



the
Oddfellows
making friends, helping people

SINCE 1810

Summer 2020 | Issue 16
www.oddfellows.co.uk

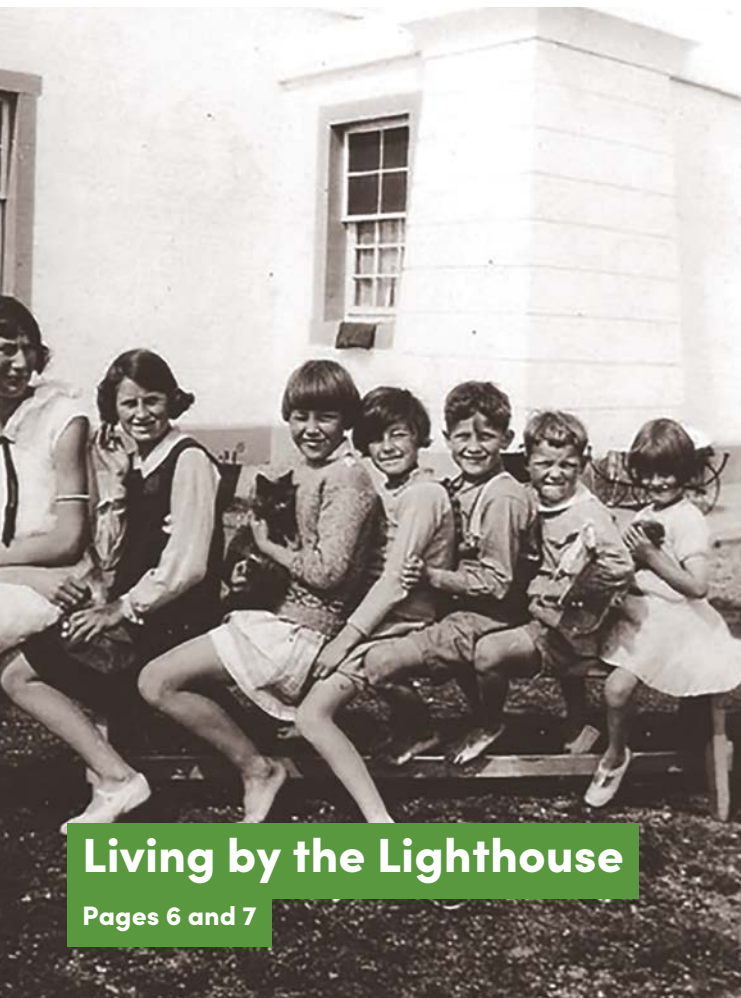
St Marnock News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

Book Club Update
Page 5

Citizen Advice
Pages 8 and 9

**Time to say
"Thank you"**
Page 11



Living by the Lighthouse

Pages 6 and 7



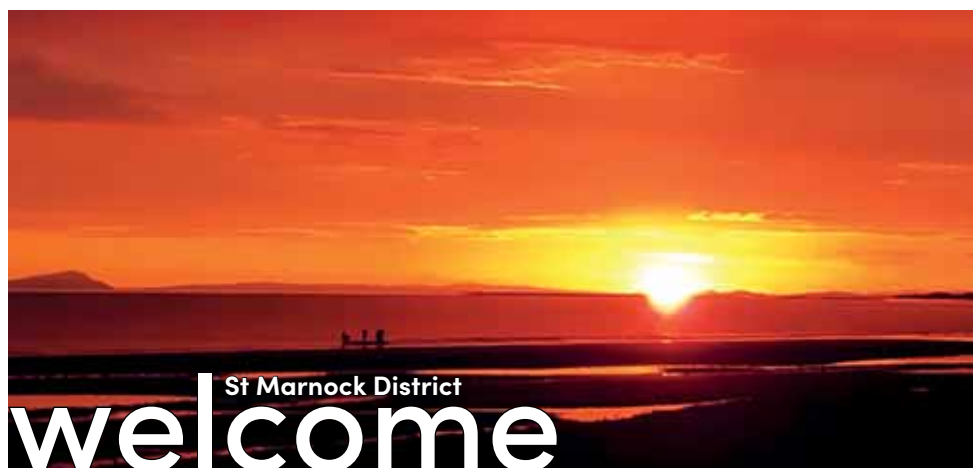
West of Scotland



**Scottish Places
and buildings**



Our emergency appeals



Welcome to this slightly unusual newsletter!

As I'm sure you are aware, since lockdown in March all our events were cancelled and unfortunately, we have not been able to keep in touch with everyone as often as we would have previously. I do hope you are all coping okay with spending more time at home and seeing less of your family, friends and each other. It will, I'm sure, have been more difficult and lonely time for some of us.

I'm pleased to say that there has been a good uptake for some of the online events, quizzes and games organised over the last few months. However, I am aware that not everyone wants or has internet access, so it has been more difficult to reach out and keep in touch with all our members.

Also, for our members from the East, I only have email addresses of a few who have previously attended some of our events in the West, therefore many of you

Contact Details

District Secretary: David Stewart
Telephone: 01563 572727

Treasurer/Assistant Secretary:
Yvonne Rice
T: 01563 572727
E: yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk

Events Organiser East of Scotland:
Amanda Fraser
T: 07729 563538
E: amanda.fraser@oddfellows.co.uk

Events Organiser West of Scotland:
Shirley Macmillan
T: 07748 328319
E: shirley.macmillan@oddfellows.co.uk

District Address: 1 Howard Street,
Kilmarnock,
Ayrshire KA1 2BW

will have had very little contact from us over the last few months. If any member reading this has email access and would like to receive information for any future online events, you are very welcome to message me and I will add you to my contact mailing list until our monthly events resume.

As there has not been much happening for us over the last six months to update you on, I have sourced some articles for the newsletter which I hope you enjoy or find helpful. Hopefully, we can all meet up safely in the near future, in the meantime, please keep safe and enjoy a good Scottish summer!

Best wishes, Shirley



Social distancing doesn't mean no socials...

One of the great things about the Oddfellows is sharing good times with friends.

Although we can't see each other face to face right now, we're doing lots of great stuff online.



Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/ to find out what's on this week or contact your local Branch.

What's been happening in the West of Scotland

Our first event of the year started in January with a lovely lunch in Mharsanta, a well know Scottish Restaurant in Glasgow. We then enjoyed a very informative visit to the Glasgow Police Museum.

Alistair, our tour guide was an ex Glasgow Police Officer and his pride and knowledge of the force was evident. Alistair is the main curator of the museum and over time have gathered an amazing collection of police memorabilia from not only the Glasgow Police Force, but from many other forces from around the world.

Alistair also entertained us with lots of interesting facts and stories of some of the incidents and famous cases that the police had been involved in.



Our next outing was a guided tour of EDF Hunterston Power Station, where after a rigorous security briefing we were allowed access to the building housing the main nuclear reactor. Due to the strict security, we had four guides with us throughout the tour, all of them were very knowledgeable about not only the site but also the physics involved in the making of nuclear energy.



We later went for lunch at Nardini's Café in Largs, where most of us opted for their famous fish and chips, which were delicious and just what was needed as it was pretty cold and blowy day.



The next event planned was to be the group holiday to Holland, Germany and Belgium in March, sadly due to Covid-19 this was cancelled, which was a big disappointment for many of us.

Book Club Update

The book club which was set up by members from the East of Scotland Branch has been going for just over a year. There are currently eight members and up until Covid-19, met monthly in an Edinburgh Café. We have adapted to the situation and are now mostly Zooming.



The books are suggestions from members in the group, so there has been quite an eclectic range of reading. For example:

Historical - Lady Constance Lytton (suffragette)

Biographical - An Enduring Love, My Life With The Shah

Psychological - Blacklands

Light fun - No 1 Lady's Detective Agency

Quirky - A Man Called Ove

Plus various thriller crime stories too!

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please just contact either Shirley or Yvonne and they will pass on your details to us.

Irene Lavery (Member)

Jokes

A jumper I bought was picking up static electricity, so I took it back to the shop. They gave me another, free of charge.

Tooting Ted was travelling with his new girlfriend to meet his parents, when her car got a flat tyre.

Ted rang his mum to tell her that they were going to be late as his girlfriend had a puncture. She said, "Oh dear. I thought you had a real one this time".

I accidentally left the gas on yesterday and caused an explosion in our house. The wife went through the roof.

I've heard that crocodiles can grow up to 15 feet - but I've only ever seen one with four.

Mary says:

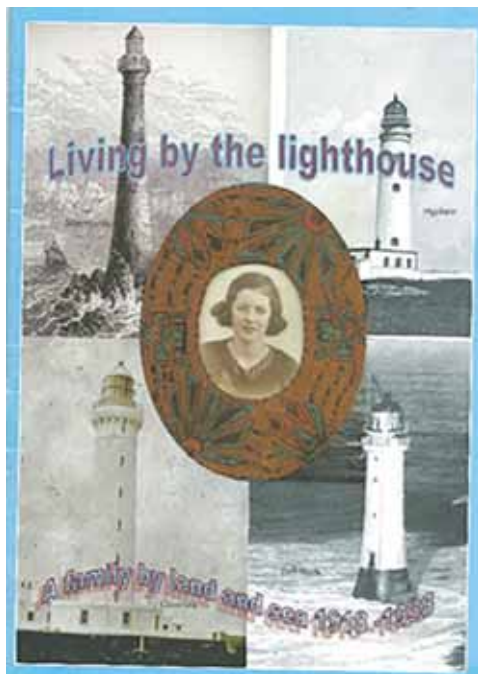
"I say, I say, I say. What do you call a bull that falls asleep? A Bulldozer".

"I say, I say, I say. Why won't the leopard play hide and seek? Because he's always spotted!"

"I say, I say, I say. What job did Noah do? He was an arc-welder".

Living by the Lighthouse

Produced by Lorna Hanwell from her mother's memoirs



Oddfellows North London District member Lorna Hanwell from Norwich, writes that she is the granddaughter of William Cordiner, a Scottish lighthouse keeper.

Lorna's late mother Margaret (nee Cordiner) often told stories of her life in her 'lighthouse family' with her four siblings during the 1920s and '30s'.

In the late 1980s, Lorna asked her mother to write down some childhood memories so they wouldn't be forgotten.

Margaret started to fill a notebook, breaking her account into four 'chapters', from her birth on the tiny island of Erraid near Mull, with its population of around 30 people, nearly all of them lighthouse families attached to the Skerryvore or Dubh Artach lights. The island children went to 'school' in an end of terrace cottage, presided over by one teacher. The schoolteacher's job was a challenging one, because although her class was small, the children's ages ranged from four to 11.

Lorna Hanwell, Margaret Cordiner's daughter, edited her late mum's memories into a 40 page booklet illustrated with family photographs taken on Erraid, in Oban (the next place to which the family was transferred), at Covesea near Lossiemouth and at Arbroath.

After Erraid, the next stage of Margaret's life, in Oban, got off to a rocky start. The family of five children, having lived an isolated, island existence, picked up all kinds of illnesses on their arrival in the little seaside town. Margaret and her sister Helen had to spend six weeks together in the town's hospital; they had caught scarlet fever. Their mother, Ina, visited when she could, but the children, in isolation, could only look at her through the ward windows. Their mother would wave at them - no mobile phones in those days and she would hide sweets in the garden

outside for them to find when they were allowed out for fresh air.

The next posting for the children's father, William Cordiner was Covesea Lighthouse near Lossiemouth. Margaret was 10 by now and big enough to be helpful to her busy mother, Ina. Margaret and her sister Helen were tasked with taking turns to carry their dad's supper up the winding lighthouse stairs (Covesea Lighthouse was a 'shore station') to the lightroom at the top when their father was on evening duty. The girls didn't like this job; the traipse up the spiral stairs felt spooky in the dark and the beam from the torch they carried cast strange, scary shadows on the brasswork. They were nervous of lurking ghosts.

The family home and the lighthouse were on the beach at Covesea and the children walked three miles along the sands to Lossiemouth School in summer. Sometimes they saw Joyful and Teeny, an eccentric father and daughter, whom



'Bell Rock' was the final lighthouse in Margaret Cordiner's young life. This was her father's workplace from 1933.

lived in a cave on the beach close by the lighthouse. It was a 'rock station', several miles out in the sea. Meanwhile, the family lived ashore at Arbroath, the nearest town.

The family was growing up by this time and on one occasion their father William, arranged for a fisherman to bring his three daughters - Enie (the eldest), Margaret and Helen, along with Enie's fiancé, to the lighthouse for tea. This involved a very choppy fishing boat journey during which Enie was sick and on arrival, after clambering on to the rock, she and the others had to climb a vertical ladder at the side of the lighthouse to the door at which their father was waiting to welcome them.

Sadly, in 1937, Bell Rock Lighthouse indirectly caused William Cordiner's death. He fell ill with appendicitis. Terrible winter weather and stormy seas meant that his two fellow 'keepers' on the lighthouse could do very little to help, beyond radioing for a rescue which was not possible while the storm raged. Eventually, William was rescued by lifeboat and 'bo'sun's chair' and finally taken to hospital in Arbroath, but sadly he died there some weeks later. News of the World 'splashed' the dramatic story.

Lorna's booklet of her mother's memories is, priced at £3.50 and can be requested by emailing lorna.hanwell@gmail.com or by post enclosing your own address and a £3.50 cheque made out to Lorna Hanwell, 439 Earlham Road, Norwich NR4 7HL.

Citizen Advice

Dedicated Citizens Advice Support

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.

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 matters – if you need help to understand your legal rights, they can help you with issues such as how the courts work, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme or even appealing a parking ticket.

We also have a Care and Welfare Helpline members can call on **0800 0149 822**.

Our Care Team have a wealth of knowledge about a wide range of statutory organisations, charities and volunteer groups that give care and welfare support, which we're happy to share with members and help where we can.

The Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line* can help you to work out your entitlements on many Covid-related issues, eg if you're struggling to live on less money because of the pandemic, or you're off work caring for someone who is normally looked after another way. This might be because your child's school is closed or an older person's carer can't come.

**Lines are open Monday to Friday,
9.30am to 4.30pm.**

Members can call **0800 0149 821** (free from any landline or mobile) or email **oddfellows@manchestercab.org**.

Disclaimer: Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all the advice it provides. 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.

*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



Scottish Places and buildings

Name the places and building

See back page for answers



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.

Time to say “Thank you!”



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

Jane Nelson, CEO, says, “Oddfellows has its own very special brand of friendship which goes a long way in helping our members through some difficult times, and these past few weeks have been extremely difficult for so many people. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Branches and all our volunteers for the fantastic way that they all rose to the challenge, and we can't thank them enough for their efforts.”

As with other local organisations supporting older or vulnerable people, including many who live alone or who

are shielding, our volunteers make a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as making welfare check-in calls, organising essential shopping and providing company through befriending and online events.

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

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

Our emergency appeals

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



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

We're pleased to tell you that the total amount raised by our members was £7,600. This money has gone directly to those affected, to help rebuild communities and provide valuable support.

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



We'd love to see you at our online events

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

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

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



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

Facebook is another option. Lots of Branches have their own Facebook page updated regularly with events, news, fun quizzes and a little bit of humour to keep us smiling through these tough times. If you haven't liked your local Oddfellows page yet, get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ask for the link.

Oddfellows Travel Unveiled

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

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

protected, so you can be confident your booking is in good hands.

When you're thinking about taking your next trip, don't forget to look at what we have to offer. Whether you're a foodie, a culture vulture or a history buff, we hope to have a holiday that you'll love.

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

Boredom Busters

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

Anagrams – rearrange the letters to guess the word!

Doledwolfs

Henisfirpd

Clodkonw

Behpmimers

Beefnits

Riddles

Can you guess the answers to these quarrelsome questions?

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

Where is the ping pong ball?



Dingbats

What's this well-known phrase?

E Y E S

Answers:

Where is the ping pong ball? (C)
 Riddle: 1. An egg, 2. Your age!, 3. Are you asleep?, 4. Your name
 Dingbats: Eyes wide open
 Anagrams: Oddfellows, Friendship, Lockdown, Membership, Benefits

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 Yvonne Rice on **01563 572727** or email yvonne.rice@oddfellows.co.uk.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

Scottish Places and buildings on page 10

1. Glasgow Riverside Museum
2. Dumfries House
3. Balmoral
4. Isle of Mull
5. The Armadillo, Glasgow
6. The Kelpies
7. Queensferry Bridge, Edinburgh
8. Eilean Donan
9. Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
10. The Old Course, St Andrews
11. Blair Atholl
12. Glasgow University Cloisters.

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

Refer a friend today

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



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

Ref 1644

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.

"We've a really friendly and supportive online network of thousands of Oddfellows members from across the UK and the world," explained the Society Social Media team. "Our official Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated, often daily, with topical national Oddfellows and Branch news. We also love reading your comments and posts!"

Find us at  **OddfellowsUK**

 **OddfellowsUK**

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB