

Provincial Grand Master's Message

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas (even if it has been different from normal this year).

2020 has certainly been challenging, who would of thought at the beginning of the year the world would be spiralling towards a pandemic? But Derby District has risen to the challenge; we have certainly altered the way we socialise. No face-to-face meeting or events, instead we have 'Zoomed' our way through 2020.

I have enjoyed co-hosting our Coffee Morning online; I hope I haven't made the Saturday Morning Quizzes too difficult. We have even held our Crafty Socials online: Although this has proven difficult for me as I find it hard enough to craft and chat,

now I have to craft, chat and Zoom. We will continue with Zoom events in the early part of 2021, to keep in touch and hopefully with the vaccine being administered we will be able to meet up again soon.

Although, we advertise our organisation in the media, getting new members is always a challenge, so why not invite your family and friends to one of our online Zoom events and let them 'try us out' as a new face is always welcome.

Our Annual Christmas Prize Draw was held online this year with a quiz afterwards. I would like to thank those that donated one of the many raffle prizes and those that bought tickets; we raised £646 for Derbyshire Blood Bikes. Although, we have not held any social events this year, I

am delighted by how much we have raised so far and cannot thank our members enough for their generosity.

In 2019, Derbyshire Blood Bikes made 2,830 journeys, but by the first week of November 2020 they had already made their 7,000th delivery supporting healthcare in Derbyshire. I had hoped that we could have invited a volunteer from the charity to one of our Coffee Mornings during 2020 to further enlighten us on the work that they do, but this is something to look forward to in 2021.

Sending my best wishes for 2021 to you all.

Yours fraternally

Polly Cunningham

Prize Draw



The lucky winner was Geoffrey Allman winning the large hamper. The other prizes consisted of wines and spirits, chocolate and biscuits, and a couple of gift vouchers.

A complete list of prizes and winners is available at the office.



There were 23 items kindly donated by members for our Annual Prize Draw. This year the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Pauline Cunningham made the draw via a Zoom meeting, ably assisted by Maureen Burgoyne.

Intriguing Meanings

Jack the Lad

This expression for a cocky young man may have come from one Jack Sheppard, a thief who became a popular hero by escaping from prison four times.

Lick into Shape

Stems from the medieval belief that bear cubs are born as formless blobs and must be licked into shape by their mums.

Maverick

Texan rancher, Samuel Maverick owned so many cattle, he left the calves unbranded. They were known as 'mavericks' and the word was later given to anybody who refused to follow the crowd.

Hair of the Dog

Short for 'hair of the dog that bit you', this stems from an old belief that a bite from a rabid dog could be cured with a potion containing a hair from the same animal. It was later transferred to the idea that a small drink could help a hangover.

Pamphlet

A 12th century Latin tale involving a hero called Pamphilus became so popular that it was reprinted in booklets called 'Pamphilets'. Eventually, all trace of the story was lost and Pamphilet became today's 'pamphlet'.

Gym

The ancient Greeks trained in the buff to show off their physiques, gymnasium comes from 'gymnazein', meaning 'to exercise naked'.

Berserk

A berserker was a Norse warrior who fought with wild rage - he went 'berserk'. The name came from an old Scandinavian word meaning 'bearskin', worn by Vikings.

Bumf

This term for tedious and throwaway written material is a shortened version of 'bumfodder' a military slang term for toilet paper.

Red Squirrels and Brownsea Island



For many years, whilst visiting the Lake District and Anglesey, I have kept an eye out for red squirrels. At last I have seen two on a visit to Brownsea Island - that is something else to cross off my bucket list.

Brownsea Island is owned by the National Trust and lies in Poole Harbour, Dorset. It is 1½ miles long and ¾ miles wide and is a really lovely and quiet place with lovely views over the Solent. There is lots of wildlife to see, but the squirrels were my main interest. There are very few buildings on the island, a castle, church, one or two buildings and a couple of cottages that are let to holiday makers. It did have quite a community in the 1800s, but there were few signs left.

It was purchased by Mary Bonham-Cristie in 1927 for £125,000. She was a recluse and evicted all the residents to the mainland. She died in 1961 and her grandson gave the island to the Treasury to pay her death duties and the National Trust agreed to take over responsibility of the island.

It is also famous for being the place Baden-Powell chose to hold an experimental camp in 1907 to test out his Scouting ideas and there are monuments on the island to commemorate this.

Margaret Henchliff



Retirement of Derby District Trustee Brian C Hayhoe Past Provincial Grand Master

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Derby District 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM), was unfortunately cancelled in March. Brian Hayhoe had served as a District Trustee for almost 20 years. However, he decided to retire rather than put himself forward for re-election.

Brian has been an Oddfellow since birth, being an active member for many years, he served as Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) twice, during 1980-81 and also 1997-98, the year following his wife, Marion Hayhoe's year in office. Brian also served as Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands in 1990 and subsequently Noble Grand of the Loyal Derwent Valley Lodge in 2000. He acted as District Deputy at many Annual Movable Conferences (AMC) and continued to attend AMC for many years afterwards, with Marion, as a visitor up until 2019. I think it is safe to say that he had done his bit for our District.



The District Committee of Management had planned to make a presentation to Brian at March's AGM but this, sadly, was not to be. A gift had already been chosen, with an engraved plaque, but due to restrictions on visiting people in their homes, especially those above the age of 70, it was a while before we could present Brian with his gift.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in August, Miles Roper Past Noble Grand, from the District Committee of Management and District Secretary, Lorraine Killa visited Brian and Marion in their back garden to present them with the Love Seat. As you can see, they were very pleased with it.

On behalf of Derby District Committee of Management and all of our members, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Brian for his commitment over the years. He deserves a rest.



Plaque reads: Presented to Bro Brian Hayhoe. Enjoy your retirement with thanks for many years service from all your friends at Derby District Oddfellows.

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

Blackpool Illuminations 2020



I travelled with Dorothy, my friend from Mansfield, who was 86 on Saturday 10 October 2020 to Blackpool. We had a good journey there, leaving Derby Bus Station at about 10am. Our temperatures were taken and we sanitized before boarding the coach. There had been two pick-ups before us and there was one after. After about an hour, we all got off the coach for 45 minutes to have it sterilized again. Even so, we were at the Blackpool Norbreck Castle Hotel and in our rooms for 2pm.

Dinner was at 6.30pm and at 7.30pm we set off on the six mile strip of lights to Squires Gate and the coach then turned around and came back again, making it 12 miles in all. This enable the people on the opposite side of the bus to get a better view on the way back. This took three hours in all and the lights were very good, and as this was my first time, all new to me.

On Saturday, we used our bus passes and went to St Anne's and walked about there for awhile and enjoyed the nice seating areas. We got the bus back to The Tower and swopped, the bus for going to Fleetwood, where we found a nice café, which Bob, my late husband and I used to go to over 20 years ago. The walls are covered in different plates of all sizes and shapes from all over the world, which their customers had sent them. We had a nice birthday lunch for Dorothy and then went round the two inside markets and Dorothy purchased a few items for her handy crafts. There were so many to choose from and cheaper than online.

After dinner at the hotel, the entertainment was bingo and a quiz. However, we didn't go as we had a front sea view and from 7.15pm until 10pm we watched the decorated



vans and lorries, about 500 in all, going by at a snails pace, with lights flashing and music playing, all trying to outdo the others. We had lots of laughs - it's part of a charity event, which is laid on each year by Blackpool people to raise lots of money.

Sunday, after breakfast, we took a bus to the central pier and walked on the sand, seeing the donkeys and looking at the work which has been done on the promenade, with steps for seating which go down to the sand. We then walked back on the prom and passed The Derby Hotel, which my grandparents had in the mid-20s followed by my uncle in the 50s. After a cup of tea we caught the tram back to the hotel. We left the hotel at 1.40pm with a pick-up at The Tower at 2pm for those who wanted to stay in the hussle and bussle. We only stopped for a quick comfort stop of 15 minutes on the way back and were at Derby Bus Station for 4.45pm, so only two and a half hours trip.

Darren was an excellent driver and his lady partner drove up from Nottingham for the weekend and she gave us a running commentary, all about the history of the lights. The cost, apparently, is almost £2 million and over a million bulbs are used. It takes 13 weeks to put up the lights and eight weeks to take them down. I encourage you to go yourself as this year, for the first time ever, the illuminations will be on for Christmas and New Year - I think until Sunday 3 January 2021.

Take care.

Margaret Thomas

Barrie Siddons – Marathon Man

Barrie Siddons, who originates from Derby, now lives in Mablethorpe. He is still a member of the Loyal King George IV Branch. Barrie has been a keen runner for many years. Starting with the Derby Half Marathon, he then progressed on to the London Marathon, which he has run 11 times! He has also travelled to America many times to run marathons for charity, including New York (nine times), Chicago, Detroit-Texas and has a total of 40 marathons under his belt.

He obviously has a passion for running and keeping fit. He told me

that over the last year, he has been doing part of his daily run in the sea, where he lives on the East Coast of England and so far he has run a total of 154 miles in the sea, some of those miles during the winter. It makes me shiver just writing about it but he said he really enjoys it!

He really does love his running and not bad for an octogenarian. Photo shows Barrie on one of his daily runs. We wish him all the very best for his future and in the words of The Spencer Davis Group, may he 'Keep on Running'.

Lorraine Killa



A Friend is a Treasure

A friend is someone we turn to,
When our spirits need a lift.
A friend is someone we treasure,
For true friendship is a gift.

A friend is someone we laugh with,
Over little personal things,
A friend is someone we're serious with,
In facing whatever life brings.

A friend is someone who fills our lives,
With beauty and joy and grace,
And makes the world that we live in,
A better and happier place!



In life's Garden

Josephine Vestey send in this lovely poem that she thought members would enjoy.

Count your garden by the flowers,
never by the leaves that fall;
Count your days by the golden hours,
don't remember the clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your years with smiles, not tears,
Count your blessings, not your troubles,
Count your age by friends, not years.

Author Unknown

Best Quote for 2020

"This is not the year
to get everything you want."

"This is the year to appreciate
everything you have."

Kingston



As I sit here at my desk typing these words I can hear, coming from behind me on the sofa, the soft, irregular thump and indistinct whimpers of a sleeping dog wagging his tail and dreaming of cats, or rabbits, or whatever it is our dog dreams of in the 80 percent of the day he spends snoozing. He is Kingston, a lurcher of indeterminate age and unknown upbringing, who exactly three years ago to the day, came and joined our family.

Kingston came to us from the Dogs Trust in Loughborough after a few weeks of us visiting him, so he got to know us and so the folk there could make sure we were suitable dog-adopting material, and him visiting us with Dogs Trust handlers, so he could get used to our house and the sounds and smells there. We had hummed and hawed about getting a dog for a long time before taking the plunge. The main sticking point had been whether we would be at home enough as we are both freelancers working in theatre, which meant our time at home could be interrupted by the need to be away for work, sometimes for quite lengthy periods. It did seem though that while we were rarely both at home at the same time for long periods, we weren't often away at the same time. So eventually, after a period of mild research and

window shopping on the internet, we took the plunge and arranged an appointment with the Dogs Trust in Loughborough, the nearest centre to Derby where we lived at that time.

Once there, we were showed to the area where we looked at all the dogs that were in their pens and while there were several dogs that seemed nice enough, none of them really jumped out at us as potential pets. Part of the problem was that we had slightly different ideas about what kind of dog we wanted at that point. Becky liked the idea of a smallish dog, possibly a lapdog type of breed, whereas I was more inclined towards a larger dog, though not really big like an Alsatian or similar.

So, with a sense of mild disappointment we left the pens and went to sit and chat with the Dogs Trust representative who would talk to us to decide what sort of dog they could recommend. They asked some questions and then showed us some pictures and shared some details of dogs they had that they thought might be suitable. And that's when we got to a picture of a handsome black and white Lurcher. I've always rather liked Lurchers as a breed but he was a lot bigger than Becky had been considering and I could see she wasn't convinced but then the lady told us that Kingston had been found as a stray in Ireland in a very bad state and once brought back to health had come to England, but that had been 18 months ago and here came the sucker punch, he had never had a home. Well that was Becky hooked. She can't resist a sad story like that any better than I can, so we went to meet him.

We waited in a large hall while he wandered around sniffing stuff, scent marking and very deliberately pretended we weren't there until eventually, he cautiously sidled over to say hello and get a stroke. So we had made friends and he went back to his pen and we went off to sort out the adoption details.

He's been with us now for three years and it has been wonderful to have him in our home even if it has its occasional challenges. Kingston was very nervous about pretty much everything when he joined us, probably as a result of being in kennels for such a long time. But with a lot of work and patience he has become much braver, though he is still nervous about other dogs until he got to know them. He is a typical lazy Lurcher who loves to have a crazy burst of energy for 10 minutes but then sleep for most of the day. Since he joined us, we have had another major life change and now we live on a boat in Cheshire, which he has adapted to well despite not being all that keen on change. It can get a bit chilly at night on the boat in the winter, so for his third gotcha-birthday we have given him, along with a new harness and lead, a special pair of warm fleecy dog pyjamas (see picture). He's not terribly impressed with the idea of wearing trousers but he's a lot warmer at night now.

We don't really know how old he is, roughly nine years old maybe, but we hope he is with us for many more years to come yet. We remain very grateful supporters of the Dogs Trust and wholeheartedly urge anyone thinking of getting a dog to consider a rescue hound rather than a breeder. We got so much good advice and support and the dogs are wonderfully looked after there. The Dogs Trust is a charity and accept donations but also sell lots of dog merchandise. They can be found at www.dogstrust.org.uk

Adam and Becky McCready



Zoom is the New Place to be!

It's the new Staying Home,
Staying Covid Free!
No need to fear.

Tap in the numbers and away you go.
Carer's relaxing, Coffee Mornings and Quizzes too,
No need to stay at home, lonely and blue.
Head over to your computer and learn something new.
Skills and facts, fun and laughter along the way,
Church services, read the Bible and sing and pray.
Crafty Creative things to make,
Brush up your writing skills,
To light up someone's day.
When a penfriend's letter comes your way,
So spread the joy today, tell other carer's don't delay.

I was asked to write a poem because people are nervous of Zoom, but I started when our Zoom Services and Quiz Night went on Zoom. I soon got the hang of it, it was ideal for me because of Covid-19 and I couldn't leave my lovely husband, John, when he was poorly. So Zoom helped me to connect with the church, Oddfellows and my carer's group, and still keep in touch with the outside world and even more since John sadly passed away and I am now on my own. Take care and God bless.

Ruth Jackson

Raffle for Throw

Margaret Henchliff has again been busy crocheting a throw to be raffled in aid of the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity - Blood Bikes.

Raffle tickets are enclosed if you wish to enter at £1 a strip. Please return to the office with your remittance and raffle tickets with name and telephone number on the back of the raffle tickets, please make out the cheques to: The Provincial Grand Master's Charity.

Closing date Sunday 28 February 2021.



Lambie Badge

I had a nice surprise in September, I received a letter thanking us for the £6,400 raised during my year in Office. Also enclosed in the letter was a Golden Lambie badge. It is a limited edition presented to those who raise between £5,000 and £10,000 and I will wear it with pride, on your behalf.



Margaret Henchliff

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 Penny on **01332 345697** or email **penny.folds@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

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

*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.

Unknown Warrior

I found the service to the Unknown Warrior on Armistice Day very moving this year, 100 years since the internment in Westminster Abbey. There were several readings, but the one that has stayed with me was read by Cerys Matthews, who read the feelings of a young widow who was convinced the Unknown Warrior was her beloved husband, lost in the war. I am sure many others felt some comfort thinking he was their husband, son or brother.

I know he was not one of my ancestors, my grandad, Frederick Sims served and was wounded, but happily came home and my great uncle (one of my grandma's brothers), Samuel Farmer died from wounds in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) on the 30 March 1917. He was buried in Basra and I looked online at the war graves and really wished I hadn't, as they have not been looked after with respect as war graves usually are.

Before the war, he was a coach painter working for the Railway and his name appears on the memorial to the British Railwaymen on Midland Road.

At the time of the First World War the railways were the largest employer in Derby and around a third of it's employees, some 23,000 men left to fight, of whom 7,068 were wounded and 2,833 were killed. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled in 1921 by Charles Booth, chairman of the company.

Margaret Henchliff



Yarn Bombing



Unable to meet during these difficult times, what could the Crafty Ladies do - well 'yarn bombing' the Oddfellows Hall seemed a good idea. It was decided to cover the two pillars to the front porch of Oddfellows Hall, to bring a bit of colour to the street during the dull days of winter.

Under the cover of darkness, the pillar to the left of the building was covered in strips of knitting with autumnal items attached such as pumpkins, hedgehogs, acorns and a variety of leaves. The pillar to the right was covered in wintry items which have been changed or added to as we get nearer to winter and Christmas.

The ladies hoped it would bring a smile to passers by and brighten their days.



The Bennerley Viaduct



The Bennerley Viaduct was constructed to carry the Great Northern Railway Company's Derbyshire and Staffordshire line across the Erewash Valley, between Awsworth and Ilkeston. The wrought iron structure is an outstanding example of railway architecture for its time and one of only two wrought iron viaducts left in the country. The Bennerley Viaduct being the only one to survive in an almost unaltered state.

The Viaduct is 430 metres long and was constructed by the famous Derby based railway construction company, Benton & Woodiwiss; in an 18 month period in 1877 and 1878 and for the next 90 years carried both goods and passenger traffic.

With the closure of the Friargate line in 1968, British Rail wanted to demolish the structure. The viaduct was given a reprieve due to the eye watering cost of demolition. In 1974, the viaduct was given a grade 2* listing. Over the years, it has survived many attempts for it to be demolished. In 1998, the ownership passed to Railway Paths Ltd. In 2015, a grant was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and sought to engage the community in bringing back the viaduct as a walking and cycling trail. The support was strong and the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct (FoBV) was formed.

In October 2020, it was announced that the Bennerley Viaduct was one of seven cultural sites to receive a share of the American Express Awards \$1 million to World Monument Watch sites. In November 2020, it was also announced that the viaduct would also benefit from a grant from the Government's Recovery Fund.

The Loyal Pares Branch had invited Kieran Lee from the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct to give a presentation in October 2020. He was to explain the history of the

building of the viaduct and the work which is now taking place to restore this historic structure, which will give it a new purpose. The Pares Branch is hoping that Kieran will be able to reschedule for 2021 and we invite members of other Branches to join us.

Barbara Smith



First photograph: Author/Source - Grant Shaw/ Wikimedia Commons.

Second photograph: Alan Murray/On Bennerley Viaduct.

Big brand deals with Oddfellows Extra

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to food shopping, wine clubs and home insurance - Oddfellows Extra offers savings on many well-known brands and major retailers*

Members offers with our Oddfellows partners
*Terms and conditions apply, for more details please visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/offers/

Oddfellows spirit shines throughout Friendship Month 2020

Friendship Month looked very different this year, with many of our events held online, or restricted to a maximum of six people meeting face-to-face. However, we couldn't be more proud of the way that the Oddfellows spirit shone through, as we once again celebrated the power of friendship.

We saw Branches organising COVID-secure walks and outdoor picnics, making the most of the last bit of sunshine. Lots of Branches also turned their hands to organising virtual

events, Zooming across the country to link up with members and guests all over the UK! We've picked out a selection of our favourite pictures from September, to share with you a little warmth and happiness during these cold and difficult days.

We know how important face-to-face events are to our members and as soon as Branches are able to safely hold these again, we will let you know. If you have any pictures from an Oddfellows event that you'd like to share with us, feel free

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



to tag us in them on Facebook! We're at www.facebook.com/OddfellowsUK



Ipswich Oddfellows celebrate the launch of a new Friendly Bench, Boston and Lincoln Oddfellows plant some seeds of friendship with their potted plants, Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows host a picnic in the park, Stockport and Combermere Oddfellows network with a Zoom guest talk from local radio stars and Bradford Oddfellows enjoy a stroll along the canal.

Lupus research pushes through pandemic

2020 has seen our second instalment of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund given to the research team at the Lupus Trust. The £28,000 donation supports the day to day running of the team, which includes Bekki Velounias, who is currently working towards completing her PhD through her research with the Lupus Trust.

The team is looking into what causes the breakdown of certain cells, triggering the autoimmune reaction in lupus. Throughout lockdown, the team managed to avoid too many significant setbacks, working in the lab when they could, and analysing huge data sets when national lockdown was enforced.



Professor Jo Spencer with Bekki Velounias and our very large cheque!

A year like no other...

2020 has been a year unlike any I've experienced before. In March, we entered our first lockdown. Among many others, it placed restrictions on how we could spend time with friends and family, make visits to loved ones in hospitals and care homes, and even how we all earn our living.

Most devastatingly, many people were held back from saying a proper, supported farewell to those friends and family members who passed. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost someone special in the recent months. I know from personal experience how difficult it is, so if you need any comfort or help please remember to lean on us.

Coming together

It's human nature to come together in a time of crisis – to squeeze a hand, to offer a shoulder to cry on, to hug, or to simply sit side-by-side. However, despite it all, we are finding ways around things, as best we can. Nothing will ever stop us resourceful Oddfellows from giving comfort and support to each other and those in desperate need. This year, I've witnessed compassion and human kindness on a scale I've never known within the Society before, and this has really lifted me on my difficult days.

Being there for each other

I hope that if you needed help this year, you received it. I know that the staff and volunteers in our Branches have worked flat out to make sure members know they have someone to turn to. They've made thousands of calls and sent thousands of emails to check in with members and see if any help is needed. This has meant that many members were able to access critical food and medical supplies, as well as financial and emotional support. So, if anything is troubling you, please make sure you get in touch.

Keeping spirits lifted

I've seen some incredible innovation to keep spirits lifted and people connected. We'd only hosted a few online events here and there before 2020, but we're now broadcasting talks, quizzes, and even fitness sessions, straight into people's front rooms almost daily. I know online events won't ever replace getting together in person, but they're a wonderful way to make sure we can still keep in touch, safely. I do hope you try one if you haven't already. I've also been kept in the loop on so many unexpected acts of kindness from members and Branches, such as quizzes and puzzles being posted through letterboxes, and afternoon tea hampers and flowers being dropped off on members' doorsteps. Such small gestures make a huge difference to people, so if there is anything you can do to keep this going, then please do. Kindness is infectious.

Helping others

Oddfellows have always looked further than their own front door when it comes to charitable giving, and this year was no exception. In spring, a nationwide appeal to raise critical funds for The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust resulted in a donation of £19,210. It helped some of those hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. £7,600 was also raised and sent overseas to help Australian people to rebuild their lives following the 2019/2020 bushfires.

We know there have been countless other examples of charitable giving made by members and Branches this year, so thank you for helping where you can, and being wonderful ambassadors for our Society. I would also like to give a special mention to this year's four Making a Difference Award winners, members Margaret Wells, Barry Bedford, Bruce Nicole and our youngest to date, seven-year-old Effie Bowman. Our Society is



powered by the hard work and selflessness of such wonderful members. Huge congratulations to them and all who were nominated. Short listing these awards is such a difficult task, but it's an absolute joy to know that we have so many members out there living and breathing our motto of friendship, love and truth.

A truly special family

Looking forward to 2021, please try and stay positive. We have news of a vaccine, and therefore hope that we can be back together again, and that we can resume our daily lives with less fear, difficulty and uncertainty.

I've always known this, but the events of 2020 have confirmed just how caring, supportive, generous, friendly, and resourceful our Oddfellows family is. I am immensely proud to be a member of something so incredibly special and purposeful. I do hope you feel the same. Please accept my very warmest wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Until we're all able to meet together freely again, let's stay in touch. We're always here if you need us.

Take care, stay safe and stay well.

Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows



Member of Ware Branch, Paul, has lupus and inspired our decision to support the Lupus Trust over 3 years.

Professor Jo Spencer, from the Lupus Trust, says, "Bekki has been a fantastic addition to the research team, and her commitment to pushing forward with work throughout lockdown has been commendable. We're pleased with how the research is progressing in the face of so many difficulties."

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says, "We're so pleased to hear that the

research has been able to move forward despite social restrictions. It's been a difficult year for many, and this research is needed more than ever."

If you would like to find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, please visit the 'Giving Back' section of our website.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Jonathan Smyth** and his wife Naomi on the birthday of their twins Rosa and Louis, sister and brother to Zac.

Congratulations to **Hannah Folds** and her partner Matthew on the birth of Lyla, second granddaughter to Penny and Gary Folds.

Congratulations to **Arthur** and **Jill Anderton** on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, members of the Pares Branch.

Congratulations to **Charlie** and **Genieve Watts** on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, members of the King George IV Branch.

Congratulations to **Amy Walker** and her husband on the birth of their son, Finley Ian Thomas.

Congratulations to **Ian Shelton** and his wife, Anna, on the birth of their son Wilfred Scot, first grandchild for Christine Shelton.

Congratulations to **Pippa Mo** on her wonderful GCSE results.

Seen on the side of a building in Seahouses



*There wasn't a queue!
Wonder why!*

Obituaries

Audrey Disney

Good Intent Branch

Rita Thorp

Good Intent Branch

Francis John Glanville

Good Samaritan Branch

Take this cup of comfort,
Drink full of God's love,
Taste the care with which it's made,
By angels from above.
Absorb the healing essence,
Of it's warmer and tender glow,
And quench your spirit's deepest thirst,
With love's unceasing flow.



The Coronavirus Letter from Hope Smith, aged 13

It was late March when the United Kingdom went into lockdown. This was because of a virus that came in through Wuhan, China. There have been so many assumptions about the virus. Some people said one thing and other said another. But we all had just one thing to do - stay at home.

Most people stayed at home and listened to the government's guidelines, but some others did the complete opposite.

The guidelines changed every month to keep us all safe. We even had some local lockdowns. We have all been in lockdown for at least four months until it was eased. There was even a rise in cases once it was eased.

We are now in late August and the virus has stayed steady, but if we carry on the way we are doing we will get through this together.

If you have anything you would like included in our next magazine, it will be very gratefully received by the Editor. Please send them to the office, or email to penny.folds@oddfellows.co.uk, or lorraine.killa@oddfellows.co.uk who will forward them to Margaret Henchcliff.