

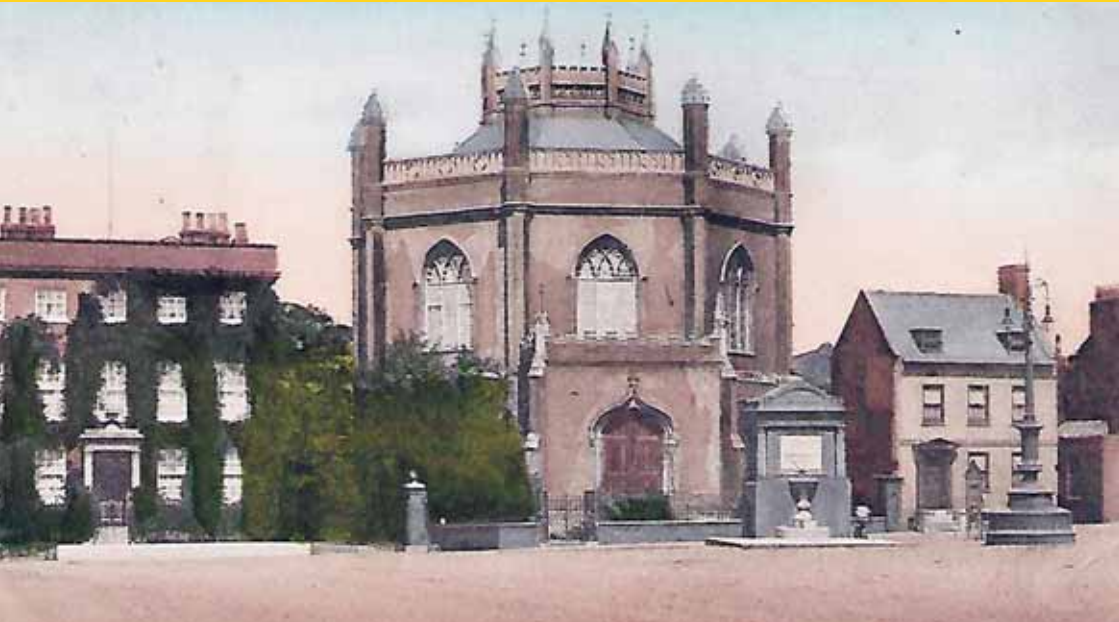
October 2023 – March 2024



*O*<sup>the</sup> **Oddfellows** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**Capital of the Fens Branch**



Theatre



Wellbeing



Travel



Dining Out



Friendship



History



Social



Tasting



Talks



Meeting



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



## *Birdwatching at RSPB Frampton Marsh - Tuesday 26 March 2024*

Welcome to this edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Capital of the Fens District.

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people.

This issue features details of all our upcoming events from dining out to trips out plus lots of other activities.

## Contact Details

### **District Secretary:**

Hilary Wheal

### **Address:** 8 Railway Road

Downham Market

Norfolk

PE38 9EB

### **Telephone:** 07939 860968

### **Email:**

[hilary.wheal@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:hilary.wheal@oddfellows.co.uk)

### **Social Organiser**

Tina Day-Coombes

### **Telephone:** 07751 777862

### **Email:**

[tina.day-coombes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:tina.day-coombes@oddfellows.co.uk)

## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  **CapitalOfTheFensOddfellows**

**Front cover:** Image of Octagon Church, Wisbech provided by Dick Kok from his collection.

# Regular Events

## Seated Exercises



We continue our seated exercises with Kate, who will lead us through some fun and helpful exercises to music. We end our session with tea or coffee and of course a friendly chat. If you haven't tried seated exercises, come along and give it a try. Plenty of free parking in Chapel Road car park. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

Monday



2023: 9 October, 13 November, 11 December. 2024: 8 January, 12 February

## Breakfast at Lillie's



Our monthly visit for breakfast with plenty of choice from a full English to just toast. Numbers are limited, so early booking advised. If you miss this one, book for our next one. Book five days before the event. Lillie's, Bamber Leisure Park, Lynn Road, Wisbech PE13 4BJ. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

Tuesday



2023: 24 October, 21 November. 2024: 23 January, 20 February, 12 March

## Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning



Our regular monthly get together at The Crown Lodge Hotel to enjoy a coffee, chat and catch up on any forthcoming events and Oddfellows news. First drink free. Family, friends and guests all welcome to come along. Crown Lodge Hotel, Downham Road, Outwell PE14 8SE. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

First Wednesday  
of the month



2023: 4 October, 1 November, 6 December. 2024: 3 January, 7 February, 6 March

# Regular Events

## Littleport Monthly Coffee Morning



**Third Wednesday  
of the month**

Enjoy complimentary coffee, tea and biscuits. Bacon rolls will also be on sale. Family, friends and guests are always welcome to come along and find out more about our Branch and forthcoming events. Littleport Bowls Club, Hempfield Place, Littleport CB6 1NP. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

**2023: 18 October, 15 November. 2024: 17 January, 21 February, 20 March**

## Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning



**Second Thursday  
of the month**

Do you have any books, jigsaws, plants, produce etc that you could 'swap' with someone else? If yes, then come along and visit our 'swap corner', whilst enjoying a coffee, chat and catching up on all the Oddfellows news at the same time. Any 'swap' items left at the end of the morning will be donated to charity. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

**2023: 12 October, 9 November, 14 December. 2024: 11 January, 8 February, 21 March**

## Introducing Tina Day-Coombes our new Social Organiser



**Tina has been with us since April this year and has met quite a few of our members already and is keen to meet more.**

She has helped arrange some new events which you will find in this booklet. She welcomes your feedback on them together with any new ideas which you may have for future events. Please note Tina works flexible part time hours so will respond to you as soon as she is able to.

**To contact Tina or make a booking**  
**Email: [tina.day-coombes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:tina.day-coombes@oddfellows.co.uk)**  
**Telephone: 07751 777862**

# October 2023

TUES  
10

## Curry Night at Alishan's



7pm



As per menu



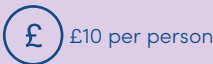
Join us for our bi-monthly curry night. Banquet Night menu subject to minimum number attending. Guests are always welcome to come along. Book by Wednesday 4 October 2023. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

MON  
16

## Alpaca Experience



11am



£10 per person



Come and meet the alpacas on the farm! Have the opportunity to feed them, learn all about these beautiful animals and if you wish, take them for a short stroll. Please wear suitable clothing for the weather and sturdy shoes or boots as the herd are in different areas on the farm. Some walking is involved over grass. Please note that if the weather is unsuitable on the Monday then our visit will take place at 11am on Tuesday 17 October 2023. Book by Wednesday 4 October 2023. Gorefield Alpacas, Bleak House Farm, Allens Drove, Gorefield, Wisbech PE13 4PD. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

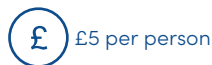


THURS  
26

## Votes for Women Talk



7pm



£5 per person



Come and join us for a return visit by Dr Eric Somerville to talk about Votes for Women - the story of Women's Suffrage. After the talk, a fish and chips supper will be provided, so booking and pre-payment is essential for this event. Book by Thursday 12 October 2023. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



# November

MON  
06

## Afternoon Tea at Thorney Golf Centre



2pm



£14.50 per person



Come and join us for afternoon tea with sweet and savoury treats at this new venue. Booking and pre-payment is essential. Please inform Tina of any special dietary requirements. Book by Thursday 12 October 2023. Thorney Golf Centre, English Drove, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0TJ. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



# November

SUN  
19

## Sunday Lunch at The Barn



1pm



As per menu



Join us for a roast Sunday lunch, plus dessert if you have room! Book by Thursday 9 November 2023. The Barn, 2 School Road, Terrington St John PE14 7SE. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



THURS  
23

## Games Afternoon



2pm



£5 per person



Come along for a games afternoon of Hoy, beetle drive etc plus light refreshments.

Book by Thursday 9 November 2023. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



MON  
27

## Drum Circle



10.30am



£3.50 per person



Join us for a fun and energising morning with Sue from Shine Bright who will lead us in a drum circle. No musical ability needed. Drum circles help create a sense of connection as the participants listen and work together using sound improvised and co-created by the group. Remain seated or get up and move around whilst continuing to play your drum - the choice is yours. The main aim is to have a fun time. Places are strictly limited due to the number of instruments provided by Sue, so booking and pre-payment is essential. Book by Tuesday 21 November 2023. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

THURS  
30

## Memories of Wisbech Past and Present



7pm



£5 per person



Come and reminisce with local man Roger Rawson and see his photo presentation of his memories of Wisbech past and present. Light refreshments will be provided, so please book to help with catering requirements. Book by Thursday 23 November 2023. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



# December

## SUN 03 Sunday Lunch at Thorney Golf Centre

🕒 12 noon    💷 See below    🍴🍷

Come along for a Sunday carvery at this new venue for us, choose a regular carvery or a small plus the option of a dessert. Cost: £12.95 for regular carvery or £10 small plus optional dessert at £5. Booking with your choice of option and pre-payment is required before Wednesday 1 November 2023. Thorney Golf Centre, English Drove, Thorney, Peterborough PE6 0TJ. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



## TUES 05 Curry Night at Alishan's

🕒 7pm    💷 As per menu    🍴🍷

Join us for our bi-monthly curry night. Banquet Night menu subject to minimum number attending. Guests are always welcome to come along. Booking essential by Monday 27th November 2023. Alishans Indian Restaurant, 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

## SUN 17 Carols and Reading Service

🕒 6pm    💷 Free    💬

Come along to the carols and reading service at St George's Church in Littleport. All are welcome to join us for light refreshments after the service too. St George's Church, 30 Church Lane, Littleport CB6 1PS. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

## MON 18 Dottie's Tea Room

🕒 2.30pm    💷 As per menu    ☕



Take a break from the hectic Christmas season and join us at this old fashioned tea room offering delicious cakes, scones, teas, coffees and milkshakes. Seating is limited so booking is essential by Friday 1 December 2023. Dottie's Tea Room, The Chequers Inn, March Road, Friday Bridge, Wisbech PE14 0HF. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

# January 2024

THURS  
18

## Gardening Talk and Demonstration

L 7pm

£ £5 per person



Need some help and advice with your gardening? Come along and learn from Alan how you can have your garden looking lovely for Spring and beyond. Alan is a member of the Wisbech in Bloom team and has helped the town win many awards for its floral displays. Light refreshments will be available, so please book to assist with catering requirements. Book by Monday 11 January 2024. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



TUES  
30

## Quiz and Coffee Afternoon

L 2pm

£ Free



Got that after Christmas feeling? Then come and join us in the Green Room at The Light cinema for a fun quiz, chat and a catch up - your first drink is free. Bring a friend too, the more the merrier. Plenty of free parking available. Book by Tuesday 23 January 2024. Light Cinema, Cromwell Road, Wisbech PE14 0RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



# February

SUN  
28

## Sunday Carvery

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Enjoy a regular carvery Sunday Lunch for £16.95 or a small carvery for £10.95 with the option of a dessert too. Booking is essential please by Monday 11 January 2024. Cassanos, 78-82 High Street, March PE15 9LD. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

TUES  
13

## Curry Night at Alishan's

L 7pm

£ As per menu



Join us for our bi-monthly curry night. Banquet Night menu subject to minimum number attending. Guests are always welcome to come along. Book by Thursday 8 February 2024. 42 Bedford Street, Wisbech PE13 3BT. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.



# February

SUN  
25

## Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch



12.30pm



£30 per person



Join us for our Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch plus special guest speaker. There will also be a raffle in aid of our Chairman's chosen charity. Family and friends welcome. Please note booking and pre-payment is essential, contact Tina for a menu. Book by Thursday 8 February 2024. Crown Lodge Hotel, Downham Road, Outwell PE14 8SE. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

# March

THURS  
21

## Annual Summoned Meeting



7pm



Free



All are welcome to join us for our annual business meeting. Light refreshments will follow the meeting. Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road, Wisbech PE13 1RG. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

# March

TUES  
26

## Birdwatching at RSPB Frampton Marsh



10am



See below



Can you tell the difference between your mallards and shovelers or are you just keen to learn more about the birds in our area? Join us at RSPB Frampton Marsh for an informative talk and wander around the reserve. We will meet at 10am for cake and coffee or tea in the café before being met by an RSPB staff member in the visitor centre, who will talk to us about the different birds on the reserve. They will then walk us to one of the hides where they will help us identify the birds we can see and tell us more about them. You are then free to wander at your own pace around the reserve for as long as you wish, take photos and visit the other hides. A lunch can be pre-ordered to eat in the café (please ask Tina for a menu) or take a picnic with you to enjoy. Remember to bring your binoculars, camera and wear suitable outdoor clothing. Trail is mostly flat on compacted aggregate. There are steps, gentle slopes, grass paths and uneven ground on other paths. Anyone with transport issues please contact Tina. Cost: £3 entrance fee, RSPB members free with a valid membership card plus food as priced on menu. Book by Wednesday 6 March 2024. RSPB Frampton Marsh, Roads Farmhouse, Frampton Roads, Frampton, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 1AY. Contact Tina on 07751 777862.

*All prices are correct at time of going to print.*

# 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 Hilary on **07939 860968** or email **hilary.wheal@oddfellows.co.uk**

## Oddfellows Advice Line

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)



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](mailto: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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

## Annual conference returns to Eastbourne



*Conducting important business in Eastbourne.*

The May sun shone on the south coast as members from up and down the UK converged on the seaside town for the Society's annual conference. A highlight in the Oddfellows' calendar, the Annual Movable Conference (AMC) is a chance for members to catch up, reflect on the previous year, and discuss and vote on how the Society is run, as well as welcome the new Grand Master (Chairman) – Vale of York's Barbara Needham.

Hosted by Brighton and Sussex Oddfellows, there were a number of social activities in the schedule too. Before business got underway, members and the public were treated to another fantastic performance by Oddfellows Brass – a high point for many each year. Other events held throughout the week included the black and white-themed welcome evening, a church service where remembrance wreaths were laid, a day trip to Rye, a bowls tournament, and the Farewell Dance.



*Members enjoyed the Roy Harmer Bowls Tournament.*

## Apprenticeship Educational Award Winner

**Kerry Luckett, from Coventry Godiva Oddfellows, has been chosen as the latest recipient of an Oddfellows Apprenticeship Educational Award.**



*Kerry Luckett.*

Kerry, who says she is “very honoured” to have received the award, will use the money to buy a new laptop to help with

the classroom elements of her Optical Assistant course with Specsavers.

The Oddfellows has been backing its members who choose to undertake an apprenticeship since 2017 by providing selected applicants with a £250 non-refundable grant to go towards their studies.

**Find out more about the Educational Awards by visiting**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards)

# Five stars shone at the 2023 Making a Difference Awards



This year we were privileged to recognise five of our wonderful members with a Making a Difference Award during a ceremony at our annual conference.

## Sue Davies Cleveland and Durham Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

This award recognises Sue's embodiment of the ethos of the Society. She joined the Oddfellows after her husband died in 2004, and within just three months of becoming a member she had already volunteered to write the Branch's newsletter.



Sue went on to organise a popular luncheon club and has helped out at a variety of other social events and on the Committee of Management.

"Oddfellows has been a lifeline to me because I have made so many new friends since joining. I have had so many new experiences and learned so much," said Sue.

"With the Oddfellows, you are never alone for long. You are made welcome at any event."

## Keith and Margaret Glanville Derby Derwent Valley Achieving Together

With more than 120 years of membership between them, husband and wife, Keith



and Margaret Glanville, topped the 'Achieving Together' category for their team effort to significantly improve the lives of other members and make their Branch and the Society the best they can be.

Both have served in various roles at the Derby Derwent Valley Branch, from volunteering to both becoming Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) – Keith twice!

Margaret described how they enjoy what they do and they were both in "absolute disbelief" when they found out. Keith added: "I've been around the block a bit and I wouldn't have missed Oddfellowship for the world."

## Karen Dyke Thames and Kennet Giving a Helping Hand

Branch Secretary at Thames and Kennet, Karen frequently goes way beyond



the role's expectations. She is also a welfare visitor, providing a friendly face while checking in on fellow members, often in her own time.

She is also known to give members lifts to appointments and hospital visits, and is always just a phone call away if she is needed.

Karen described working for the Oddfellows as "more than just a job", adding: "You can do a nine-to-five but for me it's more than that. It's about making my members happy and being there when they need me."

## Marilyn Hayward Thames and Kennet Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Marilyn's contributions to the running of Thames and Kennet Branch's social events.



Marilyn moved to Reading from Sidcup to be closer to her son when her husband died, which she described as a "big step to make".

After trying a number of social groups without much success, she then discovered the Oddfellows.

She said: "I've tried to make people feel welcome and let them know that we want to see them again. That often doesn't happen at other places. You feel like you belong here."

**CEO of the Oddfellows, Jane Nelson, said: "Congratulations to all this year's winners – each of you are shining examples to us all and we are lucky to have you. The contributions you have made are invaluable to the Society and our members."**

**Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2024 awards. To find out more, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).**

# Members updated on HA Andrews Memorial Fund project



*Left to right: Professor Edd James, the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson, Nur Zainal, and Immediate Past Grand Master (Past Chairman) David Ogden.*

**The recipients of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund have described the honour they feel and explained how the Oddfellows' backing is fundamental to what they do.**

Nur Zainal, a PhD student at the University of Southampton whose studies are being sponsored by the Fund, and one of the leaders of the research, Professor Edd James, came to the Society's annual conference in Eastbourne in May to discuss their project's progress.

The first year has been spent teaching Nur the skills she will need to carry out the research. She described the funding as "essential" and said she was honoured to receive the Oddfellows' backing.

Edd added: "Funding is shrinking, so the Oddfellows' ability to have this funding means that we can do these projects.

"This could be a step to going into clinical trials and getting much bigger sources of

funding to then take what Nur identifies and finds out during her PhD to patients and clinics in the future."

In 2022 the Centre for Cancer Immunology was awarded £100,000, which will be split over three years. The research team is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine. If successful, this could profoundly change outcomes for patients with cancer, particularly lung, breast, head and neck, oesophageal and bladder cancers.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund was created in 1971 to honour a remarkable Society Secretary, Herbert Arthur Andrews. It provides financial support over a two or three year period to a UK project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research. To date, thanks to generosity of individuals and Branches, it has donated £1,214,000.



*Nur Zainal addresses AMC.*

**Find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews)**



# At a glance See pages 3-4 for more info on regular events

## October 2023

<b>Wed 4</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 9</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 16</b>	Alpaca Experience	11am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Tues 24</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Votes for Women Talk	7pm

## November

<b>Wed 1</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 6</b>	Afternoon Tea at Thorney Golf Centre	2pm
<b>Thurs 9</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Sun 19</b>	Sunday Lunch at The Barn	1pm
<b>Tues 21</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Games Afternoon	2pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Drum Circle	10.30am
<b>Thurs 30</b>	Memories of Wisbech Past and Present	7pm

## December

<b>Sun 3</b>	Sunday Lunch at Thorney Golf Centre	12 noon
<b>Tues 5</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Wed 6</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Sun 17</b>	Carols and Reading Service	6pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Dottie's Tea Room	2.30pm

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

# At a glance See pages 3-4 for more info on regular events

## January 2024

<b>Wed 3</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 8</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Gardening talk and demonstration	7pm
<b>Tues 23</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Sun 28</b>	Sunday Carvery	12.30pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Quiz and Coffee Afternoon	2pm

## February

<b>Wed 7</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Thurs 8</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Mon 12</b>	Seated Exercises	2pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Curry Night at Alishan's	7pm
<b>Tues 20</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Wed 21</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Sun 25</b>	Chairman's Annual Sunday Lunch	12.30pm

## March

<b>Wed 6</b>	Outwell Monthly Coffee Morning	10.30am
<b>Tues 12</b>	Breakfast at Lillie's	10am
<b>Wed 20</b>	Littleport Coffee Morning	10.15am
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Wisbech Monthly Coffee Morning <i>(change of date due to the Wisbech Mart)</i>	10.30am
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Annual Summoned Meeting	7pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Birdwatching at RSPB Frampton Marsh	10am

**Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.**

For further details or to book on any of the following events please contact Hilary on **07939 860968** or email **hilary.wheal@oddfellows.co.uk** or Social Organiser Tina on **07751 777862** or email **tina.day-coombes@oddfellows.co.uk**. Anyone requiring a lift to any event, please contact either Hilary or Tina.