

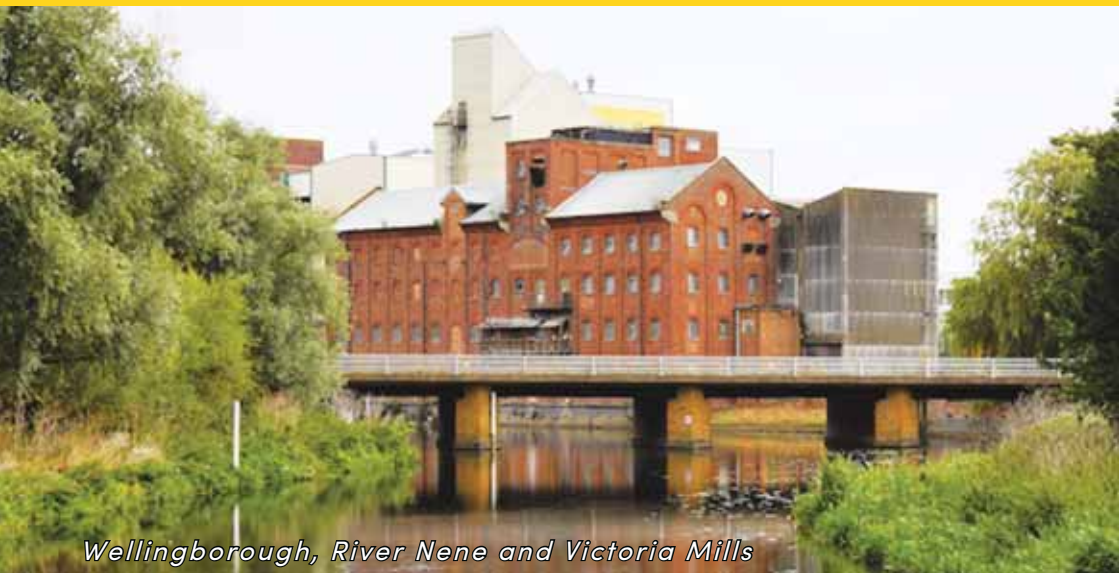
September - December 2023  
Autumn Issue



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

# out & about

**Making friends across Beds and Bucks District**



*Wellingborough, River Nene and Victoria Mills*



Travel



Social



Games



Dining Out



Music



Talks



Quizzes



Tasting Event



Walk



Theatre



Meeting



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea

[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)



OddfellowsBedfordshireBuckinghamshire

## Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

The leaves may be starting to turn, but this Autumn should be an active one for those members who make the most of our action packed calendar of events, with over 40 activities, including coffee mornings, talks, outings, craft sessions and eating out events galore to whet your appetite and keep you entertained.

If you haven't been to one of our events recently, September is the perfect

time to come and get involved as we immerse ourselves in Friendship Month. In fact, across the Beds and Bucks District it's friendship month every month. Get in touch with your local Branch organiser if you'd like to attend an event – you'll be sure of a warm welcome.

It's been an eventful summer for the District, with our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman's) Annual Lunch attracting over 30 guests (see page 13), and the Half Yearly meeting receiving

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



reports from the District Committee of Management, nominating deputies to the national Annual Movable Conference (AMC), and discussing the results of the votes for our District's name change (see page 17).

Unity (our national 'head office') has recently conducted an audit of Branch Facebook pages and the Beds and Bucks District's Facebook page was rated as "Good," so why not pay us a visit – you'll find us if you search for OddfellowsBedfordshire Buckinghamshire – and remember to give us a like and leave some friendly comments. Thanks go to Doreen Sams for keeping the page going.`

**f** **OddfellowsBedfordshire**  
**Buckinghamshire**

Victoria Branch also has a Facebook page to keep you up to date with all their news. If you're a Victoria member, or would like to go to events in or near Wellingborough, give them a visit.

**f** **OddfellowsVictoria**

Yours fraternally,

**Helen**

## 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 being toddlers and the eldest 100 years. To find out more please visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810 or contact the Branch Secretaries.

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

# Branch Contacts

## Beds and Bucks District

**District Secretary:** Helen Aird

**Postal Address:** 21 Northfield Avenue, Ringstead, Northants NN14 4DX

**Telephone:** 01933 623459 **Email:** helen.aird@oddfellows.co.uk

## Bedford Loyal Bedford Branch

**Secretary:** Sue Doulton Smith (pro-temp)

**Postal Address:** Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

**Telephone:** 01234 768914 **Email:** sue.doultonsmith@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB at 7.45pm

## Buckingham Loyal Grenville Branch

**Secretary:** Doreen Sams

**Postal Address:** 116 Pillow Way, Buckingham MK18 7RQ

**Telephone:** 07818 078106 **Email:** doreen.sams@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the first Monday of the month at Buckingham Library, Verny Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP at 12 noon.

## Hitchin Loyal Albert Branch

**Secretary:** Emily Ellis

**Postal Address:** 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP

**Telephone:** 07970 793978 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the third Monday of the month at 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EP at 7.30pm

## Wellingborough Loyal Victoria Branch

**Secretary:** Emily Ellis

**Postal Address:** 73 Somerford Road, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 5EZ

**Telephone:** 01933 676543 **Email:** emily.ellis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meets on the second Monday of the month at Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon, Northants NN9 5LZ at 7.30pm

If you would like to attend any of the meetings or events at any Branch, or would like further information, please contact the Branch Secretary via phone, email or post at the contact details given above.

**Note:** Colour coding of branches is used – corresponds to articles later in the magazine: **Dark Blue** = District    **Brown** = Bedford    **Blue** = Grenville  
**Orange** = Albert    **Purple** = Victoria

# September 2023

## ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI  
01

### Friendship Month Dinner

FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT  
Join the fun



6.30pm



£10



Meet friends and members of Victoria Branch as we celebrate Friendship Month.



Meet us at the Ock N Dough for a bite to eat. Cost will depend on what you order from the menu - average cost is around £10. Book by Friday 25 August. Ock N Dough, Farm Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 4UF. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

MON  
04

### Bedford Social Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Bedford for a crafty morning and a catch up. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

MON  
04

### Grenville Branch Meeting and Guest Speaker from Guide Dogs



12 noon



£2 lunch  
donation



Join members and friends for our monthly meeting and a lite bite. Our guest speaker this month will be from the charity Dogs for Good. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

TUES  
05

### Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning



9.30am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

MON  
11

### Victoria Branch Night - Guest Speaker from Home Instead



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Guest speaker from Home Instead. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

# September 2023

## ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



### **TUES 12** Day Trip to National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield



7.45am



£17



Enjoy a trip to the tranquil National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield, organised in collaboration with NFOP. Pick-up at Goldington Green at 7.45am, Saxon Centre at 8am or Bromham Swan at 8.15am. Return time 4.30pm. Cost £17. To book contact Stephanie Langley on 07710 299322, when booking please quote 'Oddfellows' and state which pick-up point you require. Book by Tuesday 29 August.

**MON  
18**

### Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

**TUES  
19**

### Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

**WED  
20**

### Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch



12 noon



As per  
menu



Branch members meet in local independent garden centres for lunch. Good locally sourced food and lively chat, why not join us? Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham Mk18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

**SAT  
16**

### Friendship Month BBQ



2pm



Free



FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT  
Join the fun

Join members and friends and celebrate Friendship Month with us. It's a fantastic way to share food and offer friendship. Bring along your friends the more the merrier. Book by Friday 1 September. The Centre @ Verney, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

# September 2023

## ODDFELLOWS

### FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS  
21

### Coffee Morning



11am



Free



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat with cake. The coffee shop serves coffee from £1 with an array of snacks. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

SAT  
23

### Croquet Fun



10am



£5



Join friends and members of Bedford Branch and enjoy a game of croquet. Don't forget your packed lunch and to wear



flat shoes! Book by Friday 15 September. Stoney Stratford Croquet Club, Ancell Trust Sports Ground, Ostlers Lane, Stoney Stratford, Bucks MK11 1BN. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

WED  
27

### Bedford Friendship Social Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Bedford for a crafty morning and a catch up Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

WED  
27

### Friendship Coffee Morning at Albert Branch



10.30am



Free



Come and join friends and members of the Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Lodge Rooms. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.



## October

MON  
02

### Bedford Social Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Bedford for a crafty morning and a catch up. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.



# October

## **MON 02** Grenville Branch Meeting and Guest Speaker Helen Aird



12 noon



£2 lunch  
donation



Join members and friends for our monthly meeting and a lite bite. Our guest speaker this month will be the District Secretary, Helen Aird, who will share with us her experience of life on a narrow boat. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

## **TUES 03** Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning



9.30am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.



## **MON 09** Victoria Branch Night - Fish and Chips Supper



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments.



Fish and chips supper to follow. Please bring along your cutlery. Cost does depend on what you order but average is around £6. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

## **WED 11** Bedford Branch - Ageing Well Exhibition



10am



Free



Come and visit the Bedford Branch stand at this event held in Bedford Corn Exchange, 13 St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SL.

## **MON 16** Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

# October

TUES  
17

## Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

WED  
18

## Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch



12 noon



As per menu



Branch members meet in local independent garden centres for lunch. Good locally sourced food and lively chat, why not join us? Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

THURS  
19

## Coffee Morning



11am



Free



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat with cake. The coffee shop serves coffee from £1 with an array of snacks. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.



FRI  
20

## Thenford Arboretum and Gardens



2pm



£16



For those who would like to meet for lunch beforehand we will meet at the New Inn at 12.30pm and then travel onwards to Thenford. Spread over 70 acres, and features a collection of more than 3,000 different trees and shrubs, together with extensive herbaceous borders, water gardens, an alpine trough garden, a sculpture garden, a rose garden and a rill. Thenford has something for every gardening enthusiast. Thenford Arboretum and Gardens, Thenford, Near Banbury OX17 2BX. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

WED  
25

## Coffee Morning at Albert Branch



10.30am



Free



Come and join friends and members of the Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Lodge Rooms. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.



# November

## **MON** **06** Bedford Branch Social Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Bedford Branch for a crafty morning and a catch up. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.



## **MON** **06** Grenville Branch Meeting



12 noon



£2 lunch  
donation



Join members and friends for our monthly meeting and a lite bite. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

## **TUES** **07** Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning



9.30am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly Jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

## **SUN** **12** Remembrance Parade at Biggleswade



10am



Free



Join the members of the Bedford Branch for the Remembrance Day service in Biggleswade. Let's not forget. Railway Station Forecourt, Station Road, Biggleswade SG18 8AL. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.



## **MON** **13** Victoria Branch Night - Guest Speaker from Carers Northampton



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments. Guest speaker from Carers Northampton. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

## **WED** **15** Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch



12 noon



As per  
menu



Branch members meet in local independent garden centres for lunch. Good locally sourced food and lively chat, why not join us? Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham MK18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

# November

## MON 20 Albert Branch Meeting - Film Night



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting



followed by a short film show and refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

## TUES 21 Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

## THURS 23 Coffee Morning



11am



Free



Join members and friends of the Victoria Branch for a cuppa and chat with cake. The coffee shop serves coffee from £1 with an array of snacks. Wellingborough Museum, Castle Way, Wellingborough NN8 1XB. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

## THURS 23 Silverstone Museum



11am



£22.50



Join members and friends and discover the stars, stories and science behind British motor racing. Pay for a day and you can visit as many times as you like for a year! Book by Monday 6 November. Silverstone Museum, Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone NN12 8TN. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

## SUN 26 Annual Dinner



12.30pm



£25



Join members and friends of the Albert Branch for their annual dinner at the lovely 5 Bells in



Henlow, three course menu. Book by Sunday 19 November. 5 Bells, 101 High Street, Henlow SG16 6AE. Contact Emily on 01933 676543 for more information.

## WED 29 Coffee Morning at Albert Branch



10.30am



Free



Come and join friends and members of the Albert Branch for coffee and cake in the Lodge Rooms. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

# November

## **WED** **29** Christmas Tasting Evening



7.30pm



£3



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch and sample different seasonal food and drink. Book by Friday 24 November. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.



# December

## **TUES** **05** Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning



9.30am



Free



Join members and friends for our monthly jigsaw fundraising event. Tea, coffee and chat always available. We continue to raise funds for local charities and our Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

# December

## **MON** **04** Bedford Social Craft and Chat



10am



Free



Come and join friends and members of Bedford for a crafty morning and a catch up. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

## **MON** **04** Grenville Branch Meeting and Christmas Crafts



12 noon



£2 lunch donation



Join members and friends for our monthly meeting and a taste of Christmas lite bite. We will be crafting and getting ready for the festive season. Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

## **SAT** **09** Bedford Branch Christmas Lunch



12.30pm



TBC



Come along to the Christmas lunch and get into the festive spirit amongst members and friends. Menu and prices to be advised. The Green Man, Stanford Road, Stanford, Nr Biggleswade SG18 9JD. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

## **MON** **11** Victoria Branch Night - Festive Branch



7.30pm



Free



Join members and friends for the regular monthly meeting followed by refreshments and some festive fun. Finedon Independent Wesleyan Chapel, Affleck Bridge, Finedon NN9 5LZ. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

# December

WED  
13

## Christmas Lunch at the Bell Hotel



1pm



TBC



Join friends and members in this annual festive lunch. Please bring along a wrapped gift to be raffled to raise funds for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) nominated charity. Book by Monday 4 December. The Bell Hotel, Market Square, Winslow MK18 3AB. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.

MON  
18

## Albert Branch Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Join friends and members of the Albert Branch for their monthly business meeting followed by refreshments. 8 Nuns Close, Hitchin SG5 1EP. Contact Emily on 01933 676543.

TUES  
19

## Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting



7.45pm



Free



Join members and friends of the Bedford Branch for their monthly business meeting. Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB. Contact Susan on 01234 768914.

WED  
20

## Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch



12 noon



As per menu



Branch members meet in local independent garden centres for lunch. Good locally sourced food and lively chat, why not join us? Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre, Tingewick Road, Buckingham Mk18 4AE. Contact Doreen on 07818 078106.



## Victoria Branch Trip to Chester House

**Members and friends from Victoria Branch had a good day out exploring the Chester House Estate near Irthlingborough, and inevitably ending up in the well-stocked café for a chat and some refreshments.**

The Chester House Estate is a nationally significant heritage site which can demonstrate over 10,000 years of human activity and offers an archaeological resource centre and pleasant grounds, perched on the bank of the River Nene to walk around.

# District News

## The Provincial Grand Master's (Chairperson's) Annual Lunch

**The Beds and Bucks District celebratory Annual Lunch was held at the Old Thatched Inn, near Buckingham in honour of our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Sue Moden.**

Members and friends enjoyed coming together and doing what Oddfellows love doing most, eating and drinking with a good mix of chat and laughter. It was lovely to see so many visitors from other Districts and the have the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances and of course our guest of honour Grand Master of the Order (Chairman of the Society) Barbara Needham.



We raised £130 in a raffle in aid of Sue's nominated charity Buckingham Area Community Advice Bureau (BACAB) and Barbara was presented with a donation for her nominated charity, MNDA.





# Grenville Branch

**Grenville Branch members have taken part and enjoyed a wide range of events since the last edition of Out and About. We continue to fundraise to support local charities as well as host events locally which usually include a meal and refreshments.**

If you live in the Buckingham area you may know that the Library is now a

temporary banking hub. This may restrict some of our monthly meeting held there. We have been assured that meetings for September and October can go ahead as planned. Should we have to change location I will contact those members who regularly attend and update them on the situation.

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## The Tree Cathedral and Lunch Visit



**On 23 May members and friends at the Tree Cathedral in Milton Keynes. Members enjoyed walking around**

**this unique landscape based on the outline of Norwich Cathedral with its mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. Each section of the Cathedral was represented by different species of trees. We would certainly recommend a visit if you have not already done so.**

After our walk around the Cathedral members had lunch at the Dragon Inn at Willen Lake. It was a lovely way to round off a pleasurable day.





# Tubs and Basket Talk

On Monday 5 June our guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Chris Day from the Buckingham nurseries and garden centre. Chris' talk

focused mostly on baskets and tubs. Members agreed that he is the most knowledgeable horticulturalist we have had the pleasure to meet.



## Evening Meal at the Old Thatched Inn

Grenville friends and members usually do not meet in the evenings however, when planning our activities we decided that perhaps the summer months we could eat at local restaurants in the evening. Members met at the Old Thatched

Inn, it was a lovely evening with friends and the food was delicious, it was certainly worth the extra trouble of getting ready to go out on an evening and we all reached our homes before it got dark.

# Bedford Branch

## Thank You for my Birthday Gift

**Bedford Branch members John and Yvonne Bailey recently wrote to their branch to say thanks for the birthday gift Bedford Branch had sent to John, and his enthusiastic and infectious happiness provides a reminder that we need to make the most of life while we're still able.**

At recently turned 76, John and his wife have spent the last few months enjoying themselves attending a reunion with some old friends who all left Bedford Modern school in 1964, attending a wedding of a younger Bedford Modern old boy in St Albans and watching their daughter show-jumping at Hickstead and friends jumping their horses at other events.



He sent us some photos of these happy times as he and his wife want to spread their happiness to you all. To close his letter John remarks: "I wish I were 16 again... but I'll take 76!"



## Craft and Chat



**The Bedford Craft and Chat group continues to go from strength to strength, and last month fluffy lambs were gambolling about the table. How cute are they – you can almost hear them baa-ing from here!**

If you'd like to come along to a Craft and Chat session you don't have to be an artistic genius. The group meets on the first Monday of the month at 10am in Wootton near Bedford. Contact the Bedford Branch office on 01234 768914 for further details.

## The Beds and Bucks District Half Yearly Meeting

**The Beds and Bucks District Half Yearly Business Meeting took place at 10am on Saturday 22 January, attended by Deputies and the District Secretary (Provincial Corresponding Secretary). The meeting was business focussed and as well as receiving and adopting the 2022 Annual Accounts and re-appointing the Auditor, it also received reports from the District Committee of Management, the Deputies who attended the Annual Movable Conference (AMC), and the Deputy who attended the Spring Meeting of the Midland Group Conference.**

The Half Yearly Meeting also received nominations for Deputies to attend the 2024 AMC in Llandudno, and for the District Officers and Committee of

Management Members to be put forward for election at the Annual Meeting in January 2024. The Beds and Bucks District Development Plan was also updated and approved. Part of the Plan included the potential District name change, and the results of the recent vote for a new name, promoted through the Summer edition of Out and About were discussed. The next step is to take this result to the national Unity Office for discussion and advice about the way forward. Watch this space for more updates about the district name.

After the meeting a buffet lunch was provided for the deputies. A raffle was held and raised £40 for the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairperson's) nominated charity, BACAB.

# 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 Sue on **01234 353859** or email **sue.doulttonsmith@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@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.

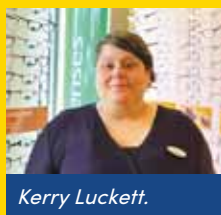
Hosted by Brighton and Sussex Oddfellows, there were a number of social activities in the schedule too. Before business got underway, members and the public were treated to another fantastic performance by Oddfellows Brass – a high point for many each year. Other events held throughout the week included 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

## September 2023 - Friendship Month

<b>Fri 1</b>	Friendship Month Dinner	6.30pm
<b>Mon 4</b>	Bedford Social Craft and Chat	10am
<b>Mon 4</b>	Grenville Branch Meeting and Guest Speaker from Guide Dogs	12 noon
<b>Tues 5</b>	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning	9.30am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Victoria Branch Night - Guest Speaker from Home Instead	7.30pm
<b>Tues 12</b>	Day Trip to National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield	7.45am
<b>Sat 16</b>	Friendship Month BBQ	2pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 19</b>	Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting	7.45pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch	12 noon
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Sat 23</b>	Croquet Fun	10am
<b>Wed 27</b>	Bedford Friendship Social Craft and Chat	10am
<b>Wed 27</b>	Friendship Coffee Morning at Albert Branch	10.30am

## October

<b>Mon 2</b>	Bedford Social Craft and Chat	10am
<b>Mon 2</b>	Grenville Branch Meeting and Guest Speaker Helen Aird	12 noon
<b>Tues 3</b>	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning	9.30am
<b>Mon 9</b>	Victoria Branch Night - Fish and Chips Supper	7.30pm
<b>Wed 11</b>	Bedford Branch - Ageing Well Exhibition	10am
<b>Mon 16</b>	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 17</b>	Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting	7.45pm
<b>Wed 18</b>	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch	12 noon
<b>Thurs 19</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Fri 20</b>	Thenford Arboretum and Gardens	2pm
<b>Wed 25</b>	Coffee Morning at Albert Branch	10.30am

## November

<b>Mon 6</b>	Bedford Branch Social Craft and Chat	10am
<b>Mon 6</b>	Grenville Branch Meeting	12 noon
<b>Tues 7</b>	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning	9.30am

# At a glance

## November

<b>Sun 12</b>	Remembrance Parade at Biggleswade	10am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Victoria Branch Night – Guest Speaker from Carers Northampton	7.30pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch	12 noon
<b>Mon 20</b>	Albert Branch Meeting – Film Night	7.30pm
<b>Tues 21</b>	Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting	7.45pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Coffee Morning	11am
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Silverstone Museum	11am
<b>Sun 26</b>	Annual Dinner	12.30pm
<b>Wed 29</b>	Coffee Morning at Albert Branch	10.30am
<b>Wed 29</b>	Christmas Tasting Evening	7.30pm

## December

<b>Mon 4</b>	Bedford Social Craft and Chat	10am
<b>Mon 4</b>	Grenville Branch Meeting and Christmas Crafts	12 noon
<b>Tues 5</b>	Bring, Buy and Swap Jigsaw Fundraiser and Coffee Morning	9.30am
<b>Sat 9</b>	Bedford Branch Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Victoria Branch Night – Festive Branch	7.30pm
<b>Wed 13</b>	Christmas Lunch at the Bell Hotel	1pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Albert Branch Meeting	7.30pm
<b>Tues 19</b>	Bedford Branch Monthly Business Meeting	7.45pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Buckingham Nurseries and Garden Centre Drop in Lunch	12 noon

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and stay in touch  
from home**

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Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box