

January - June 2022



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Cleveland and Durham Branch



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Dining
Out



Social



Talks



Holiday



Quiz



We hope you can join us to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Dear Reader

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cleveland and Durham District Newsletter.

At long last our much awaited events magazine has hopefully found its way to your letter box. Despite the difficulties of the last eighteen months, we are finally able to reach out to each other and enjoy and look forward to future events, along with recalling the social gatherings we managed, whilst adhering to Covid restrictions.



The diary has been missed by both active and non-active members. Hopefully it provides something for everyone and as we enter another new year, we welcome the opportunity to keep in touch by whatever means possible. Social Media has no doubt been a blessing to many during difficult times, and as long as we all remember to keep in touch with each other through Friendship.

Margaret Wells - Social Secretary

We would like to thank everybody that has contributed, members old and new. Please continue to send your images and articles as without your continued help there would be no newsletter.



In this edition we have our usual 'Eagle Eye Quiz' with a prize of £25 in Marks and Spencer vouchers. All the answers can be found in this newsletter. On a sad note the Oddfellows has lost two important ambassadors during the past year. Firstly my predecessor Ron Wigglesworth who held the role of District Secretary over a number of years sadly passed away in August.

Sister Wells and I had visited him on a regular basis when the rules allowed us to do so. Finally three members of the Management Committee attended a Memorial Service for Jenny Peters who had been responsible for organising the Annual Movable Conference over the years and she will also be sadly missed.

David Smith - District Secretary

Food with Friends

Marine Hotel **5 The Front, Seaton Carew,** **Hartlepool TS25 1BS** **Meet at 12 noon**

Tuesday 11 January, Tuesday
1 February, Tuesday 1 March,
Tuesday 5 April, Tuesday 3 May
and Tuesday 7 June

The menu is either two or
three course carvery or a la
carte. Members and friends
are welcome.

Contact Sue on 01429 268760.

The Newton Grange **Brasside, Durham DH1 5SA** **Meet at 12 noon**

Wednesday 26 January,
Wednesday 23 February,
Wednesday 23 March, Wednesday
27 April, Wednesday 25 May and
Wednesday 15 June

Come and enjoy food with
friends. Members and friends
are welcome.

Contact Neville and Pat on
01388 417035.

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

Telephone:

01642 655685

Email:

david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk



Social Secretary

Margaret Wells
Clover Cottage,
Palace Row,
Hart Village,
Hartlepool TS27 3AY

Telephone: 01429 599323



Luncheon Club Organisers

Cleveland: Sue Davies

Telephone: 01429 268760

Durham: Pat and Neville Hind

Telephone: 01388 417035

District Chairman **(Provincial Grand** **Master 2021)**

Ian Snowdon

Telephone:

01429 266820



January 2022

MON 10 **Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall**

L 11.30am **£** Free



Meet at 11.30am for the Committee of Management meeting, then 1pm for Good Intent Social Branch and 1.30pm for the District Meeting. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact David on 01642 655685.

TUES 25 **Burns Night Supper and Dance**

L 6.30pm **£** £15



Come and join us for Burns Night. Cost to include traditional Scottish supper and toast to address the haggis. Dancing to a live Ceilidh Band. Dress: Black tie, lounge suit optional. This has sold out very quickly in the past. Tickets available. Cost: £15. West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club, Catcote Road, Hartlepool TS25 4HA. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323 or David on 01642 655685.

February

MON 07 **Talk on E.N.S.A by Colin Bourdieu**

L 2pm **£** £3



Talk on E.N.S.A Memorial Appeal, raising money for a statue at the National Arboretum for all the men and women who helped entertain the troops in WWII. Members and friends are warmly welcomed. Cost includes light refreshments. Colin Bourdieu, our speaker is an ambassador for the E.N.S.A Memorial Appeal. Cost: £3. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323.



MON 14 **Branch Meeting at Bowburn Community Centre**

L 11.30am **£** Free



Meet at 11.30am for the Committee of Management meeting, then 1pm for Good Intent Social Branch and 1.30pm for the District Meeting. Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323 or David on 01642 655685.



March

TUES

08

Ten Pin Bowling



10.30am



£6.50 for two games



Join us for a morning of fun at Hollywood Bowl, Teesside Park, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 7BU. Cost: £6.50 for two games. For further information or if attending please contact Neville or Pat on 01388 417035.



MON

14

Annual Summoned Meeting



2pm



Free



All members are invited to attend the Annual Summoned Meeting of the Cleveland and Durham District Branch, to hear a review of the 2021 business and to accept the Financial Statement. After the completion of business the Branch Officers for 2022-2023 will be installed. Followed by a buffet tea at 3pm. Book by Friday 11 March. Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AW. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323 or David on 01642 655685.

THURS

17

Saint Patrick's Night Dance and Supper at West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club



6.30pm



Members £10, Guests £13



Join us for Saint Patrick's Night with dancing to a live Ceilidh Band and includes traditional Irish supper. Vegetarian option available if booked in advance. Tickets available. Cost: £10 for members, £13 for guests. West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club, Catcote Road, Hartlepool TS25 4HA. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323.



March

WED
30

Salute to Dad's Army at Billingham Forum Theatre



2pm



All seats
£16.50



Featuring award winning tribute artists, Lorrie Brown as Vera Lynn, Colin Bourdieu as George Formby, plus tributes to Flanagan and Allen Gracie Fields and Frank Sinatra. All held together by the Home Guard from Warmington-on-Sea. A non-stop song, laughter and sketches with songs from the 1940s. Book by Friday 28 January. Billingham Forum Theatre, Queensway, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees TS23 2LJ. Cost: All seats £16.50. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323.

April

MON
04

Ten Pin Bowling



10.30am



£6.50 for
two games



Join us for a morning of fun at Hollywood Bowl, Teesside Park, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 7BU. Cost: £6.50 for two games. For further information or if attending please contact Neville or Pat on 01388 417035.



MON
11

Branch Meeting at Bowburn Community Centre



11.30am



Free



Meet at 11.30am for the Committee of Management meeting, then 1pm for Good Intent Social Branch and 1.30pm for the District Meeting. Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT. Contact Margaret on 01429 599323 or David on 01642 655685.



Coach Tour to Malvern RHS Flower Show

Travelling with Cairngorm Travel to the Holiday Inn Bromsgrove for three days, two nights inclusive of bed and breakfast, evening meal. Cost includes ticket into the show.

£189 per person, sharing twin room. Single supplement applies. £50 non-refundable deposit secures booking.

Wednesday 4 May
Time to be confirmed

Holiday Inn Bromsgrove
Kidderminster Road
Bromsgrove
B61 9AB

To avoid disappointment early booking is advisable.

Call Margaret for more
information on
01429 599323

f OddfellowsClevelandDurham
www.oddfellows.co.uk

May

MON
09

Branch Meeting at Hart Village Hall



11.30am



Free

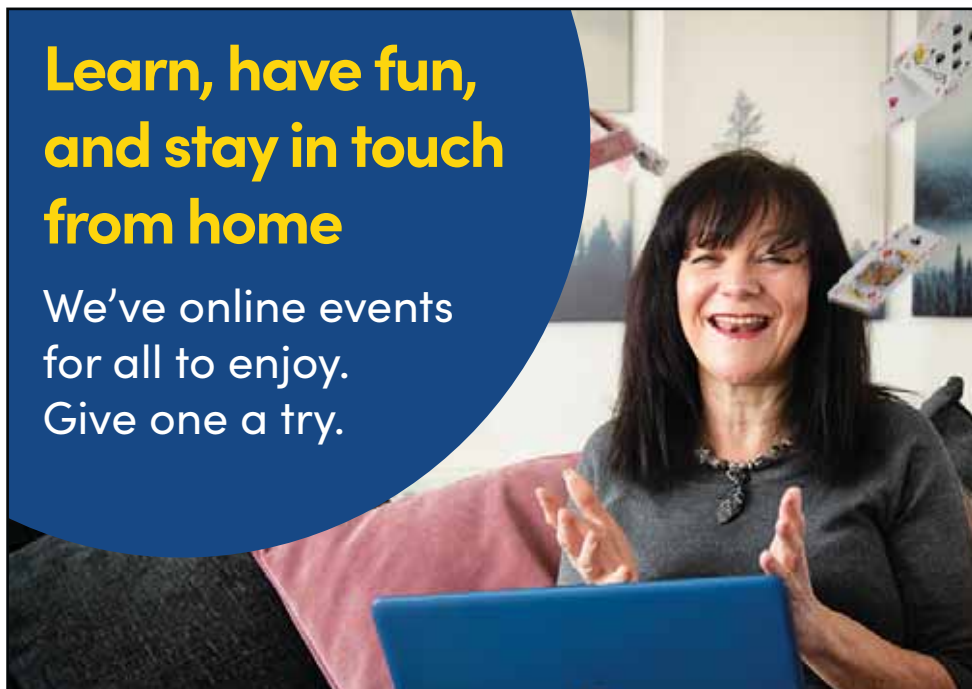


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Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

OE/0521A6



Her Majesty the Queen Platinum Jubilee Street Party and Concert with The Jades Singers

This is an opportunity to join in a fun afternoon in the presence of the Jades (four professional lady singers), whilst enjoying a traditional street party atmosphere with refreshments. Demand for this event will be high, so early booking is recommended by ticket.

Cost: £10

Saturday 18 June, 2pm

*West Hartlepool Rugby
Football Club
Catcote Road
Hartlepool
TS25 4HA*



Call Margaret for more
information on
01429 599323

f OddfellowsClevelandDurham
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Building a strong, supportive friendship group



Enjoying time with her Oddfellows friends. Sue is pictured in the middle.

Friends make all the difference, as Sue Davies learnt first-hand following the sudden death of her husband.

Sue Davies, 82, a retired Home Economics teacher from Hartlepool, has been a member of the Cleveland and Durham Branch of the Oddfellows since her husband, Tom, died suddenly 17 years ago.

She's urging others who might benefit from meeting up with like-minded people regularly, or from being more involved in their community, to seek out the support of a local social group.

Sue shared: "I was only 65 when Tom died from a cardiac arrest, so I knew I needed to keep myself moving forward. Despite having lived and taught in Hartlepool and the surrounding areas for such a long time, I realised I didn't have many friends who lived nearby.

"I was grieving, lonely and needed a support network. I was looking forward to a long and contented retirement with Tom, but that was shattered in an instant.

"I was determined not to give in, so that's when I decided to give the Oddfellows a try. Having heard about the Society on local radio and receiving a flyer through the door. I took the plunge."

Sue added: "I realised the Oddfellows was much more than just insurance, it was an enthusiastic and dynamic team of people like me, hosting a wide variety of events – coach outings and holidays, visits to local places of interest, black tie dinners and afternoon teas, many to raise money for charities.

"Me being me, I threw myself into Branch life – writing the newsletter, volunteering to set up a lunch club and putting on a monthly speakers and quiz nights that drew the community together. Not only were these great places to bring people together, it meant I started to build a strong, supportive friendship group."

Sue is now in a happy relationship with her partner, Alex, who has also joined the Oddfellows on her recommendation.

She added: "He's 77 and a World Master's Bench Press champion, holding several unbroken world records! We're

very well-matched as we both like to keep busy and achieving!

“Not every member has to get involved with organising like I did, many people come along and just enjoy the company

and the events – there’s something for everyone. I’ve had to hand over the reins now, due to my increased immobility, but I’m continuing to arrange the monthly lunch club, and support my local Branch however I can.”

Visit to Kiplin Hall Rare Plant Sale



Following lockdown our first social event on Sunday 30 May allowing 30 persons to meet and socialise we visited Kiplin Hall Rare Plant Sale.

The wonderful weather and meeting up with each other after so long created the excitable atmosphere we will never forget.

Just wandering around outdoors and sharing our picnics outdoors was followed by the remainder of the day spent in Northallerton for retail therapy or refreshment in the many hostelrys in the town. A lovely day all round.

Thornton Hall Gardens Charity Fundraising Day

Coach outing to a privately owned showcase garden whose owners allow limited members of the public to attend a charity fundraising day on Wednesday 14 July. 30 persons supporting Air Ambulance/Sick Children enjoyed the delights of this fabulous garden.



Once again the weather was beautiful and the sheer enjoyment of being together and having a good old catch up seemed to be just what everyone needed. The

afternoon saw us travel on once again to Northallerton (by popular request) to relax and enjoy the remainder of the day.

Kiplin Hall by Rojabro and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. Thornton Hall Gardens by Trevor Littlewood and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Welcome Back Everyone Event at West Hartlepool Rugby Football Club on Monday 16 August



Sixty-five members came together to celebrate our largest gathering since lock down. The guest speaker was Alan McKinnell and his sister Hazel (both members) who regaled us all with a trip through Headland Memories. The whole room was buzzing with excitement as people

recognised local scenes and invoked memories of a bygone era. The time simply flew by and all too soon following a really lovely picnic afternoon tea served in boxes. It was soon time to say our goodbyes in the hope that we could do it all again as soon as possible.

September Friendship Month

On Wednesday 1 September, Angela Stevenson guest speaker kick-started Friendship Month with her talk on 'The changes in one's working life—from poultry girl to hairdresser in Durham Prison'.

This was followed on Wednesday 8 September with a theatre visit to see D-Day Darlings Show at the Billingham

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Forum Theatre. Below is a write up from our member Grace Darling (Lewis).

Hello Everyone,

The world is returning to a better place!
Today the Oddfellows are meeting at the
Billingham Forum.

We spent an entrancing entertaining
afternoon listening to the D-Day Darlings
each one with their own individual style.

Sarah, Alex, Jess, Alina and Kylie. Each
song steeped in nostalgia and heartache
remembering all the lives lost and
overall bravery of each and everyone
of the armed forces. We were an avid

audience mesmerised with the wonderful
performance of the five beautiful girls.
Then we had a comedian called Gary
who actually made us laugh. Apparently
15 minutes of laughter burns around 50
calories! Unfortunately these were negated
when the interval arrived and it was
magnums all around.

The sheer enjoyment of actually being
together again in a lovely theatre was
priceless. A really good day was had by all.
Let's all look forward to the future.

Grace Darling (Lewis)

D-Day Darlings

**On Wednesday 8 September
a group of us oldies went to
Billingham Forum to see an all-girl
singing group called the D-Day
Darlings you may have seen them
on TV. It was really nice to be in an
almost full theatre with everyone
ready to enjoy themselves.**

The girls sang lots of well known (if
you are a certain age) war songs we were
encouraged to sing along with them,
most of the audience preferred to listen.
To give the girls time to change outfits
we were treated to a comedian who was
really funny, sometimes a bit naughty
but all in good taste.

For the second half the girls sang other
well-known songs, some from the USA
again we could sing along with them.
For me the most moving part of the
whole show was when they sang words



to the Dambusters tune. I could easily
have cried.

At the end of the show the girls told us
about their charity work, as ambassadors
of the Vera Lynn children's charity and
also they are involved with the Royal
British Legion. I'm sure I speak for
everyone when I say it was a really good
afternoon, we all left feeling happy.
Thank you Margaret for arranging it.

Bea Parsons

Newby Hall RHS Flower Show

On Friday 17 September, we undertook a coach outing to the above event. Due to restricted numbers to the changed venue (usually held at Harrogate Show Ground) only 34 members travelled to the show. Once again the weather was splendid and lots to see and purchase for our gardens at home. The outdoor venue was full of wonderful plant stalls with every variety and colour imaginable. Many members and friends enjoyed the day and some stating they preferred the Newby Hall grounds to the less formal show ground. Every one agreed it was definitely a day to remember and look forward to more of the same in 2022.



Sylvia Williamson's Story

(New Member 2021)

I am a recent recruit to Oddfellows, who in lockdown heard about the Society from my friend Janet. She and I shared the experience of living alone in lockdown which interrupted our social lives. I was becoming involved in local societies, hosted by local libraries as an initiative to improve computer skills amongst the older generation but our local libraries shut down and Janet was fully aware of my loneliness and with herself joining Oddfellows knew how much a Friendly Society could benefit us both.

I joined the zoom meetings and they have lessened my sense of isolation during this weird time. I am looking forward to the time when face to face of the local

group can take place. At eighty eight it is becoming difficult to make social contacts. During lock down I have used the time to forward my ambitions as a writer with the help of the Open University. I am a member of the OU poets association and in recent years I did the OU's creative writing course which inspired me to write a memoir of my life in the North Riding village of Swainby during World War II.

My father was a senior history master at the secondary grammar school in Stockton on Tees. He first worked at the school in the 1920s and occupied this position until his death in 1948. My village nickname was Jinny and my recently published book is published under the name of Jinny Armstrong which will now be my pen name.



Friendship Walk around Castle Howard with our friends from Humber Wolds District

On Monday 20 September, still in the theme of meeting up with friends 16 members travelled to Castle Howard to join the members and friends of Humber Wolds for the annual friendship walk. This event has become an important date on our annual social calendar. Non-walkers spent the morning in the courtyard of Castle Howard enjoying a relaxing

coffee and shopping before joining up with everyone for a pub lunch arranged by our gracious hosts Christine and Howard Cole.

As always in the past the hospitality and warmth from everyone is an absolute joy and we look forward to meeting up soon. Thank you to everyone who made it such a lovely day.



Chairman's Charity Evening

On Friday 22 October, Ian Snowdon hosted the evening with entertainment provided by the Phoenix Variety Showgroup. What a fantastic night! 80 persons were allowed to celebrate and raise funds for his chosen charity of first Hartlepool Boys & Girls Brigade, many of whom attended with their families to support the evening.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful event of music, fun, and laughter whilst raising £500 (including the raffle) for McMillan Nurses locally, such a worthwhile cause. The Chairman's chosen charity this year is the Boys/Girls Brigade and representatives were there to receive the donation of £1,000 which was gratefully received and a thank you speech given.



Thursford Christmas Spectacular



On Sunday 14 November, 44 members enjoyed a three day, two night break to the Le Strange Hotel in Norfolk, during which time they attended the show. Spectacular is an understatement for this event. It gets more magical with every performance!

Pre-Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 24 November

Sue Davies provided a most amusing and detailed Christmas Quiz at the request of several members who had enjoyed it in the past. Even though the numbers attending were low those who did come along really appreciated Sue's hard work and preparation to entertain us and kick start the Christmas celebrations. Thank you Sue.

Eagle-Eye Quiz

Why not have a go at winning £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 spotting!

Send your answers, along with the name, address and contact number to david.smith@oddfellows.co.uk by Saturday 29 January. 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. How many of our members attended the Friendship Month walk with Humber Wolds District?
2. This year the Harrogate RHS Autumn Flower Show was held in a different venue. Whereabouts was it?
3. On our visit to Thornton Hall Gardens which two charities did we help to support?
4. Who gave the presentation called 'Headland Memories'?
5. How many lady singers are in the D-Day Darlings?
6. Which charity received a donation from our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Ian Snowden at the Phoenix Variety Show Group Event?
7. Who promoted the pre-Christmas Quiz?
8. Who is an ambassador for the E.N.S.A Memorial Appeal?
9. What was the venue for the Rare Plant Sale in May?
10. Which group are due to perform at Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Street Party?

*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 Saturday 29 January 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 stamp addressed 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.



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop Monday 29 November and Monday 6 December

Demand for this event always exceeds space allowed hence the need to have two workshops. It is so popular we have promised to add an extra day in 2022. The results of the craftsmanship

of making wreaths are outstanding and wouldn't look out of place in any top Florists establishment. Of course the Prosecco and mince pies help I am sure.



“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas” - I almost sang it aloud as I entered Hart Village Hall for the Christmas wreath making session.

Lots of cheerful people, happy chatter, tables set up for the demonstration and for us to have a go and what looked like half a forest of verdant greenery - spiky holly, bright berries, ivy, pine, laurel etc.

It looked so simple when showed us how. We were given a wire frame, round or cross, fresh, damp moss, florists wire and helped ourselves to some greenery.

First they moulded the moss on the frame to create a mossy torus or cross. My moss didn’t cooperate, nor did my chosen twigs, leaves and berries.

Deft fingers created artwork worthy of Andy Goldsworthy. I struggled on fortified by a glass of Prosecco, a mince pie and a mug of tea and lots of encouragement. I persevered. It was FUN. Theirs were works of art and actually mine didn’t look too bad.

Thank you all for an amazing afternoon, especially Margaret.

Next year I’m taking a bauble or two and some ribbon salvaged from this Christmas. I strongly suggest, if you missed it this year, give it a go next year.

My haiku -
Mossy torus, pine,
spiked holly, laurel, lush, green.
Cold Solstice magic.
Peace and Joy, see you in the New Year!



Get away with the Oddfellows



London Theatre Break Friday 18 March 2022 (2 nights)

We'll be staying at the 3* St Giles Hotel, located in central London.

£215 per person[†] includes breakfast and theatre ticket to see **Wicked**, at the Victoria Apollo Theatre.

[†]Based on 2 people sharing



Look what's coming up in 2022:

- **Rugged and Remote Spitsbergen:**
Cruise from £2,899 per person. Departs 22 June (15 nights).
- **Oddfellows Summer Holiday: Warner's Nidd Hall Hotel:**
N Yorkshire from £351 per person. 4 July (4 nights).
- **Scenic Norwegian Fjords:**
Cruise from £1,149 per person. Departs 12 August (7 nights).
- **Church Stretton, Shropshire Hills Discovery Tour:**
From £655 per person. 19 September (4 nights).
- **Canada in the Fall:**
Cruise from £3,599 per person. Departs 28 September (19 nights).

Prices correct at time of printing – December 2021

For further information and to book contact Mike Hall
0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224) travel@oddfellows.co.uk
www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

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's 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.

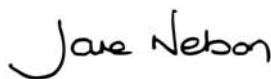
Online events are here to stay for as long as there is a need to keep people in touch with others from the comfort of their home. And our local and national care and welfare teams, and advice lines, will always be there for anyone who needs help to work through a problem or worry.

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
18–20 March 2022
(2 nights. Bed and breakfast)
£215 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

Cruise with us!
Scenic summertime
Norwegian Fjords
12–20 August 2022
 (7 nights. Full board)
 From £1,149 per person

Let Oddfellows member Wendy Atkins take care of you as you experience summer in the Norwegian fjordland, taking in the seasonal sights and highlights of the region's beautiful waterways. During hours of scenic cruising, smaller ship Bolette takes you on journeys into mountain-flanked fjords, to see their summertime scenery at its best. Departs Southampton – Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

Cruise to Canada in the fall
28 September–17 October 2022
 (19 nights. Full board)
 From £3,599 per person

Members and their guests are invited to join us on this once-in-a-lifetime Fred. Olsen cruise to the stunning landscape



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

of Canada in the autumn hosted by Oddfellows member, Wendy Atkins.

Just as the leaves are turning, your ship arrives on the shores of Canada where you can delight in the stunning scenery of one of the world's most striking countries. We'll be sailing from one area of natural beauty to the next, including a three day discovery of Quebec province with its National Parks and Reserves, and a day in classical Quebec City itself.

The cruise doesn't stop there. We visit charming and picturesque Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, stopping at Belfast in Northern Ireland on our return to Liverpool.



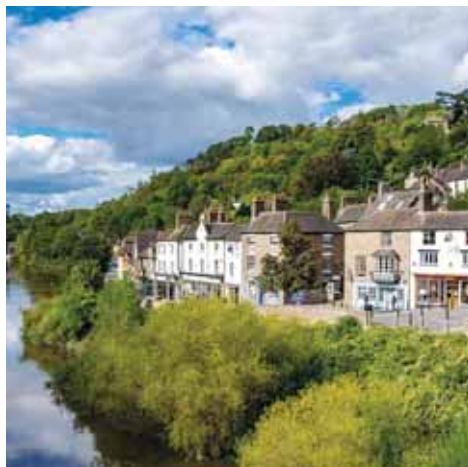
Canada's autumnal beauty

**Shropshire Discovery Tour –
Church Stretton (HF Holidays)
19–23 September 2022
(4 nights. Full board)
From £655 per person.
Limited single rooms with
no additional supplement**

Join us as we explore Shropshire, famous for the beauty of its hills, picturesque market towns and fascinating history.

Our Discovery Tours, operated by the award-winning HF Holidays, are a highlight of the year where members and their guests come from all corners of the country to explore a beautiful region.

We will be staying at Longmynd House Country Hotel in Church Stretton with its sweeping views across the Shropshire Hills. Along with our Oddfellows member host, John Galligan, our HF Holidays guide will lead us on our journey around this “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty” with its historic castles and mesmerising scenery.



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

**“We met as strangers
and left as friends.”**

**– a member who enjoyed last
year's HF Holiday.**



*The famous Iron Bridge in Ironbridge Gorge, known as the birthplace of the
Industrial Revolution*



Nomination Card

Once completed, please hand or send this nomination card to your Branch Secretary.

My name is:

I'd like to nominate (please provide member name(s) and the name of their Branch):

.....

For the following award...

For a team of two/couples only: Achieving Together Award ☐

For individuals only: Enriching Lives Socially Award ☐ Giving Something Back Award ☐

Giving a Helping Hand Award ☐ Working in the Spirit of Mutuality Award ☐

In the space provided below, please briefly tell us why you think they should win this award?



Award descriptions



- 1. Achieving together:** Working as a team, these members work together to achieve so much more than they could alone. They significantly improve the lives of members or help to make their Branch and Society the best they can be. Together their efforts make a significant difference and their dedication deserves equal recognition.
- 2. 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. 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. 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.
- 5. 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.

Branch Meetings

The Committee of Management Meetings are held at 11am followed by The Good Intent Branch Meeting at 1pm to discuss social events. This is followed by the District Business Meeting at 1.30pm. All members are invited to attend.

Monday 10 January

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

Monday 14 February

Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn DH6 5AT

Monday 14 March

Annual General Meeting at Hart Village Hall, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW at 2pm. All Members are invited to attend to hear a review of 2021 business and to accept the Financial Statement. After completion of business, the Branch Officers for 2022-2023 will be installed followed by a buffet lunch.

Monday 11 April

Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, DH6 5AT

Monday 9 May

Hart Village Hall, Front Street, Hart, Hartlepool TS27 3AW

New Members this year

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Derek Brown | Jack Sizer | Moira Cruddas |
| Sylvia Williamson | Annabel McNicol | Margaret Chappell |
| Jacqueline Armstrong | Harry Armstrong | Marjorie Reynolds |
| Ross Oliver | Lily Jameson | Jean Bird |
| Valerie Oliver | Patricia Thompson | Roy Tozer |
| Irene Hood | Mark Jones | Robert Clifton |

Members Remembered this year

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Wilson | Freda Sinton | Fred Robinson |
| Richard Quinn | Kenneth Randall | Ernest Cheesborough |
| Dorothy Maskery | Ron Wigglesworth | Elizabeth Rice |
| Arthur Watson | Brian Cheesman | |

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

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

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/

At a glance

January 2022

Mon 10 Branch Meeting 11.30am
at Hart Village Hall

Tues 11 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Tues 25 Burns Night 6.30pm
Supper and Dance

Wed 26 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

February

Tues 1 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Mon 7 Talk on E.N.S.A by 2pm
Colin Bourdier

Mon 14 Branch Meeting 11.30am
at Bowburn Community Centre

Wed 23 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

March

Tues 1 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Tues 8 Ten Pin Bowling 10.30am

Mon 14 Annual Summoned 2pm
Meeting

Thurs 17 Saint Patrick's 6.30pm
Night Dance and
Supper at West
Hartlepool Rugby
Football Club

Wed 23 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

March

Wed 30 Salute to Dad's 2pm
Army at Billingham
Forum Theatre

April

Mon 4 Ten Pin Bowling 10.30am

Tues 5 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Mon 11 Branch Meeting 11.30am
at Bowburn
Community Centre

Wed 27 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

May

Tues 3 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Wed 4 Coach Tour to TBC
Malvern RHS
Flower Show

Mon 9 Branch Meeting 11.30am
at Hart Village Hall

Wed 25 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

June

Tues 7 Food with Friends 12 noon
at Marine Hotel

Wed 15 Food with Friends 12 noon
at The Newton Grange

Sat 18 Her Majesty the 2pm
Queen Platinum
Jubilee Street Party
and Concert with
The Jades Singers
