

November 2023 – April 2024



O<sup>the</sup>DDfeLLows SINCE 1810  
making friends, helping people

# out & about

## Maidstone Fernlea District



*Bridge across the River Medway, Maidstone*



Shopping



Art/Crafts



Theatre/Culture



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Wellbeing



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



*Maidstone Fernlea District Christmas Dinner – Saturday 18 November 2023*

## Welcome to the latest edition of the Maidstone Fernlea District of Oddfellows Events Diary and Newsletter.

We have organised an exciting and varied programme of events for you all. This diary is your handy guide so you know what is happening in your area. Put dates of interest in your diary. Alternatively, keep this diary in a handy place, by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Why not recommend a friend or family member for membership. Find out more by contacting Rose.

**Everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member,**

## Contact Details

**Secretary:** Rose Mills

**Address:** 4 Tunbury Avenue,  
Walderslade, Chatham, Kent  
ME5 9EH

**Telephone:** 01634 868308

**Email:**  
rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

**Social Organiser:** Julie Broomfield

**Telephone:** 07910 888607

**Email:**  
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk

**we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any events that take your fancy. We like to think we can guarantee you a good time.**

## A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit **[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)** or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

# November 2023

FRI  
03

## The Art of Crafting with Tissue Paper



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft 50p



Create this lovely set of flowers to brighten up your home. Easy use of tissue paper to create such a realistic flower.

Cost: For lunch £4 for members

and £5 for guests. Craft: 50p for each flower. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI  
10

## Crafting - Christmas Tree Card



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft 50p



Christmas is on its way and cards need to be sent! What a better way than creating a home-made card to give to a friend, or loved one. Cost: For lunch £4 for member and £5

for guests Craft: 50p for materials. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON  
06

## Cork art with Rudolph!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft 50p



We get obsessed with all things holiday, and especially homemade Christmas decorations that

are quick and fun to make. These DIY wine cork reindeer add the perfect amount of festive fun to your home. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Craft: £50p for art supplies. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI  
17

## Crafting - Christmas Tree Decoration - The Christmas Gonk!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft £1



How cheeky is this little fella! Great gift for anyone's tree. A simple

process, just using wool and cardboard. This craft would be lovely to teach children. Cost: For lunch £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1 for craft. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# November 2023

SAT  
18

## Maidstone Fernlea District Christmas Dinner



6.30pm



TBC



You are cordially invited to the annual Christmas dinner on Saturday 18 December 2023. Please contact us if you are interested and a menu and cost per head will be provided. Book by Friday 3 November 2023. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Rose on 01634 868308 or Julie on 07910 888607.



MON  
20

## Crafting - Christmas Tree Card



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft 50p



Who would not like to receive a card like this? Quilling is the word for this lovely item and it can be adorned with twinkles and stars. Let's get into the Christmas spirit - it is never too early. Cost: For lunch £4 for member and £5 for guests. Craft: 50p for materials. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI  
24

## Chatty Day with Friends



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Enjoy a relaxing day with friends, or challenge your friend to a game. The choice is yours. What more could you want for a Friday. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON  
27

## Visit to Brookside Garden Centre



11am



As per own cost



Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas. Join us at 11am at Brookside Garden Centre. Car share may be available. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# December

FRI  
01

## Cork art with Rudolph!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft 50p



In this tutorial we will show you how to turn a few wine corks into a red-nosed reindeer that are beyond adorable. This project is perfect for all ages and skillsets. These cute little Reindeers would make the perfect name places or Christmas tree decorations. Cost: Lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Craft: £50p for art supplies. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON  
04

## Crafting - Christmas Tree Decoration - The Christmas Gonk!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft £1



Create this simple Christmas tree decoration with some wool, patience and a cardboard tube. Effective decoration to adorn any tree, or give as a gift. Let's get into the Christmas spirit. Cost: For lunch £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1 for craft. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
08

## Christmas Pictionary - Test Your Artist Skills



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



We may laugh at the drawings, but we certainly enjoy this game of Pictionary. Lets see what our art skills can perfect to get the answer we need. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
15

## Christmas Bingo!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



We couldn't finish the year off without another game of bingo! Eyes down and ready to go? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON  
18

## Christmas Party, Aylesford



12 noon



Free



After a successful event last year, we are holding another Christmas gathering in Aylesford. Numbers will need to be provided for catering purposes. Please let Julie Broomfield know if you would like to attend. Let's get the party started! Book by Thursday 7 December 2023. Trewin Close, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7JS. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# January 2024

FRI  
05

&

MON  
08

## Craft Day - Decoupage with Wine Bottles!



11am



Members £4, Guests £5 Craft £1.50



This is a great tutorial on how to decoupage a wine bottle. With Christmas behind us, we may have some empty bottles ready to be recycled and what better way to use them. We love glass bottle craft ideas! There are so many things you can do with old glass bottles and recycled glass jars! Today, let's explore some creative ideas to reuse glass bottles to create decorations, gifts and functional things for our home and garden! Bring your own bottle!



Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1.50 for craft material.

### Venue:

**Friday 5** at Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

**Monday 8** at John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX.

Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
12

## Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good game of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# January 2024

# February

FRI  
19

## It's Time to Bingo!



Eyes down for an afternoon of bingo! Don't forget to bring your lucky mascot with you. All are welcome, followed by lunch. It's all fun and games until someone yells 'BINGO!'. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
26

## Mile Failte! - A Thousand Welcomes



Today we are celebrating Burns Night, with a taste of the Scottish Highlands. Test your knowledge on Scotland with a quiz, followed by a light lunch and the sumptuous Scottish traditional dessert Cranachan..... now you have the taste for it! Cost: For cranachan and refreshments £4.50 for members and £5.50 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



THURS  
01

## Lunch Trip - The Chequers Inn, Aylesford



The Chequers is a Grade II listed timber framed, former wool merchants house, dating from 1511, in the heart of the beautiful village of Aylesford. Just a short walk from Aylesford Priory, an ancient religious house of the Order of Carmelites dating back to the 13th Century and overlooking Aylesford Bridge which dates all the way back to 1250. Parking is available about five minutes walk to the pub. There may be some uneven ground through the village. Book by Friday 26 January 2024. The Chequers Inn, 63 High Street, Aylesford ME20 7AY. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
02

## Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!



There is nothing better than a good game of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# February

FRI  
09

&

MON  
12

## Craft Day - The Year of the Dragon Chinese New Year



11am



Members £4, Guests £5, Craft £1.50



2024 is the year of the Dragon and it is the year of the Wood Dragon. The Dragon symbolizes strength, power and prosperity in Chinese culture. The combination of the dragon and 'wood' element means 2024 will be a year of prosperity. To celebrate this occasion, we will be making a Chinese Dragon with paper art, with lots of colour and maybe an odd gem or two...



Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1.50 for craft supplies.

### Venue:

**Friday 9** at Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

**Monday 12** at John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX.

Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
16

## Pictionary!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Pen in hand, we will be holding a fun Pictionary game, testing our art skills to the limit. Fancy joining us? Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# February

## **FRI 23** Five or More! Brain Buzzing Game!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Join us for a fun game to test your knowledge. How many will you know? Love this type of fun gathering? Why don't you come along and find out what Oddfellows is all about. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# March

## **FRI 01** Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good game of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# March

## **Craft Day - Paper Flower Art - Hyacinth**



&



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft £1.50



Create this lovely bouquet of paper art. This time we will be making Hyacinths, which would adorn any mantle piece, or perhaps place on a gift, as an added enhancement. These spring flowers will give you the zest for the months to come. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1.50 for craft supplies.

### **Venue**

**Friday 8** at Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

**Monday 11** at John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX.

Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# March

FRI  
15

## It's Time to Bingo!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Eyes down for an afternoon of bingo! Don't forget to bring your lucky mascot with you. All are welcome, followed by lunch. It's all fun and games until someone yells 'BINGO!'. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
22

## Social Gathering with Italian Theme



11am



Members £5  
Guests £6



Today we are hosting an Italian theme luncheon for our lovely Oddfellows group. Perhaps a small glass of vino to chase that lovely food down. If you would like to join us, please advise for catering purposes. Buon appetito! Cost: For Italian lunch and refreshments £5 for members and £6 for guests. Book by Friday 15 March 2024. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON  
18

## Spring is in the air... A Visit to Coblands Garden Centre, Sevenoaks



11am



As per own cost



Coblands Garden Centre in Sundridge, Sevenoaks is set in an old tree nursery surrounded by the beautiful Kent countryside. Great time to view plants for the Spring/Summer months. Their rustic themed café is housed on an old potting up glasshouse and has views of the beautiful Kent hills. You can choose to sit in the café glasshouse amongst the plants, or outside on the picnic benches. Car sharing may be available if another member lives near you. Plenty of parking and fully accessible. Who ever said 'Money can't buy you happiness' has clearly never been to a Garden Centre! Love a garden centre? Like to join us? Coblands Garden Centre, Dryhill Lane, Sevenoaks TN14 6AA. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# April

THURS  
04

## Lunch Trip - The Potting Shed, Langley



12 noon



As per own cost



Step into a Scandinavian inspired pub and restaurant, located in the Kentish village of Langley. Our open-plan restaurant and bar, spacious garden, we invite you in to enjoy special moments with your friends. Parking is available at the pub. Book by Friday 22 March 2024. The Potting Shed, Horseshoe Lane, Langley, Maidstone ME17 3LZ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
05

## Craft Day - Quilling with Trees



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft £1.50



Looking for a relaxing new hobby that you can easily do from home? Look no further than quilling.

Also known as paper filigree, this paper art has been having a major resurgence and it's easy to see why: It requires minimal and affordable materials, it's easy to learn and you can create truly incredible results. Today will be making a card, which will make a beautiful gift for someone's special day. Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1.50 for craft materials. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON  
08

## Craft Day - The Art of Quilling



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5  
Craft £1.50



Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued

together to create decorative designs. The paper shape is manipulated to create designs and can be used on various items, such as cards, pictures or even glass. Today we will be quilling a tree, of your own design... perhaps a fruit tree, blossom or a lovely autumn scene. Lets get quilling! Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. £1.50 for craft material. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



# April

FRI  
12

## Chomping at the Bit! Our own Grand National!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Across the Board - you will have to ensure you are not suffering from 'Charley Horse' and the 'Dark Horse' to win the Oddfellows Grand National. You may even win a trophy. There will be a bit of 'Give and Take' and make sure you are 'Hands Down' for the 'Home Stretch'. Fancy a flutter? Cost: For light lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON  
15

## Day Trip - Bookside Garden Centre, Tonbridge



11am



As per own cost



Let's enjoy an afternoon of pottering around Brookside Garden Centre. Plenty of blooms and gifts, along with a fabulous tea room to relax after an afternoon of shopping. We will meet at the garden centre at 11am. Car share may be available for those who require it. 'Gardening is a medicine, that does not need a prescription and has no limit on dosage'. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at:  [MaidstoneOddfellows](#)

## Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

# April

WED  
17

## Theatre Trip - The Bootleg Beatles



7.30pm



Various but average is £39.50



The Bootleg Beatles return for another nostalgic whirlwind trip through the 60s. With attention to detail, the band manage to spectacularly recreate the sound and look of the Fab Four through each iconic phase of their illustrious career, with what can only be described as uncanny authenticity.

Their rave reviews say it all. Pay and

display car parks with disabled car parking spaces are close to the Central Theatre. Car share may be available upon request. Cost: Vary depending seats but average is £39.50 per person. Booking and full payment will be required by Friday 2 February 2024. Non-fundable once booked. The Centre Theatre, 170 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4AS. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI  
19

## Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good game of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI  
26

## Pictionary!



11am



Members £4  
Guests £5



Pen in hand, we will be holding a fun Pictionary game, testing our art skills to the limit. Fancy joining us? Cost: For lunch and refreshments £4 for members and £5 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

# Regular Events

## Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening



8pm



Free



Last Tuesday  
of the month

Pride of the Village and Kent Branch social evening. Refreshments will be available. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Rose on 01634 868308.

28 November 2023

30 January 2024

27 February 2024

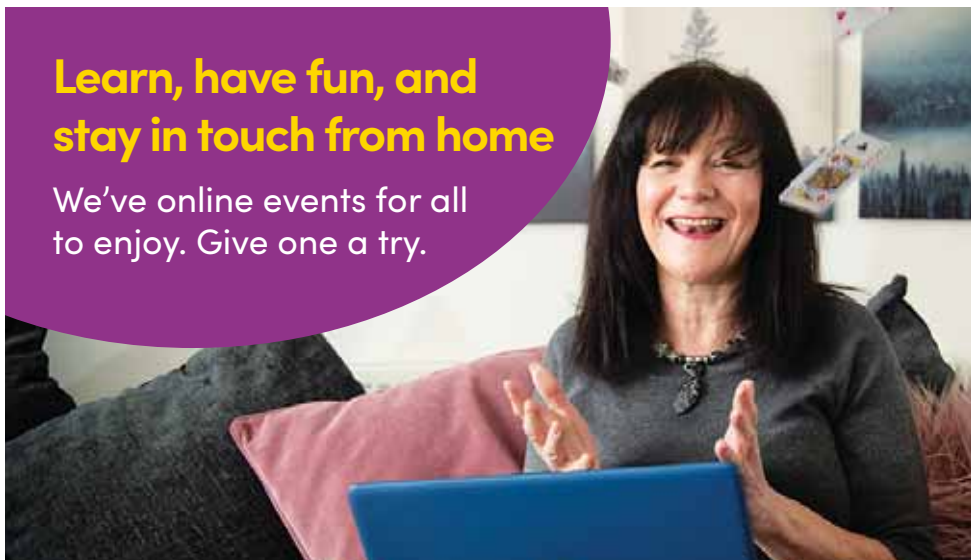
26 March 2024

30 April 2024



## Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



To see what's coming up visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

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# Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra\* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

## Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/login](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/login)

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\*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.  
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

# 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 Rose on **01634 868308** or email **rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk**

## Oddfellows Advice Line

**Call 0800 0149 821\***

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Email:** [oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk](mailto:oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk)



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](mailto: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**

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## Meet the Grand Master

**Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham was officially welcomed as the Society's Grand Master (Chairman) during the annual conference in May, a position she'll hold for two years.**



The oldest of five in a close family, at weekends they would often travel around Yorkshire and go camping. It was during these trips she met Peter, a member of the Oddfellows since birth who would go on to become Grand Master himself.

Barbara joined the Oddfellows' Good Samaritan Lodge in Goole when she married Peter in 1973. "It was all arranged within four weeks," she said. "Nothing like the expensive events that happen today!"

"I borrowed my sister-in-law's wedding dress. Peter got a new suit. We catered ourselves in the local village hall. I think the wedding cost us £14, which is all you had to pay for the licence, and then we went away camping for our honeymoon."

Barbara and Peter would later welcome daughter Claire into the world, herself an Oddfellow, who would go on to have a successful accountancy career.

Barbara's career was in primary education, most notably a 30-year stint at a school

in Broughton where she ultimately became Head Teacher.

"It was something that I'd always wanted to do ever since I went to school. I never wanted to do anything else," Barbara said.

Despite representing the Society in a variety of roles, Barbara says that never in her wildest dreams did she anticipate becoming Grand Master.

"It's a great honour because you're just a custodian," she said. "Although you wear the chain and you're the figurehead, that's not what makes you an Oddfellow. What makes you an Oddfellow is what's in your heart."

"I just want to do my best, because the ethos of Oddfellows is what we should all live by. The whole world would be a better place if people looked after each other."

**Find out all the ways you can get involved in the Society by visiting**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/society-involvement](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/society-involvement)



*Barbara Needham (middle right) with daughter Claire (left), husband Peter (middle left) and sister Vivienne (right).*

# Thanks for filling your September with friendship!

**Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows' CEO, has reflected on another successful Friendship Month:**

"Wow, what a brilliant Friendship Month we had! All our Branches have worked extremely hard to make each and every one of near 250 special taster events a great success.

"Be it coffee mornings, music events, walks, meals or games, we've loved seeing

the happy, smiling faces of people enjoying the benefits of friendship.

"To everybody who attended, hosted or volunteered at our Branches' Friendship Month events this year, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU! It's your hard work that ensures our continued success."

Take a look at some of the fun that's been had by some of our Branches!



*Brighton and Sussex members enjoying a coffee morning.*



*Dog race night at Dorset and Yeovil.*



*Mitcham, Reigate and Crawley friends keeping cool from the sunshine.*



*A friendly game of badminton in Mid-Surrey.*





*Delicious pancakes at a Handforth and Altrincham event.*



*Too many friends to fit in a frame at Ipswich.*



*Relishing friendship and fresh air on a walk in Nottingham Trent.*

# Help with Lasting Power of Attorneys

**Arranging a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) can seem daunting, so our Head of Care and Welfare, John Aitken (pictured right), has answered some frequently asked questions about them.**



## What is an LPA?

There are two types and you can do one or both:

A property and financial affairs LPA covers decisions about money matters, for example buying and selling property, dealing with bills and running bank accounts. You can start using this at any time.

A health and welfare LPA covers decisions about health and care matters including medical treatment, where someone should live and who they should have contact with. This can only be used once the person has lost capacity.

## What is 'losing capacity'?

This means no longer having the understanding or mental faculties to make decisions. Once someone loses capacity it is too late to set up a Power of Attorney. If this were to happen, family members would need to apply to the Court of Protection to take control of their assets and finances, which can be a lengthy and costly process.

## How do LPAs work?

The person making the application is the 'donor' and can give power to an 'attorney' to make decisions and take actions on their behalf.

The donor can choose multiple attorneys and specify which decisions they can make. If there is more than one attorney, the donor can specify whether they can act alone or must make decisions together.

The LPA must be signed either by a solicitor or someone else of the donor's choosing to certify the LPA and confirm that they understand and have not been pressured into it.

Family members can't do an LPA for someone. Like a will, people must do it for themselves with no coercion.

## How much does it cost?

It costs £82 to register each type of LPA (so £164 in total) with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). People on means-tested benefits or a low income can get an exemption or reduction of this fee. If you choose to use a solicitor, their costs will need to be added.

For more advice on LPAs, including how to make an application and links to relevant websites, go to [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-with-lasting-power-of-attorneys](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-with-lasting-power-of-attorneys)





## Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Rose by phone on 01634 868308 or email [rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk)



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

[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

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## REFER A FRIEND

# Share the love and make someone smile



To refer someone you know and make their day, either fill in the Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on 0800 028 1810, or visit our Members' Area at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)

\*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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers).

Ref 1644

# Branch Contacts and Meetings

## District Business Meetings

District business meetings follow a conventional format covering the minutes, correspondence and accounts. In addition, there are three items particular to the Oddfellows which are covered. The first is a report of any members who are sick, distressed or in any other way may be in need of help. The second is matters pertaining to the local Branch, or Society. The third is membership recommendations. There is also a 'member's slot' for members to raise matters of personal interest. For further details feel free to contact the Secretary. Held first Tuesday of the month. Address: Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. **Members Only. Secretary:** Rosaline Mills **Telephone:** 01634 868308 **Email:** rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

**2023: 7 November and 5 December**

**2024: 2 January, 6 February, 5 March and 2 April**

## Social Branches Meetings and Contacts

Our Social Branch meetings are a great way to meet other members and to gain an understanding of what is happening in the Branch and the District. There is always a short minuted Branch meeting, which is also a nod to our history and traditions, before refreshments are served and the fun and games start. There is generally a game of bingo, as well as an ever popular raffle.

### Hand of Friendship

**Secretary:** Rose Mills

**Address:** 4 Tunbury Avenue,  
Walderslade, Chatham,  
Kent ME5 9EH.

**Telephone:** 01634 868308

See diary for meeting dates, at 8pm.  
At 62 College Road,  
Maidstone ME15 6SJ.

### Pride of Kent

**Secretary:** Roger Baker

**Address:** 103 Parkway, Coxheath,  
Maidstone, Kent ME17 4EX.

**Telephone:** 01622 745264. Meets  
alternative last Tuesday of the  
month. At 62 College Road,  
Maidstone ME15 6SJ, 8pm.  
See diary for dates.

### Pride of The Village

**Secretary:** Norman Hickmott,

**Address:** Lynden Lower Road,  
East Farleigh, Maidstone,  
Kent ME15 0HD.

**Telephone:** 01622 726031

Meets alternative last Tuesday in  
the month at 8pm at 62 College  
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ.  
See diary for dates.

### Providence Branch

**Secretary:** Jan Batchelor

**Address:** 20 Mallard Way, Lower  
Stoke, Rochester, Kent ME3 9ST

**Telephone:** 01634 271319

See diary for meeting dates, 2pm.  
At 62 College Road, ME15 6SJ.

# Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

## November 2023

<b>Fri 3</b>	The Art of Crafting with Tissue Paper	11am
<b>Mon 6</b>	Cork art with Rudolph!	11am
<b>Tues 7</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Fri 10</b>	Crafting - Christmas Tree Card	11am
<b>Fri 17</b>	Crafting - Christmas Tree Decoration - The Christmas Gonk!	11am
<b>Sat 18</b>	Maidstone Fernlea District Christmas Dinner	6.30pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Crafting - Christmas Tree Card	11am
<b>Fri 24</b>	Chatty Day with Friends	11am
<b>Mon 27</b>	Visit to Brookside Garden Centre	11am
<b>Tues 28</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

## December

<b>Fri 1</b>	Cork art with Rudolph!	11am
<b>Mon 4</b>	Crafting - Christmas Tree Decoration - The Christmas Gonk!	11am
<b>Tues 5</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Fri 8</b>	Christmas Pictionary - Test Your Artist Skills	11am
<b>Fri 15</b>	Christmas Bingo!	11am
<b>Mon 18</b>	Christmas Party, Aylesford	12 noon

## January 2024

<b>Tues 2</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	Craft Day - Decoupage with Wine Bottles!	11am
<b>Mon 8</b>	Craft Day - Decoupage with Wine Bottles!	11am
<b>Fri 12</b>	Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!	11am
<b>Fri 19</b>	It's Time to Bingo!	11am
<b>Fri 26</b>	Mile Failte! - A Thousand Welcomes	11am
<b>Tues 30</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

## February

<b>Thurs 1</b>	Lunch Trip - The Chequers Inn, Aylesford	12 noon
<b>Fri 2</b>	Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!	11am

# Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

## February

<b>Tues 6</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Fri 9</b>	Craft Day - The Year of the Dragon - Chinese New Year	11am
<b>Mon 12</b>	Craft Day - The Year of the Dragon - Chinese New Year	11am
<b>Fri 16</b>	Pictionary!	11am
<b>Fri 23</b>	Five or More! Brain Buzzing Game!	11am
<b>Tues 27</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

## March

<b>Fri 1</b>	Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!	11am
<b>Tues 5</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Fri 8</b>	Craft Day - Spring Flowers with Paper Art	11am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Craft Day - Paper Flower Art - Hyacinth	11am
<b>Fri 15</b>	It's Time to Bingo!	11am
<b>Mon 18</b>	Spring is in the air... A Visit to Coblands Garden Centre, Sevenoaks	11am
<b>Fri 22</b>	Social Gathering with Italian Theme	11am
<b>Tues 26</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

## April

<b>Tues 2</b>	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Lunch Trip - The Potting Shed, Langley	12 noon
<b>Fri 5</b>	Craft Day - Quilling with Trees	11am
<b>Mon 8</b>	Craft Day - The Art of Quilling	11am
<b>Fri 12</b>	Chomping at the Bit! Our own Grand National!	11am
<b>Mon 15</b>	Day Trip - Bookside Garden Centre, Tonbridge	11am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Theatre Trip - The Bootleg Beatles	7.30pm
<b>Fri 19</b>	Social Gathering - Let the Games Commence!	11am
<b>Fri 26</b>	Pictionary!	11am
<b>Tues 30</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

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