



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

SINCE 1810

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

# Cleveland and Durham News

News and views from your local friendship group

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Oddfellows helping out  
in the Community



Annual General Meeting  
at Hart Village Hall



Burns Night



## Message from Margaret Wells, Social Secretary, and David Smith, District Secretary

### A Special Hello to everyone

**What are we missing most?**

**Each other of course!**

**Life and times are strange at the moment (to say the least).**

However, we have compiled our News Diary with our most recent past events to jog our memories of the wonderful social occasions which hopefully won't be too long before we are able to enjoy once more.

We are so proud of our members who despite the recent upheaval to our lives have remained positive and supportive of

each other. Zoom, Facebook, Face Time, Instagram, plus the good old telephone along with cards and letters have kept us all in touch and the response has been immense from members who can't wait to receive the News Diary even though social activities are somewhat limited.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to arranging a full and extensive social programme as soon as we are able.

In the meantime Stay Safe.

In Friendship, Love and Truth.

**Margaret Wells and  
David Smith**

**Front cover:** Smiling faces picture by designed by  freepik.com . **Page 2:** Hartlepool Town Wall by Mick Garratt and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

## Contact Details

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

**District Secretary**  
**Cleveland and Durham**  
 David Smith  
 43 Landseer Drive,  
 Billingham,  
 Cleveland TS23 3GF  
 T: 01642 655685  
 E: david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk



**Social Secretary**  
 Margaret Wells  
 Clover Cottage,  
 Palace Row,  
 Hart Village, Hartlepool  
 TS27 3AY  
 T: 01429 599323



**Luncheon Club Organisers**  
**Cleveland:** Sue Davies  
 T: 01429 268760

**Durham:** Pat and Neville Hind  
 T: 01388 417035

**District Chairman**  
**(Provincial Grand**  
**Master 2020)**  
 Ian Snowdon  
 T: 01429 266820



# 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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers).

Ref 1644



## New Trustee Wanted

**Following the resignation of Sister Audrey Newton for health reasons, a vacancy now exists for the above role. We wish to place on record our thanks to Audrey for her service in the role of Trustee and Committee Member over a number of years and look forward to seeing her at future social events whenever that may be.**

According to the Branch's rules we require this position to be filled in order for us to function and it is important therefore that we have the right person in position as soon as possible. To be eligible for holding the office you must be over 18 years of age and must also have been a member of the Society for two years. You would be responsible for protecting the assets of the Branch by acting in the best interests of the membership. A Trustee is a person who holds property and investments on behalf of the members. It must be emphasised that they are not expected to have comprehensive knowledge of legal documents and transactions but are entitled to seek professional advice.

The role includes signing cheques supported by invoices, checking the monthly Branch Accounts, attending Branch and Committee meetings (usually 10 per year) and taking an active interest in the finances of the Branch. The individual selected will be supported by the two existing Trustees and the Committee of Management and training will be available for them as well.

If you believe you have the necessary skills to fill this position please contact the District Secretary, David Smith, who will provide you with a document titled 'Responsibilities of Trustees of Branches' which gives guidance about the role and he will willingly take questions of any facts you are unsure of. His contact details are below.

**Contact David Smith, 43 Landseer Drive, Billingham TS23 3GF**  
**Telephone: 01642 655685**  
**Email: [david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk)**

# Annual Pre-Christmas break at Kingussie in the Scottish Highlands



*Time to pose in Christmas Jumpers while joining in the Carol Service.  
Front Row: Anabelle Lumsden, Russell Smith, Dora Smith, Joyce Grieves.  
Back Row: Brian Parsons, Bea Parsons, Richard Wright, Jenny Wright.*



*Diane and Keith with Santa at Kingussie.*



*Carol and Mohamed El-Menabawey with the piper.*



# Annual General Meeting held at Hart Village Hall, Monday 9 March 2020



*Ian Snowdon Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) and Wendy Snowdon.*



*Stuart and Sue Forrest, George and Liz Everson (from left to right) enjoying Annual General Meeting refreshments.*



*Many members were in attendance.*



*Old and New Friends enjoying refreshments following the Annual General Meeting.*



## Oddfellows helping out in the Community

**On Tuesday 21 January 2020, a presentation of £900 was made to Alice House Hospice, Hartlepool, by our Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman), David Ison as part of the Branch's charitable giving during his year of office. Also in attendance were Greg Hildreth, Deputy Fundraising Manager at the Hospice, Janice Forbes, Community Fundraiser at the Hospice, Helen Ison, Margaret Wells, Social Co-ordinator, and District Secretary, David Smith.**

David Ison commented that his choice of Alice House to receive a charitable donation from the Branch during his term

of office, was in recognition and thanks for their kind and caring service afforded to members of his wife's family and friends over times past.

Greg Hildreth thanked us for our generosity and stated that the hospice exists to ensure people affected by a life limiting illness or the death of a loved one have the care, comfort and support they need. Their mission is to provide services that add value to life and make a difference to patients and their families.

*Photograph from left to right David Ison, Janice Forbes, David Smith, Greg Hildreth, Helen Ison.*



## Burns Night Event at West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club

*Left to right - Val Rodgers, Rita Measor, Betty Dempsey, Jean Armstrong.*



*Left to right - Keith Holroyd, Pam Holroyd, Roberta Thomson.*



*From left to right - Sue Connell, Maureen Smith and Liz Halford.*





*Haggis Tatties and Neeps – traditional Burns Night Fayre.*



*David Smith, John Hubbard and Phyllis Hubbard.*



*Addressing the haggis at Burns Night with piper Geoffrey Richardson in attendance.*



## Oddfellows giving support to Neuroblastoma UK - In fighting childhood cancer

**On Monday 10 February District Chairman, David Ison, District Social Coordinator, Margaret Wells, and District Secretary, David Smith, travelled to Newcastle University for a meeting with the Trustees of the above charity.**

At the meeting David presented a cheque in the sum of £900 to Mr Tony Heddon, Chairman of the Trustees. Professor Deb Tweddle, medical trustee, was also in attendance.

Tony thanked us for joining them at their Board Meeting and said it was a rare treat to meet us all in person. He knew how

hard it was to raise such a large sum and they were very grateful to the Oddfellows Cleveland and Durham District.

Last July they invested £1.3 million in UK based research projects and are working hard to build up the coffers so that they will be able to invest even more at their next grant round. He wished all Oddfellows a happy and healthy 2020 and hoped that our paths cross again in the future.

***Picture top: District Chairman David Ison, Tony Heddon Trustee for Neuroblastoma UK, District Secretary David Smith.***



## Supporting Local Rugby

**Over recent years we have supported West Hartlepool Rugby Club-Minis and Juniors Section and this year our Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman), David Ison, presented a cheque for £300 in the presence of some of the Under 15s.**

The secretary of the club, David Picken, thanked us for another fantastic donation which is much appreciated.

***Picture left to right:** Evan Flounders, David Ison, Harry Lancaster and Matthew Borthwick.*

## New Members

**Martin Sanderson  
Elizabeth Everson  
George Everson**

**Carole Lawson  
Winston Mansfield  
Stanley Langman**

# Eagle-Eye Quiz

**Why not have a go at winning. There will be three winner prizes of £25 in Marks & Spencer vouchers\* in our Eagle-Eye Quiz. All you need to do is find the answers to our 10 questions below, which can be found throughout this newsletter. So get reading and get spotting!**

Send your answers, along with your name, address and contact number to david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk by Sunday 1 November. You can also enter by post: David Smith, 43 Landseer Drive, Billingham TS23 3GF. The competition is open to Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows members only. Good luck!

## Questions

1. Where was the Burns Night Supper held?
2. What was the piper's name?
3. How much did Alice House Hospice receive as a charitable donation?
4. What is the name of our incoming Provincial Grand Master and his wife?
5. How much did West Hartlepool Rugby Club-Minis and Juniors receive as a charitable donation?
6. Name one of the junior members present at the presentation?
7. What is the purpose of Neuroblastoma UK?
8. How much did the above charity invest in the UK in July last year?
9. Who was Chairman of the Trustees present at the meeting with Neuroblastoma?
10. Where was the meeting held with Neuroblastoma UK?

### **\*Competition terms and conditions:**

Entry to the competition is automatic on submission of the required information. We will not share your details with any other party. Only one entry per person. No cash alternative is available. The competition is managed and fulfilled by Cleveland and Durham Oddfellows Branch (the Promoter), 43 Landseer Drive, Billingham TS23 3GF.

The competition will close on Sunday 1 November at 23.59 hours. The draw will take place shortly afterwards.

The winner will be notified by email or phone within four weeks of the close of the competition. The Promoter, on receipt of a stamped address envelope, will provide details of the winning entry. The promoter has the right to publicly disclose the name of the winner. The decision of the Promoter on any matter relating to these rules shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.





## We WILL meet again (Social distancing of course!)

In view of the fact that the coffee afternoon event in Friendship Month, to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses had to be cancelled, the Committee have decided to donate £500 to the charity for their wonderful work in Cleveland and Durham. Also our

Chairman, Ian Snowdon, agreed at the last Committee Meeting that we send £1,000 to Zoe's Place in Middlesbrough and £1,000 to Hartlepool Stroke Association as part of our charitable giving during his year of office.

*Picture above: Alice, Pat, and Eileen welcomed by Michael Neary holding out the hand of friendship at the 2019 Friendship Coffee Morning.*

## 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.



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

# Meet your Cleveland and Durham

## Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you  
Care, Advice and Support



**We would like to introduce you to our friendly Welfare Visitor team who are here to help you.**



Margaret Wells



David Smith

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings and would like a visit for a cup of tea and a chat?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone?

Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

*All our Welfare Visitors receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are when they visit.*

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring David Smith on **01642 655685** or Margaret Wells on **01429 599323**.

# National Oddfellows Helplines

As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

## 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 areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

*Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.*

## 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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits\* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

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

## Eagle Eyed Quiz Last Edition Answer

1. La Louviere, Belgium
2. Steve Rudman, Coach Driver
3. Crown and Cushion Pub, Welburn
4. Alice House Hospice, Hartlepool
5. Le Strange Hotel, Hunstanton
6. Yorkshire Group Executive
7. Friday 24 January
8. Harrogate Spring Flower Show
9. Mohamed El-Menabawey
10. Rockoholics

## Members Remembered

Joyce Allinson	Joan Hornby
Brian Walker	Barbara Bettinson
Noreen Hare	Simon Hopkins
Jennifer Jones	Peter Waite
Elizabeth Gatiss	Colin Bainbridge
Elizabeth Mullins	Marie Moore
Theresa Docherty	Josie Worthy
Pat Styles	

Our thoughts are with their families at this difficult time.

## Happy Birthday

**We are pleased to announce that our oldest member, Brother Terry Lewis is 102 this week and we wish him many happy returns. You will recall we featured his life story in a previous magazine.**



## Traditional Terms

**Grand Master (GM):** Chairman

**Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM):** District Chairman

**Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):**  
District Deputy Chairman

**Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):**  
District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

**Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):**  
Immediate Past District Chairman

**Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM):** Past District Chairman

**Lodge:** Branch

**Brother and Sister:** Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family



## Our Making a Difference 2020 Award winners!

**Our annual Making a Difference Awards identify and celebrate the people who make the Oddfellows the warm and welcoming Society we know and love.**

We would normally present the winners with a trophy at our annual AMC, but unfortunately lockdown meant we've had to reschedule the presentation until 2021. Regardless, these four fabulous members deserve every ounce of recognition, and so we're pleased to announce this year's winners in their respective categories.

Jane Nelson, CEO, says: "All of our members make the Society a wonderful place to form friendships, access advice and provide support, but we also believe it's important to recognise when somebody goes above and beyond for their Branch. A huge congratulations to this year's winners, and of course thank you to everybody else who was nominated! Your hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed, and we hope to see you nominated again next year."

Member nominations for 2021 are now open, so if you know somebody who always goes the extra mile when volunteering, raising money, checking in on other members, or doing their very best for the Branch, fill in the member nomination form overleaf and hand it to your Branch Secretary. Additional nomination forms and further information can also be found at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).



*Winners have been sent a certificate to mark their achievement (for now!) but are invited to AMC 2021 to be presented with their specially engraved award.*

### 2020 Making a Difference Award Winners

#### FOR GIVING A HELPING HAND

**Bruce Nicole**  
Concord Branch

#### FOR WORKING IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUALITY

**Barry Bedford**  
Nene and Welland Branch

#### FOR GIVING SOMETHING BACK

**Effie Bowman**  
Burton-on-Trent Branch

#### FOR ENRICHING LIVES SOCIALLY

**Margaret Wells**  
Cleveland and Durham Branch

# Explore the UK with the National Trust

**As the National Trust starts to slowly reopen some of its historic sites, Oddfellows Travel takes a look at five landmarks now open to pre-book.**

## Bodiam Castle, East Sussex

Explore the grounds of this 14th century castle which comes complete with a moat. This fine example of medieval splendour is a quintessentially English castle with turrets and a gatehouse. Take a picnic with you and sit by the moat, before taking a stroll around the lush green castle grounds.



## Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire

Explore over 3,800 acres at Clumber Park. Once the estate of the Dukes of Newcastle and although the house is no longer there, the estate has a stunning lake, mature parklands and calming woodlands – perfect for a picnic.

## Fell Foot, Cumbria

Fell Foot is located at the southern end of Lake Windermere and has magnificent mountain views. In summer, ornamental flower meadows are in full bloom and provide the perfect habitat for local wildlife. Take a gentle stroll around the lake, followed by a flask of hot coffee (or tea if you prefer!) on the lawn.

## Corfe Castle, Devon

As a survivor of the English Civil War, the iconic castle offers breath-taking views across the 1,000 hectares of Purbeck lowland heaths, home to some of the region's indigenous wildlife including the Dartford warbler and the sand lizard.



## Sutton Hoo, Suffolk

Take a walk around the estate at Sutton Hoo and marvel at the Royal Burial Ground, a breath-taking and ancient Anglo-Saxon burial site. There are also sweeping views across to the River Deben, a haven for wildlife. For the latest site openings and to pre-book prior to any visit, go to the National Trust website.



**Looking for inspiration for your next holiday? Oddfellows Travel is working on a brand-new line-up of short breaks, longer trips and cruises for 2021. Take a look what's coming up in the Travel section of our website.**



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## Member Nomination Card

My name is: .....

I would like to nominate *(insert the member's name and Branch they belong to)*  
.....

**Category** *(please tick as appropriate – descriptions on reverse of card):*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enriching lives socially           | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving something back |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working in the spirit of mutuality | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving a helping hand |

In less than 50 words, please explain why this member should be shortlisted for this award:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Once you have filled in your member nomination, please return this form to your Branch Secretary.

# Making a Difference Award



## 1. *Enriching lives socially*

This member loves contributing to social activity, whether as a frontline organiser or backroom support. Whatever they do, they can always be relied on to get everything together for the get-togethers and without their input your events just wouldn't be as good as they are.

## 3. *Working in the spirit of mutuality*

This member's passion lies in the running of the Branch and Society as a whole. Typically they will have held one or a number of formal roles and worked collaboratively with their management committee to make positive things happen.

## 2. *Giving something back*

The focus of this member is to raise as much money as possible for worthy causes. They may be involved in organising or participating in fundraising activities or events and will use every opportunity to help raise money or 'in kind' charitable support.

## 4. *Giving a helping hand*

Looking after other members is what this member loves best. They are likely to be a Welfare Visitor or other caring volunteer who goes out of their way to look after the wellbeing of members – whether phoning, writing or visiting, they can always be counted on when it matters or in times of need.