

June - September 2021



O^{the} **DD**fellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

North London District



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Welcome to the new edition of Out & About, the Magazine of North London District

For the past twelve months, the Oddfellows has strived to link with its members, assisting them through any troubles caused by the pandemic.

We have tried to get the message home that we are here to help you and all that you need to do is ask.

Our District officials, such as Branch Secretaries and Welfare Officers have been happy to talk to members by phone. We've used other methods of communication, such as letter, postcard and text messages to reach out in addition to the quarterly printed magazine.

Our weekly e-magazine of 21 pages has been emailed to 200 households in the District, some with more than one member to keep up spirits. Email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk to receive a regular copy.

You may also be kept up to date by Liking our Facebook page – North London Oddfellows

In the absence of face to face events, Oddfellows has provided over 30 online events every week for members to enjoy. Our District, in conjunction with neighbouring South London District and St Mary Cray and Dartford District, has entertained members with two Zoom presentations every week.

Our business has been conducted via Zoom meetings too to ensure that members have received benefits and payments as usual with minimal disruption.

No matter which way you choose to communicate with the Oddfellows, we are working hard to ensure to keep in touch with you and make sure that there's plenty for you to see and do and make you welcome.

Paul Fitton
Editor

Cover photo of Lion in Trafalgar Square by Paul Fitton
Photo on this page of Guards by Paul Fitton

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A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Our social events meet the current COVID-19 Secure guidelines

We're doing all we can to make our meet-ups as safe and as comfortable as possible, because staying connected matters. If you're in need of company, you're more than welcome to come along and join us in person or online.

www.oddfellows.co.uk/events



Branch Secretaries

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June 2021

FRI
11

Blasts from the Past



Bob Sinfield revisits some of history's most colourful characters, including Thomas Edison, Charles Darwin and the roguish diarist Samuel Pepys. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

TUES
15

An Afternoon of Jackie's Poetry



Jackie Ingleby-Douglass has entertained us all in the past year with her hilarious poems in the London Districts' weekly e-magazine. Hear her poems read out loud by guests. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

FRI
18

John Scott Cree's Christmas Special



Hear comedic musician, John Scott Cree's Christmas special recorded especially for the Oddfellows. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

TUES
22

Art Unscrewed



Please join Dulcie Lowe for our monthly guided online art event. Today's painting is Derrain's Cassis landscape. All welcome - all you need is some paints. For further advice including where to purchase artist's materials, contact Paul. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

FRI
25

Eric Sykes - What a Life!



Eric Sykes was a comedy legend. Paul Fitton tells of the writer and actor who influenced comedy hugely throughout the 20th century. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

TUES
29

60s Karaoke



60s Karaoke! Join Paul Fitton for a sing to pop tracks of the 60s. Muted! Book by Tuesday 25 May. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

July

FRI
02

Cybercrime; Frauds and Scams



2pm



Free



Online



Daniel Bowdler is the Oddfellows' Compliance and Risk Advisor and Data Protection Advisor. He guides us through the steps to keep our online and telephone information secure. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
06

Cheese Presentation and Sampling



4pm



Free



Online



Paul Fitton presents the worldwide story of cheese. Hear Paul to find out which cheeses are being sampled so that you can have a taster! www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



FRI
09

Bruges - It's more than just chocolate



2pm



Free



Online



Melanie Gibson-Barton presents a colourfully illustrated, wide-ranging talk that provides an insider's view of the beautiful city of Bruges. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 987 3640 6240. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
13

Doberman



4pm



Free



Online



Paul Fitton presents the sad story of Maurice Gosfield, Duane Doberman in Sergeant Bilko. 'Cary Grant playing the part of a short, fat man'. www.zoom.us.

Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



July

FRI
16

Tears of a Clown



Mattie Faint is the Curator of the Clown Museum. He tells us of the remarkable stories behind the exhibits. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
20

My Uncle Bill died in WWII, but who killed him?



Ian Hutt presents the intriguing and poignant story of one of his relatives. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



FRI
23

Aristocrats of the Air



David Hirst, worked as Regional Information Officer for the RSPB. He tells us about seabirds today. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
27

Art Unscrewed



Please join Dulcie Lowe for our monthly guided online art event. Today's painting is Hockney's Chair. All welcome - all you need is some paints. For further advice including where to purchase artist's materials, contact Paul. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

July

FRI
30

The Birds is Here!



Andrew Gouldstone of the RSPB takes us behind the scenes at the Rainham Marshes site. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
03

The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword



Did you use pen and ink at school? Paul Fitton relates the history of the fountain pen with classic examples from the 1930s through to the 1990s. See vintage pens such as Parkers and Dinkies as well as classic Oddfellows fountain pens. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

August

FRI
06

Johnny Clamp Reveals All!



Veteran entertainer returns to tell us more anecdotes about his career and the true nature of stars that he has worked with, including Morecambe and Wise, Bruce Forsyth and Jimmy Tarbuck and many more favourites. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
10

The World's Most Iconic Photos



Paul Fitton tells the stories behind some of the most iconic photos of the world. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



August

FRI
13

Ostend - It's more than just fish and flip-flops



2pm



Free



Online



Melanie presents a colourfully illustrated, wide-ranging talk that provides an insider's view of the fascinating 'City by the Sea' of Ostend. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 999 5223 8705. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
17

Chocolate Presentation and Tasting



4pm



Free



Online



Paul Fitton presents the history of chocolate and invites you to sample some finer brands. Ask Paul to find out which we'll be sampling. Suitable for vegetarians and vegans. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



FRI
20

First Dates for Guinea Pigs



2pm



Free



Online



Lynn Lyle tells us about her rescue work with animal charity 'Animal Rescue and Care' and the 'little people in fur coats' that she helps. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
24

Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



Online



Dulcie Rowe presents her monthly art tutorial. Today's painting is Van Gogh's Vase with Daisies and Anemones. All welcome - all you need is some paints. For further advice including where to purchase artist's materials, contact Paul. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

August

FRI
27 **Secret London**



Paul Draper discovers hidden secrets about the capital for you. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

TUES
31 **Seaglass**



Kris Kicjun gives a sparkling presentation about seaglass, the precious jewels from the oceans. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
03 **Johnny Clamp Reveals Even More**



Veteran entertainer, Johnny Clamp returns to tell us more anecdotes about his career and the true nature of stars that he has worked with, including Des O'Connor, Ronnie Corbett and many more favourites. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
10

The Life of Captain Newton



Paul Fitton brings to life the amazing story of his great grandfather – a Shoreditch orphan in the 1830s, an adventurous sea captain in the 1860s and a pioneering weather forecaster from the 1880s. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

FRI
17

Melanie Gibson-Barton



Join Melanie for an armchair tour through Flanders off the beaten track. The tiny country of Belgium, and especially Flanders, has lots of quirky sights to offer and this colourfully illustrated talk will entertain and provide ideas of places to visit in Flanders – including further parks and gardens to enjoy. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 962 9677 0073. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.

FRI
24

Life of Charles Waterton



David Hirst returns to present the Life of Charles Waterton (1782–1865): Eccentric pioneering conservationist and creator of the first recognisable nature reserve at Walton Hall in Yorkshire. www.zoom.us.

Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020.

Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.



TUES
28

Art Unscrewed



Join Dulcie Rowe for another art tuition. Today's painting is Peplow's Cassis Landscape. All welcome – all you need

is some paints. For further advice including where to purchase artist's materials, contact Paul. www.zoom.us. Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2) for more details.





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 your Branch Secretaries on page 3.

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**

Angela Linda Hooker

**Past Provincial Grand Master (Past District Chairman)
6 September 1947 to 8 March 2021**



We are saddened to report on the loss of Angela Hooker. At the time of her passing, 'Angie' held the position of North London District Secretary of the Oddfellows. However, she has filled many other executive positions in the Oddfellows from the very start of her Oddfellows life.

Angie was initiated into the Pride of Islington in September 1983. She took an immediate interest in Branch affairs, becoming Noble Grand in 1985 and 1987 and more times. She took the Purple Degree in 1986.

Angie was made permanent Director of Ceremonies in 1989 and elected Lodge Sick Visitor in 1995. She joined the North London District Past Grands Lodge in

1986 and was elected Secretary to that Lodge in 1989. She was also a Member of the James Roe Provincial Lodge of Past Grands and Worthy Master in 1995. Angie was also a member of the Amacitia Provincial Lodge of Past Grands and Worthy Master in 1996.

Her other committee roles included being a member of the Northern and Hackney Degree Lodge. She also became Secretary of the West Central Minor Degree Lodge in 1994 and as a member of the North London Secretaries Association, its President in 1995. She was also Auditor for the National Federation of Administer Officers.

Her official Oddfellows continued. Angie was a member of the Metropolitan District Officers Association. She was elected to serve on the North London District Juvenile Advisory Committee from 1984 to 1989.

Elected to the District Committee of Management in 1987, Angie became Provincial Grand Master in 1991, 1998 and 2008. She was elected to the Friendly Societies Convalescent Home Advisory Committee from 1990 to 1994, was District representative to the Friends of the MBSA 1992 to 1994, and was elected to the District Publicity and Propaganda Committee in 1992 to 1994. Angie also

served on the North London District Book Examiners Committee from 1991 to 1995.

Angie continued to absorb herself in Oddfellows officialdom when she became Deputy to the London and Home Counties Group Conference 1991 to 1995 and to the Executive Committee 1995.

The dedication that Angie showed was rewarded when she received the District Merit Jewel in 1996.

Angie was elected as a District Deputy to the Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC) 1989 and has continued to fulfil that role. She was elected as a Deputy to the Southern Group Conference in 2003 and as Deputy to the Metropolitan Group Conference from 2001 continuously. She has served on the District Social and Development Committee. Angie was appointed Secretary of the Flower of Hendon Branch in 2000, serving until amalgamation in 2017. She has also served and supported Credit Union No 1 in London and Credit Union No 2 in Leamington Spa.

Angie was elected to Unity (National Oddfellows) Special Arbitrator 2011 and 2015. She was elected Trustee of the North London District in 2003 and Provincial Corresponding Secretary in 2013.

In addition, she attended many Weekend Seminars for the District and Branch.

Angie has always been a very strong supporter of our Ritual, attending Degree Lodges and Provincial Lodge of Past Grands whenever possible. She was always

willing to help new members gain further knowledge in Oddfellowship.

North London District will commemorate Angie when lockdown measures are over. As a short tribute, we dedicated a Zoom presentation about the 1970s to Angie the week after she passed. We read this dedication, Angie's own words showing her reaction to an article that appeared in the e-magazine, about her happy youth:

'I must comment about 'Girls Holiday'. I have just spent the last half hour walking down memory lane to my years spent during the 60s, 70s and 80s. Some made me smile and some did bring a tear but I quite clearly recall the fun of fashion, freedom and to the 70's hippy generation of which I was one – the 60s was the beginnings of a very changing world of attitudes and care for our planet. Yes it was us during the 60s and 70s who most strongly protested our values and philosophies against war and climate changes.

"Nothing explains our fears for the future more than in the song produced/released in 1968 and again in 1969 called In the Year 2525 by Zager and Evans. In August 1969 many of us were still remembering the Woodstock concert at Bethel outside New York with Jimi Hendrix, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, the Who and many many more. Anyway that was the happiest and nostalgic half hour I have spent since this world wide disaster which we have all experienced one way or another".

Joyce Caplin and Paul Fitton

Chairman's Letter

Hello Members

Here we are again and I am hoping, as you read my message, that we are living without lockdown. There are three items to remember. Firstly, that this is a global pandemic and it only ends when the world is clear. Secondly, that no vaccination is 100% effective and we must continue to follow Government recommendations. Lastly and most importantly, many of our members have had their freedom curtailed for over a year. We all know or suspect some will be frightened of going out.

Please make it your responsibility to check on your local members and help them to emerge into a full life again.

Let us get our Branch meetings and our social events on the map again. Even a trip out for coffee or tea, or perhaps something stronger, could be a first step. Odd Fellowship is about helping others. Let us get it going again and meet up like we all love doing.

Laurence Manning
Provincial Grand Master
(District Chairman)

Keeping in Touch

Here's a short article from the weekly e-magazine. If you would like a regular 21 pages of entertainment dropping into your inbox every Saturday, email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk

At the start of lockdown, Our District realised that we had to keep members in touch in every way possible: phone, email, text, letter and postcards. Two new initiatives have been to reach members online with North London District hosting two of the 40 weekly online events via Zoom and the production of a weekly e-magazine, issued every Saturday by email.

This 21 page editions have been produced every week for over a year. We're approaching half a million words! Whilst aimed at Oddfellows members, the use

of online media allows us to provide a full and varied magazine featuring many varied topics, publishing original stories and poems, members' artwork and photos, quizzes and puzzles. Feedback has been incredible, with two pages of letters every week.



Here's an original short story
and a poem from recent
editions of the e-magazine to
give you a flavour.

The Silent House **Written in 1968**

The boy hurried home from school.
All day he had been worrying,
unable to concentrate on his lessons
– and now, he would soon know
the worst!

It had happened the previous night:
one moment all had been happy
and bright, the next, a grey, almost
ashen look, had appeared on his
family's faces, the brightness had
disappeared, tension had been
detectable in the air. His parents had
ushered him to bed, as if to prevent
him being affected by the misery.
His mother had said that they would
summon help in the morning.

Arriving home, the boy rang the
doorbell and waited anxiously. His
mother appeared at the door and he
immediately knew, by her usually
smiling face, the previous night's
worries had only been temporary,
for that morning, a motor car had
halted outside their front door and,
with his black bag in his hand, a
man had rung the doorbell, so as to
gain admission to their house – in
order to repair the television set!

Here's one of our resident
poet Jackie Ingleby-Douglass'
regular weekly contributions

I'm not as Dumb as I Look

I'm not as dumb as I look.
I'm more aware than you think.
When acting naive
I'm out to deceive.
I'm not as dumb as I look.

I'm not as dumb as I act.
I know that for a fact.
I dilly and dally,
I look like Aunt Sally.
I'm not as dumb as I act.

I'm older than you think.
I think I'm on the brink.
Not much time
to end this rhyme.
I'm older than you think.

I'm sorry she has gone.
I'm her brother John.
She left a will.
I have it still.
I'm sorry she has gone.

Your name might just be on it.
Read on to check it out.
I need to end her sonnet.
Oh dear, she left you nowt!

Oddfellows Memorabilia

By Paul Fitton

It wasn't until the 1700s that Europeans were able to make porcelain. The Industrial Revolution from about 1760 had a great effect with its mass produced goods. Inexpensive, mass produced pottery took the place of items crafted by hand. In the 19th century, pottery became very popular for everyday household and commemorative items.

Pottery was produced to mark special occasions, celebrate events and organisations. Thousands of examples of Oddfellows porcelain pieces were made. These included items manufactured as pearlware or 'china glaze', a light coloured pottery. This process had been started in the mid 1750s and was developed Wedgewood about 1780. The pictures show examples of this ware, probably made in the 1825 to 1850 period.



This tankard was made from pearlware. The mug has been decorated with the Oddfellows crest.



This jug was probably made in the 1830 to 1840 period. The pictures show opposite sides of the item.



This flare necked jug, perhaps made by Hicks and Meigh between 1825 and 1835, is transfer printed and enamelled on each side with the Oddfellows crest. It is painted with two groups of roses and inscribed John Hulme Millwright on the reverse. It has a gilt rim and handle and is about 12cms/5 inches high.



This china beaker was made for Burton on Trent District to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of the Oddfellows in 1910. The item was manufactured by Grafton China (A B Jones of Stoke on Trent), just 30 miles from Burton. The piece has fluting to the body and a crimped, flared top edge trimmed with gilding.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

"I wanted to ask you how I can say thank you to the Oddfellows for the wonderful service we have received from the Citizens Advice Bureau recently. We have had outstanding help and advice from a lovely lady. We never had to wait for our call or our email to be answered and she took on our case, sought the appropriate advice and always kept in regular touch with us. It couldn't have been better! I would like to say a big thank you to the Oddfellows for providing such a valuable service for their members."

We've teamed up with national advice specialists Citizens Advice to give our members access to two of its experienced, full-time advisors – so help is just a phone call away.

Receiving help and advice through the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line is a membership benefit from day one.

It's an 0800 number, so free to call from a landline or mobile. It operates 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. An answerphone service is available outside of these hours and, rest assured, all messages will be replied to the next working day.

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

Where can I find the Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line number?

It's a member-only number which can be found on your membership card or in your Member Handbook. Members can also access it by signing in to the Members' Area or by calling our Membership team or their Branch.

What advice is available?

The line's advisors are there to help you understand your rights and guide you through any problems. They can help you with everything from one-off queries and full welfare benefit checks, to complex money or housing problems. Their database contains helpful information on over 15,000 subjects, but these are the most frequently discussed issues:

Welfare benefits – if you're struggling to make ends meet on a pension or low wage, unemployed, have a disability or long-term health condition, then they can check if there is any other support you could be receiving. They can also help you to make a welfare benefit claim, as well as sort out problems and challenge decisions if things go wrong.

Housing – if you're facing a housing issue, such as problems with a landlord, neighbours or harassment, they can offer advice on your legal rights, negotiation and advocacy as required. They can also give information on help available for older or vulnerable people with home repairs or heating costs.

Debt and money advice – if you're facing financial difficulties, such as redundancy or a cut in income, or finding

it hard to pay your mortgage, credit card or other household bills, they can give you advice on how to manage creditors, debt and budgeting.

Employment issues – if you're facing redundancy or unfair dismissal, or experiencing other difficult problems at work, they can offer advice. They can also help you access mediation and refer you to specialist employment advice and representation through the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme where appropriate.

Consumer goods and services – if you're having problems with goods that are not fit-for-purpose, or issues with service providers and contracts, they can give help and advice on enforcing your rights.

Family matters – if you're having difficulties, such as going through divorce proceedings or access to your children or grandchildren following separation, they can offer initial advice and support.

Legal and taxation frameworks – if you need general help to understand how the legal system works and your rights, they can help you with a wide range of issues, such as civil rights, education and tax problems.

Disclaimer: Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and are solely responsible for all advice they provide. 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.

Zoom Zoom Vroom

Well we may not have been able to meet at events or face to face socials - but we have managed to meet members socially online! A huge plus for members unable to see others or wishing to keep on touch with other members via their computer, laptop, iPad or smartphone.

Oddfellows provides thirty events every week for online members to attend. Presentations and talks, quizzes and games sessions, art tutorials and musical events, exercise and meditation and coffee mornings and afternoon tea chats. There's something for everyone!

Just watch or take part from your own comfortable armchair or settee at home!

North London District has combined with South London District and St Mary Cray and Dartford District to provide two social sessions weekly. We're leading the way having had nearly 100 viewers attend on a couple of occasions, The Life and Music of Buddy Holly being the most popular so far. It's great to hear members from all around the country as they bring everyone close together. Our own events have seen

appearances from members in France and Kenya. Members who have mobility issues who don't usually attend events have been really pleased to see other members at the Zoom sessions. Our own events are held every Tuesday at 4pm and every Friday - in The Weekend Starts Here! Series of events, at 2pm.

... and all these events... are free!

Zoom is so easy to access. You're just a couple of clicks away from enjoying all these events. Whether you're using a computer, laptop, iPad or mobile phone you can join in so easily.

A few minutes before the event, visit www.zoom.us and type in the Meeting ID and Passcode, then click or tap on 'Open' if prompted. It's as simple as that - even easier if you request a direct link from paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk, then you're just a click or two away!

You can read about our full programme listing of online social events in this e-magazine. I do hope that you can join us on Zoom and am happy to help if you are a first-timer. Please just email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07851 910619.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

Letters and Feedback

The letters below are just a small selection from the two pages of letters that appear in our weekly 21 page e-magazine. To receive a copy every Saturday, email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk.

The Oddquiz Comedy Hour via Zoom

I've never laughed so much! - **Patsy Gill**

Laughed so much at yesterday's 'quiz', had to get a tissue to wipe my eyes. Thanks. Keep them coming. - **Joy Greaves**

Thank you for hosting this special event! I had no idea what to expect, but I laughed and giggled for a whole hour! Thank you so much for all your hard work arranging the online events; they are the highlight of my day! - **Stephanie Clenton**

The Life and Times of Buddy Holly via Zoom

In a few words, it was EXCELLENT! It was great to hear his music again, and as I have said before, he was, and still is, my all-time favourite, having been a fan of his for the last 73 years. I thank my elder sister's ex-boyfriend for introducing me to Buddy so many years ago. My grateful thanks for your EXCELLENT talk. I didn't really realise how many Buddy fans there were in the Oddfellows! He has gone, but will never, ever be forgotten and his music will live on forever.

Clive Tayler

I look forward to the E-mag every Saturday. **MCC**

Thank you for your weekly update which I find interesting. **AB**

Well done once again for providing us with stimulating weekend reading. **AC**

Thank you for all the brilliant newsletters. **EC**

Weekly e-magazine – available to all North London District members online

Another great mag. Full of so many great articles, quizzes and poems. Charlie Boswell's article brought back my memories of 1963. Brrr it was cold!

Chris Ramsay

Many thanks for e-mag 42. I wasn't sleeping too well so at about 3am on Saturday I stealthily took myself to the study happy that I wouldn't disturb my wife and son. The best laid schemes o' mice an' men etc certainly did go awry for as I looked at your joke page there was one about a bloke having no ears having pig ears transplants.

When I read the punchline about having crackling in the right ear I suddenly exploded with laughter and not only did I disturb my household but I feel that my neighbours had an early morning alarm call as well! Some interesting features this week (E-Mag 44) and I personally found the poem by Jackie Ingleby-Douglass ('Don't Look Under The Bed') so evocative as it addresses the children of every generation and gives comfort to so many who are troubled by thoughts of non-existent nasties. How many of us, when small, dreaded being sent to bed and would turn the light back on as soon as Mum left the room? The new feature 'Building an Archive of Oddfellows Memories' provided plenty of interest and I congratulate Colin Jenner for his detailed recollection of his own Branch meetings and the archival information of his parents and other relations involvement with their Oddfellows Branches.

Alan Coombe

I really enjoyed the Kinks article by Stuart Delvin in the latest e-mag. I went to see Sunny Afternoon with my 81 year old aunt and we both loved it. At the end of the show, all the audience got up and danced. We all felt 17 again, but the cast must have looked down and just saw a load of pensioners! Alan Coombes' account of his evacuation had me enthralled - especially when I thought of all these 13 year olds melting lead! and I continue to enjoy Ralphie's, I am waiting to hear what happened to Billy... Thank you to the contributors for all the puzzles, quizzes and jokes, and for all your work.

Brenda Thomason

Penfellows©

Find a new Penfriend with the Oddfellows

Penfellows© can help you fulfil some joyous moments and make two people happy: You and your Penfellow©.

Did you enjoy writing to a penfriend? Penfellows© is for members to rekindle those feelings and memories and help you to make new friends with other Oddfellows members.

To find your new penpal, simply write a short note about yourself and post it to Paul Fitton (see contact details on page 3).

Penfellow 101

I am a 48 years old male living in North West London. I would like to have a Penfellow who is female and who is about my age or younger. I work for the Civil Service and am interested in reading, writing, public speaking, swimming, cycling, walking as well as watching films and gardening. The subjects I read about are quite wide ranging from current affairs, religion, geography, nature as well as Indian and English and other cultures. I enjoy meeting new people and learning about their hobbies and lifestyles and feel that this broadens my outlook on life.

Penfellow 104

I am interested in having new pen friends. I love writing and receiving letters. I write to about 10 pen friends but the more the merrier. Generally I love travelling, dancing going to watch musicals and meeting new friends - all of which are on hold for this year. I also enjoy walking and was able to do lots of that during lockdown.

I also enjoy guiding blind and partially sighted people on holidays and that is so rewarding - again that is on hold until next year. I work for a Hospice as a Shop Manager. I look forward to receiving a letter or two.

Penfellow 106

I live by the south coast and my main hobby is bowls.

Penfellow 109

I am an independent lady, 79 years old and have been a widow for many years. I live in north London and came to this country from Jamaica in the 60s.

I enjoy walking, gardening and doing crosswords. I love to watch documentaries and current affair programmes. I would love to hear from anyone over 60, male or female.

Penfellow 108

I am a 76 year old male who has been single for a number of years. I live on the London/Kent border. I would like to have a Penfellow who is female and around 70 years old. I am a retired decorator, which I did for around 25 years, working for myself.

My interests include short country walks, nature programmes, swimming, watching a good film, having a meal out from time to time watered down with a glass of Shiraz. I consider myself to be a good mixer. I would be happy to attempt to start conversation with a complete stranger. I enjoy a wide range of music, including music from the sixties, orchestral and songs from shows.

Penfellow 118

I am a female in my 60's and have just recently retired. I have various hobbies which are painting, quilting and sewing. I like to be creative hence, I enjoy designing and making knitwear garments, using my precious Knitting Machine. I am a member of a local walking group which I enjoy while exploring the hidden history of the local area on our journeys. Gone the days when we use to receive a hand written letter in the post. It would be nice to revisit the pen to paper communication once again.

Penfellow 110

I am a lady in my sixties, living with arthritis. I try to keep as active and cheerful as possible, which has been challenging for everyone of late! I enjoy reading and walking. I like animals and have a cat. Because I have tinnitus, talking on the phone is difficult, which is why I would really value the opportunity to exchange letters with a friend.

It's a shame that we've lost the art of writing letters, as it is such a pleasure to see a handwritten envelope on your doormat and know that it's a letter from a friend and not just another bill!

Penfellow 115

My particular interests are Girlguiding, Tennis, U3A. I have been a Guide for 75 years. I was a Brownie Guider for 25 years and am now a member of Trefoil Guild. Having always been an avid tennis player but have had to give up recently due to the onset of spinal stenosis but my husband and I follow the major tournaments on the television. Pre Covid I went to the Leisure Centre regularly for aerobics in lieu of short tennis. I now do aerobics with Oddfellows via Zoom. I am a member of Maidenhead U3A and am convenor for their Advanced German group. I have had a lifelong interest in the German language. I am also a member of the U3A.

Branches raise over £145,000 for good causes in 2020

A big part of the Oddfellows is about giving back. We're run by our members, for our members, and that means providing them with the support they, their friends, family and communities may need.

The societal impact of the worldwide pandemic and nationwide lockdowns truly showed us the importance of coming together as a community. And despite many facing funding and resource crises themselves, charitable organisations stepped up to play a huge part in helping people to get through the struggles of last year.

To show our continued support, our UK Branches raised £145,742.59 for good causes in 2020.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "In one way or another, we've all needed somebody to lean on at various points during the pandemic, so it's wonderful to see how our Branches and members have been helping their local communities and good causes."

Oddfellows Branches and members also made significant contributions to Society fundraising initiatives during the past year, such as our Coronavirus Emergency

Appeal, in which £19,210 was raised to split between The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust.

Our 115 UK Branches regularly donate to a long list of local organisations and charities. From supporting homeless shelters through to funding public defibrillators, they work tirelessly to help make their towns great places to live for people of all ages, from all walks of life. Here are a few examples...

Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Sponsored a local mum with £550 who was raising money for the Children with Cancer charity by running a marathon across town. Every day, 12 families are given the heartbreaking news that their child has cancer, and CWC funds over 60 research projects which all work towards giving children the very best chance of survival.



Mid-Staffordshire Oddfellows

donated £1,000 to Midland Air Ambulance Charity, which has air bases in Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, and provides emergency care in hard-to-reach places.



North Gloucestershire Oddfellows

donated £6,000 to Merton House Hotel to get it back on its feet after early closures in 2020 due to government restrictions. Merton House Hotel offers respite and convalescence care to a number of Oddfellows members.

The Great Berkhamstead District

donated £2,000 to a local school last year that runs a charity called "No Child Without". Many children were left at a disadvantage following school closures, due to a lack of access to tablets and laptops at home. No Child Without makes sure that every child has the basic necessities to learn, no matter their background.

Nene and Welland Oddfellows

raised £1,000, plus £400 worth of food and bedding for the Exotic Pet Refuge, which runs entirely on public donations to support its menagerie of wolves, snakes, monkeys and meerkats – to name a few!



Leigh and Bolton Oddfellows

donated £500 to Bolton Hospice, which offers local support for people with life-limiting or terminal illnesses. The hospice costs £4 million per year to provide its specialist care.

If there's a cause close to your heart which you'd like to support, have a chat with your local Branch Secretary, and share some of your fundraising ideas with them.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards 2020

Each year, we offer members who are undertaking an apprenticeship the opportunity to apply for a financial grant to help them with their training. Applications are open from March each year, until 31 December, and of those who apply, three members are selected by our Fraternal Board to receive £250 for every year of their studies.

Meet our 2021 Apprenticeship Educational Award Winners!

Fenton Gaymer, 16, is completing a plumbing apprenticeship at Gayges Ltd in Swanley, Kent, through Bexley College.

He says: "I'm really excited to start my career in plumbing. It's an essential service and I feel that there will always be a need for plumbers. An apprenticeship is a great way to begin a career, as it offers the opportunity to earn a wage whilst learning a skill, meaning that when I'm fully qualified, I'll be able to get started straight away."

Jack Lockwood, 18, is completing an apprenticeship in Carpentry with Alan Bender Ltd in Colchester, through the Colchester Institute.

He says: "I'm hoping to put as much of it as I can towards a van and some tools to help me get set up in the trade."



Fenton, Jack and Rhianna

My Grandad was a carpenter, but I really got into woodwork at school. It's always satisfying to see a project from start to finish, and feel proud that you've created it yourself."

Rhianna Lees, 17, is completing an apprenticeship in Manufacturing Engineering at Rolls Royce in Derby, through the University of Sheffield.

She says: "I'm extremely grateful for the award. It will go a long way in helping me to purchase essential course textbooks. My mum's always encouraged me and my twin brother to dream big and go for what we want. She's really made me who I am today."

We also offer Educational Awards for members who are undertaking their first University Degree. If you'd like to be considered for our First Degree Course Educational Awards, contact your Branch Secretary for an application form. The deadline is 31 August each year, and member eligibility applies.

Peak District Friendship Tour

Oddfellows Travel is hosting a special three night guided tour of the Peak District. All members and their guests are invited.



Staying at HF Holiday's Peveril of the Peak Country House Hotel, in Dovedale. You'll get the chance to explore some of the Peak District's signature attractions.

For further information
contact tour host Mike Hall:
0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224)
travel@oddfellows.co.uk

3 – 6 September 2021
From £355 per person

Full board – single rooms available



To find out more about Oddfellows Travel
visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel



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

At a glance

June 2021

Fri 11 Blasts from the Past 2pm

Tues 15 An Afternoon of Jackie's Poetry 4pm

Fri 18 John Scott Cree's Christmas Special 2pm

Tues 22 Art Unscrewed 4pm

Fri 25 Eric Sykes - What a Life! 2pm

Tues 29 60s Karaoke 4pm

July

Fri 2 Cybercrime; Frauds and Scams 2pm

Tues 6 Cheese Presentation and Sampling 4pm

Fri 9 Bruges - It's more than just chocolate 2pm

Tues 13 Doberman 4pm

Fri 16 Tears of a Clown 2pm

Tues 20 My Uncle Bill died in WWII, but who killed him? 4pm

Fri 23 Aristocrats of the Air 2pm

Tues 27 Art Unscrewed 4pm

Fri 30 The Birds is Here! 2pm

August

Tues 3 The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword 4pm

Fri 6 Johnny Clamp Reveals All! 2pm

August

Tues 10 The World's Most Iconic Photos 4pm

Fri 13 Ostend - It's more than just fish and flip-flops 2pm

Tues 17 Chocolate Presentation and Tasting 4pm

Fri 20 First Dates for Guinea Pigs 2pm

Tues 24 Art Unscrewed 4pm

Fri 27 Secret London 2pm

Tues 31 Seaglass 4pm

September - Friendship Month

Fri 3 Johnny Clamp Reveals Even More 2pm

Fri 10 The Life of Captain Newton 2pm

Fri 17 Melanie Gibson-Barton 2pm

Fri 24 Life of Charles Waterton 2pm

Tues 28 Art Unscrewed 4pm



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