



the
Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Spring-Summer 2021 | Issue 7
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Ipswich News and Views

Lockdown Special Edition 2

Message from Chairman

Pages 3-4

Messages from members far and wide

Pages 4-6

Zoom in for friendship

Pages 10-11



AGM Surprise



Who Dunit? Murder Mystery



National News



Welcome to Ipswich News and Views Spring 2021 'Lockdown' special edition

Welcome to Ipswich News and Views, second lockdown edition, which we hope will capture the flavour of lockdown and will be a constant reminder of this unprecedented period of time in our lives.

We just wanted to say hello!

We hope you're ok? We are certainly missing having contact with our members. We'd love to hear how you're doing, and keep you updated with our news, so please contact us to make sure we have your current phone number and email address to make it easier. You might also like to join in some of our new online events – check out www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or on Facebook at IpswichOddfellows.

If there's any way we can help you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wendy Atkins, Editor

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

District Secretary: Lynne Wyatt

T: 01473 251867

E: ipswich.branch@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Secretary: Wendy Atkins

T: 07722 191437

E: ipswichevents@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: 37 High Street,

Ipswich IP1 3QH

T: 01473 251867

Welfare Visitors:

Marion Ward

Teresa Marrable

T: 07818 455903

T: 01473 211940



OddfellowsIpswich

Message from Chairman Marion Ward

My first year as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) has really gone down a storm - in as much that it has blown by and I haven't done a great deal in my role.



Since the beginning of 2020 and the first lock down, normality has been off the table and everything has had to be approached from a different angle making everything abnormal.

There have been a lot of personal struggles - people who have had to endure long periods of solitude, not being with loved ones and friends at times of celebrations such as births, weddings and anniversaries and during the worst of times, illness and bereavements. It has been a very worrying time too, not knowing if you done enough to keep your family and loved ones safe from the virus.

Disappointments, cancellations, and postponements have been many and at times it has been hard to maintain a positive outlook.

But I think Ipswich District Oddfellows has risen to the challenge and like a

phoenix from the ashes has magnificently modernised its approach to fellowship by using the software Zoom to allow us to be able to see and chat to one another. Our social secretary Wendy Atkins who was already quite au fait with Facebook helped by Lynne Wyatt our secretary, have re-written our social agenda which has included quizzes, talks and demonstrations. Using Facebook as well as Zoom has been fantastic for us as a Branch and there has been lots of fun and laughter without needing to worry about social distancing.

Social media love it or hate it, has come to the forefront of our lives, and the modern ways of communicating have been invaluable to help us network and keep in touch in ways that suit us. I believe Social media will continue to be part of our 'new normal' in the future.

During this pandemic, every way of communicating has been explored and utilised keeping members connected - letters, Christmas cards and teabags, emails, texts, telephone and video calls.

Head Office has been very much involved, and has co-ordinated ways to ensure members and branches have had support and advice to help members as and when they have needed it. There have been Zoom national coffee mornings

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

and Welfare Meetings and the annual conference is also being held using Zoom this year.

I would like to thank members of the Committee and anyone and everyone who has helped in even the smallest way over the last year. It does seem that difficult times do bring people together and it is by working together, we can move forward more easily and confidently.

Being a member of the Oddfellows is an excellent way to secure our future happiness and once everyone has had their second vaccination that too should go a long way to secure your health over the coming months.

I am pleased and proud to continue in my role as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) for another year.

Messages from members far and wide

“Thanks for all the entertainment and your hard work to keep us alive and sane during the lockdown days.”

From Diana W (London)

New Year 2021

Another fresh New Year is here...
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt and fear,
To love, to laugh and give!
It didn't bring us joy.
Just leave it far behind.
Let's ring in the New Year
With good things in mind.

**From Mary E
(Poole, Bridport & Yeovil)**

“Just to say I went totally solo and linked with Helen (Leeds district) for a very interesting illustrated talk by Janet about pack ponies and her trekking experiences with them. I was a bit apprehensive. I didn't know anyone, but was made very welcome.”

From John (Ipswich)

Sadness comes and sadness goes,
but you'll be fine in the Oddfellows
Join in Wendy's Wednesday Zingle,
cup in hand plus crisp or Pringle.
Don't be late or you'll regret it
Once you've been you won't forget it!

**From Jacqueline (Ipswich) - written
as part of our coffee morning 'bubble'**

This is from an old Postcard from Tenerife.

"My nose is really rather red
Would put Rudolph to shame
Don't know if it is too much sun
or if alcohol's to blame
I can see snow atop the mountain as I
lie here at my ease
Waiter, Waiter over here another
bottle please!"

This is what I've written now!

I do not like the short dull days
With occasional wintry showers
I do not like the wind and rain
I am more a hothouse flower.

In January you would find me
Flying south in search of sun
Looking forward to some company
Meeting friends and having fun.

But the world has changed
for everyone
It is a very different place
No coffee mornings with our pals
No meeting face to face.

Some days I am rather lonely
When the phone just does not ring
But in the midst of all the doom
and gloom
A Blackbird in the garden thinks
it's spring.

This was sent in by a member to give
us some reflection to our moods.

From Brenda (Ipswich)

Cars sliding to the left lorries
to the right
All because it snowed last night
It was brought in they say by the
wind in the east

The day was not fit for man nor beast
Thick snow under foot and tyre
Not a bus or train or taxi for hire
The usual dark morning
looked so light

As the snow glistened so
pure and white
Birds chirped from high in the trees
Saying feed me, feed me please
So I ventured out with bird seed
in one hand

And camera in the other as it
looked so grand
Click, click I went to record the day
In case it melted and went away
Then we saw rain and gales then sun

And after the storm a
rainbow did come
Spring is just around the
corner it seems
And with it new thoughts, hopes
and dreams

O how I love spring when it's here
It's one of my favourite times of year.

From Janice from Reading®

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the previous page...

“ Hubby and I are now volunteers for FIND (Families In Need) charity. Delivering food to families or individuals who have no food, two or three times week.

Very, very rewarding and humbling... putting something back into the community and helping others less fortunate. Keeping our feet firmly on the ground and in such times we're living in taking nothing for granted. **”**

From Karen (Ipswich)



The Oddfellows Making a Difference Award

It with great pleasure we announce that Wendy Atkins from the Ipswich Branch has been rewarded for 'working in the spirit of mutuality' for her efforts during the past year to remain positive and 'think out of the box' when organising a variety of social events on Zoom and Facebook.

Wendy has supported a number of branches with their online events and has

attended the 'Open Doors' events in support of Oddfellows staff. Many favourable comments were received from Ipswich members as well as from members further afield.



A close-up photograph of a glass filled with a yellow, bubbly beverage. The words "Thank you Wendy" are written in white cursive script on the glass. A hand is visible holding the glass. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with a railing.

Marion Ward



Who Dunnit? Murder Mystery

Who would've thought that our loyal and trusted member, Kevin, would carry out such a dastardly deed? What an evening of sheer enjoyment and amazingly performed on Zoom. All our stars of the screen played out their roles with (near) perfection and the audience was completely foxed, many being fooled by the Radio operator and 'his' shenanigans. Well done, and thank you, cast – the messages of congratulations rolled in.



The newsreader announces the murder.

Murder mystery adulation
Thank you very much - it was excellent.
The first time I've been involved with such a happening! Thanks to all concerned.

Jennie B

That was brilliant! Thanks Wendy. Proper cheered us both up.

Rosalind E

Really enjoyed it had brilliant time.

Zoe

Thanks for your good efforts, Wendy.
We really enjoyed it and I voted for the Commander.

Bruce

Hi Wendy so good to be involved tonight,
good entertainment thanks.

John

Many thanks for hosting the murder mystery Zoom event. Really enjoyed it. Actors and backgrounds were fabulous. You all deserve Oscars and if I could would present them. The best Zoom session I have attended. So glad Oddfellows was mentioned to me. Onwards and upwards as they say for many more.

Caral

Just a few lines of deepest thanks for organising the Murder Mystery Evening on Friday. I enjoyed it so very much. I have been very poorly with Covid, Thus, events like this are really helping me to re-connect with the world again, and I can't thank you enough. I was a bit nervous going into a Chat Room, but it was really nice to meet new people, and to discuss the reasons why each person may have been the murderer!

Thank you again for all your hard work; it is so much appreciated, especially from people like myself who live alone. Thank goodness for Oddfellows; an absolute lifesaver.

Stephanie



Well done, great evening's entertainment. I can see it was quite a project and it went off really well, the fact you had found great backgrounds and the costumes. Well done everyone concerned.

Kind regards, Marie

Last night's 'Death in St James Park' was very enjoyable and fun. Love to see the dressing up, gives the event mystery and class. Well done! Thanks for an enjoyable evening.

Diana W

We had a very entertaining night yesterday with your Murder Mystery Zoom event. Although I had no idea who the culprit was it was certainly a nice bit of fun for a Friday evening. I spoke too soon about our abilities with Zoom as I couldn't seem to get our microphone working but it didn't detract from our enjoyment. You were all very good and I really liked the outfits and the backdrops as this really set the scene. Anyway, thank you so much for putting on an excellent show and I hope you will be able to pass on our thanks to your co-conspirators. Thanks again.

Dave

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

Refer a friend today

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

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

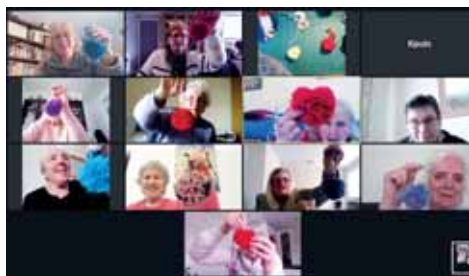
Ref 1644



Don't feel locked out in lockdown - Zoom in for friendship

Zoom in for friendship has continued with great online events. We have managed to think of new ways to entertain you as well as enjoying the old favourites - beetle, quizzes, zingo and plenty of chat to relieve boredom.

Busy Fingers crafts sessions have been better supported than ever and, with Kevin's ingenuity, Teresa has had a camera over her work space to be able to demonstrate a variety of easy crafts for members to enjoy.



Facebook - Live@5 - Sunday quizzes

We started 'broadcasting' on 5 April 2020 from www.facebook.com/oddfellowsipswich every week and plan to continue until the audience stops! Our thanks to Wendy and Paul, Lynne, Teresa and Kevin, Marion and Ben, and Juliette for contributing question after question!



Facebook - It's virtually... shopping

In November Ipswich Oddfellows set up a Facebook page to support small businesses who were struggling. It was a great success and vendors advertised their goods and services for Christmas. Buyers were very happy with the gifts they found. The success of the Christmas page has continued as we moved through the Sale times, to Mothers' Day and Easter. Check out what's available www.facebook.com/virtuallychristmas. There are gifts for all the family and for every occasion.



We celebrated Christmas. Two Branches Isle of Wight (afternoon) and Ipswich (evening) hosted Zoom events for those who were in need of some company and a laugh or two.



Fun on Fridays

After Christmas we teamed up with the Stockport Branch to share ideas and pool resources. We've welcomed regular audiences of over 30, to spend an hour of fun and laughter with a mix of quizzes, games and speakers.

In January we had an interesting talk from Paul Seymour, a representative of TWAM (Tools with a Mission). The aim of the charity (based in Ipswich) is to refurbish unwanted tools, sewing machines and IT equipment for use in Zambia. Thus enabling the people to learn skills and become self sufficient.

In March Jem Tovey, a poet performer, read some of his poetry. His way with words combines everyday observations with the humour of Pam Ayres. His book is available for sale (all proceeds to Charity) from jem.tovey@gmail.com £5 + £2 postage.



In April Ruth Goudy was our guest. Ruth is part of the gardening team for BBC Radio Suffolk. Her topic was 'Flower Power' and she explained the connection between flowers and our well-being.



We also hosted a BIG quiz to mark the year of Lockdown; and an ambitious 'Oddfellows Got Talent' evening.

Other events have included a New Year's Party, Family Fortunes, Countdown, Chinese New Year and Catchphrase.

From January 2021, two National events were introduced into the events programme. On Wednesdays at 11am is the coffee morning. A time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The attendees are divided into 'rooms' and Ipswich is part of the East Wing. However, anyone can join any of the six rooms. On Thursdays at 2pm, social organisers take turns to host fun games and quizzes.

Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows organised a poetry competition

One of our members entered the competition and won a prize! This is her entry:

Winter 2020

The year 2020 has been different from the rest
Being in Lockdown put us all to the test
We learnt to care that little bit more
And say “Hi” and “Hello” from the front door

The spring felt isolated with you in my tummy
It was a very scary time to then become a mummy
We welcomed you here with masks on in May
A bundle of joy, innocent and oblivious you lay

Our hearts burst with joy, we love you to the Moon
Everyone else only got to love you through Zoom
With restrictions eased we enjoyed trips in the sun
But with Christmas on the way things might not be as fun

We just want to hug loved ones and check they are ok
But instead our highlight is the weekly Takeaway
Not forgetting the trip to ‘put the bins out’
Where you can wave to a neighbour and give them a shout

This unusually strange climate and unprecedented times
With YouTube, homeschooling and nursery rhymes
Will 2020 affect my girl? I don’t know
I’m sure she will shine and her world will glow

It’s beautiful to watch her play with her brother
But there is still Covid guilt felt by her mother
The virtual laughter we shared made everything brighter
But in 2021 we hope to squeeze everyone tighter

Let’s end this year with a deep breath and a sigh
And kiss 2020 a very fond goodbye !

Juliette Atkins



September is Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



We may have missed Friendship Month last year so let's make sure we celebrate in 2021!

We'll start the month with a Fun-on-Friday get-together on Friday 3 September at 7pm.

It will be a chance to 'eat, drink and be merry' and catch up with all the friends that you've missed in 2020. Guests are welcome.

Booking essential.

Jigsaw



The jigsaw sale, postponed from last year will take place on Saturday 11 September at 11am.

We have collected a number of puzzles but could always do with more. If you had any last winter and are sorting out cupboards, then please let us know and we can collect from you in Ipswich or Felixstowe areas.

The puzzles will be reasonably priced so you'll have the opportunity to stock up for next winter!

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 Lynne Wyatt on **01473 251867** or email **ipswich.branch@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**



Social distancing can still be social

**Your guide to online events you can enjoy
from the comfort of your own home**

May – July 2021

Social restrictions have meant that our usual face-to-face events had to be suspended, but that doesn't mean we can't get together! Our network of 115 Branches are running a huge variety of nationwide online events, and everybody is welcome to join – no matter where in the country you are.

This guide lists the current regular and featured events available for you to attend.

Not attended an online event yet – you don't even need to be on the internet? Need help? Check out our 'How to' overleaf...

How to join a Zoom event for the first time

You will need a device that is connected to the internet with a camera and microphone (most computers, laptops, smart phones and tablets have them). Don't worry if you don't have these, you can still join an event using your landline phone – you'll be able to hear and speak to everyone but not see them. Here's some simple steps to help get you started.

1. Connecting to Zoom via an app or website

You can download the free Zoom app from your app store – once you've 'signed in' and set up a password you'll be ready to start. Alternatively you can connect to Zoom via

www.zoom.us – just click on 'Join a Meeting' and enter the 'Meeting ID'.

2. Using the 'Meeting ID' to join an event

The 'Meeting ID' is a unique set of numbers listed with the event information in this leaflet – you need to enter these once you've logged onto Zoom (either via the app or website). For some events you may have to pre-register with the event organiser and/or enter a 'Passcode'.



3. Getting your audio and video settings right

When prompted, make sure your video and audio is on – if you see a red line through the microphone and/or camera icons, click on them to activate otherwise you won't be seen or heard!

4. Joining an event with a landline phone

You can use your landline to phone into an event – there is a charge, (please check your operator for details), but the standard rate number is **0330 0885830**. You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID number followed by # and may also be asked for a Passcode followed by # . For additional information on how to join meetings, here's a few useful links:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-joining-a-meeting>

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/trafford/how-to-use-zoom-for-the-first-time.pdf>

Monthly events

Frequency/time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
3rd Mon 11am	Coffee in the Virtual Potting Shed	848 9002 1785	493398	valerie.ashcroft@oddfellows.co.uk
4th Mon 4pm	Zingo Bingo	985 163 7526	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Brainiest Brain Fun Quiz	231 522 2288	1810	judith.cotton@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Word Games and Chat	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 10am	Busy Fingers, Crafts and Coffee	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 4pm	Beetle Drive	985 163 7526	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 7.30pm	Games, quizzes and more	860 2803 8495	-	dawn.taylor@oddfellows.co.uk

Weekly events

Below are events that occur every week – for a full description visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events and type “online” in the location search box or contact the local organiser listed.

Time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
Monday				
10.30am	Online Games – All Welcome	950 0863 2889	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Chi Gung	824 6194 4085	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Monday Music & Musing	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Monday Games Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk

Tuesday

4pm	Art, Talks, Fun and Games	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Fun Quiz – Open to all	869 8507 8184	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk

Wednesday

11am	National Coffee Morning	988 3920 7187	-	peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Fun Quiz – Open to all	854 769 23503	-	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
6pm	Tai Chi	873 2888 5615	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk

Thursday

10.30am	Coffee Morning	949 4131 7445	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
11am	Easy Zumba Gold	9468 1625 757	PRE-REG	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
11am	Coffee Morning	798 2731 5650	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Oddfellows Fun Thursdays	988 3920 7187	-	events@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Quiz Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk

Friday

2pm	The Weekend Starts Here!	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Friday Fun and Games	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk

Saturday

11am	Fun, Quiz and Games	894 5983 8236		peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
------	---------------------	---------------	--	--------------------------------

Sunday

5pm	Facebook Live @ 5 Quiz	www.facebook.com/Oddfellowslpswich		wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
-----	------------------------	------------------------------------	--	-------------------------------

***please contact the event organiser to register in advance of the event**

1st Wed	2.30pm	Nationwide Quiz	852 9201 2067	1810	syd.goodwin@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	2pm	Sing Along	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	7pm	Talks from Tunbridge Wells	984 8355 1408	1810	karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk
1st and 3rd Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd and 4th Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	845 7787 3384	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
1st and Last Fri	10.30am	Corona Club Coffee Morning	231 522 2288	1810	judith.cotton@oddfellows.co.uk
Last Sat	5pm	Saturday Sing Along	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Sat	7pm	Saturday Night Fun	460 928 7642	1810	karen.pye-smith@oddfellows.co.uk

Featured events

Featured events are usually one-offs – they may be repeated but not necessarily weekly or monthly. As with the other listed events, you can find out more about them via www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or by contacting the event organiser.

Date/Time and Event		Meeting ID	Code	Contact
May				
4	11am Camino de Santiago pilgrimage	843 6957 6133		kristen.reid@oddfellows.co.uk
4	7.30pm A Year on a Tropical Island	820 0349 9844		karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk
5	7pm My Derbyshire Life	821 0037 5056	200051	toni.siddall@oddfellows.co.uk
5	7pm Springtime in Belgium and Holland	542 724 7603		wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
5	2pm A History of Teddies	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
7	2pm Dead and Breakfast – Bob Sinfield	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
8	3pm Origami	867 3435 5681	1810	alex.walker@oddfellows.co.uk
10	12pm Poetry Event: Golden daffodils	918 8407 1265		emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
10	2pm Spies for Peace – Zoom Talk	860 1478 9640		debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
12	6.30pm Cheese and Wine Evening	290 302 2164		colin.burbidge@oddfellows.co.uk
15	7pm The Gag Trade – Bob Sinfield	850 4349 4044		kristen.reid@oddfellows.co.uk
17	2pm The Life of Sir Winston Churchill	879 422 7670		demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk
19	2pm 70's Music Quiz	483 041 8410		david.randall@oddfellows.co.uk
20	7pm Life in 1940's Britain	818 5520 4509		karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk
27	7.30pm Churchill 'I'll be sober'	847 8664 4646	1810	sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

June

1	4pm Advantages of being an Oddfellow	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
7	6.30pm Zingo Bingo and More	483 041 8410		david.randall@oddfellows.co.uk
8	11am Britain's Home Guard	879 422 7670		demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk
11	2pm Blasts from the Past	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
14	2pm Homes for Wildlife with Bob Keene	895 0812 1413		karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk
16	2pm Summer Garden	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
22	4pm Your Hundred Best Tunes	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
29	7.30pm Patrick & Maria Bronte	227 108 7843		emma.marshall@oddfellows.co.uk
30	7pm The 60's: A Decade of Change	879 422 7670		demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk

July

2	2pm Cybercrime; Frauds and Scams	910 7968 6020		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
6	4pm Cheese Presentation and Sampling	910 7968 6020		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
7	2pm Classic Comedy Clips	853 5928 5951		helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
9	2pm Johnny Clamp Reveals All	910 7968 6020		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
16	2pm Tears of a Clown	910 7968 6020		paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
23	2pm 'You've Never Had It So Good!'	879 422 7670		demi.trotman@oddfellows.co.uk
27	7.30pm The Joy of bird song	227 108 7843		emma.marshall@oddfellows.co.uk

More online events are added every week!

If you'd like the latest online event listing, email your Secretary or Social Organiser with the subject line 'Please send the online events list'. You can also receive the latest Oddfellows news straight to your inbox. Just make sure your Branch Secretary has your up-to-date email address or call our Membership team to check on **0800 028 1810**. You can opt out at any time by contacting your Branch Secretary or unsubscribe@oddfellows.co.uk. We'll never share your details with any third party without your consent.

Branches raise over £145,000 for good causes in 2020

A big part of the Oddfellows is about giving back. We're run by our members, for our members, and that means providing them with the support they, their friends, family and communities may need.

The societal impact of the worldwide pandemic and nationwide lockdowns truly showed us the importance of coming together as a community. And despite many facing funding and resource crises themselves, charitable organisations stepped up to play a huge part in helping people to get through the struggles of last year.

To show our continued support, our UK Branches raised £145,742.59 for good causes in 2020.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "In one way or another, we've all needed somebody to lean on at various points during the pandemic, so it's wonderful to see how our Branches and members have been helping their local communities and good causes."

Oddfellows Branches and members also made significant contributions to Society fundraising initiatives during the past year, such as our Coronavirus Emergency

Appeal, in which £19,210 was raised to split between The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust.

Our 115 UK Branches regularly donate to a long list of local organisations and charities. From supporting homeless shelters through to funding public defibrillators, they work tirelessly to help make their towns great places to live for people of all ages, from all walks of life. Here are a few examples...

Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Sponsored a local mum with £550 who was raising money for the Children with Cancer charity by running a marathon across town. Every day, 12 families are given the heartbreaking news that their child has cancer, and CWC funds over 60 research projects which all work towards giving children the very best chance of survival.



Mid-Staffordshire Oddfellows

donated £1,000 to Midland Air Ambulance Charity, which has air bases in Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, and provides emergency care in hard-to-reach places.



North Gloucestershire Oddfellows

donated £6,000 to Merton House Hotel to get it back on its feet after early closures in 2020 due to government restrictions. Merton House Hotel offers respite and convalescence care to a number of Oddfellows members.

The Great Berkhamstead District

donated £2,000 to a local school last year that runs a charity called "No Child Without". Many children were left at a disadvantage following school closures, due to a lack of access to tablets and laptops at home. No Child Without makes sure that every child has the basic necessities to learn, no matter their background.

Nene and Welland Oddfellows

raised £1,000, plus £400 worth of food and bedding for the Exotic Pet Refuge, which runs entirely on public donations to support its menagerie of wolves, snakes, monkeys and meerkats – to name a few!



Leigh and Bolton Oddfellows

donated £500 to Bolton Hospice, which offers local support for people with life-limiting or terminal illnesses. The hospice costs £4 million per year to provide its specialist care.

If there's a cause close to your heart which you'd like to support, have a chat with your local Branch Secretary, and share some of your fundraising ideas with them.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards 2020

Each year, we offer members who are undertaking an apprenticeship the opportunity to apply for a financial grant to help them with their training. Applications are open from March each year, until 31 December, and of those who apply, three members are selected by our Fraternal Board to receive **£250 for every year of their studies.**

Meet our 2021 Apprenticeship Educational Award Winners!

Fenton Gaymer, 16, is completing a plumbing apprenticeship at Gayges Ltd in Swanley, Kent, through Bexley College.

He says: "I'm really excited to start my career in plumbing. It's an essential service and I feel that there will always be a need for plumbers. An apprenticeship is a great way to begin a career, as it offers the opportunity to earn a wage whilst learning a skill, meaning that when I'm fully qualified, I'll be able to get started straight away."

Jack Lockwood, 18, is completing an apprenticeship in Carpentry with Alan Bender Ltd in Colchester, through the Colchester Institute.

He says: "I'm hoping to put as much of it as I can towards a van and some tools to help me get set up in the trade."



Fenton, Jack and Rhianna

My Grandad was a carpenter, but I really got into woodwork at school. It's always satisfying to see a project from start to finish, and feel proud that you've created it yourself."

Rhianna Lees, 17, is completing an apprenticeship in Manufacturing Engineering at Rolls Royce in Derby, through the University of Sheffield.

She says: "I'm extremely grateful for the award. It will go a long way in helping me to purchase essential course textbooks. My mum's always encouraged me and my twin brother to dream big and go for what we want. She's really made me who I am today."

We also offer Educational Awards for members who are undertaking their first University Degree. If you'd like to be considered for our First Degree Course Educational Awards, contact your Branch Secretary for an application form.

The deadline is 31 August each year, and member eligibility applies.

Peak District Friendship Tour

Oddfellows Travel is hosting a special three night guided tour of the Peak District. All members and their guests are invited.



Staying at HF Holiday's Peveril of the Peak Country House Hotel, in Dovedale. You'll get the chance to explore some of the Peak District's signature attractions.

For further information contact tour host Mike Hall:
0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224)
travel@oddfellows.co.uk

3 – 6 September 2021
From £355 per person

Full board – single rooms available



To book call Warner's on **0330 100 9774**
Quote **ODDFELLOWS** when booking

OT/A5/0221/V1



the
Oddfellows
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel