

October 2021 - March 2022



O^{the} **OddfeLLows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Events & News

Worcester Branch



Edward Elgar statue, Worcester



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



We hope you can join us for our Christmas Lunch on Monday 20 December

Welcome to our new Events Diary and Newsletter, I hope you and your families are all well and getting your lives back to some form of normality.

Dear Member

The last 18 months have been a difficult time for everyone but as a Society the Oddfellows have done everything possible to stay in touch with its members whether by mail, telephone or for some via Zoom, but we are thrilled to say that we are now able to meet face to face again, and your local Lodge Secretaries have put together an exciting and varied program of events for you to enjoy.

For those of you who for some reason are not able to attend meetings the online Zoom events are going to continue, these are listed on the Oddfellows website,

Contact Details

Branch Secretary: Sandra Loynes

Telephone: 01905 422591

Email:
sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk

Address:
3 Windsor Avenue,
Worcester
WR2 5LZ

but for those who have provided me with their email address I will continue to send the list to you every two weeks.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the next few months.

Yours fraternally
Sandra

District Secretary
Worcester District Branch

Regular Event

Ten Pin Bowling

Every Second Tuesday
of the month



10am



£3.80 for two
games and a hot
drink and biscuits



Come and join us for a morning of ten pin bowling. Open to members and non-members. Everyone welcome. Bowl Extreme, Perdiswell Park, Droitwich Road, Worcester WR3 7SN. For more details please contact Kath on 01299 826734.



Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

OE/0521A6

October 2021

TUES
05

Beetle Drive (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7.30pm



Free



Dice game. Who can build a beetle the fastest? Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

SUN
10

Annual Lunch



12 noon



£25



Our annual lunch this year will be at the Bank House Hotel. A three course lunch plus tea or coffee. Please arrive at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. Book by Friday 17 September 2021. Bank House Hotel and Spa, Bransford, Worcester WR6 5JD. Please contact Sandra on 01905 422591 or email her at sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk for the menu.

MON
11

Whist Drive



2pm



Free



Do you enjoy a game of Whist? If so come and join us, who knows you may win a cash prize. £10 for the gent with the highest score and £10 for the lady with the highest score. We will be holding a raffle and refreshment will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact John on 01905 355241.



MON
25

Quiz (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12 noon



Free



Get those thinking caps on it's quiz time. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle, so any donations would be gratefully received. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

November

TUES
02

Quiz (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7.30pm



Free



Time to get those thinking caps on. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
08

Bingo



2pm



Free



Do you enjoy a game of bingo? If so, come join in the fun and possibly win a prize. We will be holding a raffle and refreshment will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact John on 01905 355241.



MON
22

Beetle Drive (Fernhill Heath Branch)



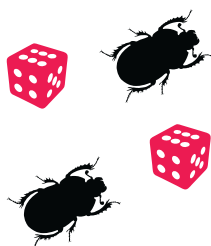
12 noon



Free



This is a dice game to see who can draw a beetle in the fastest time, don't worry you don't have to be an artist. There will be prizes for the winners.



Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

THURS
25

Committee of Management Meeting



7.30pm



Free



Committee members only. Tesco's, St Peters Drive, Worcester WR5 3SW. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



December

TUES
07

Whiskey and Mince Pie Night (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7.30pm



Free



To earn your whiskey and mince pie you have to join in with the carol singing and if you don't like whiskey, don't worry there will also be wine. A raffle will also be held. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

MON
13

Christmas Party



2pm



Free



Christmas is nearly here and we are having a party with guest singers performing songs from the shows, so come along and join in the fun. We will be holding a raffle and refreshment will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact John on 01905 355241.

MON
20

Christmas Lunch (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12 noon



Free



At time of print, the Christmas menus were not out, so details will be issued at a later date. Book by Monday 22 November 2021. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



January 2022

TUES
04

Card Bingo (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7.30pm



Free



Bingo with a difference, don't worry if you've never played it before, you'll soon pick it up. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.

January 2022

February

MON
10

New Year Lunch



12 noon



Members £10,
Guests £13



We are celebrating the New Year with a two course meal with your first drink free at the Mitre Oak. Why not join us, please arrive at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. We will be holding a raffle. Book by Monday 13 December 2021. The Mitre Oak, Crossways Green, Hartlebury, Worcester DY13 9SG. Contact John on 01905 355241.



MON
24

Name That Tune? (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12 noon



Free



Do you know your music? Come and enjoy the fun there are prizes to be won. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.

TUES
01

How many items in a matchbox? (Stanley Baldwin Branch)



7.30pm



Free



How many items can you fit into a small matchbox? You'll be surprised. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON
14

Play Your Cards Right



2pm



Free



Come and join our own Bruce Forsyth for a game of Play your Cards Right. He'll even give the winners a prize. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact John on 01905 355241.



February

THURS 24 Committee of Management Meeting

7.30pm

£ Free



Committee members only. Tesco's, St Peters Drive, Worcester WR5 3SW. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.



MON 28 Whist Drive (Fernhill Heath Branch)

12 noon

£ Free



Cash prize for the gent and lady with the highest score. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



March

TUES 01 Quiz (Stanley Baldwin Branch)

7.30pm

£ Free



It's time to get those thinking caps on again. Refreshments will be provided and we will be holding a raffle. Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcester DY13 8BH. Contact Kath on 01299 826734.



MON 14 The Early Life of Elvis Presley

2pm

£ Free



An audio/visual presentation by Mike Speed. We will be holding a raffle and refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact John on 01905 355241.



March

SAT 26 Annual General Meeting



2pm



Free



This meeting is open to all members. Refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Orchard Street, Cherry Orchard, Worcester WR5 3DW. Contact Sandra on 01905 422591.

MON 28 Fish and Chip Lunch (Fernhill Heath Branch)



12 noon



As per menu



Who can resist fish and chips. We will be holding a raffle. Book by Monday 28 February 2022. The Lyppard Hub, Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester WR4 0DZ. Contact Jeff on 01905 422591.



**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

A Letter from our member in Italy

Hello to all my friends in the Worcester District. My name is Trudi Thompson, and I am 88 years old and reside in a care home in the lovely village of Kaltern, in Northern Italy.

You probably know that I was born in Italy and my family have a farm near Kaltern. I went to the UK to learn English and lived with a friend of my mother's in Uxbridge. While I was in the UK I trained and worked as a nurse, originally on the children's ward.



Village of Kaltern

I met my future husband, Keith, at a conference in Oxford. We became good friends and eventually we were married in London where we both worked. Our next move was to Worcester where I worked for many years at the Worcester Royal Infirmary, (the birthplace of the British Medical Association) as a sister in the operating theatre. Keith was employed as a Manager at the Ronkswood Branch. We lived in the Northwick area of the city during this time and later moved down the road to a new housing development at Bankside Close, where we lived for 20 years.



Village of Kaltern

Keith and I joined the Worcester District of Oddfellows, and we were members of the Ombersley Lodge. Keith served in all the offices and went on to become the Provincial Grand Master of the Worcester District.

We went to Italy every year to visit my relations and we rented a small apartment up in the Mountains because Keith liked biking and walking, and we went to the same place every year and became friends of the family. Keith Loved the beautiful area with its valleys rolling hills and vineyards and the fresh clean air of the mountains. So, when Keith's sisters died and our son, Andreas, moved to Canada we decided to sell up our bungalow and move to Italy. We stayed at my brother's farmhouse for four months until we found a nice apartment close to the village with wonderful views over the vineyards and the mountains beyond, sometimes topped with snow.

Keith kept in touch with his friends via e-mail and telephone and helped at my brother's farm at harvest time, picking apples, pears, and grapes.

I have been in the village for 20 years now and have met up with old friends, some of which I first met at school.

After a short illness, Keith died and was buried in the family grave. I used to visit his grave on a regular basis, but the corona virus put a stop to that. I had a fall in 2019 and suffered a broken shoulder and broken arm and because I could not cope on my own, I moved into a nursing home. Keith was in the same home when he was ill, so I got to know most of the staff, and they are extremely helpful and friendly.

It has been a difficult year in the home with no visitors because of the virus. We must wear masks all the time and wear gloves to play cards or scrabble. We must try and keep 1 metre apart, even in the dining room where we must sit on our own at separate tables. It is so lonely. Having said that we are looked after very well. Both patients and staff are tested every week and since January 2021 we have all been vaccinated twice.

I am pleased to say that no one in the home has been infected by the virus. A lot of the group activities have stopped but things are improving, and we are now allowed out into the village for a walk with a member of the staff.



Trudi relaxing in the garden



Trudi with her embroidery in the garden



Baking bread

Now I must stay in the nursing home until the good lord calls for me.

I send my best wishes to all my friends, especially Joan Bayfield, Jim and Molly Mavor and John Bradley.

Thinking of you each time that I read the events booklet.

Love from Trudi.

My Memories of when the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited Worcester

By Mary Drinkwater MBE

As you can see from the photos the Queen and the Duke really enjoyed their visit to Worcester on 1 March 2001. The Duke was in great form and straight away pointed out that the clock was not working opposite the Guildhall as you can see from the second photo. He made a beeline for the guests waiting outside and chatted to the children as well as cracking jokes. As we entered the Guildhall, he pointed to the fire buckets on the wall and asked what they were. When I said fire buckets, he said "That's a bloody stupid place to put them!" He was right!

Before lunch a tray with a Dubonnet and a Pale Ale was put ready in the Mayors Parlour. The Queen was on my table and the Duke was on Councillor David Clark's table. They were both very relaxed and chatted away. I had to give a speech with a large microphone which was a bit nerve racking but they both listened intently. Then they both signed the Guest book with my husband's pen and were presented with two old Worcester cheeses by Alyson Anstey.

As they left the Duke was still keeping us all entertained and I wish I could remember his goodbye because he evidently made me smile.



It was a wonderful day and all the more special because the Queen and the Duke were such a fantastic team together.

He will be much missed.

Celebrations 2021/2022

Sunday 29 August 2021

Tim Bridges celebrated his
60th Birthday

Saturday 13 November 2021

Molly Mavor will celebrate her
80th Birthday

Sunday 26 December 2021

Mary Gale will celebrate her
80th Birthday

Wednesday 9 March 2022

Keith Blackwell will celebrate
his 70th Birthday



Obituaries 2020/2021

Memories comfort you
for memories are treasures
that time cannot destroy

Hazel Fryer

Sheila Bicknell

Lionel Charlton

Brian Johnson

Jean Bourne

Beryl Goodwin

E.M Beach

Freda Carrier

Lionel Garbett

George Hopkins

Holly Butler

Harold Hardwick

Francis Powell

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date!
If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and
followed our Oddfellows social media pages. Find us at:



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

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 Sandra on **01905 422591** or email **sandra.loynes@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**

The Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC)

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

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

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

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

Welcoming our newest Grand Master, David Ogden

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

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

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



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

Congratulations to our Making a Difference Award winners!



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

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

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

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



Wendy, from Ipswich Oddfellows

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



Paul, from South London Oddfellows

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

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

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

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



Janice, from Reading Oddfellows

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

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

Working together to Make a Difference for 2022

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

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



Have your say!

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Social Events at a glance

October 2021

Tues 5	Beetle Drive (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Sun 10	Annual Lunch	12 noon
Mon 11	Whist Drive	2pm
Tues 12	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 25	Quiz (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon

November

Tues 2	Quiz (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Mon 8	Bingo	2pm
Tues 9	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 22	Beetle Drive (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 25	Committee of Management Meeting	7.30pm

December

Tues 7	Whiskey and Mince Pie Night (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Mon 13	Christmas Party	2pm
Tues 14	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 20	Christmas Lunch (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon

100 Club

Date	No.	£10	No.	£5
April	70	Jill Smith	9	Ewen Bilboe
May	72	Lyn Spares	19	Rosemarie Drinkwater
June	38	Ken Link	45	Molly Mavor
July	63	Eileen Prosser	31	Bill Henchcliff
August	31	Bill Henchcliff	59	Sadie Partridge

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

Social Events at a glance

January 2022


Tues 4	Card Bingo (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Mon 10	New Year Lunch	12 noon
Tues 11	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 24	Name That Tune? (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon

February

Tues 1	How many items in a matchbox? (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Tues 8	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 14	Play Your Cards Right	2pm
Thurs 24	Committee of Management Meeting	7.30pm
Mon 28	Whist Drive (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon

March

Tues 1	Quiz (Stanley Baldwin Branch)	7.30pm
Tues 8	Ten Pin Bowling	10am
Mon 14	The Early Life of Elvis Presley	2pm
Sat 26	Annual General Meeting	2pm
Mon 28	Fish and Chip Lunch (Fernhill Heath Branch)	12 noon



Why not become an
Oddfellows pen pal friend?

With so many of us staying safe in our homes, how would you like to write a letter to another member and become a Penfellow? If the answer is yes, get in touch.

Contact Sandra on **01905 422591** or sandra.loynes@oddfellows.co.uk