

April - September 2022



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DDfELLOWS SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Events & News

Making Friends in Coventry Godiva



Welcome to our latest combined Newsletter and Events Diary.

With Spring in the air and the majority of people now triple jabbed we are announcing a small number of face-to-face events, as well as continuing with our popular Zoom quizzes and get togethers for coffee and a chat.

Wherever possible we are choosing activities and/or venues where there is the possibility of sitting outside for those who prefer. As you can imagine, it is very difficult planning events six months in advance at the moment, so, nearer the time, please do check that the event you fancy is still going ahead; the best way to do this is to phone us via one of the numbers listed on this page under 'Contact Details'. Also, do keep an eye on both our Facebook and Meetup pages as it is there that you will find any additional ad hoc events announced.

I hope that the longer and warmer days ahead will herald the opportunity for some more get-togethers and some fun – something that seems to have been sadly lacking these last two years. The Oddfellows however are here for you, in good times and bad, no matter how you are feeling... we are only a phone call away.

A bit about us.....

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.

Contact Details

For details about membership and the wide range of benefits available please contact:

Secretary: Christine Lockett

Address:

Oddfellows House,
2 Queen Victoria Road,
Coventry CV1 3JH

Telephone: 024 76632900 or
07974 362077

Email:

christine.lockett@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Co-ordinator

Jan Lewis

Telephone: 07579 766208

Email: jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

Take care everyone and be safe.

Christine Lockett

Branch Secretary

PS. Intrigued by our front cover?

The stained glass image is a detail from one of the 'Swedish Windows' in Coventry Cathedral. They are to be found to the left of the great tapestry by the stairwell and were a gift from the people of Sweden made by artist Einar Forseth.

Social Events

Coffee and a Chat!

Friday

⌚ 10.30am

£ Free

If you would like a relaxed cuppa and something to smile about within the comfort of your own home, then come and join us on Zoom along with our friends from Deeside. We have regular visitors from all over the country and from abroad too. Pull up a chair, pour that drink and maybe, open a sneaky packet of biscuits too. Go on and treat yourself! Email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk for the link to join at least 24 hours before the start of the call.



8 April
10 June
12 August

29 April
24 June
26 August

6 May
8 July
2 September

13 May
29 July
16 September

Trivia Quiz

⌚ 7pm

£ Free

Third Wednesday
of the month

Each month Coventry Oddfellows will be putting together a fun quiz covering a variety of subjects to test and challenge you. The quiz will be run over a number of rounds, giving everyone the chance to find their strengths (and weaknesses!). In order to participate please email jan.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk for the link to join at least 24 hours before the start of the quiz.



20 April
17 August

18 May
21 September

15 June

20 July

Diary reminders for each of the above events will be posted on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OddfellowsCoventry>), along with any additional information: For instance, some of the quizzes may have a particular theme, so the super-keen amongst you may want to do a bit of research beforehand!

April 2022

WED
06

Napton Cidery Visit

🕒 1pm

£ £10



Napton Cidery was founded in 2015 with the sole mission to collect unwanted apples from the village and surrounding orchards to make something wonderful. From pressing a simple 2,000 litres in 2015, they now press over 90,000 litres per year, all sourced from small, traditional orchards. Join us for a visit and tasting but note that the taproom is a former milking shed on a very old working farm, so it's not that well insulated! Please bring appropriate footwear and warm clothes! Book by Friday 1 April. **Napton Cidery, Holroyd House Farm, Napton on the Hill, Southam CV47 8NY. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



WED
13

Dining Out at The Old Smithy

🕒 7.30pm

£ As per menu



A warm welcome awaits you at The Old Smithy at Church, Lawford. It really is a very cosy pub and has a great atmosphere, along with a varied menu. All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening but booking is essential, five days before the event. **The Old Smithy, 1 Green Lane, Church Lawford, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9EF. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



FRI
22

Coffee with Friends

🕒 11am

£ First drink on us, then as per menu



The morning coffee (or tea) is always better when shared with friends and we would love for you to join our sociable group, so come along for a natter, have a browse around this great garden centre and have your first cuppa on us! **Smiths Nurseries and Garden Centre, Stoneleigh Road, Baginton, Warwickshire CV8 3BA. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



April 2022

WED
27

Annual General Meeting



7pm



Free



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on our premises at 7pm. A light supper will be provided so booking is essential for catering

purposes by Wednesday 20 April. **Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



May

WED
04

Dining Out at The Queens Head



7.30pm

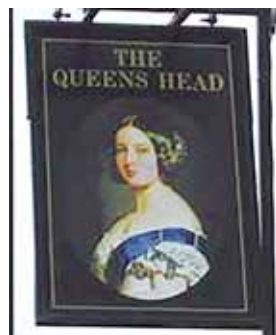


As per menu



Come and join us at this family pub that prides itself on quality home-made meals and traditional beers which are great

value for money. What is nicer than dining with friends? Book five days before the event. **Queens Head, Brandon Road, Bretford, Coventry CV23 0JY. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



May

MON
02

Warwickshire Point-to-Point



2pm



£15 adults,
under 16s free



A great day out in the countryside for both the sport and socialising. There will be plenty of trade stands and outlets for food, but feel free to bring your own picnic. The first race is 2pm, stout footwear advisable and keep your fingers crossed for good weather! **Mollington, On the A423, 5 miles north of Banbury OX17 1QE. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



May

FRI
20

Coffee with Friends



First drink on us,
then as per menu



The morning coffee (or tea) is always better when shared with friends and we would love for you to join our sociable group, so come along for a natter, have a browse around this great garden centre and have your first cuppa on us! **Smiths Nurseries and Garden Centre, Stoneleigh Road, Baginton, Warwickshire CV8 3BA. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



June

FRI
17

Coffee with Friends



First drink is on us,
then as per menu



An exciting new venue for our monthly face to face coffee morning! The Caffeine Project Coffee Roasters is a Warwickshire based coffee supplier that has been serving local restaurants and cafes since 2017. This however, is their first coffee house and café which is located in the grounds of Greens Home & Garden Centre. So, come and join us at this great new find: A unique coffee house serving own blend coffee, breakfast, lunches and sweet treats. Don't forget, your first cuppa is on us! **The Caffeine Project, Greens Home & Garden Centre, Rugby Road, Binley Woods CV3 2AX. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**

June

TUES
07

Dining Out at The Roseycombe



7.30pm



As per menu



There will be a warm welcome at The Roseycombe, with good food and a great atmosphere - plus, what is nicer than dining with friends? All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening. Book by five days before the event. **The Roseycombe Pub, Rugby Road, Coventry CV3 2AY. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



July

TUES
05

Dining Out at The Old Smithy



7.30pm



As per
menu

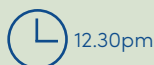


A warm welcome awaits you at The Old Smithy at Church, Lawford. It really is a very cosy pub and has a great atmosphere, along with a varied menu. All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening but booking is essential, five days before the event.

The Old Smithy, 1 Green Lane, Church Lawford, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9EF. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

SUN
10

Midland Group Conference Quiz



12.30pm



Free



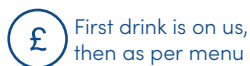
If you are interested in joining us as a member of our quiz team, please do get in touch. Teams will be made up of four people, but we can enter more than one team! The event will start with a buffet lunch at 12.30pm. Book by Thursday 30 June. **The Oddfellows Hall, 32 Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GU. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**

FRI
15

Coffee with Friends



11am



First drink is on us,
then as per menu



An exciting new venue for our monthly face to face coffee morning! The Caffeine Project Coffee Roasters is a Warwickshire based coffee supplier that has been serving local restaurants and cafes since 2017. This however, is their first coffee house and café which is located in the grounds of Greens Home & Garden Centre. So, come and join us at this great new find: A unique coffee house serving own blend coffee, breakfast, lunches and sweet treats. Don't forget, your first cuppa is on us! **The Caffeine Project, Greens Home & Garden Centre, Rugby Road, Binley Woods CV3 2AX. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**



August

SAT
06

Summer Barbeque



6pm



Free



Join us for a summer barbeque in the grounds of Oddfellows House. Bring your own meat and drink; we will provide the salads and bread. Book by Monday 1 August. **Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH.** Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

FRI
19

Coffee with Friends



11am



First drink is on us, then as per menu



Yet another new exciting venue for our monthly face to face coffee morning! Freshly ground coffee, speciality teas, cold drinks and a range of milk shakes are all on offer here as well as a great selection of cakes. When you have had your fill you can then browse the 75,000, or so books that are held in stock. The range includes antiquarian, rare and out of print books as well as a huge range of both fiction and no-fiction. Don't forget, your first cuppa is on us! **Astley Book Farm & Coffee Shop, Astley Lane, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 0NE.** Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.



TUES
23

Jane Eyre



5pm



£15 (adults),
£11.50 (Children)



Heartbreak Productions have been staging outdoor theatre for 30 years and to celebrate they will be putting on a very special production of Jane Eyre in the intimate grounds of Hill Close Gardens. There will be the opportunity to picnic in the grounds from 5pm, with the production starting 6.30pm. Early booking essential as tickets are limited. **Hill Close Gardens, Bread and Meat Close, Warwick CV34 6HF.** Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.

August

THURS
25

Dining Out at The Queens Head

7.30pm

£ As per menu



Come and join us at this family pub that prides itself on quality home-made meals and traditional beers which are great value for money. What is nicer than dining with friends? Book five days before the event. **Queens Head, Brandon Road, Bretford, Coventry CV23 0JY. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**

September

FRI
09

Coffee with Friends

11am

£ First drink is on us, then as per menu



Yet another new exciting venue for our monthly face to face coffee morning! Freshly ground coffee, speciality teas, cold drinks and a range of milk shakes are all on offer here as well as a great selection of cakes. When you have had your fill you can then browse the 75,000, or so books that are held in stock. The range includes antiquarian, rare and out of print books as well as a huge range of both fiction and no-fiction. Don't forget, your first cuppa is on us! **Astley Book Farm & Coffee Shop, Astley Lane, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 0NE. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT
24

Friendship Month Pie 'n' Mash Night

7pm

£ Free



Friendship makes the good times better, the hard times easier and gives us memories to cherish for a lifetime. The Oddfellows annual Friendship Month helps us focus on the value of friendship and, in the spirit of friendship, we invite you to come and join us for a filling meal of pie and mash, which will be provided free of charge to both members and non-members alike. Booking is required by Thursday 22 September for catering purposes. **Oddfellows House, 2 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry CV1 3JH. Contact Christine on 024 76632900 or Jan on 07579 766208.**

Branch Contacts

Tradesman Branch and Nelson Branch

Secretary: Peter Matthews, 6 Eastern Green Road, Coventry CV5 7LH.

Telephone: 024 76462256

Earl of Craven Branch, Good Intent Branch, Admiral Lord Nelson Branch

Secretary: Matthew Redmond, 17 Alexandra Street, Nuneaton CV11 5RN.

Telephone: 024 77989963



Online events you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home...

**Talks, coffee mornings, exercise classes,
quizzes, fun & games and much more**

Visit oddfellows.co.uk/events

and enter 'Kelso' in the place name box

Need help to attend an online event? Just give your local Social Organiser
or Branch Secretary a call or email events@oddfellows.co.uk

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A message from Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows CEO

Dear friends

For me, two things really stood out in 2021 – how resilient everyone has been, and how well we've adapted to so much change.

It's been a tough 12 months on top of a previous tough nine months, and who knows how many more? However, as Oddfellows, you've looked out for one another, stayed open to doing things differently, and it's getting us through. Your actions have made an amazing difference to so many of our members' lives.

Gratitude

I want to thank you all for everything you have done. When speaking with our members and volunteers, and working alongside our Branches and staff in Manchester and Liverpool, I have felt immense pride – about our Society, everyone involved, and in Oddfellowship. By working together, we've shown that Oddfellows do what we say we do, no matter what challenges are thrown at us.

“Being there for our members continues to be our priority.”



At the start of 2021, we had hoped that by the end of the year things would feel a little brighter. We've made huge strides in our understanding of Covid, but the landscape is still very unpredictable. And when faced with uncertainty over a sustained period, it can make us feel overwhelmed and anxious.

One thing I've been doing to try and manage these feelings is to focus on what I can control, and acknowledging what I cannot. It's not always easy, but it really has helped. Sitting with your thoughts or worries and working out what you can influence is time well spent. You can then identify the bits you can take action to change, which puts you in a more positive frame of mind. Covid is here to stay and the challenge for us all now is learning to live alongside it.

If you've needed support from us, I hope we've been able to help you where we can. Being there for our members continues to be our priority.

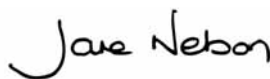
Online events are here to stay for as long as there is a need to keep people in touch with others from the comfort of their home. And our local and national care and welfare teams, and advice lines, will always be there for anyone who needs help to work through a problem or worry.

We sadly lost many people we cared about in 2021. To those that passed, we will always remember you. Our condolences go out to family and friends, and rest assured they'll always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

We are having to cope with higher levels of uncertainty and worry at the moment, so we must make sure we rest well, smile as often as we can and be kind to ourselves and others. These are all totally within our control.

On behalf of the Society and my family, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

Stay safe and well. Yours always in friendship



Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows

Lupus research team skills up for the future

In November we visited Guy's Hospital to see members of the Lupus Trust research team who have been the recipients of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund since 2019. Lockdown had the unintended consequence of sending the research in a new direction.

The restrictions meant they had to abandon the laboratory to work from home but this gave them time to focus on learning how to analyse big data, a skill that will benefit the research well into the future.

Pictured is the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Ogden handing over a cheque of £29,000



to Professor Jo Spencer and PHD student Bekki Velounias.

The donation marks the final instalment of a major three-year funding partnership, which totalled £85,000.

Oddfellows Travel – travel with confidence and in great company in 2022

We can't wait to get members and guests together for an exciting range of holidays in 2022. There's such a selection, something is sure to float your boat. Here's what's on offer...

London Theatre Weekend

17–19 June 2022

(2 nights. Bed and breakfast)

£245 per person



For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

We kick off the season with a trip to London to enjoy restaurants, shopping and musical theatre. We couldn't get closer to the buzzing West End than the 3* St Giles Hotel, located just yards from Oxford Street and Leicester Square. Join us for welcome drinks on Friday with our host, member Debra Haley. On Saturday, we head to the Victoria Apollo Theatre to see highly acclaimed musical, **Wicked**. On Sunday, we will make the most of the location with a shopping trip, ending our weekend with lunch before the journey home.

An unforgettable cruise exploring Norway and the Arctic Circle

22 June–7 July 2022

(15 nights. Full board)

From £2,899 per person

All aboard the Fred. Olsen cruise ship Balmoral on this exploration of Norway's northernmost reaches – an unforgettable journey of a lifetime. Setting off from Newcastle, join Oddfellows host Wendy Atkins as we journey to the Arctic Circle to the famous island of Spitsbergen, just 700 nautical miles from the North Pole. We will experience the remote beauty and eerie silence of distant towns situated in the stunning Arctic landscape. Our magical journey continues to the Norwegian mainland, to the 'top of Europe', the North Cape plateau and Tromsø, taking in stunning sights of lakes, mountains and glaciers on a journey that's unforgettable.



For more information, contact host Wendy Atkins at wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01437 251 867

Oddfellows Summer Holiday 4–8 July 2022

(4 nights. Half board)

Warner Leisure Hotel's Nidd Hall, Harrogate. From £351 per person for a Standard room or £381 per person for a Signature room

Treat yourself to a break in a Grade II listed Georgian mansion in the Yorkshire countryside on our annual hosted summer getaway. Oddfellows Travel summer holidays are legendary and this year promises to be no exception. Set in 45 acres of award-winning gardens in the North Yorkshire countryside, we will be staying at Nidd Hall Hotel – where rumour has it Edward VIII met Wallis Simpson at a party.

For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk

Unwind with friends

The group holiday, which will be hosted by David Ogden, our Grand Master, is open to any members and their guests from across the UK. Together we'll be enjoying drinks, mouth-watering meals and superb live evening entertainment. You'll be free to choose how to spend your day – exploring the stunning location, sharing a game of bowls in the glorious gardens or relaxing in the swimming pool and spa. There's a host of activities to entertain you. Join us – bring a friend – and enjoy this beautiful 18th century mansion near Harrogate.



The spectacular grounds at Nidd Hall, Harrogate

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 Christine on **024 76632900** or email **christine.luckett@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

At a glance

April 2022

Wed 6	Napton Cidery Visit	1pm
Fri 8	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Wed 13	Dining Out at The Old Smithy	7.30pm
Wed 20	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 22	Coffee with Friends	11am
Wed 27	Annual General Meeting	7pm
Fri 29	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am

May

Mon 2	Warwickshire Point-to-Point	2pm
Wed 4	Dining Out at The Queens Head	7.30pm
Fri 6	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Fri 13	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Wed 18	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 20	Coffee with Friends	11am

June

Tues 7	Dining Out at The Roseycombe	7.30pm
Fri 10	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Wed 15	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 17	Coffee with Friends	11am
Fri 24	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am

July

Tues 5	Dining Out at The Old Smithy	7.30pm
Fri 8	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Sun 10	Midland Group Conference Quiz	12.30pm
Fri 15	Coffee with Friends	11am
Wed 20	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 29	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am

August

Sat 6	Summer Barbeque	6pm
Fri 12	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Wed 17	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Fri 19	Coffee with Friends	11am
Tues 23	Jane Eyre	5pm
Thurs 25	Dining Out at The Queens Head	7.30pm
Fri 26	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am

September - Friendship Month

Fri 2	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Fri 9	Coffee with Friends	11am
Fri 16	Coffee and Chat!	10.30am
Wed 21	Trivia Quiz	7pm
Sat 24	Friendship Month Pie 'n' Mash Night	7pm