master? Firstly, you have to be elected to serve on the Management of Committee. Then you are voted to serve as Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the Branch Annual Meeting for one year, you then become the Provincial Grand Master for one year, and following that you become the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master for one more year. You then vacate the position of a Lodge Officer for another year before you can be re-elected to pass through the chairs again. You also must be as proficient as you can be with the rules of the Society.

So, what is the role of a Provincial Grand Master/Chairman? The Provincial Grand Master, who has in recent times become known as District Chairman, is head of the District along with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master and the Branch Secretary. When I became Provincial Grand Master back in 1973 you were delegated to visit all Branches within the District to promote the Oddfellows. Back then, there were as many as 10 lodges to visit.

So, there was quite a bit of travelling to do? Yes, a fair amount, but it was nice to see old friends and have a catch up. Also, the Provincial Grand Master, whilst serving their year in office, has the honour of raising money for a charity of their choice. This year, I have chosen Cancer Research UK, in memory of Roy Lake. Roy was a very loyal member to the Boston & Lincoln District Lodge and gave a lot of his time to the Oddfellows, as still does his wife Eileen. I am pleased to say, up to date, I have raised in the region of £1,600 and I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in raising this fantastic amount.

Have you enjoyed all the times you have served as Provincial Grand Master/Chairman? Oh, most definitely, I enjoy all aspects of the Oddfellows and have done for many years and hopefully many more to come.

I understand your wife is your Deputy and will be taking on the role of Provincial

Grand Master/Chairman at the end of March this year? Yes, she is and for the very first time. It will be a very proud moment for me to see her in this role and I wish her every success in her year in office.

Is the Oddfellows a family affair? Yes, my wife Irene and three of my four children are life members. One grandson is a national member and I have three great grandchildren as junior members I myself am a national member having changed from a life membership to national in 2007 and of course, you my daughter being the Branch Secretary for the past two years.

Have there been any memorable moments? They have all been memorable and I have made many dear friends over all those years, but to mention some that were special to me were Blackpool in 1985 our 175th Anniversary, Jersey in 1999 Scarborough in 2000 and Manchester in 2010 our 200th Anniversary.

Is there anything in the Oddfellows you would have liked to have done? Yes, I do regret one thing and that's not putting myself forward to serve on the Group Conference Committee.

Within the Oddfellows has there been anyone who has been a big influence on you? I am sorry, but I could not bring it down to one person, there are so many. I admire the Grand Masters of the Order and the Past Grand Masters I suppose there is one man I have to thank and that would be Mr Jack Ogden for introducing me to the Oddfellows.

All the years you have been in the Oddfellows I bet you have travelled many miles I wonder how many? I would not have a clue but probably nearly enough to travel around the world, Google says its 24,901.55 miles to travel around the world, so I should think I have done it twice.

Can I thank you for giving me your time to do this interview and on behalf of all your friends at the Oddfellows not only thank you but congratulate you on completing your 10th term as Provincial Grand Master/Chairman and your dedication to the Oddfellows. You are very welcome, Debbie.

Looking Back Ten Years (Do You Remember)

Your Editor affectionately remembers past and present members.



A little advice before the Annual Movable Conference starts.



Eric and Eileen Diamond Anniversary.

Old Jokes of Same Era (In case you missed them)

Someone complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the wind screen it said "Parking fine". So that was very nice of them!

A man goes to the doctors, feeling a little ill. The doctor checks him over and says, "Sorry, I have some bad news. You have Yellow 24, a really nasty virus. It's called Yellow 24 because it turns your blood yellow, so you usually only have 24 hours to live. There's no known cure, so just go home and enjoy your final precious moments on earth". So he trudges home to his wife and breaks the news.

Distraught, she asks him to go to the bingo with her that evening as he's never

been there with her before. They arrive at the bingo and with his first card, he gets four corners and wins £35. Then, with the same card he gets a line and wins £320. Then, he gets the full house and wins £1,000. Then, the National Game comes up, and he wins that too, getting £380,000.

The bingo caller gets him up on stage and says, "Son, I've been here 20 years, and I've never seen anyone win four corners, a line, the full house and the national game on the same card. You must be the luckiest man on earth". "Lucky", he screamed, "Lucky? I'll have you know I've got Yellow24". "Good heavens", says the bingo caller "You've won the bloody raffle as well!"

Nene and Welland Annual Dinner

Boston and Lincoln members attended the event hosted by the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Barry Bedford. Seventy attendees enjoyed superb food and the chance to meet up with old friends.



East Anglian Group Conference Presidents' Lunch

Boston Branch members attended the Group Conference Presidents' lunch at Thorney Golf Centre in honour of Teresa Marrable on a warm and sunny April Saturday.



Numbers and Dice

The Boston Branch held Derek's new game, Numbers and Dice. An earlier trial had been conducted, and the game received a thumbs-up. After playing five separate games in pairs, the results were as follows. Glynis won against Gwen

4-1, Carol R 3, Alison 2. Graham 3, Margaret 2. Carol L 3, Carol S 2. Coral 3, Margaret 2. The usual raffle was held, and the Lucky Draw was won by Carol S (it seems Derek can invent new games, but never remembers his camera).

Lincoln Branch Harvest Thanksgiving Event

Members provided various products from their gardens and homes. There were all kinds of vegetables, fruit, and canned food all ready for the table. All items were auctioned off, with all monies raised going towards our Chairman's chosen charity, which this year is the Lincs

and Notts Air Ambulance. Edmund acting as Auctioneer raising a total of £38.45. After everyone had spent up, a buffet followed of sausage rolls, cakes and scones, which were enjoyed along with tea, coffee and biscuits. Truly a great evening was had by all.

Oddies autumn getaway to Llandudno

Join us as we take a trip to Llandudno, North Wales, on an Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows members and guests will take in some breathtaking scenery during a four-night stay at the Hydro Hotel from Saturday 26 September to Wednesday 30 September 2026.

From £369 per person, half board, the price includes coach pick up and drop off from locations across the South East via Reading, or a self-arrival option.

Outstanding natural beauty

Two optional day trips are included in the price of the holiday.

On day two, you'll head by coach to the Isle of Anglesey, where the entire coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll call at the seaside town of Beaumaris

with its mix of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

On day four, the second day trip will head to Caernarfon, home to Wales' most famous castle and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards, you'll venture into the Snowdonia National Park, calling at Llanberis, situated at the foot of Mount Snowdon, and Porthmadog.

Relax in great company

We'll be organising some group drinks and times to dine together during the stay, and enjoying the hotel's evening entertainment, but your days will be largely free to plan as you please.

The hotel has a large entertainment suite with a dance floor and entertainment most evenings, and there are sun lounges and a games room with a snooker table.

You'll also find spectacular views over the bay or over the town to the Snowdonia



mountain range from many of the hotel's bedrooms and from its Looking Glass Bar.

Interested in joining us?

This group holiday is open to any members and their guests and will be hosted by our Oddfellows Travel coordinator and South East Lancashire Branch member, Emma Gorst.

For any enquiries, and to find out how to book, get in touch with Emma by calling **0161 214 4634**, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk.

Please read and understand Alfa Travel's terms and conditions before booking at www.alfaholidays.co.uk/booking-conditions.

Spring clean your finances for the new tax year



The start of the new tax year on Monday 6 April might sound like an event reserved for accountants, but at Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's a time everyone can make the most of.

Here are some simple ways to spring clean your finances and get on top of your money for the tax year ahead.

Make the most of your ISA

Every adult receives a fresh £20,000 ISA allowance at the beginning of each tax year, so if your savings are lying dormant,

why not move them somewhere your interest is protected from tax?

For those comfortable with investment risk, the Unity Mutual Stocks and Shares Flexible ISA* offers potentially higher growth than traditional Cash ISAs (capital is at risk).

Guaranteed returns, less hassle

If you have a lump sum sitting idle or an investment coming to maturity, a Unity Mutual Fixed Rate Bond* provides a predictable, low-effort option. Simply deposit your money for a set term to secure a guaranteed return.

Even better, Oddfellows members benefit from preferential rates on our 2, 3, and 5-year Bonds.

Make savings work harder

With many banks still offering low rates, a quick comparison is essential to ensure your money is working for you.

Even moving savings to a higher-interest account with your current provider can significantly boost your balance over the year.

Find out more

Unity Mutual has over 200 years of experience managing Oddfellows members' funds, and our friendly team is on hand to help you navigate the year ahead. Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

**Terms and conditions apply to all products. With stocks and shares, your investment can go down as well as up meaning your capital is at risk.*

New tax year, new scams

Stay vigilant against common scams such as fake HMRC tax rebates or urgent payment requests for 'unpaid tax'. While these communications can look genuine, always verify them by going directly to the official government website.

Support with fundraising and donations

Donating to good causes is a cornerstone of Oddfellowship, and symbolises what it is all about – helping to improve lives through friendship and support.

It's a thread that runs right through every Branch of the Society. Whether it's members dropping some spare change into a collection at a coffee morning, or the HA Andrews Memorial Fund supporting cutting-edge medical research projects, it all adds up and contributes to that ethos.

Branch donations add up to huge 2025 total



Reading Oddfellows donated £4,300 to Camp Mohawk

Oddfellows branches and members are avid fundraisers. In 2025, more than £148,000 was handed over to a huge range of wonderful causes throughout the country.

Beneficiaries included schools, charities for people with special needs, animal sanctuaries, causes to improve health conditions, lifeboat and air ambulance charities, and one branch provided the funds required to buy state-of-the-art medical equipment.

As well as handing over funds, many members bought and collected for foodbanks, including tinned goods and other long-life foods, toiletries and further everyday items.

To find out how you can get involved with Branch fundraising initiatives, speak to your Branch Secretary.

£10,000 raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts

The Oddfellows recently donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.

Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa.



HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipient announced

In October 2025, representatives of the Oddfellows visited the impressive facilities at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to present a cheque for £67,068 to Prevent Breast Cancer, courtesy of our HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

The money will fund an innovative breast cancer prevention research project for two years.

Carried out by University of Manchester PhD student Anthony Wilby and Dr Hannah Harrison, the project is aiming to discover alternative preventative breast cancer therapies for pre-menopausal women.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which was set up in 1971 to back UK-based medical research projects and organisations, has donated over £1.1m since its launch. Head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the Fund, including previous recipients.

The very best of Oddfellowship

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey (pictured below at MCRC), said: "The work the Oddfellows does for charities and good causes always astounds me. It reflects the very best of Oddfellowship and it makes me incredibly proud.

"Donating to good causes, no matter how big or small, or how much we can contribute, can make a huge difference. Our efforts might well have saved a life, put some food on a young family's table, or simply have made someone's day a little brighter.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. You're all a huge credit to yourselves and the Society."



For more on how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

The Oddfellows looking after you Care, Advice and Support

Welfare Officers for Lincoln Branch are Eileen Lake and Mary Daulton pictured on the left, and for Boston Branch Irene and Derek Green pictured right.



**Eileen Lake and
Mary Daulton
Lincoln Branch
Care Team**



**Irene and
Derek Green
Boston Branch
Care Team**

Any members who are not well are visited by Welfare Officers to see if any help can be given by their branch. We visit members in their own homes, and those who are in a residential or care home and, also members

who may be sick and in hospital. All information given during visits is entirely confidential. Sometimes members have more serious problems or illnesses which can be passed on to our Care Department at our Head Office in Manchester if the member agrees to this. This is just one of the many benefits which all members are entitled to with Oddfellows membership.

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.

Members or a member of their family can arrange a visit by getting in touch with our Secretary Debra Cunningham, whose contact details can be found in your Events Diary. Your Welfare Officers wish all members well, but should you need us we are here for you.

National Oddfellows Helplines



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

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*



Call 0800 0149 821

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

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

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