

February - August 2020  
Issue 6



*the* ODDfellows SINCE 1810  
making friends, helping people

# *out & about*

**Mid-Staffs District Branch**



*Middleport Pottery*



Travel and Trips



Walks



Talks



Social



Food with Friends



Coffee Morning



Games



*Annual District Lunch – Sunday 19 April, we hope you can join us!*

## Welcome to the sixth edition of our newsletter – Out and About.

I hope that you like the social events that we have chosen for the next six months. If you haven't joined us for one of our functions please do so.

We do hope you enjoyed our last issue and that this one will be even better. We do try to incorporate a varied events diary into our social calendar and hope you will join us for many of them.

The events are all informal and it is so nice to meet up with our members and any friends who would like to join us. We welcome everyone to our social events so bring a friend along and we can let them know all about the Oddfellows and what we have to offer.

## Contact Details

### **Address:**

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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  
Wednesday, part of Thursday and  
part of Friday

Best wishes and kindest regards to all  
our members.

**Janet Lewis – District Secretary**

## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810.

# Staffordshire Past, Present and Future

## Middleport Pottery

**Middleport Pottery was built in 1888 by Burgess & Leigh Ltd (founders Frederick**

**Rathbone Burgess and William Leigh). It is located at Middleport, Stoke-on-Trent. The buildings, which still house an active pottery, are protected for their historic interest.**



It was designed to make all production processes more efficient and to improve conditions for the workforce. The passageways between the ranges were just wide enough for a cart to get through, and for the easy movement of workers and pottery. Finished pottery was placed (using the crane next to the packing house) straight onto barges on the Trent and Mersey Canal waiting to take the ceramics out to the coast for international export. Alternatively they were sent out by horse and cart via the road.

The pottery was given listed building status in the 1970s. By this time six of the seven bottle ovens on the site had been demolished. The surviving bottle oven was given its own listing. In 1988 the course of the Trent and Mersey Canal through Stoke-on-Trent was designated as a linear conservation area. Following renovations, Middleport Pottery was opened to visitors in 2014. The pottery has enjoyed rising visitor numbers, and a number of businesses are based at the site. Burleigh Pottery is still produced at

the site using traditional craftsmanship. The Old Packing House was refurbished and became the new Prince of Wales Studios that is open as a business home for craftspeople to work and exhibit their products. The Princes Regeneration Trust granted £200,000 to the Pottery towards the conversion and Prince Charles helped open the Studios in January 2016. Today there are many varied events on at the museum a factory tours being one of them.

The Middleport Pottery factory tour is unique. The tour leads you through each stage of



production, showing how a lump of clay is transformed into a finished piece of iconic Burleigh ware. Burleigh's production methods have changed little in 130 years, including the highly specialised 'tissue transfer' decoration method which cannot be seen in production anywhere else. Our Heritage Trail is also included within the Factory Tour admission. The trail leads you inside one of Stoke's last, remaining Bottle Ovens, into the Steam Engine house and underground into one of the only original Workers' Bathhouses in existence. There is also the opportunity to arrange an afternoon tea which we have been told is worth a visit too.

**For more details visit their website, [www.middleportpottery.org/](http://www.middleportpottery.org/) or contact them on 01782 499766.**

# Regular Event

We are going to make some changes to our regular social event Café Links this year and try something new and alternate Café Links with a regular coffee morning. Both events will take place on the third Wednesday of the month.

## Café Links



10am to  
1pm



Donations



18 March, 15 April  
17 June, and 15 July

Please join us for our regular Coffee Mornings between 10am to 1pm. We have book sales together with new and second-hand bric-a-brac. Hot drinks and biscuits are also available. If you have anything that you wish to donate or if you have a little spare time and would like to help out, please let us know. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP.



*Some of the Mid Staffs members enjoying a cup of tea at Café Links*

## Coffee Morning



10am to  
11.30am



Donations



19 February  
20 May  
19 August

Coffee Mornings will be for members, their 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 10am to 11.30am. It will be very informal and everyone is welcome, we just want to let you know what Oddfellows have to offer, you may be surprised how much that is, so please join Christine and Janet on the above dates. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP.



**If you have any items that you would like to donate or if you have any spare time to help out, please get in touch. All proceeds from these events will go towards our charity appeal.**

# February 2020

WED  
26

## Lunch Out at The Vine in Stafford Town



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for lunch out at The Vine Hotel, one of Stafford's oldest pubs. The traditional style pub serves a British classic menu and great value food. Mid Staffs had a social event here last year and enjoyed it so much we decided to go back again. We also managed to have a room at the back all to ourselves.



Please let Janet or Christine know on 01785 258269 if you would like to join us as a table reservation and menu choice will be required. Book by Wednesday 12 February. The Vine Hotel, Salter Street, Stafford ST16 2JU.



# March

TUES  
17

## Annual Summoned Meeting



11am



Free



The annual summoned meeting is a business meeting for members only and will be followed by a complimentary buffet lunch. 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. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.



# March

WED  
25

## Bingo and Buffet



1pm



£3



Come and try your luck, prizes to be won and it is great fun. Bring a friend or a family member the more the merrier. If you fancy being a caller '4 knock at the door, 11-legs eleven' and all that, we can arrange that too, just say the word. Even more prizes to be won with our tombola, all the proceeds will go to our charity appeal. There will be a sumptuous cold buffet to tickle your taste buds, please let us know in advance for catering purposes if you will be joining us, we do hope you can make it. Book by Wednesday 18 March. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.

# April

SUN  
19

## Annual District Lunch



12 noon



Members £20  
Guests £23



Our Annual District Lunch will be held at Tillington Hall Hotel which is at the north end of Stafford, close to junction 14 off the M6. It is wheelchair friendly and has plenty of parking at the side of the suite we have booked for our luncheon.

Our District lunch is time to reflect on the last 12 months in office for our Immediate Past Chairman, the money raised for his appeal and what the next 12 months will hold and also the support we can give as we welcome our new Chairman for this coming year, together with the friendships we have made with each other in the Oddfellows.

The three course lunch will be an informal event, smart attire is requested, please contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269 if you would like the menu choices by Sunday 15 March and return them with payment by Monday 30 March. Tillington Hall Hotel, Eccleshall Road, Stafford ST16 1JJ.



# May

TUES  
12

## A Trip to Stafford's New Cinema



*Catch up with  
friends and enjoy  
the magic of film*

The magic of cinema is timeless. It never ends. ODEON Silver cinema is a series of film screenings for guests who are over 55. Tickets are from £3 each and include tea, coffee and biscuits before your film.

Unwind and catch up with friends over aromatic tea and coffee and buttery biscuits, as you get ready to be transported to another reality. Film and times will be arranged when the listings have been released.

Please let Janet and Christine know on 01785 258269 if you are interested by Wednesday 29 April. Stafford Odeon Luxe, Waterfront Way, Bridge Street, Stafford ST16 2HQ.

# June

WED  
10

## Summer Afternoon Tea



Back by popular demand is our delicious afternoon tea. Please come and join us again, bring a friend and taste the delights we will be putting on the tables. There will be a very easy quiz so don't worry if you are not a mastermind contestant and then a raffle. All the funds will be going to our charity appeal. Please let us know for catering purposes if you will be joining us, everyone is welcome. Book by Wednesday 3 June. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269.

WED  
22

## Lunch Out at the Radford Bank Inn



12.30pm



As per menu



You can tuck into roast dinners good enough for Sunday right through the week. But you'll also find tasty pub-food classics like fish and chips, as well as tasty burgers and a range of freshly made pizzas. They just serve tasty food, fresh from the carving deck and pizza oven at prices that are honest and fair.

Succulent slow-cooked roasts, 100% fresh dough pizzas and juicy burgers and pub classics all with help yourself chips, salad and veg included in the price. Please let Janet or Christine know on 01785 258269 by Friday 10 July if you would like to join us as a table reservation will be needed. The Radford Bank Inn, Radford Bank, Stafford ST17 4PG.



## The ladies in the office

Janet and Christine would like to invite you to the Hall for a coffee, a chat and to let you know more about the Oddfellows in case you are missing out on some of the many benefits we have to offer.

We just thought it would be a lovely opportunity to open our doors to you. So please come and see us on any of the dates on page 4, we really don't bite! Please feel free to bring family or a friend along.

**We would love to see you.**

## Booking for social events

If you wish to book for any of our events, please contact the office at least a week before the event. This will then give us sufficient time to make arrangements for catering etc. This excludes the Café Links and Coffee Mornings. Thank you for your co-operation.



# Travel places with Friendly Faces

With group holidays, short breaks, exclusive discounts, travel offers and the opportunity to get to know other Oddfellows travellers, the Active Travel Club has something for everyone to enjoy.



**Fred. Olsen  
Cruise Lines**



**Haven  
Holidays**



**Warner Leisure  
Holidays**



**Travel  
Insurance\***

Check out the latest holidays at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)  
Contact **0161 832 9361** or email [active@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:active@oddfellows.co.uk)

All holidays are booked through third party travel companies and terms and conditions apply.  
Please ask for further details before booking.  
Holidays are open to Oddfellows members and their guests.

\*Oddfellows Support Services Limited will introduce members to the above organisation. Oddfellows Support Services Limited receives a commission payment for any introduction. Oddfellows Support Services Limited is registered in England and Wales, Company No. 8309175. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB and is a non-regulated wholly owned subsidiary of The Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited.

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## Stoke and Newcastle Social Branch

The members and friends meet every few weeks for a meal in the Stoke-on-Trent area. This is usually held on a Thursday evening at 7pm and all members are welcome to join us. Over the past few months, we have been joined by three new members who all enjoyed themselves and said they were looking forward to the next get-together. We meet at a pub or restaurant (this changes each month), have a meal, catch up with friends, and discuss any updates or questions relating to the Oddfellows. The photo shows one of the group



who was celebrating a 'special' birthday in September. Happy birthday Phyllis.

# Past Events

## Service of Dedication of a Memorial to all Oddfellows - Who Have Died in Conflict

**Janet and Christine representing the Mid Staffs District joined around 50 Oddfellows members from around the country at the National Memorial Arboretum on Thursday 1 August for the unveiling of the Oddfellows Memorial dedicated to all Oddfellows that have died in conflict.**

The service was very moving and delivered by the Reverend Bruce Nicole, our CEO Jane Nelson did a reading and the President of the Order, David Randall unveiled the Memorial. The wording on the Memorial is very relevant to Oddfellowship and what we stand for.

If you go to the National Memorial Arboretum our Memorial is down by the lake, it's definitely worth a visit.



# Tea Dance

Friday 23 August



*All eyes on our dancers, Lyn and Elaine as they do the Tango.*

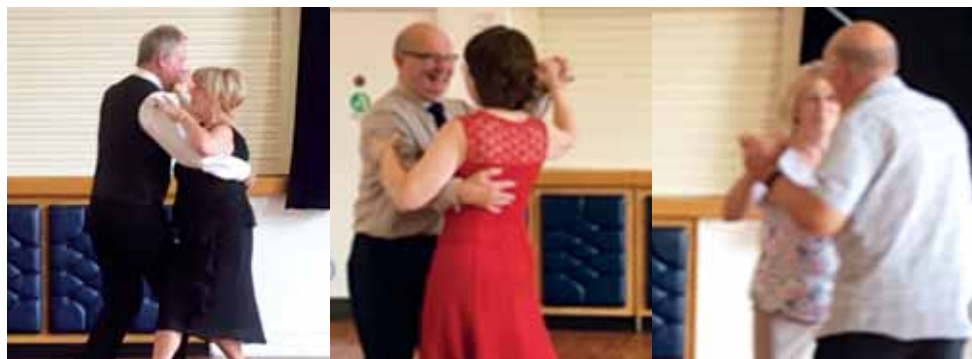
**Many thanks to Lyn and Elaine for a wonderful performance. Below members joining in after the tango for a more sedate dance.**

On a lovely August afternoon, 24 members and friends enjoyed an Afternoon Tea which comprised of sandwiches with various fillings, an abundance of cakes, scones with jam and cream and lots of hot drinks.

We were entertained by Lyn and Elaine who began learning ballroom dancing about four years ago and who had 'volunteered' to put on a dance exhibition



along with their friends, who are also ballroom dancers. It was the second time Lyn and Elaine have performed for us and this year they demonstrated the tango which was excellent. We also raised £100 from a raffle for the Chairman's charity appeal.



# Friendship Month – Our Big Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 11 September we held our Oddfellows Friendship Month event. This was a coffee morning with refreshments, bric-a-brac sale, handmade cards, promotional stand and tombola. There was a good response from our members and friends and we raised £140 for charity. There was lots of interest in the Oddfellows and many of the visitors were keen to learn of the history of the Oddfellows as an organisation and our lovely Oddfellows Hall.





# Half Yearly Meeting

Wednesday 18 September



**It was lovely to welcome three new members at our half yearly meeting in September. The business side was reported and it was then time for a buffet lunch that had been provided.**

From left to right the picture shows our Immediate Past Chairman Tony Lewis, our current Chairman Rob New and our Deputy Chairman John Wakefield who will take over after the annual general meeting in March. John will carry on the charity appeal for the Midlands Air Ambulance along with a local charity the Owl Sanctuary.

## Café Links

Special thanks go to the Café Links team who have raised over £1,250 this year towards our charity appeal. They work very hard to get it all together and they are there in all kinds of weather. Thank you also to the people who support this event, we couldn't raise the money for the charity without you.

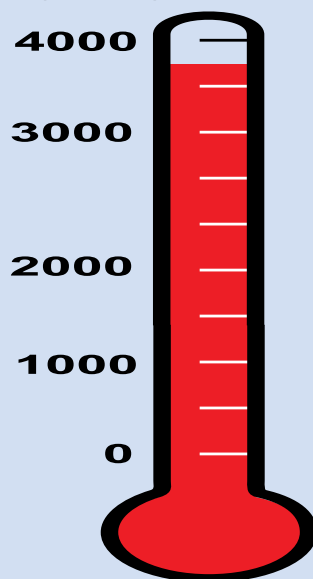
# The Charity Appeal So Far

## Midlands Air Ambulance Charity



# £3,761

Thank you to everyone for supporting our social events this year and raising funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance, a very worthy cause. We hope to see you soon.



# Lunch at Westwood Golf Club

Thursday 3 October

We joined with the Foresters for our annual event and this year had a carvery lunch at Westwood Golf Club in Leek. Everyone agreed that the food was first class and it was lovely to spend time and chat to people



who we sometimes only see once a year. The attractive venue was full with 81 guests attending and as we left people were asking when the next one was going to be held. A sure sign that it was a successful day.



## Christmas Party

On Wednesday 11 December we held our annual Christmas Party. 24 members and friends joined us on a rainy afternoon for some festive cheer. We had a lovely buffet and sang Christmas songs accompanied by our Chairman, Rob New, on the keyboard. This was followed by a game of Pass

the Parcel, Irish Bingo and a lucky dip raffle. There was a tombola stall and a raffle for a hamper which had been kindly donated by two of our members. A grand total of £74 was raised for our charity and everyone left with a smile on their face... an ideal start to the Christmas celebrations.



*A Christmas sing a long.*



*A good old fashioned game of pass the parcel.*



# Christmas Fair

**Our Christmas Fair was held on a sunny but cold day in November. We welcomed a large number of visitors and our fair coincided with the switch-on of Stafford's Christmas lights. There was a Christmas stall, a very popular tombola, raffle, shuffleboard game, homemade cards, a stall for our charity The Midlands Air Ambulance, a soft toy stall and bric-a-brac items for sale. There were refreshments, including bacon rolls.**

We were again fortunate to have a visit from our local MP Jeremy Lefroy. A grand total of £571 was raised for our charity and the Committee would like to thank everyone who helped out on the day, provided raffle and tombola prizes and those members and friends who came along to support the



event. The funds will be matched pound for pound by Barclays Bank.

A special thank you goes to our generous supporters:

- Portmeirion Pottery, Stoke-on-Trent
- The Soup Kitchen, Stafford
- A member who provided a fruit basket
- Two members who donated a hamper.





# County Stores Supermarket

**10 Mill Street, Stafford ST16 2AJ**

**Open - Tuesday to Saturday 11.30am to 3pm**

**Every year in the UK alone millions of tons of food is needlessly thrown away, some never even reaching the shops. The reasons can be varied: Over production, damaged packaging or even wonky, in the case of vegetables. The County Stores Supermarket believe that most of this wastage is unnecessary.**

The Community Organisers Staffordshire decided to do something about it, making sure the food is 'Feeding Bellies Not Bins'.

County Stores Supermarket is Stafford's only surplus food shop. The concept is to supply food that is not wanted by large supermarket chains directly to the people of Stafford and the surrounding areas at a fraction of cost. To buy food in the store you need to become a member which enables you save up to 90% on the regular cost of food.

The food is supplied to them in several ways. They are members of the FareShare



charity which is a scheme that has been set up to link large supermarkets and outlets like this. Local supermarkets also supply them directly with food as part of the scheme, usually perishable food that does not have a long shelf life. Donations are always welcome, pre-packed food in jars, tins sealed in packets, but not homemade.

The small profit they make goes on the day to day running of the shop which is run by volunteers.

You can find them on Facebook, 'County Stores Supermarket'

# Convalescence and Carer Support

**When recovering after a hospital stay, an illness, operation, accident, bereavement or traumatic experience, or if caring for someone who is, it can be tough, and where we can, we want to be there for our members at such times of need.**

Our Convalescence and Carer benefits are available to members after two years of membership and can be accessed every other year if qualifying medically, or as a carer.

***Convalescence Home Benefit\**** offers a short break of up to two weeks (or two one-week breaks within 12-months of each other) to help you recover. Travel expenses at an agreed rate are also included, but we cannot pay travel expenses for the second week of the break if it is taken at a later date. Another Oddfellows member can also accompany you as a carer (using their own benefit entitlements) providing they too have been a member for a full two years or more.

The Society's four main partner facilities are Bridge House, Dawlish, Yorkshire Foresters Convalescent Home, Bridlington, Merton House Hotel, Ross-on-Wye and The Salfordian Hotel, Southport.

There may be a small excess for you to pay at some facilities and at certain times of year if our benefit allowance does not cover the full cost of the stay. Specialist facilities, offering personal or nursing care, are considerably more costly so a shorter stay may be appropriate. Any excesses will be highlighted to you prior to your stay and extra help may also be available towards this excess, such as from the Friendly Societies Convalescent Scheme.

***Convalescence Care Benefit\**** is for situations when a convalescence stay away from home is not suitable, for instance, if you are not well enough to travel or are undergoing treatment. Instead, we can help on a short-term basis with up to 30 hours care and support at home or in some circumstances, other services or equipment to support recovery.

Where possible, we use the services of our partner agency Home Instead Senior Care who provide a wide range of options such as personal care, companionship, home help or shopping. We normally need at least two weeks' notice to put these arrangements in place before a care service begins.

***Carer's Respite Benefit\**** is for the main carer of someone who is ill or disabled, and who needs a well-earned break. Your stay can be either in one of our partner convalescence facilities, a UK hotel or short UK package break of your choice, subject to our approval. Alternatively, we can pay for the person you care for to stay somewhere that provides the level of care they require, or arrange care for them at home.

Please contact your Branch Secretary for an application form. All bookings are made through the Oddfellows' Care and Welfare Department so you should not contact the facilities directly.

**\* Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice, call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/members-tcs](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/members-tcs)**



# Looking for a venue?

- Parties
- Exhibitions
- Conferences
- Christenings
- Weddings
- Activity Groups
- Meetings

## 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](mailto:janet.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk)  
[christine.elliott@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:christine.elliott@oddfellows.co.uk)





# 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 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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care) for care and welfare information**

## Lifting neighbourly spirit

### How well do you know your neighbours?

**Many of us are guilty of being caught up in our busy lives, forgetting to stop and say hello. We share so much with the people who live on our street, but often we barely know their names.**

A strong community spirit is something we actively encourage. Our ethos of making friends and helping people means that our members enjoy a strong support network to get them through the good, and the bad.

So why not spread that net of kindness a little wider, by extending your hand of friendship to those who live around you? If you notice that your neighbour lives alone, has a lot on their plate, or doesn't often get many visitors, then why not stop by to see if you can help? Colder seasons provide a great opportunity to drop a card through their door with your contact details for them to give you a call if they're ever



*A little neighbourly spirit goes a long way*



in need of a helping hand. Or, better still, extend the gesture with a knock on their door and a friendly hello.

You don't have to become their best friend, but being a friendly face and an ambassador for community spirit could be the lift your neighbourhood needs. I'm of the firm belief that you can never have too many social plans. Sometimes people just need someone to talk to, or someone to suggest getting out, so why not let them know about your Branch's local coffee mornings, the trips out and the wonderful benefits of membership? You can be sure they'll receive a warm welcome whenever they choose to come to an event.

Wishing you, your families and your neighbours a very happy and healthy 2020.

**CEO, the Oddfellows**





## HA Andrews and the Lupus Trust

**For the next three years, the Oddfellows' HA Andrews Memorial Fund is supporting the Lupus Trust with its research into how lupus develops, in order to find ways to prevent or cure this lifelong condition.**

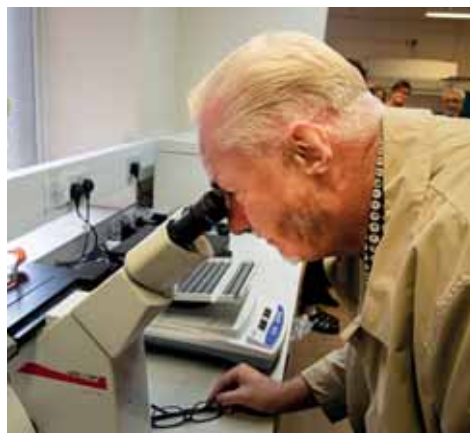
### So what is Lupus?

Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which antibodies, which usually work with the immune system to protect us from infection, instead attack the body and cause disease. It is not known why these antibodies are made in lupus patients, or even how the system in healthy people stops this from happening.

The Lupus Research Team at Guy's Hospital recently identified an immune response pathway that is defective in patients with the most severe forms of lupus. The HA Andrews Memorial Fund will support the team's research into understanding B-cell defects in lupus patients, and what causes them.

### Why did we choose the Lupus Trust?

The Lupus Trust was suggested as a beneficiary of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund by members of Ware Lodge, Brian and Pamela Weavers. Their son, Paul, was diagnosed with the condition at just 17, and as there's no cure, he has lived with the effects ever since.



*Paul takes a closer look at the research*



*The Oddfellows' team is shown around the lab*

Paul now 53, says: "Lupus leaves me feeling constantly exhausted and the skin rashes which flare up occasionally have caused permanent scarring. Holidays are difficult, as I have to avoid the sunshine, and sand can irritate my skin. As a college lecturer, I try not to let it get in the way of anything I do. When I found out the Oddfellows was supporting the Lupus Trust, I was genuinely over the moon."



*The fund will support the addition of Bekki Velounias (pictured) to the research team*

When we visited the Lupus Trust, to present the first of three annual donations which will total £85,000, we spoke to Professor D'Cruz, Professor and Consultant Rheumatologist at Guy's Hospital, London. He's working closely with the research team and says: "This is a vital and very exciting piece of research into lupus, so we are extremely grateful for the kind grant the Lupus Trust has received from the Oddfellows to fund the project for 3 years."



*CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Randall at the lab*

Lupus is often called "the great mimic", as it can affect different parts of the body and is often misdiagnosed. It is currently unknown what causes lupus, although studies have identified a definite genetic tendency, which may be triggered and become active. It isn't a contagious disease, but there isn't yet a cure, only treatments which help to control symptoms.

To learn more about lupus, the Lupus Trust and the work they do, please visit [www.lupus.org.uk](http://www.lupus.org.uk)

# Sharing is caring – thank you Pat!

**We love to recognise those who go above and beyond when recommending the Society to their friends. So we're pleased to share that Patricia Sexton, member of the King's Lynn Oddfellows, has achieved the Gold Refer a Friend Award.**



## **Congratulations, Pat!**

Thank you. I'm very grateful and proud to have reached this level. I really enjoy being a member of the Oddfellows, and I often volunteer for a lot of the social activities, to help them run as smoothly as possible.

## **When did you join the Oddfellows, and why?**

It was a friend who referred me, actually! Back in late 2016, I attended a few events with my friend Violet, and I decided to join in January 2017. I love the Oddfellows ethos of 'making friends, helping people', as it truly sums up what we do.

## **How many members have you referred?**

I've referred 23 new members so far, and I'm very blessed to have a wonderful and rather large circle of friends who have seen how happy Oddfellows makes me, before joining on my recommendation.

## **What's your favourite thing about the Oddfellows?**

My favourite thing about being a member is having the opportunity to meet so many lovely people, and with new members joining all the time, it's a lovely way to make some new friends. My husband, Richard, is also a member, so it's lovely to go to events as a couple as well.

## **What's the general response when you first tell people about the Oddfellows?**

Lots of people have heard of us, but they don't know what we do. I'll often show them a copy of our events diary and invite them along to the next coffee morning or talk. Usually, at the end of the event, they're keen to come to the next one!

## **Did you know we have a monthly e-newsletter?**

Featuring exclusive member offers, real life stories, advice and news, it's delivered direct to your email inbox once a month. If you don't receive this already, speak to your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on 0800 028 1810, so we can get you added to the mailing list.

# At a glance

## February 2020

<b>Wed 19</b>	Coffee Morning	10am
<b>Wed 26</b>	Lunch Out at The Vine in Stafford Town	12.30pm

## March

<b>Tues 17</b>	Annual Summoned Meeting	11am
<b>Wed 18</b>	Café Links and Bric-a-Brac Sale	10am
<b>Wed 25</b>	Bingo and Buffet	1pm

## April

<b>Wed 15</b>	Café Links and Bric-a-Brac Sale	10am
<b>Sun 19</b>	Annual District Lunch at Tillington Hall Hotel	12 noon

## May

<b>Tues 12</b>	A Trip to Stafford's New Cinema	TBC
<b>Wed 20</b>	Coffee Morning	10am

## June

<b>Wed 10</b>	Summer Afternoon Tea at the Oddfellows Hall	2pm
<b>Wed 17</b>	Café Links and Bric-a-Brac Sale	10am

## July

<b>Wed 15</b>	Café Links and Bric-a-Brac Sale	10am
<b>Wed 22</b>	Lunch Out at The Radford Bank Inn, Stafford	12.30pm

## August

<b>Wed 19</b>	Coffee Morning	10am
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**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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)** or fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary

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