

September - December 2021
Autumn Issue



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

out & about

Making friends across Beds and Bucks District



All Hallows Church, Wellingborough



Travel



Social



Games



Dining Out



Music



Talks



Quizzes



Tasting Event



Walk



Theatre



Meeting



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea

www.oddfellows.co.uk



OddfellowsBedfordshireBuckinghamshire



Celebratory Luncheon – Saturday 23 October

Welcome to our latest newsletter and to what feels like new beginnings

For some of us the past year has been more difficult than others. I have heard the phrase ‘we’re all in the same boat’ banded about quite a lot, which we are, however some of us have dinghies whilst others are in yachts.

Onwards and upward, with these lovely summer evenings and sunnier skies, Branches have begun planning face to face meetings and events. So whether you are in a dinghy or yacht,

make the most of your Oddfellows Branch. We have lost so much time already there really is not a moment to lose.

The London Marathon date is getting close and I am on track with my training. All things being equal I will be able to share my experience with you in the next newsletter.

Stay safe and I hope to see you at Branch events soon.

Yours fraternally

Doreen

Who are the Oddfellows?

The Beds and Bucks District is a group of four Branches across Bedfordshire, Buckingham, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. Each branch has a monthly business meeting and as many social events as they can fit in. Through friendship and social events we help our members to get more enjoyment out of life. With the help of the Unity office in Manchester we offer care and support in times of need. We welcome every one of all ages – our youngest member being four months and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call on 0800 028 1810 or the Branch Secretaries.

Branch Contacts

District Secretary: Doreen Sams

116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ

Telephone: 07707 818001 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Bedford Loyal Bedford Branch

Secretary: Amanda Buckmaster

The office can be contacted on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

Telephone: 01234 768914 **Email:** amanda.buckmaster@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday each month at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB at 7.45pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Buckingham Loyal Grenville Branch

Secretary: Doreen Sams

116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ

Telephone: 01280 822399 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the first Monday each month at Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP at 7pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Hitchin Loyal Albert Branch

Secretary: Helen Lindsey

8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP

Telephone: 01462 432321 **Email:** helen.lindsey@oddfellows.co.uk.

The Branch meets at 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm. If you would like to come along to any of our events or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary.

Wellingborough Loyal Victoria Branch

Secretary: Emily Ellis

19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL

Telephone: 01933 228538 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

The Branch meets at 19 Sanders Road, Finedon Road Industrial Estate, Wellingborough NN8 4NL on the second Monday of each month. We commence at 7.30pm with a short business meeting followed by an activity. The Branch also meets on one afternoon each month depending on the members choice of activity. If you would like to come along or need more details please contact the Branch Secretary. A warm welcome awaits you.

Key: The coloured dates relate to our four Branches, see page 3 for details.

September 2021 – Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON 06 **Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering**



12 noon



Free



Welcome back everyone. The first of our regular monthly meetings at our new time. Join friends and members for a business meeting and enjoy a lite bite afterwards. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

TUES 07 **Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning**



10am



Free



We are delighted to be back in the Buckingham Library for our monthly bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles and coffee morning. Join members and friends for a chat and help raise funds for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity and our nominated local charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

WED
08

Coffee Morning



11am



£2.50



Come and join the members and friends of the Loyal Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



MON
13

Victoria Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. All welcome. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

September 2021 – Friendship Month

SAT
18

Friendship Month Dinner



7pm



£20



Come and join us for an evening meal. Order from the extensive menu on the night and pay at the pub. Costs depend on what you order. All are welcome please let the Branch Secretary know so she can book enough tables. Overstone Manor, Ecton Road, Sywell, Northants NN6 0BB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

WED
22

Coffee Morning



11am



£2.50



Come and join the members and friends of the Loyal Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

October

MON
04

Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering



12 noon



Free



Join members and friends for a Branch meeting and lite bite. The Monday 4 to Sunday 10 October is world space week and Rob will join us and enlighten us with the latest in space travel. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

TUES
21

Shop and Lunch at the Buckingham Garden Centre



11am



Free



Join members and friends at this independent family run garden centre in Buckingham. We will meet at 11am for an hours shopping and have lunch at 12 noon. Book by Friday 17 September. Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



October

TUES 05 Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Pop down to the Buckingham Library for our monthly bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles and coffee morning. Join members for a chat and help raise funds for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity and our nominated local charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

MON 11 Victoria Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. All welcome. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

SAT 23 Celebratory Luncheon



12 noon for
12.30pm



As per
menu



Beds and Bucks District invites you to Celebratory Luncheon in honour of the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Michael McStaw. Guest of honour Barbara Needham, Deputy Grand Master of the Order (Deputy Chairman of the Order). The Bell Hotel, Market Square, Winslow MK18 3AB. For more information and tickets please contact Doreen on 07707 818001 or 07730218723 or email doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk.

TUES 12 Coach Trip to Cambridge



8am



Adults £17
Seniors £16



Join members and friends of the Branch on a coach trip with RB Travel to Cambridge. Enjoy some time around Kings College and maybe enjoy a trip along the Cam. Please contact the Branch Secretary to book your spot. Pick-up points in Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden among others. Book by Thursday 30 September. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



November

MON 01 Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering



12 noon



Free



Did you know that the Oddfellows have supported the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) since 1868 and have funded three lifeboats? Join members and friends for our monthly business meeting and lite bite. Afterward we will find out more about Oddfellows funded lifeboats. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

TUES 02 Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Pop down to the Buckingham Library for our monthly bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles and coffee morning. Join members for a chat and help raise funds for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity and our nominated local charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham Mk18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.



MON 08 Victoria Branch Meeting



7.30pm

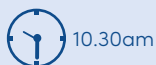


Free



Monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. All welcome. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

TUES 09 Visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring



10.30am



Free



Join members and friends on a visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring. The museum boasts of over 4,900 fascinating specimens in their galleries, we can explore the life of Walter Rothschild as well as the museum's most famous exhibit: The dressed fleas. Book by Monday 1 November. National History Museum Tring, Akeman Street, Tring HP23 6AP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

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November

SUN
14

Coach Trip to Nottingham Winter Wonderland Christmas Market



8am



Adults £18.25
Seniors £17.25



Join members and friends of the Branch on a coach trip with RB Travel to Nottingham Beautiful Christmas market with other attractions. Please contact the Branch Secretary to book your spot. Pick-up points in Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden among others. Book by Sunday 31 October. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.

December

MON
06

Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering



12 noon



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly Branch meeting. Afterwards we will partake some Christmas Fayre and take part in our annual quiz with prizes. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

December

TUES
07

Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning



10am



Free



Pop down to the Buckingham Library for our monthly bring, buy and swap jigsaw puzzles and coffee morning. Join members for a chat and help raise funds for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity and our nominated local charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 01280 822399.

FRI
10

Coach Trip to Stratford Upon Avon - Victorian Christmas Market



8am



Adults £19.50
Seniors £18.50



Join members and friends of the Branch on a coach trip with RB Travel to Stratford Upon



Avon Fabulous Victoria Market. Just in time for some last minute Christmas shopping with friends. Please contact the Branch Secretary to book your spot. Pick-up points in Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden among others. Book by Tuesday 30 November. Contact Emily on 01933 228538.



Beds & Bucks District invites you to our Annual Church Service

Our service will be held on Sunday 28 November 2021, the first Sunday in Advent. It will be held at St Mary's Church in Thornborough, Near Buckingham MK18 1DG.

The service will begin at 2pm, refreshments will be served afterwards.

To accept our invitation or for more information please contact Doreen on 07707 818001 or email doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you in this early Norman Grade 2 listed church with its substantial herringbone stonework.

General Knowledge Quiz

Questions 1 to 5 by Les Fitton and Questions 6 to 10 by Paul Fitton. The answers are on page 17.

1. In swimming, what name is given to a race in which competitors use four different strokes?
2. What was the name of Paul O'Grady's alter ego in his drag queen days?
3. On which river does Leeds stand?
4. What is the most common pub name in the UK?
5. Dunny is an Australian slang term for what?
6. Which word can come between Accrington and knife?
7. What do the initials ROSPA stand for?
8. What was the former name of Nissan cars?
9. What is the term for creating clothes etc with yarn or wool by using a hook?
10. What was the name of the family pet dog in the book Peter Pan?

We are Oddfellows

The Oddfellows are one of the largest branch-based friendly societies with over 200 years of making friends and helping people. The Society has approximately 309,000 members and 121 branches nationwide.

In this edition of our newsletter we will give an overview of our history which in fact can be found on page 7 of the Oddfellow diary. In future editions we will be more District centric looking at our branches history and how they came to be.

The roots of our Society can be traced back as far as the 14th century when the name 'Oddfellows' was first used. The trade of guilds at that time consisted of a hierarchy of apprentices, fellows and masters. Guild masters tended to pass on their business to their offspring and introduced rules to make guild membership too expensive for the fellows and apprentices. In retaliation fellows set up their own guilds in smaller towns and villages to form a guild of odd fellows.

The 18th and 19th centuries saw the creation of friendly societies like the Oddfellows across the country to protect ordinary workers at a time when there was no welfare state, health service or trade union movement. The state was so worried about insurrection that membership was illegal until 1850.

The Society, entitled the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society, grew rapidly. The

earliest known branch was established in Manchester in 1810. It was formally registered under the new Friendly Societies Act 1850. During this period there were a number of financial reforms within the UK; one of which, the adoption of graduated Tables of Contributions and benefits meant the premiums and benefits could be paid according to the age of the joining member.

Given the importance in covering so many members against sickness, accident or death, 'The Manchester Unity Sickness and Mortality Experience 1893/97' tables became the standard work by which other friendly societies were judged. Our statistics were also used in the preparation of the original National Health Insurance legislation in 1911/12- the forerunner of the Welfare State.

From 1912 to 1948 we were one of the leading friendly societies with one million members. The introduction of the Welfare State and National health Services in 1948 meant that a decline in membership was inevitable.

The Society moved into financial services but decided in 1996 to move away from the provision of financial products and concentrate on social and care provision for members. In many ways the Oddfellows has gone a full circle, ensuring members join together to enjoy the social side of life and support each other in times of need.

In 2010 the Society celebrated its bicentenary with celebrations throughout the country, bringing Oddfellowship to the attention of the wider public.

In 2018, the Society launched a new financial services brand. Unity Mutual,

which offers simple savings, investments and protection products to help families plan for the future. Today the Society delivers a compelling and valued range of social, care and financial benefits through a national network of Branches built around member's needs.

Victoria Branch News

Victoria Branch has a number of events coming up, all are welcome. If you wish to join us on any of the day trips listed in this events diary please contact the secretary as soon as possible to register your interest. There are multiple pick up points at varying times.

We look forward to welcoming members and friends on Sunday 22 August at our post lockdown dinner. Now that

all restrictions have been lifted (well at the time of writing!). You do not need to wear a face mask at this event however, you do have the option to do so if you wish. Whatever you are more comfortable with.

For the time being all Branch meetings will be held at Finedon Independent Wesleyan Church as the room is bigger and therefore allows a little more space as we go forward in line with the current guidance.

Victoria Branch Meeting and Meal

Some 15 members of Victoria Branch enjoyed a fish and chips supper following our July meeting. It was quiet as it was 100% table service however it was a lovely evening and a good chance to catch up with friends.



Loyal Grenville Branch Visit to MK Tree Cathedral and Lunch at the Lakeside Bar and Grill Restaurant

Friends and members of the Loyal Grenville Branch in Buckingham met socially for the first time since lockdown was announced in March 2020.

We met at the Tree Cathedral where the arching branches of woodland tree evoke the image and character of a medieval gothic cathedral. Different tree species are used to recreate the outline of Norwich

Cathedral, with Californian redwoods making the main tower, cedars at the western entrance, limes forming the columns of the nave and an avenue of fastigiated hornbeam defining the aisles.

Afterwards, we lunched at the Lakeside Bar and Grill which overlooks Willen Lake. An enjoyable day was had by all who joined us.



Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter 'online' in the place name search box

OE/0521A6

1940s Adventure Playgrounds

By Geoff Winn

As a youngster 8-10 years, and living nearby in Rutland Place, my favourite play area was the old abandoned Preston Pit. It was an adventure playground, par-excellence - not an adult in sight and acres of abandoned pit-heaps, scrubland and masses of opportunity for camp-building, cowboys & Indians, soldiers or just resting and chewing the fat in the long grass.

The high slag heaps were just the thing for our auto-cross competitions, with tricycles, scooters and anything else that had wheels. The whole area was popular with all the local kids, yet the area seemed so immense that it seemed that we were the only ones there.

Does anyone else remember those halcyon days in the endless summers of the late 1940s?

Jigsaw, bring, buy and swap coffee mornings

A gentle reminder that Grenville Branch will be resuming their Jigsaw fundraising coffee mornings on the first Tuesday of the month at the Buckingham Library.

Grenville Branch would like to say a big **Thank You** to staff at the Buckingham

Library who have not only stored our jigsaw puzzles while we have been in lockdown, but have shared the puzzles between family and friends raising a fantastic £77.50 for our charities.



Penfellows[©]

Find a new Penfriend with the Oddfellows

Did you enjoy writing to a penfriend? Penfellows[®] is for members who would like 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 email it to doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk. Your profile should be up to 120 words. This great new service is confidential and your details will not be released without your permission. Use this email address as a first step to contacting other Penfellows[®].

Inspiration Pie Recipe

Amanda Buckmaster, Bedford Branch secretary, shared this delicious recipe with us, enjoy

We were given this recipe from a friend 30+ years ago and it is a family favourite, filling and tasty.

Ingredients

1 packet sausages
1lb leeks
1lb sliced potatoes
Packet of cheese sauce

Method

Grill the sausages, cut up the leeks into chunks and cook them, peel and slice the potatoes and cook them too. (I have tried doing it all from raw and in the oven but it doesn't cook properly, veg can be a bit hard and the fat/juices from the sausages makes it a bit greasy).

Cut the sausages into chunks and put them on the bottom of the dish/casserole.



Then the leeks, (I sometimes put other veg in with the leeks, carrots or peas usually), then layer the potatoes on the top as shown in the photograph. Then make up the packet cheese sauce or make a pint of your own cheese sauce and cover the potatoes with it.

Bake in the oven for 30 minutes on 170 or gas mark 5.

Lovely to eat fresh but it also freezes really well too.

Panto Tickets

**Is it that time of the year already?
(Oh no it isn't, oh yes it is!)**

Are you ready to return to the theatre and enjoy the annual pantomime?

Each junior member in the Beds & Bucks District is entitled to a free child's pantomime ticket. Members usually visit the Gordon Craig theatre

in Stevenage or Castle theatre in Wellingborough. Both theatres have scheduled pantomimes into their performance listings.

Please let me know if you would like to attend or, if you are not quite ready to resume visiting theatres yet.

Doreen

Fagradalsfjall

An Icelandic volcano to you and me



Jonatan Pie

This is something you may have missed on the news. Our family regularly tune in and watch this magnificent eruption which has been erupting since 17 March.

The mountain of Fagradalsfjall is a volcano on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Southwest Iceland. From December 2019 to March 2021 a swarm of earthquakes rocked the peninsula sparking concerns that an eruption was imminent, the earthquakes were thought to have been triggered by dyke intrusions and magma movements under the peninsula.

On 17 March 2021 an effusive eruption in Geldingadair to the south of Fagradalsgjall was the first known eruption the peninsula for 800 years. Fagradalsgjall, which been dormant for 6,000 years erupted on 5 April.

A total of eight fissures opened showing how volatile and unpredictable volcanoes are. These fissures have been awe-inspiring spewing snaking rivers of lava, releasing gleaming fountains and flowing into the Meradair, Geldingadair and Natthagi valleys.

The glow from the volcano can be seen from Iceland's capital Reykjavik, it is said to be 'like a sunrise just across the bay', there is no sign that the eruption is about to stop anytime soon.

Iceland the land of ice and fire, a natural wonderland!

I would recommend this link for a live news feed on events at Fagradalsfjall. <https://guidetoiceland.is/nature-info/live-feed-from-the-fagradalsfjall-volcanic-eruption-in-geldingadalur>



Jonas Unnarsson - Fissures



Toby Elliot - Fagradalsfjall

Oxford Sister – Buckingham Brother

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Byde on their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

This article and photograph appeared in the Odd Fellows magazine 1971.

Brother Ted and Sister Lesley now live in Felixstowe, they keep in touch with Grenville Branch and hope to visit once soon.

Many Odd Fellows from Oxford and Buckingham districts attended the wedding on Whit Monday of Sister Sylvia Lesley Rolfe Munt of Wheatley, Oxford to Brother Edward Thomas Byde of Bourton

Road, Buckingham at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wheatley.

The bride, who is the youngest daughter of Brother and Sister L E Munt, has been an active member of the Oxford district. A member of the Jubilee lodge, she is also an honorary member of the Charlotte Toynbee lodge, of which she is IPG. For the past three years she has been the press correspondent for Oxford district and has given valuable assistance at many social events. Brother Byde is a member of the Grenville Branch, Buckingham.

Sister Lesley was given away by her father and was attended by a matron of honour,



Back row, left to right

Brian Stickley, Mr Stickley, Mr Maycock, unknown, Mr Rogers, Mr Adams, Mr Jack Lee and Mr D Bonner.

Middle row:

Mrs Maycock, Mrs Stickley (J), Mrs Stickley (S), Mrs Munt (bride's mother), Mr Ted Byde (groom), Mrs Silvia (Munt) Byde (bride), Mrs Rogers, Mrs Adams, Mrs Rose Atkins, Mr Wiggins, Mrs Lee, Janet Bonner, Mrs Betty Bonner, Mrs Wiggins, Mr L Munt (bride's father).

Front row:

Victoria Harris (baby), Joan Harris (bride's sister), Lelya Williams, Tania Williams, Andrew Harris, Teresa Dodd and Susan Bonner.

Sister J Harris, sister of the bride, three child bridesmaids and two pageboys.

Brother and Sister Byde are to make their home in Tingewick Bucks.

The photograph on the left shows the bride and bridegroom with their many Odd Fellow friends who attended the wedding.

How many Oddfellows do you recognise and can you name?

My memories of the coronation day of our Queen Elizabeth II

By Ann Boyle

I recently asked several people for their memories of the coronation day for our Queen Elizabeth II. This proved to be quite a mistake with replies ranging from 'I wasn't born' to 'It was the first time I saw a television' and 'I can't remember'!

How quickly our memories fade and yet I remember the day very clearly. I was living in Bourne in Lincolnshire and I know we had a fancy dress parade, as my friend Christine went as Rock and Roll and were regaled in several yards of pink and yellow crepe paper decorated with rock cakes and swissrolls – definitely the in thing in 1953!

I did go to my friends house to see a very small part of the coronation on their minute television. In the evening we went

to the football pitch to watch a fire work display on the only high ground in the town as the raised railway line ran along the side of the pitch. We then walked up the only hill Bourne can boast, being on the edge of the fens, and proudly named Stamford Hill which rises approximately 100 feet over a good half mile!

I cannot find any record of this event but I know we went to see one of the beacons lit across the country to celebrate the great day. Am I the only one who can remember this cool, wet showery day? How sad it will be if we get to the 70th anniversary and no-one has any memories. I wonder how the Oddfellows celebrated?

General Knowledge Quiz Answers on page 9

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--|------------|
| 1. Medley relay | 4. Red Lion | 7. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents | 8. Datsun |
| 2. Lily Savage | 5. Toilet | | 9. Crochet |
| 3. River Aire | 6. Stanley | | 10. Nana |



Photograph Competition

Lights, Camera Action

Last year we asked members to share with us photos of their garden. Members rallied to the call and we were able to make a beautiful centre page collage for our newsletter.

We would like to see your gardens again this year and have decided to run a photography competition. Your photo can be of your garden/park/anywhere you visit, it can be your favourite shrub/trees/flower,

your vegetable beds or plants, patio pot or hanging basket. Whatever makes you smile, share with us.

In return, we will judge your photograph, choose our favourite send the winner a gardening voucher for £15.

Please send or email your photos to us before Monday 11 October.
Happy Snapping!

Photo Competition Terms and Conditions

- This promotion is a photo competition which is open to all who send their entries to: The Oddfellows, 116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ or email doreen.sam@oddfellows.co.uk by 23.59 on Monday 11 October.
- There will be a prize of £15 gardening voucher awarded to the winner. No cash alternative is available.
- Your details will not be shared with any other party.
- The competition is not open to employees of the Oddfellows.
- Only one entry per person is permitted.
- All entries will be considered anonymously by the judges.
- The judges will be the Committee of Management. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The winner may be expected to have their photographs taken for press or promotional purposes and may be published in future newsletters and on social media.

Promoter: The Oddfellows, 116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ.

The Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC)

As much as we were all hoping for the opportunity to get together and host our 2021 AMC in person, the global pandemic had other plans and so we saw the conference held virtually over Zoom, and broadcast live via YouTube.

This is only the second time since 1944 that there hasn't been an in-person Annual Movable Conference. The AMC is usually a three-day conference which gives our network of 115 Branches a chance to have their say in the way the Society is run, celebrate its successes and developments over the past 12 months, and enjoy a catch-up with other Branches over dinner.

This year however, the Directors gathered in the Unity Office Boardroom whilst everyone else stayed at home and Deputies logged in via Zoom to listen in and make their contributions to conference.

Despite the distance between us all, the AMC was its usual hive of activity, and thanks go to all the Deputies who attended, debated and voted on the different clauses. We would also like to extend our thanks to the incredible IT team who worked tirelessly to ensure all Deputies were able to log in successfully, the conference was broadcast seamlessly, and everything ran as it should.

Welcoming our newest Grand Master, David Ogden

One of the key elements of AMC is the installation of the new Grand Master, or Chairman of the Society. This is the most prestigious and respected roles in the Society, and requires a considerable commitment. As Grand Masters, they need to have progressed through the ceremonial side of the Society and usually will have served for at least four years as a Director, before being nominated to be Grand Master.

Our Immediate Past Grand Master, David Randall, spent two years in the role, instead of the usual one, due to the coronavirus

pandemic, and has this year welcomed his successor, David Ogden. Despite there being no live audience, the ceremony featuring his installation as Grand Master was streamed on YouTube.



The Society would like to thank David Randall for his hard work during his time as Grand Master, and wish David Ogden all the best for his term. Keep an eye out for our interview with the new Grand Master in the next edition of Society News!

Congratulations to our Making a Difference Award winners!



Each year, we recognise and celebrate the efforts of members who have gone above and beyond for their local Branch, fellow members, and the Society as a whole. Without these individuals (and there are many!), the Oddfellows wouldn't be the warm and welcoming organisation it is today.

This year, faced with a global pandemic and numerous lockdowns which left many members isolated, the kindness and dedication of our Making a Difference Award nominees truly shone through. Our judges were blown away by the way Oddfellows communities rallied together to help each other through such a difficult year, and so choosing the winners was more difficult than ever. Without further ado, our 2021 Making a Difference Award winners are...

Wendy Atkins, from Ipswich Oddfellows, for Working in the spirit of mutuality

Wendy said: "It was a big surprise and I feel honoured to have won. I've done all sorts for the Ipswich Oddfellows over the years, but I enjoy my role as social organiser most of all. Since we've started running online events, I've had to think outside the box and see how our in-person events can translate onto Zoom, which has been a fun challenge."



Wendy, from Ipswich Oddfellows

I've extended the hand of friendship to other Branches to offer help and support with their online meetings."



Paul, from South London Oddfellows

Paul Fitton, from South London Oddfellows, for Enriching lives socially

Paul said: "It was a lovely surprise when I found out I'd won. Organising social events for my local group is more than just a job for me, it's fun and fulfilling. Helping people meet and make new friends in the area is wonderful."

Janice Tomlin, from Reading Oddfellows, for Giving a helping hand

Janice said: "I had no idea I'd even been nominated, so it was a shock when I was told I'd won the award, but I was incredibly pleased! I know how it feels to be on your own a lot, so being a listening ear for other members during such a difficult year has been a tonic for me as well, in many ways."



Janice, from Reading Oddfellows

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "Our members are at the heart of everything we do as a Society, and it's people like Paul, Wendy and Janice who keep the wheels turning."

"As much-loved members of their local Branches and the Society as a whole, these Awards are truly well-deserved."

Working together to Make a Difference for 2022

We are excited to introduce a new 'Achieving Together' category for our Making a Difference Awards.

Members nominated for the Achieving Together Award should be a team of two, and could be married, partners, family relations, or good friends who collaborate with, and support each other, to achieve more than they could alone.



Have your say!

If you know a Society star who goes above and beyond, or a duo whose combined efforts make your Branch a warm and welcoming place for all, download a Member Nomination form from www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference, or contact your Branch Secretary to have a form sent to you.

Face-to-face get-togethers are back, but online events are here to stay

Many members have been missing that wonderful feeling of seeing and socialising with friends in a group setting, and we're pleased to let you know that our Branches have restarted their face-to-face events, or are getting ready to restart them again very soon.

So whether you're feeling up to a walk in the great outdoors, or you're keen to get back to your local coffee morning, our Branches are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure their events are COVID-secure, and our members are safe.

Not feeling up to getting together yet? That's fine too. Lots of people will still feel anxious about mixing with groups indoors or outdoors, and we know it will take a while for things to feel "normal" again. But we don't want you to miss out, which is why our online events are here to stay.



From local guest talks streamed live from your Branch, to our weekly national coffee mornings, online events will continue for as long as our members would like them to.

Help is available to get you set up to access the online events, should you need it. Call our membership team on **0800 028 1810**, or email **events@oddfellows.co.uk** to receive a how-to guide for using Zoom video conferencing.

If you'd like to join in with one of our events, in-person or online, find out what's coming up by visiting our website: **www.oddfellows.co.uk/events** or speak to your local Branch Secretary to request a local events diary.

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 Doreen on **01280 822399** or email **doreen.sams@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**

At a glance

September 2021 - Friendship Month

Mon 6	Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering	12 noon
Tues 7	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning	10am
Wed 8	Coffee Morning	11am
Mon 13	Victoria Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Sat 18	Friendship Month Dinner	7pm
Tues 21	Shop and Lunch at the Buckingham Garden Centre	11am
Wed 22	Coffee Morning	11am

October

Mon 4	Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering	12 noon
Tues 5	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning	10am
Mon 11	Victoria Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 12	Coach Trip to Cambridge	8am
Sat 23	Celebratory Luncheon	12 noon

November

Mon 1	Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering	12 noon
Tues 2	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning	10am
Mon 8	Victoria Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Tues 9	Visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring	10.30am
Sun 14	Coach Trip to Nottingham Winter Wonderland Christmas Market	8am

December

Mon 6	Grenville Branch Meeting and Social Gathering	12 noon
Tues 7	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Puzzles and Coffee Morning	10am
Fri 10	Coach Trip to Stratford Upon Avon - Victorian Christmas Market	8am