



the
ODDFELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Coventry Godiva News and Views

This is your newsletter and we are reliant on you for newsworthy items plus other matters of interest, so please do keep sending in your ideas. Maybe you enjoyed one of our many social events and would care to write a paragraph about it in order to encourage others to attend? Maybe you have something that you would like to share: a recipe, joke or celebration? All items are gratefully received. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Christine Luckett

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Coventry's Remembrance Parade 2019

The people of Coventry and Warwickshire paid tribute on Remembrance Sunday by honouring the service personnel who have died in conflict since the beginning of the First World War.

Across the country Oddfellows paid tribute in their own way but in Coventry the War Memorial Park came to a halt as the Armed Forces Parade arrived to honour the fallen service personnel. Hearts were filled both with pride and sorrow as members of the Coventry Godiva District Lodge marked Remembrance Sunday. Members from Deeside, Bury St Edmunds and Colchester and Derby Districts came and joined the Coventry Godiva District members as they went on parade to the War Memorial Park.

Grand Master of the Order Brother David Randall said; "The hospitality Sister Diana and myself received from our visit to the Coventry Godiva District Lodge Dinner was second to none. It was such a pleasure to be with friends who made sure we had a wonderful night.

We stayed over to be present at the Coventry Remembrance Service and were invited to join the Branch members in the Parade and felt so proud seeing the Branch Banner being carried for all to see. Also laying of the Branch Wreaths by Brother Matthew and Myself along with the Immediate Past President of the Midland Group Conference Sister Kerry Luckett proved to be very moving. We will cherish the memories of our time spent with the Coventry Godiva District Lodge and thank you for inviting us".



The District and Group Conference Poppy Wreaths

District Annual Dinner and Dance

Forty-eight members and friends attended our District Annual Dinner and Dance at the Strawberry Bank Hotel, Meriden where an excellent time was had by all. The dinner was being held in honour of the Provincial Grand Master Brother Matthew Redmond.

After a fan fare entrance for the Provincial Grand Master and his top table guests which included the Grand Master of the Order Brother David Randall, we sat down to a wonderful meal. The staff at the Strawberry Bank Hotel were brilliant, being both helpful and courteous.



Brother Matthew presenting the Grand Master Brother David with his two Wine Glasses

Following the meal, the Grand Master Brother David Randall spoke and various toasts were made.

Before the entertainment commenced, there were some presentations, firstly, by Brother Matthew to Grand Master Brother David in the form of two Crystal Wine Glasses. Following this presentation there were



Good food and good company

further presentations to the consorts on the top table and to Past Grand Master Brother Tony Lockett, who was our Toastmaster for the evening. Our evening of entertainment continued with dancing to music provided by our talented DJ 'Nikkita'.

The raffle raised £296 on the night for John White's Community Centre. A good night was had by all. Thanks also go to Sister Christine Lockett and Sister Kerry Lockett for organising this Annual Event for the Coventry Godiva District Lodge.

Also thanks go to Sister Aidrie Felix, Heart of England District Lodge, who produced the most wonderful Flower Displays.

Thanks also go to the staff at the Strawberry Bank Hotel for an enjoyable evening.



Brother Andrew Hampton replying on behalf of the visitors

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

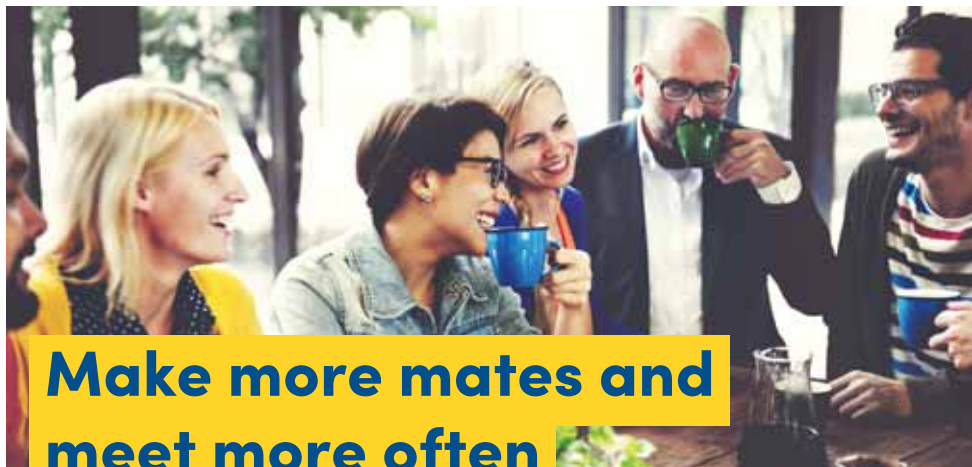
Coventry Godiva Orphans Gift Fund

Sponsored by Coventry Godiva Orphans Fund since 2009, when they were six years old. Now in Year 13 at the WMG Academy, Rhianna has just received an apprenticeship offer from Rolls-Royce to do a degree in Manufacturing Engineering. She is currently studying Engineering and Product Design at the Academy and was part of the academy's winning team in the Royal Navy Engineering Challenge in 2019.

Rhianna said, "It was a good feeling when I finally got the call, as Rolls-Royce was my first choice apprenticeship. "My experience in engineering has really helped. In the assessment centre we were given an aerospace engine and asked to describe how it was made. They were very impressed that I was able to identify things like casting and laser cutting. When they phoned they said I had excelled in the interview as well."



Rhianna Lees who has secured an apprenticeship with top engineering company Rolls-Royce



Make more mates and meet more often

We recently discovered that almost half of adults with significant friends (48%) only get together with them less than once a month.

Our research also shows that a fifth (20%) of GB adults, aged 55 and over, go for at least six months without being socially active. That includes attending things like social events, going to church, or simply grabbing a coffee with a friend.

But by contrast, 83% of the Oddfellows' own members say they spend time with a significant friend once a month or more, with 50% saying they see their good mates at least once a week.

We know how much regular company is essential to living a happier life. In fact, some would say that spending time with friends is as important as eating healthily or exercising. Friends aren't just there to socialise with, they provide support and comfort in times of need.

Most of us make our friends through work, family or education. As we age and our life changes, we have less access to these everyday social opportunities, which can contribute towards social isolation in a huge way.

The YouGov study found that 21% of adults haven't met anyone who became a significant friend in over 10 years. 43% of adults cited work as a place they've met significant friends, followed by during their school and university years (37%), through mutual friends (26%) and through family or children (15%).

If you know somebody who might be in need of a friend, or would benefit from coming along to your next local Oddfellows event, why not bring them along? You can be sure of a warm welcome at your local Branch, and you could really make a difference to somebody's life.

Another BRR-illiant Cruise with the Oddfellows' Active Travel Club



Our members weren't afraid to get up close and personal with some massive icebergs!

With our Active Travel Club, you can explore a variety of different places with friendly faces. Here, Wendy Atkins from the Ipswich Branch of the Oddfellows shares her account of their most recent trip to Iceland and Greenland.

Greenland has a land mass of around one-third the size of Australia, and a total population of just 56,000, which is about the size of Kettering or Macclesfield, and has an average August temperature of 11 degrees Celsius. However, the 16-night Fred. Olsen cruise more than made up for the lack of sunshine. The diary was to be jam-packed with Ukelele lessons, singing in the choir, drawing, dancing and crafting, to name a few! And if that wasn't enough, three quizzes every day would certainly keep us on our toes.

As we left Dover on 7 August, the Captain changed course, due to a large storm about to hit the South-West of England.

So instead of a bumpy start across the Atlantic, we enjoyed calm waters and sunny days as we journeyed up the North Sea, making the most of the ship's activities. We then spent two days in Reykjavik, wandering at leisure, visiting museums and checking out some of the incredible 'moonscape' scenery.

We travelled onto Greenland and the spectacular scenery of Prins Christian Sund, with its craggy peaks, imposing glaciers, waterfalls and icebergs.

Whilst in Greenland, we visited three communities; Qaqortoq (a small village nestled on the edge of the Qoorow Ice Fjord), Narsarsuaq (the site of a WWII USAF air base), and Nanortalik, where the local choir entertained us, and the open air museum gave us an insight into life throughout the seasons. We were extremely fortunate to visit in beautiful weather. It's hard to imagine what life is like there during the harsh winters.

The trip was an amazing experience, and the pictures don't do the sights justice. You'll have to come along with us next time to see for yourself! Thank you to Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines for making such a memorable trip possible.

Where is the Oddfellows Active Travel Club off to next? You can see all of our upcoming holidays at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel, alternatively call Wendy on 01473 251 867, or email wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk

Growth, regulation and climate change: Thoughts from the new AFM Chair, Jane Nelson

In October 2019, our CEO, Jane Nelson, was made Chair of the AFM. Here, we learn more about her role, and the challenges currently facing the industry.

The Oddfellows is a proud member of the Association of Financial Mutuals (AFM), a trade body which supports and represents friendly societies like us, mutual insurers and other financial mutuals across the UK.

Mutuals have been around for hundreds of years, and were originally set up to be run by members, for members, at a time before the NHS and welfare state had been introduced.

Why is it important to have a trade body such as the AFM for the financial mutual sector?

The AFM has significantly changed over the last four years, and while the firms which are now part of the AFM, both longstanding members and new ones, exclude the larger insurance firms and mutuals, our membership looks after an incredible six million policyholders. All our members are different in terms of their business model, but all are regulated and therefore face similar challenges. As a trade body, the AFM can try and influence policy, bringing positive changes to the rules with which our members must comply.



Have there been any recent examples of changes brought about as a result of the AFM's work?

Of course. Quite recently, the regulators listened to us regarding firms having their solvency and financial condition report (SFCR) audited, relaxing their view, which as a result brought savings to firms of £20-50k every year. In addition, with the focus on corporate governance by the regulators, we have now established a wide range of support and training for all our members and their directors, managers and staff to benefit from.



What do you think are the most pressing challenges for AFM members in 2020?

Regulation will remain a challenge. The focus of the regulators, which is to ensure firms look at the viability of their business models, could have a big impact. I believe that the work on climate change and governance, in terms of firms having a vote in the companies in which they invest, will also bring different challenges to the industry in different ways over the next two to three years.

How can the AFM help?

As a trade body we can ensure our members are supported throughout these challenges through providing training and sharing examples of best practice.

What makes you proud about representing the financial mutual sector as Chair?

I am very passionate about mutuality and believe that our industry puts members'

needs first and foremost, however that may manifest itself. For me, being Chair is a privilege, helping to drive forward any necessary changes to truly support our members.

What's your long-term vision for the financial mutual market?

To really bring to life what mutuality means, increasing awareness across the industry, and with the general public. It is important to continually promote the sector to a wider audience, ensuring that all AFM members maintain a high level of governance within our organisations.



Coventry Godiva District Lodge

Annual Dinner and Dance

Saturday 7 November, 6.30pm for 7pm

Menu

Leek and Potato Soup

Or

Crispy Beef Salad

Roasted Chicken Breast, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding
and Stuffing With Red Wine Gravy

Or

British Beef, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding and Stuffing
With Red wine Gravy

Or

Roasted Vegetable Tartlet, Roasted Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding and Stuffing

Apple Crumble and Custard

Or

Raspberry Tart and Chantilly Cream

Coffee and After Dinner Mints

A huge thank you to our big-hearted Branches!

In 2019, our Branches and their members collectively raised a staggering £155,000 for good causes and charities. What a wonderful bunch you are!

And this is on top of support being given to other causes such as the RNLI, the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which has supported various UK medical research projects since 1971, and the Oddfellows' Orphan Gift Fund.

Jane Nelson, Oddfellows CEO, shares how proud she feels to be part of a Society that continually looks at ways it can give back to the community. She says: "You can't go a week on social media without seeing a big cheque being handed over by a Branch to a local charity or good cause. It's so heart-warming to see. And



Prostate Cancer UK received £1,500 from Tunbridge Wells Branch.

then finding out that these kind gestures have amounted to over £155,000, it's simply fantastic. Thank you all for digging deep and doing the best you can to help others in need."

Photos show just a few of the causes that have received your help in 2019.



KIND received £150 from Mersey Branch.



British Heart Foundation received over £1,300 from Great Berkhamstead Branch.

Find out more about how the Society is giving back to its communities at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Financial help to progress your studies and your career



Lisa Sutlow (pictured), a Leodis Branch member and winner of a 2019 First Degree Course Educational Award says: “The Award has allowed me to cut down the hours I work, meaning I can have quiet time during the day to focus on my studies.

I want to be a great example to my two daughters, Isabelle and Harriet, to show them you can achieve anything with hard work and passion. I can't wait to become an occupational therapist, being able to make a difference and help someone every day.”

Are you soon to start your first apprenticeship or your first degree course at university? Remember, all members with five years' continuous membership are invited to apply for an Oddfellows Educational Award. These awards are open to all eligible members, regardless of age.

First Degree Course Educational Award

Each year, we grant up to three First Degree Course Educational Awards consisting of £900 per year for the duration of a student's first degree programme.* To apply, applications should be made via your Branch around April, with judging taking place in September.

Apprenticeship Educational Award

Each year, we grant up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards consisting of £250 per year for the duration (maximum three years) of a member's apprenticeship.* To apply for the 2019 Apprenticeship Educational Awards, applications should be made via your Branch no later than 31 March 2020 for consideration in April 2020. For the 2020 Apprenticeship Awards, you need to apply via your Branch around September 2020. Judging will take place in February 2021.

*Young Oddfellows membership is taken into consideration. To check your eligibility and to see the full terms and conditions of this benefit, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs.

Say hello to our newest travel offer partner – Leger Holidays!

We're delighted that Leger Holidays is now offering Oddfellows members an exclusive 5% discount* on any booking with them!

Fully bonded with ABTA/ATOL, they've 35 years in the travel business, and offer escorted tours of Europe and worldwide by luxury coach, rail, cruise and air.

Door-to-door service

We're also thrilled that Leger Holidays now offers a door-to-door service on all coach holidays, whatever the duration. This is great news if struggling to get to coach pick-ups has put you off in the past.

*T&Cs apply. To redeem the offer, you need to quote a special discount code when booking.



To access this, log into the members' section of **www.oddfellows.co.uk**, and go to the travel offers page. Alternatively, call **0161 832 9361** and ask to speak to the Active Travel Club team, or email **travel@oddfellows.co.uk**. Please check Leger Holiday's terms and conditions before booking. You can find them at **www.leger.co.uk**.

Receive news of Warner's last-minute offers by email



We're just one of a few organisations who still gets sight of Warner Leisure Hotel's list of last-minute offers. And we're happy to forward it on to any member who'd like to see it. The email's sent weekly by our Active Travel Club team and features discounts on breaks happening in the following few weeks.

If you're up for a bit of spontaneity and want to receive a copy, send your name and Oddfellows membership number to **travel@oddfellows.co.uk** with the subject 'Late Deals'.

Remember, you can unsubscribe at any time and we will never share your details with any third parties without your consent. That's a promise.

Getting the right social care support – challenging refusals, diversions and delays

It's an all too common conversation over our Care and Welfare Helpline. Members, and their families, want to find out what social care support they're entitled to and, having requested or had a needs or carer's assessment from their local council, they're facing refusals, diversions or delays.

“We often find that members are having to deal with such setbacks during times of crisis,” said Andrea Libman of the Oddfellows' Care and Welfare team. “This makes it more likely to be confused about what you're entitled to, know where you're up to with decisions, and what you're to do next.

“My single biggest piece of advice is to find out about your entitlements. We can help you with that. Secondly, it's to get support if you need it, to help you make progress.”

How to take positive action

- **Keep notes.** From day one, keep a record of who you spoke to, what they agreed to do, any deadlines and the date and time of the call. This will help you to know where things are up to.
- **Get decisions in writing.** Social services should write to you about any decisions they make, such as a care and support plan, the outcome of a financial assessment to determine care cost contributions, or a decision about a disabled facilities grant for home adaptations.



- **Make a complaint.** If you can't informally resolve a complaint, use the council's official complaint process. When submitting a complaint, it's essential to set out each issue clearly, explain what has or hasn't happened and what outcomes you're seeking.
- **Contact the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.** If you're not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint, escalate it to the Ombudsman. If you pay for your own care, you can take your complaint to the Ombudsman if you've exhausted your care provider's complaints process.

Are you in this situation and need some support? We'll help where we can. Call the Care and Welfare Helpline on **0800 0149 822**. Lines are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4pm on Friday. The 0800 number is free to call from landlines and mobiles. You can also email care@oddfellows.co.uk.

Convalescence and Carer Support

When recovering after a hospital stay, an illness, operation, accident, bereavement or traumatic experience, or if caring for someone who is, it can be tough, and where we can, we want to be there for our members at such times of need.

Our Convalescence and Carer benefits are available to members after two years of membership and can be accessed every other year if qualifying medically, or as a carer.

Convalescence Home Benefit* offers a short break of up to two weeks (or two one-week breaks within 12-months of each other) to help you recover. Travel expenses at an agreed rate are also included, but we cannot pay travel expenses for the second week of the break if it is taken at a later date. Another Oddfellows member can also accompany you as a carer (using their own benefit entitlements) providing they too have been a member for a full two years or more.

The Society's four main partner facilities are Bridge House, Dawlish, Yorkshire Foresters Convalescent Home, Bridlington, Merton House Hotel, Ross-on-Wye and The Salfordian Hotel, Southport.

There may be a small excess for you to pay at some facilities and at certain times of year if our benefit allowance does not cover the full cost of the stay. Specialist facilities, offering personal or nursing care, are considerably more costly so a shorter stay may be appropriate. Any excesses will be highlighted to you prior to your stay and extra help may also be available towards this excess, such as from the Friendly Societies Convalescent Scheme.

Convalescence Care Benefit* is for situations when a convalescence stay away from home is not suitable, for instance, if you are not well enough to travel or are undergoing treatment. Instead, we can help on a short-term basis with up to 30 hours care and support at home or in some circumstances, other services or equipment to support recovery.

Where possible, we use the services of our partner agency Home Instead Senior Care who provide a wide range of options such as personal care, companionship, home help or shopping. We normally need at least two weeks' notice to put these arrangements in place before a care service begins.

Carer's Respite Benefit* is for the main carer of someone who is ill or disabled, and who needs a well-earned break. Your stay can be either in one of our partner convalescence facilities, a UK hotel or short UK package break of your choice, subject to our approval. Alternatively, we can pay for the person you care for to stay somewhere that provides the level of care they require, or arrange care for them at home.

Please contact your Branch Secretary for an application form. All bookings are made through the Oddfellows' Care and Welfare Department so you should not contact the facilities directly.

*** 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/members-tcs**



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 Christine on **024 76632900** or email **christine.luckett@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.