



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

**Summer 2020**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

# Mersey News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

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## Welcome to the latest edition of the Mersey News and Views

This is your newsletter so if you have any ideas for items please send them in. Maybe you have a favourite recipe, joke or a celebration that you would like to share with other members? Why not write about a social event you've attended or send in photos?

All items will be gratefully received. Any member wishing to contribute an article should please send them to me (details on the right). We look forward to hearing from you.

**Margaret Hughes**

## Contact Details

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

**Branch Secretary:**  
Margaret Hughes

**T:** 0151 639 2777

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merseyoddfellows

# Hello everyone, Welcome to Friendship Month

**I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and you are all keeping safe. You will notice that this time, we are only sending out the newsletter and not the Events Diary. This is due to the fact that at the time of writing, we are still not able to go out and about to socialise properly.**

Be assured that we will be offering events again, as soon as we are able to do so in as safe a way as possible. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the puzzle book enclosed and the stories and items in this newsletter.

Don't forget to check out the online events at **[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)** which are being hosted with other Branches throughout the country. You are always welcome to contact me if you have any questions, or even just a chat.

Angela Jones, our Care and Welfare Officer, is also available if you need anything. Her number is 0151 425 2452.

For now, keep safe and keep your chin up and I look forward to seeing you hopefully in the not too distant future.

Very best wishes!

Margaret Hughes, Branch Secretary

Telephone: **0151 639 2777**

Email: **[margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk)**



*Branch Secretary:  
Margaret Hughes*

**ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



## 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.**

"We've a really friendly and supportive online network of thousands of Oddfellows members from across the UK and the world," explained the Society Social Media team. "Our official Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated, often daily, with topical national Oddfellows and Branch news. We also love reading your comments and posts!"

Find us at



**MerseyOddfellows**



**OddfellowsUK**

# Dingbats Quiz (Answers on page 11)

<p><b>WHERE</b></p> <p><b>FRILLY</b></p>	<p><b>WISH</b></p> 	<p><b>T</b></p>
1.	2.	3.
<p><b>ON</b></p> <p><b>RO AD</b></p>		<p><b>WET</b></p> <p><b>EARS EARS</b></p>
4.	5.	6.
<p><b>NOW IN HERE</b></p>	<p><b>J</b><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>YOU JUST ME</b></p>
7.	8.	9.
<p><b>WAETHER</b></p>	<p><b>COVER</b></p> <p><b>COP</b></p>	<p><b>GRA 12"VE</b></p>
10.	11.	12.

# In the Time of Quiet

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring  
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing

No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round  
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground  
No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood  
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud

No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue  
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view  
No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,  
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat

No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow  
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow  
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth  
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon  
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune  
Remember what you value, remember who is dear  
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near

In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare  
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere  
Look towards the future, after the ordeal  
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal

**By Philippa Atkin**



# My Model Navy - By Russell Strother

**I have been building model boats for several years, but had to press pause when my wife of 34 years became ill and I was looking after her full time.**

Just before she passed away, she told me I must take up the boat building again and also find a friend. I was fortunate enough to find The Oddfellows and I have not only found 'a' friend, but several, so I'm sure I will be in her good books. Unfortunately, I joined just before lockdown, so I haven't managed to get out as much as I would want. However, the boat building has kept me busy.

I joined the Merchant Navy in 1956 and served for five years. I worked on HMS Worcestershire and HMS Leicestershire. I was then on the maiden voyage from Liverpool on HMS Oxfordshire, moved to HMS Devonshire and finally finished back where I started on HMS Worcestershire as Petty Officer (Carpenter). I am proud to say that I am one of Her Majesty's Armed Forces Veterans - but I don't feel old!



*The Big Tug Roxanne*



*The current Navy – but being added to all the time*

When I came out I started work with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, then moved to Blue Funnel as a Shipwright. When the Charge Hand at Blue Funnel passed away, I was asked to take on the Charge Hand Role and worked there until the company closed in 1981.

I was out of work for only a few days and decided to go to the 'posh' Job Centre in Hoylelake. The lady I spoke to told me that Mersey Ferries were looking for a Shipwright and that her husband was the Treasurer. I already knew how to make gangways from my previous work so this proved to be a very useful skill and I landed the job. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the work that needs to be done, it plays havoc with your knee joints and I was forced to medically retire in 1991. I still miss it, but at least I have my own Navy to keep me going.



# Easy Exercises from your chair to keep you flexible

## Thanks to Oddfellows Kings Lynn

**Safety first: don't do any exercise which causes you pain /discomfort. This routine won't take more than about 10 minutes, but if you want to, do more.**

The first few exercises are for your toes, ankles and feet (this will help to reduce swelling and the risk of blood clots).

- With your right foot, tap toes four times and now do the same with your left foot. With your right foot, tap out to the side three or four times and then back to the centre four times. Do the same with your left foot.
- Lift your right leg, supporting it behind the knee with both hands. Turn your ankle eight times anticlockwise and then eight times clockwise. Repeat with your left leg.



These next exercises will help the circulation in your upper body:

- Stretch right arm out in front of you. Turn hand over so that your palm is facing the ceiling, bring the arm back and touch your shoulder blade with the tips of your fingers. Repeat eight times. Next think about the Queen and do a royal wave, eight times on each hand.
- Finally, place both hands loosely in your lap. Lift your shoulders up as far as you can. Hold for the count of four, or eight if you feel able and then slowly release. As you drop the shoulders down, make a sighing sound (no one is listening) and you will feel better afterwards. Do this four times.



# Cookery Corner

## Easy Cottage Pie – A James Martin recipe

**I am the first to admit I am not the world's best cook (possibly the worst!), but I found this recipe online and even I could follow it.**

There is nothing better than a bit of comfort food as the nights draw in and the use of red wine in this recipe meant I didn't think twice !

The only thing I changed was that I added frozen peas into the main dish so it was all in one - yummy!

Preparation time: Less than 30 minutes,  
cooking time: One to two hours, serves:  
four to six.

## Ingredients

### For the mince

- 50ml/2fl oz olive oil
- One large onion or 3 - 4 banana shallots, finely chopped
- 650g/1lb 7oz beef mince
- Two tablespoon portions of tomato purée
- One tablespoon of plain flour
- 150ml/5fl oz red wine
- Four springs fresh thyme, leaves only
- 400ml/14fl oz beef stock
- Worcestershire sauce, to taste
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### For the mash

- 900g/2lb King Edward potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 115g/4oz butter
- 125ml/4½fl oz milk

### To serve

- 150g/5½oz frozen peas
- 50g/1¾oz butter



## Method

1. Heat half of the oil in a large heavy-based pan. Add the onion and cook until softened. Tip it onto a plate.
2. Return the pan to the heat and add the remaining oil. When it's hot, fry the mince, in batches if needed, for four to five minutes, or until browned all over. Stir in the cooked onion and tomato purée and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the flour and cook for a further minute. Pour in the red wine, scraping up any caramelised bits with a wooden spoon, and add the thyme.
3. Add the stock and simmer for 45 minutes, or until the mince is tender and the mixture has thickened. Season to taste, and add a few dashes of Worcestershire sauce. Keep warm over a very low heat. Preheat the grill to high.



4. Meanwhile, for the mash, put the potatoes in a pan of salted water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 12 - 15 minutes, or until they are tender. Drain and return the potatoes to the pan, then place over the heat for about one minute to drive off any excess moisture. Mash well, then add the butter and milk, beating to form a smooth mash. Season to taste.
5. Put the mince mixture in a baking dish and spoon the mash over the top. Grill for eight to 10 minutes, or until golden-brown.
6. Meanwhile, boil the peas in boiling water in a small saucepan for three to four minutes, then drain and add the butter. Serve the cottage pie with the peas.

## Donald McGill's contribution to the Oddfellows' By Paul Fitton from East London District Oddfellows

**Donald McGill was the King of the Saucy Seaside Postcard. His contribution of 12,000 different risqué artworks gave birth to a whole new genre of British humour.**

Born in Pancras, North London in 1875, he was brought up in Blackheath in South London. He lost a foot following a rugby accident at school. His keen eye was carving him out a career as a draughtsman until he swerved into postcard design at the age of 30.

His career took off, although he never earned more than a few £'s for any design. McGill earned no royalties from his work and he died not a wealthy man in 1962.

He is buried in an unmarked grave in Streatham Park Cemetery in south London.

You may have bought postcards designed by McGill from a rack in souvenir shops or newsagents at any coastal resort around Britain. However, he wasn't always in favour. He was prosecuted in the 1950s under The Obscene Publications Act. His original art can be worth £000's.

Here is one of Donald McGill's postcards, with an Oddfellows flavour. The Donald McGill Museum opened on the Isle of Wight 10 years ago on 10 July 2010.



## Question Geography Quiz

### Answers on page 11

- Luzon is the capital of which populous South-East Asian country?**  
(a) Thailand (b) Indonesia  
(c) The Philippines
- Which island nation is the only place in the world where lemurs can be found in the wild?**  
(a) Madagascar (b) Sri Lanka  
(c) Seychelles
- What is the county town of Cornwall?**  
(a) Bodmin (b) Truro (c) Penzance
- On which body of water is Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, situated?**  
(a) Black Sea (b) Caspian Sea  
(c) Sea of Azov
- Alaska is the largest state in the USA by area. If it were split in two, what then would be the third largest?**  
(a) Oklahoma (b) Pennsylvania  
(c) Texas

# English Translations that didn't quite work!

## On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi:

'Take notice: when this sign is under water, this road is impassable'.

## In a City restaurant:

'Open seven days a week and weekends'.

## On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant:

'Our wines leave you nothing to hope for'.

## A Laundry in Rome:

'Ladies, leave your clothes here and then spend the afternoon having a good time'.

# Geography Quiz Answers

1. C

3. B

5. C

2. A

4. B

# Answers to the Dingbats Quiz

1. Frilly Underwear

7. In the Middle of Nowhere

2. Eyes Wide Open

8. An Inside Job

3. High Tea

9. Just between you and me

4. On the open road

10. A bad spell of weather

5. First in the Queue

11. Under Cover Cop

6. Wet behind the ears

12. One foot in the grave

# Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



**None of us know what is around the corner...**

## Local Care and Welfare Support

We have a wonderful Care and Welfare Department who can help you out with convalescence or help at home after a stay in hospital, but if you are feeling lonely, don't forget that we have a local Care and Welfare Visitor, Angela, who is more than happy to phone you and have a chat. Just let Margaret know on **0151 639 2777** or email **margaret.hughes@oddfellows.co.uk** your phone number and she will sort it out for you.

## 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](mailto: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](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.

## Time to say “Thank you!”



**It's true that lights shine brightest on the darkest of days as, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, we've witnessed countless acts of kindness and the best of humankind.**

Jane Nelson, CEO, says, “Oddfellows has its own very special brand of friendship which goes a long way in helping our members through some difficult times, and these past few weeks have been extremely difficult for so many people. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Branches and all our volunteers for the fantastic way that they all rose to the challenge, and we can't thank them enough for their efforts.”

As with other local organisations supporting older or vulnerable people, including many who live alone or who

are shielding, our volunteers make a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as making welfare check-in calls, organising essential shopping and providing company through befriending and online events.

Once again, our most heartfelt thanks go to the individuals who have given their time freely to be a friend to those in desperate need. We will not forget your kindness, and we hope that their example continues to inspire many others to offer their help where possible, long into the future.

Interested in becoming an Oddfellows member volunteer? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or take a look at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering/](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering/)

# Our emergency appeals

At times of crisis, the Society has always looked for ways to help. Which is why, when our friends in Australia were fighting against bush fires at the end of 2019, our members rallied to offer their support.



Reflecting on the donations, Oddfellows CEO Jane Nelson said: “Thank you again to all who have contributed to the Appeals, and for enabling those in need to receive the support they so desperately need, as well as to draw comfort from the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.”

We're pleased to tell you that the total amount raised by our members was £7,600. This money has gone directly to those affected, to help rebuild communities and provide valuable support.

We also launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, in support of The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust's critical work during the pandemic. Both organisations work hard to ensure help and comfort is provided to those who desperately need it.





# We'd love to see you at our online events

**Just because you aren't able to come along to our usual face-to-face events at the moment, it doesn't mean that you should have to miss out on all of the fun!**

Lots of our Branches are hosting online events, open to members from across the country, through Facebook Live or Zoom video conferencing. Don't have a smartphone or a computer with a camera? There's a phone-in option as well, so it's accessible to all.

Whether you're looking for exercise motivation with our Seated Yoga class, hosted by Swansea and Bridgend, or you'd like to test your general knowledge with Ipswich's weekly trivia quizzes, there is something for everyone. If you're struggling to get set up on Zoom, our Branches are on hand to help.



Give your Branch Secretary a call and they can talk you through the process. It's a free-to-use video conferencing tool, and it's a great way for you to stay in touch with your fellow members.

Facebook is another option. Lots of Branches have their own Facebook page updated regularly with events, news, fun quizzes and a little bit of humour to keep us smiling through these tough times. If you haven't liked your local Oddfellows page yet, get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ask for the link.

## Oddfellows Travel Unveiled

Despite there being restrictions on how and where we can travel at the moment, we're busy behind the scenes creating a brand new line-up of short breaks, longer trips and cruises for 2021 under the new name Oddfellows Travel (formerly Active Travel Club).

Rest assured, we're still working with our trusted third-party travel partners, Fred. Olsen, Warner Leisure Hotels, Haven and Leger Holidays who are ABTA and ATOL

protected, so you can be confident your booking is in good hands.

When you're thinking about taking your next trip, don't forget to look at what we have to offer. Whether you're a foodie, a culture vulture or a history buff, we hope to have a holiday that you'll love.

Visit Oddfellows Travel at  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)

# Attending a Zoom get together

**Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that can be accessed through the internet, or via an app on your computer, mac, smartphone or tablet. You will need to have a valid email address to register and use it.**



To find and install the app, just visit the app store on your device and search for Zoom. You can still use Zoom without installing the app - just go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Zoom allows users to meet online, with or without video, so if you don't have a webcam, don't worry, you can still take part as if you were on a telephone conference call.

## How to join Zoom

Joining Zoom is really easy, just follow these simple steps:

1. Click on the Zoom app and then click on 'sign up'
2. Enter your email address, as well as your name
3. Set a password

If you are not joining through the app the process is exactly the same through the website [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

## How to join Zoom meeting

The host of the meeting will have sent you a joining code/Meeting ID - the Meeting

ID can be a 9, 10, or 11 digit number - they may have sent you this by email, WhatsApp or other means. There may also be a password to enter a secure meeting.

If this has been emailed to you, you may be able to click on a link and go straight into the Zoom meeting automatically - it may also give you a password to put in.

If you cannot click on a link:

Open the app on your device, or go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Click on 'Join a Meeting'

Put in the Meeting ID followed by the password if required

Hey presto, you are in - just make sure you can be seen and heard - say yes to any camera and microphone requests.

## Joining if you can't get online

You can access Zoom meetings with any phone, you obviously won't have the video element, but you can speak and hear the conversations.

Joining online is free, but depending on your telephone provider, there may be a charge for calling in.

**Contact your Branch Secretary for more information.**