

Ollto Cabout

Mid-Staffs District Branch





Travel and Trips







Social



Food with Friends Coffee Morning







Welcome to edition 9 of our newsletter – Out and About.

Message to our members

What a turbulent time we have all had over the past 18 months. We now hope that we can look forward to enjoying time together with our loved ones and friends. Please try and join us for at least one of our forthcoming events which obviously are all subject to Government restrictions.

There are regular coffee mornings which are proving to be very popular, together with an Afternoon Tea, meal at a local Pub, and a Festive Fun afternoon closer to Christmas. Our Christmas Fair will take place in November and it would be lovely to see as many members as possible, there will be Christmas bargains galore together with games, refreshments and of course a tombola.

Contact Details

Address:

Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP

Telephone: 01785 258269

Branch Secretary: Janet Lewis Email

janet.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Assistant District Secretary/
Newsletter Editor: Christine Elliott
Email:

christine.elliott@oddfellows.co.uk Tuesday, Wednesday and part of Thursday.

A representative from the Midlands Air Ambulance will also be joining us. All money raised will be going to our two charities for this year – The Midlands Air Ambulance and the Owl Sanctuary at Haughton. As we have not been able to fundraise for some time, please consider supporting us in whatever way you can.

We look forward to seeing you over the next few months and hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Christine and Janet

Member's comments on some of Oddfellows Benefits

Convalescence

We have been to one of the convalescent homes for a break.
What an amazing benefit this is.
We had a really nice time at an excellent facility. The Oddfellows even paid our travelling expenses.

Citizens Advice Line

I contacted the Citizens Advice people with regard to a work-related issue. They were very helpful and assisted me to navigate through a very contentious employment dispute.

Oddfellows Travel

We joined Oddfellows mainly for the discounts provided by Warner's Holidays. These are great value for money. We also now enjoy attending the social events and business meetings. Everyone is very friendly.

Legal Aid

Following an injury at work due to employer negligence, I contacted the helpline. They guided me through the process to make a successful claim.

Friendship

Caring and sharing is what we do,

A warm welcome to events will await you,

If you need a hand we will help where we can,

Sometimes things get tough and we feel alone,

Don't suffer in silence there is too much around,

We will do our best where we can,

Oddfellows is a start in making new friends,

Feeling part of a Society that welcomes you,

And find the true worth of friendship.

Kindness Poem

Kindness breaks down barriers. With words, a smile, a touch, It links us all together, In a way that say so much, It shows concern for neighbours, For communities and friends. To be there for each other. Is the message kindness sends, Reaching out in friendship, Taking time to show you care, Being the anchor in their stormy lives, When they're drowning in despair, Kindness is essential, It's resilient and tough, A global glue to bind us all, With gentleness and love.

Written by Yvonne Ugarte, Carer

The Moseley Old Hall - The Elizabethan farmhouse that saved a King



The photo on the front cover is of Moseley Old Hall which is National Trust wonder four miles north of Wolverhampton in the Midlands.

In September 1651, the future King Charles II was fleeing for his life from his defeat at the Battle of Worcester. After many difficult days, footsore and exhausted, he was brought to Moseley Old Hall where he would hide from Cromwell's troops.

The Moseley's walled gardens have been cultivated by gardeners since the 17th century.

From medicine and cooking, to potpourri and love-potions, a 17th century garden would have kept the household stocked with whatever herbs it might require during everyday life. A fruit orchard and knot garden adorn the graceful gardens. There is a popular tea room where homemade cakes and biscuits are served and a variety of events, activities and demonstrations for all the family.



The bedroom that King Charles II slept in.

Future Social Events

For the last three of our Out & About newsletters our advertised social events have not been able to take place. Fingers crossed, all will be well as we start to open up and meet face to face. We are really looking forward to seeing you soon.

Please note events may be subject to the government guidelines and therefore they are only provisional at the time of printing. Please contact the office in advance to check if the event will go ahead.

Regular Event Coffee Mornings







Coffee Mornings for members, friends and anyone interested in joining. At these coffee mornings we can let you know more about Oddfellows over a cup of tea or coffee with a hot snack or a biscuit, the times of these will be 10 30am to 11 30am

It will be very informal and everyone is welcome, we just want to let you know what Oddfellows has to offer. You may be surprised how much that is so please join Christine and Janet on the dates.

2, 16, and 30 September 21 October 4 and 18 November 2 December



Pictured seated left to right members Iohn and Iean Wakefield, Barbara and Tom Ewart, and District Secretary lanet Lewis standing.

September is Friendship Month

This is an ideal time to welcome you back and to join us for a special social event and also invite those who are interested in joining the Oddfellows.

Please bring a friend or family member so that we can let them know all about Oddfellows membership. We all know it has been a lonely time for some during lockdown, we need friends and contact with others, Oddfellows will always be there to help.



September 2021 - Friendship Month



Afternoon Tea at the **Oddfellows Hall**







Please come and join us for our Friendship Month event, a lovely afternoon tea - enjoy being spoilt with a selection of sandwiches, delicious cakes and plenty of tea or coffee. We will entertain you with some bingo and music, all you have to do is sit back and enjoy yourselves. We can't wait to welcome you back and enjoy your company. For catering purposes please contact the office if you would like to join us. We are encouraging members and friends to wear face masks when entering and moving around the hall for the moment so that everyone feels safe. Thank you for your cooperation Book by Tuesday 31 August 2021. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER















Half Yearly Summoned Meeting







The summoned meeting is a business meeting for members only. A complementary lunch will be provided afterwards. Whether you have been a long-standing member or you have just joined the Oddfellows, the business side of the Mid-Staffs District and what goes on behind the scenes can be very interesting. Please let the office know if you wish to attend this will help with catering purposes. We are encouraging our members to wear face masks when entering and moving around the hall so that everyone feels safe. Thank you for your cooperation. Book by Tuesday 7 September 2021. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.

October









Free entry. Please join us between 10am to 12 noon. We have new and secondhand books, jigsaws, together with an assortment of bric-a-brac. Hot drinks and biscuits are also available. If you



have a little spare time to help out please get in touch. All proceeds from these events will go towards our charity appeal on behalf of the Midlands Air Ambulance and the Owl Sanctuary at Haughton. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.



Lunch Out at The Barley Mow, Milford







The Barley Mow sits opposite Milford common and is the perfect place for meeting up with friends to enjoy a relaxing meal. They have a selection of delicious starters, mains as well as sweet treats for you to enjoy. The Barley Mow at Milford is easy to get to from Stafford, Rugeley, Stone and Cannock. Book by Wednesday 13 October 2021. If you would like to join us please contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.







November



Christmas Fair







As always, the Christmas Fair is one of our most popular events and offers many stalls, with prizes to be won on the games stalls and the tombola, not forgetting those mouth-watering bacon rolls.



Everyone is welcome, so please invite friends and family. We look forward to seeing you there. Any new items with a Christmas theme will be gratefully received for our stalls. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.

December



Christmas Festive Fun







A little bit of Christmas cheer, a few classic games, good food and a festive spirit is the order of the day. A buffet will be provided with Christmas in mind and we can finish off with a song or two, so come and join us, a warm welcome awaits you.

Please let us know beforehand for catering purposes. Book by Tuesday 30 November 2021. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.





Stoke and Newcastle Social Branch

Members and friends would normally meet regularly to enjoy a meal and get-together. However, due to the Covid pandemic we have not met for more than a year. Restrictions have now been lifted and we have arranged our first meal. If you would like to join us please contact me at the Oddfellows Hall.

lanet

Past Events Rule of six coffee mornings



From Left to right: Pauline, Anne, Christine and Pat along with some beautiful cakes that Pauline made - they were absolutely delicious, thank you Pauline.

As we were unable to have our usual coffee mornings due to the government guidelines set during the Corona virus pandemic, when the guidelines changed to be able to meet up in groups of six we decided it would be a great opportunity to arrange small groups to come to the hall and have a coffee and a chat. These coffee



From Left to right: Lenita, Janet, Trish and Bev enjoying freedom again.

mornings were a great success and gave us more time to spend with our members on a one to one basis, they were very well received.

With the lifting of restriction in July we can now have more people and if you are interested in coming to one, please let us know.



For anyone who missed the write up on page 8 of our last Out & About, two of our members Bev and Trish were featured in national magazines during 2020. They have been members at our Branch for three years and were chosen to feature in an advertising campaign. We have been advised that they are going to be featured once more in editions of People's Friend and My Weekly during August. The publicity is good for Oddfellows and also for our Branch.



Special Occasions Baby News

This year we have had a new young Oddfellow member, our youngest member at Mid Staffs.

Welcome to our youngest member - Daisie

Daisie was born in January 2021 and was quickly recruited into the Oddfellows by her doting grandma Janet (our District Secretary). Daisie joins her brother Archie, aged 3, who also became an Oddfellow at a very young age. Membership for those under 18

years, is only £10 per year and the child will receive a Christmas card together with a £5 youcher.



'What a cutie'

Midlands Air Ambulance



As the pandemic has continued through the year unfortunately it has meant we have not been able

to hold the social events where we would have hoped to raise funds for our charities the Midlands Air Ambulance and the Owl Sanctuary in Haughton. As we begin to open up again with our social events and coffee mornings hopefully we can raise funds to help these charities who rely on donations as they receive no government funding.

Recent Press Release Midlands Air Ambulance receives a little help from friends

Friendship group, Mid-Staffordshire Oddfellows, based on Greengate Street in Stafford, has presented the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity with a cash boost of £1,000.

With air bases in Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) provides emergency care in hard-to-reach places. Without government or lottery-funded

support, the Charity relies heavily on donations from the public and local businesses to cover running costs. Despite government restrictions preventing the Oddfellows Branch, based in Stafford, from meeting face to face, its members raised the £1000 over the past year through a variety of individual donations. The group has supported the Charity for more than 13 years, and has raised over £25,000 for them to date.



Where on earth did that saying come from?

Have your Work Cut Out

The expression 'You've got your work cut out for you' comes from tailoring. To do a big sewing job, all the pieces of fabric are cut out before they get sewn together. It seems like if your work has been cut for you, it should make the job easier, but we don't use the expression that way. The image is more that your task is well defined and ready to be tackled, but all the difficult parts are yours to get to. That big pile of cut-outs isn't going to sew itself together!

Through the Grapevine

A grapevine is a system of twisty tendrils going from cluster to cluster. The communication grapevine was first mentioned in 1850s, the telegraph era. Where the telegraph was a straight line of communication from one person to another, the 'grapevine telegraph' was a message passed from person to person, with some likely twists along the way.

The Whole Shebang

The earliest uses of shebang were during the Civil War era, referring to a hut, shed, or cluster of bushes where you're staying. Some officers wrote home about 'running the shebang', meaning the encampment. The origin of the word is obscure, but because it also applied to a tavern or drinking place, it may go back to the Irish word shebeen for a ramshackle drinking establishment.

Can't Hold a Candle

We say someone can't hold a candle to someone else when their skills don't even come close to being as good. In other words, that person isn't even good enough to hold up a candle so that a talented person can see what they're doing in order to work. Holding the candle to light a workspace would have been the job of an assistant, so it's a way of saying not even fit to be the assistant, much less the artist.

The Acid Test

Most acids dissolve other metals much more quickly than gold, so using acid on a metallic substance became a way for gold prospectors to see if it contained gold. If you pass the acid test, you didn't dissolve -you're the real thing.

Go Haywire

What kind of wire is haywire? Just what it says - a wire for baling hay. In addition to tying up bundles, haywire was used to fix and hold things together in a makeshift way, so a dumpy, patched-up place came to be referred to as 'A hay-wire outfit'. It then became a term for any kind of malfunctioning thing. The fact that the wire itself got easily tangled when unspooled contributed to the 'messed up' sense of the word.

Called on the Carpet

Carpet used to mean a thick cloth that could be placed in a range of places: on the floor, on the bed, on a table. The floor carpet is the one we use most now, so the image most people associate with this phrase is one where a servant or employee is called from plainer, carpetless room to the fancier, carpeted part of the house.

But it actually goes back to the tablecloth meaning. When there was an issue up for discussion by some kind of official council it was 'on the carpet'.



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 'Online' 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

OE/0721/A5

Flower Wordsearch (Answers on page 17)

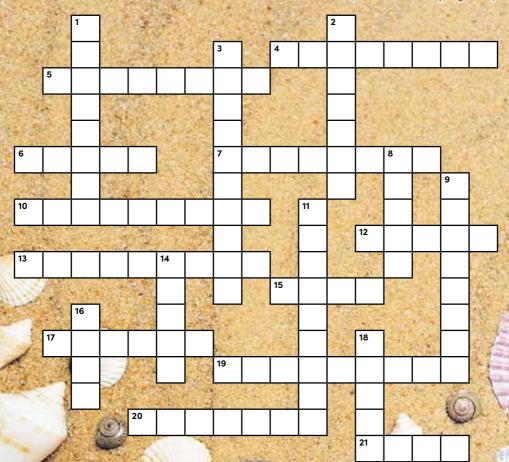
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Amaryllis
Anemone
Aster
Astilbe
Begonia
Bluebell
Buttercup
Carnation
Columbine
Cosmos
Crocus
Daffodil
Dahlia

Echinacea Foxglove Freesia Gardenia Geranium Hibiscus Hyacinth Impatiens Iris Jasmine Jonquil Lavender Lily Lotus
Marigold
Nasturtium
Orchid
Pansy
Petunia
Rose
Snowdrop
Tulip
Violet
Wisteria
Yarrow

Zinnia

Seaside Crossword (Answers on page 17)



Across

- 4. Clingy crustacean
- 5. Wind-driven craft
- 6. Where the buoys are
- 7. Moving waters
- 10. Spineless one
- 12. Sandy area
- 13. Coney Island attraction
- 15. Coral formation
- 17. Wave rider
- 19. Two-hulled vessel
- 20. Saturday and Sunday
- 21. Ocean motion

Down

- 1. Marine creature's home
- 2. Flying saucer
- 3. Shore construction
- 8. Drying cloth
- 9. Holiday from work
- 11. Beach whistle-blower
- 14. Breakers
- 16. Beach hill
- 18. Luxury boat

The Mayonnaise Jar

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle,

When 24 Hours in a day is not enough, Remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, He picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar And proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students, if the jar was full.

They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar.
Of course, the sand filled up everything else.
He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things
- family, children, health, friends, and
favourite passions –

Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car.
The sand is everything else --The small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first, he continued,

there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.

The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff You will never have room for the things that are important to you.

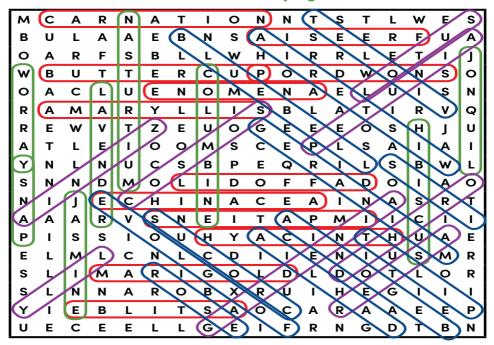
So... Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.
Play with your children.
Take time to get medical check-ups.
Take your partner out to dinner.
There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

'Take care of the golf balls first --The things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled.
'I'm glad you asked'.
It just goes to show you that no matter
how full your life may seem,
there's always room for a couple of cups
of coffee with a friend.

Flower Wordsearch Answers on page 14



Seaside Crossword Answers on page 15





- Parties
- Conferences
- Weddings
- Meetings

- Exhibitions
- Christenings
- Activity Groups

Oddfellows Hall

Our venue and function room can accommodate all kinds of occasions

Licensed bar, kitchen facilities, disabled facilities, and central location







For details of hire charges and facilities please contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269 or email us at janet.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk christine.elliott@oddfellows.co.uk



f OddfellowsUK www.oddfellows.co.uk

Society News



www.oddfellows.co.uk

The Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC)

As much as we were all hoping for the opportunity to get together and host our 2021 AMC in person, the global pandemic had other plans and so we saw the conference held virtually over Zoom, and broadcast live via YouTube.

This is only the second time since 1944 that there hasn't been an in-person Annual Movable Conference. The AMC is usually a three-day conference which gives our network of 115 Branches a chance to have their say in the way the Society is run, celebrate its successes and developments over the past 12 months, and enjoy a catch-up with other Branches over dinner.

This year however, the Directors gathered in the Unity Office Boardroom whilst everyone else stayed at home and Deputies logged in via Zoom to listen in and make their contributions to conference.

Despite the distance between us all, the AMC was its usual hive of activity, and thanks go to all the Deputies who attended, debated and voted on the different clauses. We would also like to extend our thanks to the incredible IT team who worked tirelessly to ensure all Deputies were able to log in successfully, the conference was broadcast seamlessly, and everything ran as it should.

Welcoming our newest Grand Master, David Ogden

One of the key elements of AMC is the installation of the new Grand Master, or Chairman of the Society. This is one of the most prestigious and respected roles in the Society, and requires a considerable commitment. As Grand Masters they need to have progressed through the ceremonial side of the Society and usually will have served for at least four years as a Director, before being nominated to be Grand Master.

Our Immediate Past Grand Master, David Randall, spent two years in the role, instead of the usual one, due to the coronavirus pandemic, and has this year welcomed his successor, David Ogden. Despite there being no live audience, the ceremony featuring his installation as Grand

Master was streamed on YouTube.

The Society would like to thank David Randall for his hard work during his time as Grand Master, and wish David Ogden all the best for his term. Keep an eye out for our interview with the new Grand Master in the next edition of Society News!

Congratulations to our Making a Difference Award winners!



Each year, we recognise and celebrate the efforts of members who have gone above and beyond for their local Branch, fellow members, and the Society as a whole. Without these individuals (and there are many!), the Oddfellows wouldn't be the warm and welcoming organisation it is today.

This year, faced with a global pandemic and numerous lockdowns which left many members isolated, the kindness and dedication of our Making a Difference Award nominees truly shone through. Our judges were blown away by the way Oddfellows communities rallied together to help each other through such a difficult year, and so choosing the winners was more difficult than ever. Without further ado, our 2021 Making a Difference Award winners are...

Wendy Atkins, from Ipswich Oddfellows, for Working in the spirit of mutuality

Wendy said: "It was a big surprise and I feel honoured to have won. I've done all sorts for the Ipswich Oddfellows over the years, but I enjoy my role as social organiser most of all. Since we've started running online events, I've had to think outside the box and see how our in-person events can translate onto Zoom, which has been a fun challenge.



Wendy, from Ipswich Oddfellows

I've extended the hand of friendship to other Branches to offer help and support with their online meetings."



Paul Fitton, from South London Oddfellows, for Enriching lives socially

Paul said: "It was a lovely surprise when I found out I'd won. Organising social events for my local group is more than just a job for me, it's fun and fulfilling. Helping people meet and make new friends in the area is wonderful."

Janice Tomlin, from Reading Oddfellows, for Giving a helping hand

Janice said: "I had no idea I'd even been nominated, so it was a shock when I was told I'd won the award, but I was incredibly pleased! I know how it feels to be on your own a lot, so being a listening ear for other members during such a difficult year has been a tonic for me as well, in many ways."



Janice, from Reading Oddfellows

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "Our members are at the heart of everything we do as a Society, and it's people like Paul, Wendy and Janice who keep the wheels turning.

"As much-loved members of their local Branches and the Society as a whole, these Awards are truly well-deserved."

Working together to Make a Difference for 2022

We are excited to introduce a new 'Achieving Together' category for our Making a Difference Awards.

Members nominated for the Achieving Together Award should be a team of two, and could be married, partners, family relations, or good friends who collaborate with, and support each other, to achieve more than they could alone.



Have your say!

If you know a Society star who goes above and beyond, or a duo whose combined efforts make your Branch a warm and welcoming place for all, download a Member Nomination form from www.oddfellows. co.uk/makingadifference, or contact your Branch Secretary to have a form sent to you.

Face-to-face get-togethers are back, but online events are here to stay

Many members have been missing that wonderful feeling of seeing and socialising with friends in a group setting, and we're pleased to let you know that our Branches have restarted their face-to-face events, or are getting ready to restart them again very soon.

So whether you're feeling up to a walk in the great outdoors, or you're keen to get back to your local coffee morning, our Branches are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure their events are COVID-secure, and our members are safe.

Not feeling up to getting together yet? That's fine too. Lots of people will still feel anxious about mixing with groups indoors or outdoors, and we know it will take a while for things to feel "normal" again. But we don't want you to miss out, which is why our online events are here to stay.





From local guest talks streamed live from your Branch, to our weekly national coffee mornings, online events will continue for as long as our members would like them to.

Help is available to get you set up to access the online events, should you need it. Call our membership team on **0800 028 1810**, or email **events@oddfellows.co.uk** to receive a how-to guide for using Zoom video conferencing.

If you'd like to join in with one of our events, in-person or online, find out what's coming up by visiting our website: **www.oddfellows.co.uk/events** or speak to your local Branch Secretary to request a local events diary.



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 Janet on **01785 258269** or email **janet.lewis@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

Please note all future events are subject to the government guidelines and therefore they are only provisional at the time of printing. Please contact the office in advance to check if the event will go ahead.

September 2021 - Friendship Month

Thurs 2	Coffee Morning	10.30am		
Tues 7	Afternoon Tea at the Oddfellows Hall	1pm		
Tues 14	Half Yearly Summoned Meeting	11am		
Thurs 16	Coffee Morning	10.30am		
Thurs 30	Coffee Morning	10.30am		

October

Wed 20	Cate Links	10am
Thurs 21	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 28	Lunch Out at The Barley Mow, Milford	12.30pm

November

Thurs 4	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 20	Christmas Fair	11am

December

Thurs 2	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Tues 7	Christmas Festive Fun	2pm

January 2022

Tues 18 Coffee Morning 10.30am

Is there someone you know who'd enjoy what we do?

Refer a friend today

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, or visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary

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