

March - August 2021
Issue 8



the **ODDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Mid-Staffs District Branch



Shugborough Hall



Travel and Trips



Walks



Talks



Social



Food with Friends



Coffee Morning



Games



Welcome to edition 8 of our newsletter – Out and About.

Message to our members

Just when we thought things were easing slightly, the second wave of Covid-19 came and knocked us all backwards. Once again, we found ourselves in a very different world, wondered if and when things would start to get better and we held on to hope. Last year was very difficult for many of us and our thoughts have been with you throughout, we are always here to help if we can.

Hope has arrived, vaccines have been made, some have been approved and being rolled out all over the country, but we still need to stay safe and take care, hopefully life will get much better for everyone over the year. As you know most of our 2020 social events and meetings were

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Tuesday, Wednesday and part
of Thursday.

At the time of printing both Janet
and Christine are working from
home on some days.

cancelled from the middle of March
to December, which means our past
events were few. We did, however,
manage a few coffee mornings at
the hall with the rule of six, which the
government guidelines allowed. We
do hope to carry these on as soon as
we are able to.

We have set out the events for the
next six months in the hope that we
will be able to do some face-to-face
events, but as these are uncertain
times please contact us prior to each
event, to check they are going ahead.

We hope you enjoy our Out & About
newsletter and we're looking forward
to seeing you all again soon.

Christine and Janet

Think again

I am loving the rain lashing on the window pane,
The glass misting up so I can't see a thing,
My heart is beginning to sing.

I'm warm and cosy and safe inside,
From the noise and the bustle of the world outside,
I think myself lucky with a roof over my head,
I can snuggle down in a warm comfy bed.

Not everyone is comfy and cosy like me and like you,
People have to flee from their homesteads and all that they knew,
They trek for miles without drink and food to eat,
Not knowing what tragic ends they might meet.

So think again when the rain is lashing down,
And you think it's a pain and you go round with a frown,
We're in a bubble and safe and sound,
We're not begging for food and sleeping on the ground.

We have heating and water on tap,
We usually can travel easily to places on a map,
Nobody is bombing us out of our home,
And leaving us to wander the world all alone.

Families being separated and lost in the turmoil,
It's wrong and it's inhumane and it makes the blood boil,
So just take a moment when it rains again,
How insignificant those few drops of water are on that window pane.

**A poem by Karen Pepper
(Mid Staffs Welfare Visitor)**

Shugborough Hall

(As seen on the front page)

A Staffordshire paradise: A rich blend of landscape, monuments, gardens and architecture, shaped by travel and adventure.

The estate was owned by the Bishops of Lichfield until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, upon which it passed through several hands before being purchased in 1624 by William Anson, a local lawyer and ancestor of the Earls of Lichfield. The estate remained in the Anson family for three centuries. Following the death of the 4th Earl of Lichfield in 1960, the estate was allocated to the National Trust in lieu of death duties, then immediately leased to Staffordshire County Council. Management of the estate was returned to the National Trust in 2016. It is open to the public and comprises of the hall, museum, kitchen, garden and a model farm.

Whilst George Anson pursued his naval and political career, his elder brother Thomas was occupied in developing Shugborough Estate.

Originally, trained in the law, Thomas abandoned the profession upon his father's death and decided to travel on the Grand Tour, visiting far off places such as Rome, Naples, Alexandria and Cyprus. Thomas was a man of intellectual refinement and taste, so in 1732 became a founding member of the influential Society of Dilettanti. At Shugborough,



he set about expanding the property by gradually purchasing the remaining church and household and some slopes of the Cannock Chase. The old village of Shugborough would have surrounded the Tower of the Winds (pictured above).

The photographer, Patrick Lichfield then became the 5th Earl of Lichfield and lived at the estate from 1960, following the death of his grandfather Thomas Edward Anson, the 4th Earl of Lichfield. Lord Lichfield, the Queen's first cousin once removed, lived in a private apartment in Shugborough Hall with his three children and played an important role in the estate until his death in 2005. The current Earl of Lichfield is his son, Thomas.

Please note all 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.

Regular Event

Café Links



10am



Donations



14 April, 12 May
9 June and 14 July

We have book sales together with new and second hand 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.



Coffee Mornings



10am



Donations



7 April, 5 May
2 June, 7 July
11 August

Coffee Mornings for members, friends and anyone interested in joining. At these coffee mornings we can let you know more about the Oddfellows over a cup of tea or coffee, with a hot snack or a biscuit. Times will be 10am to 11.30am.

It will be very informal and everyone is welcome, we just want to let you know what the Oddfellows have to offer. You may be surprised by how much there is, so please join Christine and Janet. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP.



Enjoying a cuppa at one of our coffee mornings.

March 2021

TUES
23

Annual Summoned Meeting



11am



Free



The annual 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. Contact Janet or Christine on 01785 258269. Again please let the office know if you wish to attend for catering purposes. Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP.

April

SUN
11

Annual District Lunch



12 noon for
12.30pm



Members £20
Guests £23



Our District Lunch is a 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. There will be a lovely three course meal followed by a raffle and an update by a representative from the Midlands Air Ambulance.



Tillington Hall Hotel 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, where we have booked for our luncheon. Although the lunch will be an informal event, smart attire is requested. The menu choices are enclosed with this newsletter. If you would like to attend please complete the form with your menu choices and return with payment to the office by Thursday 25 March 2021*. Tillington Hall Hotel, Eccleshall Road, Stafford ST16 1JJ.

***As some of you know this lunch was booked for 2020 but was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. If in 2020, you have already completed and returned your form with your menu choices and payment, we will use these and you do not have to complete another one. If you unable to attend on the new date we can refund the payment you made in 2020, please let us know.**

May

TUES 18 A Trip to Stafford's Cinema



ODEON Silver Cinema is a series of film screenings for over 55s. Tickets are from £3 (standard seat, 2020 price) each and include tea, coffee and biscuits before the film. Contact Janet or Christine at the Oddfellows office during April if you would like to join us. Film and time to be arranged nearer the time when listings are released.



July

WED 28 Lunch Out at the Radford Bank Inn, Stafford



You can tuck into a roast dinner good enough for Sunday 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 serve tasty food, fresh from the carving deck and pizza oven at reasonable prices. Please let Janet or Christine know by Wednesday 14 July if you would like to join us as a table reservation will be needed.

June

WED 23 Summer Afternoon Tea at the Oddfellows Hall



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, followed by a raffle. All the funds raised will be going to our charity appeal. Please let us know for catering purposes if you will be joining us, everyone is welcome.

Oddfellows Hall, Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2HP.



Stoke and Newcastle Social Branch

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.

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.

Obviously, we have not met since February 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, however, we are hoping to be able to get together soon. Janet will contact regular attendees when the first meal of 2021 has been arranged. If you have not been to one of these events and would like to join us please contact Janet at the Oddfellows Hall.

Fame at Last

Two of our newer members, Bev and Trish, have recently been featured in national magazines – The Peoples Friend, My Weekly, Saga magazine and TV Times magazine. They joined our Branch of the Oddfellows in 2018 and quickly became regular attendees at our social events and business meetings.

All Branches were asked to put forward anyone they felt would be suitable to be featured in national publications during an advertising campaign at the end of 2020. The members needed to have joined within the past three years, be active members and also have a positive story to tell about their membership. One of the photos used in the advert is the group photo from one of our Coffee Mornings pictured on page 5 (bottom right).

Thank you to Bev and Trish for agreeing to be featured and also thanks to the members who attended for a 'photoshoot' in October. It is good publicity for the Oddfellows and also for our Branch.



Members Bev (on the right) and Trish (on the left)

If anyone would like a copy of the advert, please contact Janet or Christine.

Past Events

Rule of Six Coffee Mornings



As we were unable to have our usual coffee mornings due to the government guidelines set during the Coronavirus 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 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 while it lasted.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the year we found ourselves back in lockdown, so we had to cancel them.

We will be looking to do some more of these in the New Year, depending on the guidelines at the time. If you are interested in coming to one please let us know.

Special Occasions – Ron and Sheila Fellows 60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Ron and Sheila who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday 10 September 2020. They met at their place of work. Apparently, on the way home, Sheila had a puncture on her bicycle, Ron arrived as her knight in shining armour and offered her a lift home.

As Ron has said, “The rest is history”.

Very shortly after they were married, Ron joined the Oddfellows followed some years later by Sheila, who became Secretary of the Wolverhampton Branch,



where Ron was Chairman and Trustee. Membership of the Oddfellows is a family tradition as Sheila's dad was a member and also Ron and Sheila's son Phillip carries on the tradition.

Wit and Brilliance

One day an old German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, no! I'm in deep trouble now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder, if there are anymore around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!", says the panther, "That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.

The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?", but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

Moral of this story... Don't mess with the old dogs... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery!

Wit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

Of course, I am in no way insinuating that you are old, just 'youthfully challenged'.

Online Events

Many Branches of the Oddfellows have been holding online events on Zoom due to not being able to meet socially face-to-face.

We have been emailing the list of events taking place to our members who have registered their email address with us. If you would like to receive these please let us have your email address for our records. They can also be found on the Oddfellows website - www.oddfellows.co.uk

Facebook in Lockdown

This is something I saw on Facebook during lockdown and thought it to be very witty and made me smile, hope it does you too.

Just be careful, because people are going crazy from being in lockdown!

Actually, I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron

straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The 'hoover' was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The 'loo' looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to... yes, you guessed it... pull myself together!

I hope this has made you smile.

Author unknown

Spring



I think I'm looking forward to spring,
With the days getting warmer and brighter,
The birds just beginning to sing,
And the long evenings getting lighter.

The vaccines are apparently on their way,
We're hoping that they save the day,
To not wear face masks, to hug and kiss,
All those friends and family that we miss.



To meet up for coffee or lunch or afternoon tea,
To travel to places that we long to see,
To visit the theatre, cinema and sport,
To swim and gym and practice yoga as we know we ought.

So with a spring in your step, keep in touch with your friends,
There'll be plenty to catch up on when this pandemic ends.

**Another poem by Karen Pepper - looking forward to a return to 'normality'.
Thank you Karen for penning these two lovely poems.**

Beware – Please Don't Be Caught Out

In this ever changing world we need to have our wits about us. Below are details from the Citizens Advice website.

Recognising a scam

Coronavirus - be aware of new scams

It's important you're aware of the many new scams around at the moment because of Coronavirus. Scams to look out for include:

- advertising face masks or medical equipment at high prices
- emails or texts pretending to be from the government
- emails offering life insurance against Coronavirus
- people knocking at your door and asking for money for charity

If you see emails or texts about coronavirus from someone you don't know, or from an unusual email address, don't click on any links or buy anything.

Don't give money or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust - for example someone who knocks on the door and offers to help.

It might be a scam if:

- it seems too good to be true - for example, a holiday that's much cheaper than you'd expect
- someone you don't know contacts you unexpectedly
- you suspect you're not dealing with a real company - for example, if there's no postal address

- you've been asked to transfer money quickly
- you've been asked to pay in an unusual way - for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union
- you've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs
- you haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed

Be careful about giving personal information away

Some scammers try to get your personal information - for example, the name of your primary school or your National Insurance number. They can use this information to hack your accounts. If you come across sites that ask for this type of information without an obvious reason, check they're legitimate.

Top tips for identifying a pension scam from the Citizens Advice website

1. Ignore any contact you receive out of the blue about your pension. This could be in person, online, on the phone or in the post
2. Watch out for any promotion offering you more than 8% return on your pension investment
3. Be wary of any offer to access your pension before 55. Accessing your

- pension early can mean you are hit with a high tax bill of 55%, as well as losing any pension savings in a scam.
4. Don't feel pressured to make a decision about your pension straight away, instead take your time
 5. Watch out for extravagant sounding investments based overseas
 6. Check the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) online register to make sure the company approaching you is legitimate. Anyone giving financial advice should be registered
 7. If you are making an investment, check the FCA ScamSmart warning list for known investment scams
 8. If you are transferring a pension, ask your current pension provider to check the HMRC registration of the new scheme to check it is legitimate
- There is more information on the Citizens Advice website www.citizensadvice.org.uk or give Oddfellows Advice Line a call on 0800 0149 821
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4-30pm
Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org

Midlands Air Ambulance

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we have not been able to arrange socials events and raise money for the Midlands Air Ambulance and our local charity the Owl Sanctuary as we would have liked.

However, we have had a very generous donation of £1,000 to give to the Midlands Air Ambulance, which we are very grateful for and I'm sure they will make very good use of the money. Especially, in these difficult times when fundraising has been almost impossible.



We are hopeful that 2021 will see us getting back to a new normal and raising money for them again.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK



OddfellowsUK

Health and Wellness Wordsearch

Answers on page 18

V	L	V	E	Y	U	J	F	K	V	S	X	M	S	S	E	R	T	S	Q	L	B	A	E
G	A	N	L	V	O	H	E	W	F	S	F	O	R	B	D	E	B	T	F	R	E	E	L
B	I	H	A	Q	Y	G	L	I	L	A	U	T	C	E	L	L	E	T	N	I	J	D	B
J	C	Q	I	G	E	C	A	W	S	S	E	N	L	L	E	W	Q	F	Z	L	Q	R	A
J	O	O	I	G	H	S	O	G	S	E	I	T	I	V	I	T	C	A	A	C	N	M	I
W	S	E	P	V	F	Y	I	P	N	V	I	O	C	C	U	P	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
K	N	N	R	U	Q	Q	D	C	O	I	Y	P	A	R	E	H	T	M	D	B	B	Z	E
E	O	Z	E	M	X	W	C	R	R	E	M	G	S	P	G	T	G	I	G	F	O	O	R
Q	S	B	S	Y	H	V	Y	S	A	E	Q	M	S	J	Y	R	N	Z	C	O	L	W	K
C	M	I	C	G	O	G	Q	C	G	T	X	T	I	J	D	N	I	S	S	E	A	D	K
G	O	K	R	K	H	L	W	P	U	G	E	E	F	W	N	D	P	N	P	S	N	O	L
O	K	I	I	B	A	E	M	K	D	A	Z	D	E	M	S	J	O	R	I	T	O	H	A
A	I	N	P	Y	F	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L	I	L	A	C	R	R	M	I	G	S
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S	G	S	I	S	K	E	N	W	M	X	W	X	K	R	E	T	G	O	T	W	O	V	H
T	I	P	O	P	B	Z	P	A	H	E	F	J	S	V	I	E	G	L	U	K	M	E	X
V	C	Y	N	F	N	H	S	Y	N	Z	N	I	W	O	E	M	C	U	A	N	E	B	L
E	H	A	S	M	K	A	J	Z	H	C	G	T	L	W	H	U	U	N	L	I	H	A	O
C	C	R	W	Y	V	O	T	G	S	N	I	K	A	E	X	L	U	T	A	N	V	C	R
Z	L	P	E	I	H	R	U	K	B	O	K	A	P	L	Q	S	C	E	W	L	K	K	T
F	K	Y	N	L	B	A	J	H	I	F	W	A	L	K	I	N	G	E	I	Y	A	Z	V
X	V	G	O	N	L	Q	I	C	H	U	R	C	H	G	F	W	U	R	O	F	K	B	D
F	S	D	N	Z	A	L	C	G	H	F	E	A	T	I	N	G	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y
H	D	H	K	I	O	Q	K	E	O	N	M	A	X	T	N	Z	S	H	Y	E	O	B	H

- ACTIVITIES
BALANCE
BIKING
CHURCH
COPING
DEBT FREE
EATING HEALTHY
EMOTIONAL
EXERCISE
- FINANCIAL
GIVE BACK
GOALS
HYDRATE
HYGIENE
INTELLECTUAL
LAUGH
MENTAL
NO SMOKING
- OCCUPATIONAL
PHYSICAL
PRAY
PRESCRIPTIONS
RELIABLE
RESPONSIBILITY
SAVINGS
SOCIAL
SPIRITUAL
- STRESS
SWIMMING
THERAPY
VOLUNTEER
WALKING
WELLNESS
YOGA

Popular Food Dish Anagrams

Answers on page 18

1. as angel (7)	
2. on us simon peter (10-4)	
3. iced drip gun (4-7)	
4. enthrall sociopath (10-6)	
5. find his chaps (4-3-4)	
6. punch moll has gun (10-5)	
7. scrub host son (3-5-4)	
8. sunrise new cocked hat (5-3-4-7)	
9. her sheep dips (9-3)	
10. shaggiest noble poet (9-9)	
11. evil bean food (4-8)	
12. snug shrimp addict (9-7)	
13. tie coat peg (7-3)	
14. job has long arm (4-5-4)	
15. amok as us (8)	
16. bad man gnashers (7-3-4)	
17. skeptic todd (7-4)	
18. filter (6)	
19. manic khaki salt cake (7-5-6)	
20. naked basque bulb (6-3-6)	

Where on earth did that saying come from?

‘Play it by Ear

This expression, which is mostly used in informal contexts, comes from the world of music. When a musician ‘plays it by ear’, he attempts to play or reproduce a piece of music without looking at the music sheet. He plays the piece from memory and uses his ears to determine if what he is playing is correct or not.

By the Same Token

Bus token? Game token? What kind of token is involved here? Token is a very old word, referring to something that’s a symbol or sign of something else. It could be a pat on the back as a token, or sign, of friendship, or a marked piece of lead that could be exchanged for money. It came to mean a fact or piece of evidence that could be used as proof. ‘By the same token’ first meant, basically ‘those things you used to prove that can also be used to prove this’. It was later weakened into the expression that just say ‘these two things are somehow associated’.

Get on your Soapbox

The soapbox that people mount when they ‘get on a soapbox’ is actually a soap box, or rather, one of the big crates that used to hold shipments of soap in the late 1800s. Would-be motivators of crowds would use them to stand on as makeshift podiums to make proclamations, speeches, or sales pitches. The soap box then became a metaphor for spontaneous

speech making or getting on a roll about a favourite topic.

Tomfoolery

The notion of Tom fool goes a long way. It was the term for a foolish person as long ago as the middle ages (Thomas fatuus in Latin). Much in the way the names in the expression Tom, Dick and Harry are used to mean ‘some generic guys’, Tom fool was the generic fool, with the added implication that he was a particularly absurd one. So the word tomfoolery suggested an incidence of foolishness that went a bit beyond mere foolery.

Go Bananas

The expression ‘go bananas’ is slang and the origin is a bit harder to pin down. It became popular in the 1950s, around the same time as ‘go ape’, so there may have been some association between apes, bananas and crazy behaviour. Also, banana is just a funny sounding word. In the 1920s, people said “Banana oil!” to mean ‘nonsense!’

Reading Someone the Riot Act

When you read someone the riot act, you give a stern warning, but what is it that you would have been reading? The Riot Act was a British law passed in 1714 to prevent riots. It went into effect only when read aloud by an official. If too many people were gathering and looking ready

for trouble, an officer would let them know that if they didn't disperse, they would face punishment.

Hands Down

Hands down comes from horse racing, where, if you're way ahead of everyone else, you can relax your grip on the reins and let your hands down. When you win hands down, you win easily.

Silver Lining

The silver lining is the optimistic part of what might otherwise be gloomy. The expression can be traced back directly to a line from Milton about a dark cloud revealing a silver lining, or halo of bright sun behind the gloom. The idea became part of literature and also part of the culture, giving us the proverb 'every cloud has a silver lining' in the mid-1800s.

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 or christine.elliott@oddfellows.co.uk



the
ODDFELLOWS
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

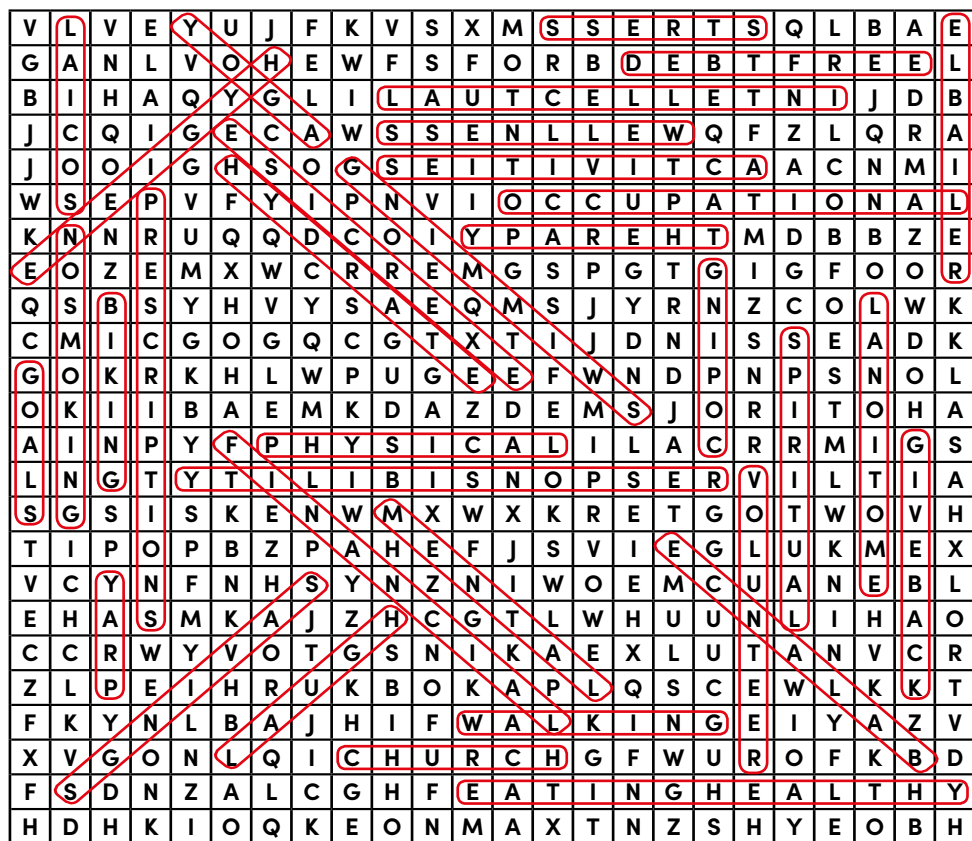
f OddfellowsUK

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Answers to Food Anagrams on page 15

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Lasagne | 11. Beef Vindaloo |
| 2. Minestrone Soup | 12. Christmas Pudding |
| 3. Rice Pudding | 13. Cottage Pie |
| 4. Lancashire Hotpot | 14. Lamb Rogan Josh |
| 5. Fish and Chips | 15. Moussaka |
| 6. Ploughman's Lunch | 16. Bangers and Mash |
| 7. Hot Cross Bun | 17. Spotted Dick |
| 8. Sweet and Sour Chicken | 18. Trifle |
| 9. Shepherds Pie | 19. Chicken Tikka Masala |
| 10. Spaghetti Bolognese | 20. Bubble and Squeak |

Answers to Health and Wellness Wordsearch on page 14



Oddfellows spirit shines throughout Friendship Month 2020

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

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



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

events, Zooming across the country to link up with members and guests all over the UK! We've picked out a selection of our favourite pictures from September, to share with you a little warmth and happiness during these cold and difficult days. We know how important face-to-face events are to our members and as soon as Branches are able to safely hold these again, we will let you know.

If you have any pictures from an Oddfellows event that you'd like to share with us, feel free to tag us in them on Facebook! We're at www.facebook.com/OddfellowsUK



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

A year like no other...

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

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

Coming together

It's human nature to come together in a time of crisis – to squeeze a hand, to offer a shoulder to cry on, to hug, or to simply sit side-by-side. However, despite it all, we are finding ways around things, as best we can. Nothing will ever stop us resourceful Oddfellows from giving comfort and support to each other and those in desperate need.

This year, I've witnessed compassion and human kindness on a scale I've never known within the Society before, and this has really lifted me on my difficult days.



Being there for each other

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

Keeping spirits lifted

I've seen some incredible innovation to keep spirits lifted and people connected. We'd only hosted a few online events here and there before 2020, but we're now broadcasting talks, quizzes, and even fitness sessions, straight into people's front rooms almost daily. I know online

events won't ever replace getting together in person, but they're a wonderful way to make sure we can still keep in touch, safely. I do hope you try one if you haven't already. I've also been kept in the loop on so many unexpected acts of kindness from members and Branches, such as quizzes and puzzles being posted through letterboxes, and afternoon tea hampers and flowers being dropped off on members' doorsteps. Such small gestures make a huge difference to people, so if there is anything you can do to keep this going, then please do. Kindness is infectious.

Helping others

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

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

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

A truly special family

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

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

Take care, stay safe and stay well.
Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows

Lupus research pushes through pandemic

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

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



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



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

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

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says, “We’re so pleased to hear that the research has been able to move forward despite social restrictions. It’s been a difficult year for many, and this research is needed more than ever.”

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

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
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.

March 2021

Tues 23	Annual Summoned Meeting	11am
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April

Wed 7	Coffee Morning	10am
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Sun 11	Annual District Lunch at the Tillington Hall Hotel	12 noon
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Wed 14	Café Links	10am
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May

Wed 5	Coffee Morning	10am
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Wed 12	Café Links	10am
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Tues 18	A Trip to Stafford's Cinema	TBC
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June

Wed 2	Coffee Morning	10am
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Wed 9	Café Links	10am
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Wed 23	Summer Afternoon Tea at Oddfellows Hall	2pm
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July

Wed 7	Coffee Morning	10am
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Wed 14	Café Links	10am
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Wed 28	Lunch Out at the Radford Bank Inn, Stafford	12.30pm
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August

Wed 11	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** or fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary

*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644



The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB



Social distancing can still be social

**Your guide to online events you can enjoy
from the comfort of your own home**

February – April 2021

Social restrictions have meant that our usual face-to-face events had to be suspended, but that doesn't mean we can't get together! Our network of 121 Branches are running a huge variety of nationwide online events, and everybody is welcome to join – no matter where in the country you are.

This guide lists the current regular and featured events available for you to attend.

Not attended an online event yet – you don't even need to be on the internet? Need help? Check out our 'How to' overleaf...

How to join a Zoom event for the first time

You will need a device that is connected to the internet with a camera and microphone (most computers, laptops, smart phones and tablets have them). Don't worry if you don't have these, you can still join an event using your landline phone – you'll be able to hear and speak to everyone but not see them. Here's some simple steps to help you started.

1. Connecting to Zoom via an app or website

You can download the free Zoom app from your app store – once you've 'signed in' and set up a password you'll be ready to start. Alternatively you can connect to Zoom via **www.zoom.us** – just click on 'Join a Meeting' and enter the 'Meeting ID'.

2. Using the 'Meeting ID' to join an event

The 'Meeting ID' is a unique set of numbers listed with the event information in this leaflet - you need to enter these once you've logged onto Zoom (either via the app or website). For some events you may have to pre-register with the event organiser and/or enter a '**Passcode**'.



3. Getting your audio and video settings right

When prompted, make sure your video and audio is on – if you see a red line through the microphone and/or camera icons, click on them to activate otherwise you won't be seen or heard!

4. Joining an event with a landline phone

You can use your landline to phone into an event – there is a charge, (please check your operator for details), but the standard rate number is **0330 0885830**. You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID number followed by # and may also be asked for a Passcode followed by # . For additional information on how to join meetings, here's a few useful links:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-joining-a-meeting>

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/trafford/how-to-use-zoom-for-the-first-time.pdf>

Monthly events

Frequency/time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
1st Mon 2pm	Prize winning Quiz	460 928 7642	1810	karen.pye-smith@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Mon 11am	Coffee in the virtual Potting Shed	848 9002 1785	493398	valerie.ashcroft@oddfellows.co.uk
4th Mon 4pm	Zingo Bingo	542 724 7603	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Brainiest Brain Fun Quiz	231 522 2288	1810	judith.catton@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Tues 2pm	Word Games and Chat	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 2pm	Busy Fingers, Crafts and Coffee	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd Tues 4pm	Beetle Drive	542 724 7603	-	joanne.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk

Weekly events

Below are events that occur every week – for a full description visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events and type “online” in the location search box or contact the local organiser listed.

Time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
Monday				
10.30am	Online Games – All Welcome	950 0863 2889	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Chi Gung	824 6194 4085	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Monday Music & Musing	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Monday Games Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
Tuesday				
4pm	Art, Talks, Fun and games	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Fun quiz open to all	869 8507 8184	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
Wednesday				
11am	National Coffee Morning	988 3920 7187	-	peter.needham@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Fun and Games	980 885 9304	-	andrew.spencer@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Fun quiz open to all	854 769 23503	-	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
Thursday				
10.30am	Coffee Morning	949 4131 7445	1810	emma.leighton@oddfellows.co.uk
11am	Easy Zumba Gold	9468 1625 757	PRE-REG*	debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk
2pm	Oddfellows Fun Thursdays	988 3920 7187	-	events@oddfellows.co.uk
7pm	Weekly Quiz Night	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
Friday				
2pm	The Weekend Starts Here!	910 7968 6020	1810	paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk
3pm	Friday Fun and Games	420 044 9988	942052	maretta.heap@oddfellows.co.uk
Sunday				
5pm	Facebook Live @ 5 Quiz	www.facebook.com/OddfellowsIpswich		wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk

***please contact the event organiser to register in advance of the event**

2nd Tues	7.30pm	Games, quizzes and more	860 2803 8495	-	dawn.taylor@oddfellows.co.uk
1st Wed	2.30pm	Nationwide Quiz	852 9201 2067	1810	syd.goodwin@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	2pm	Sing Along	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Wed	7pm	Talks from Tunbridge Wells	688 663 8622	1810	karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk
1st and 3rd Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	542 724 7603	-	wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk
2nd and 4th Fri	7pm	Fun on Friday	845 7787 3384	-	sarah.north@oddfellows.co.uk
Last Fri	10.30am	Corona Club Coffee Morning	231 522 2288	1810	judith.cotton@oddfellows.co.uk
Last Sat	5pm	Saturday Sing Along	967 996 1868	-	charles.venables@oddfellows.co.uk
3rd Sat	7pm	Saturday Night Fun	460 928 7642	1810	karen.pye-smith@oddfellows.co.uk

Featured events

Featured events are usually one-offs – they may be repeated but not necessarily weekly or monthly. As with the other listed events, you can find out more about them via www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or by contacting the event organiser.

Date/Time	Event	Meeting ID	Passcode	Contact
February				
3 2pm	Sixty Years of the Pop Charts	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
10 2pm	A Week On T'Cut	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
10 7pm	Talk: Oatcakes, Farming and Diet	873 7977 2427	017137	toni.siddal@oddfellows.co.uk
13 5pm	Italian Cookery - Tiramisu (pudding)	PRE REG*	-	jackie.lancaster@oddfellows.co.uk
14 5pm	Italian Cookery - Puttanesca pasta sauce	PRE REG*	-	jackie.lancaster@oddfellows.co.uk

March

3 2pm	Remember the Seventies	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
10 2pm	Lesser Known Brontes	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
17 2pm	The Victorian Photographer	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk

April

14 2pm	Contrast of China	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
21 2pm	Sing Along	896 1081 9201	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk
28 2pm	Discovering Family History	853 5928 5951	-	helen.bullock@oddfellows.co.uk

***please contact the event organiser to register in advance of the event**



More online events are added every week!

If you'd like the latest online event listing, email your Secretary or Social Organiser with the subject line 'Please send the online events list'. You can also receive the latest Oddfellows news straight to your inbox. Just make sure your Branch Secretary has your up-to-date email address or call our Membership team to check on **0800 028 1810**.

You can opt out at any time by contacting your Branch Secretary or unsubscribe@oddfellows.co.uk. We'll never share your details with any third party without your consent.