

August - October 2025



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

# out & about

## South London District



*Party Time! South London members enjoying themselves -  
Photo by John Mann*



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Film



Tasting



Wellbeing



## Welcome to the new edition of Out & About, incorporating South Circular, the Magazine of South London District

### Top Mann

We're delighted to congratulate John Mann of Lord Byron Branch, who was elected as the Oddfellows new Grand Master at this year's national Conference. Read an interview with John and celebratory plans for the next year in this edition.

### Don't forget that the Oddfellows can help you when needed

These are difficult and testing times for everybody but isn't it good to know that Oddfellows has your back and you'll always have someone to turn to. We offer a wide range of care and welfare support to our members. From helpful advice through to financial aid, we provide help and support to make life a little easier. So, if you're facing difficult times, you won't have to face them alone.

Look at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or contact your Branch Secretary, whose contact details you can find on page 37.

### Out & About

Not just the name of a magazine but also a wealth of opportunities to meet old and make new friends at events in

## Contact Details

**District Secretary:** Clare Puddefoot

**Address:** Oddfellows, 240 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PZ

**Telephone:** 01322 665496

**Email:**

[clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Magazine Editor and District**

**Event Organiser:** Paul Fitton

**Address:** 15 Moat Close,

Green St Green,

Orpington, Kent BR6 6ET

**Telephone:** 07851 910619

**Email:**

[paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk)

You are invited to send letters, contributions and photos for the magazine by the deadline of Monday 12 September 2025 to Paul Fitton

south and central London and north Kent. You're spoilt for choice and with online social events, don't even have to leave the house. I look forward to seeing many of you at our gatherings this year.

As we have branches across the UK, it's likely you won't have to travel too far to regularly meet other friendly people. You can read this magazine to discover the 116 local events that we have for you in late Summer and Autumn, or check out events at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk).

**Paul Fitton**  
**Editor**

*Paul Fitton's photo above shows happy members on our Scadbury Park Nature Reserve Walk, followed by lunch at The Sydney Arms*

# Regular Events - Lord Byron Branch

## Regular events addresses:

Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD (weekly)

(Colfeian Sports Club, (entrance is opposite Weigall Road), Horn Park, Eltham Road SE12 8UE (bi-monthly)

**Contact:** Karen Lewis: 020 8699 0929 or [karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk)

## Coffee and a Chat



Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and join us for the afternoon in Forest Hill. No need to book, but if we know you are coming we can look out for you. You're welcome to bring a friend too. We're in the first room on the left as you enter the building through the main entrance.

Every Thursday, 2pm



## Monthly Presentations



See listings in the events diary pages for further information.

See dates below, 2pm



14 August, 8 September, 25 September, 16 October 27 October

## Say *yes* to friendship in September

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun.

**All welcome**



ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit [www.friendshipmonth.com](http://www.friendshipmonth.com)

# Regular Events - Pride of Clapham Branch

**Regular events address:** Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY.

**Contact:** Jane Parkin: 07791 942969 or [jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Regular updates through WhatsApp and email**

## Clapham Lunches



1.30pm



See below



**Fortnightly, 1.30pm**



Members enjoy a tasty Ploughman's Lunch or Cream Tea every two weeks. The price is £5 for members and £7 for non-members.

## Knit, Natter and Craft Group



2.30pm



Free



**Tuesdays - 2.30pm-5.30pm**



Join us every Tuesday anytime between 2.30pm and 5.30pm for our knit, natter and craft group. Just five minutes walk from Clapham Common Underground Station.

## Chair Exercise



5.30pm



Free



**Tuesdays - 5.30pm-6.30pm**



The exercises are aimed at improving core fitness, strength, mobility and to prevent falls. Do not worry if you have not done much exercise for a while, the exercises are gentle and easy to follow. The sessions last up to an hour.

## Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support.

# Regular Events - Pride of Clapham Branch

## Yoga for all levels



Every Tuesday – 6.30pm–7.30pm



Join us for our weekly yoga session as our teacher, Margherita takes us through some moves to help improve mind and body. The class lasts an hour. The charge is £5 a month, payable on the first class attended in that month. Guests may have a taster session before joining. No need to book just come in loose fitting clothing.

## Cinema Club



Afternoons



£4



Thursdays fortnightly, PM



We visit Clapham Cinema every fortnight to catch the latest films. Special price of £4 for afternoon showings. Clapham Picture House, 76 Venn Street, Clapham, London SW4 0AT. Times vary.

7 August 21 August 4 September 18 September 2 October 16 October 30 October

## Watercolour Therapy



4.30pm



Free



Thursdays fortnightly, 4.30pm



August and at the beginning of September we will not be holding the watercolour therapy due to summer holiday, we will resumed on 25 September. We have a get together every fortnight to have some therapy through using watercolours to paper. No art skills needed just come along and relax and put paint brush to paper with feelings.

25 September 9 October 23 October

## Thursday Friends (Clapham)



8pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



Every Thursday, 8pm



Enjoy a drink at our bar, or tea, or coffee if you prefer. Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk, quiz, music evening and outing. All are welcome.



# August

## FRI 01 Short Story



Jane Carmedy presents a short story in a regular hospital radio station spot. Oddfellows member Jane reads one of her stories today. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## TUES 05 Family History Help and Tutorial



Our regular family history sessions help you to trace your ancestors. Paul Fitton's presentation takes a slightly different slant today as you learn how to research the history of your home. The questions and answers that follow will also stimulate interesting discussion to maintain interest. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



## THURS 07 Garden Party



Members are invited to lunch al fresco at a garden party, chez Fitton, from 1pm to 3pm. Limited places available. First come, first served. Car parking available. In the event of rain, the event will be reorganised for a later date. Book by Friday 1 August. 15 Moat Close, Green St Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6ET. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



## FRI 08 John O'Groats to Lands End by Train



Rhiannon Rees is a member who enjoys travelling. Hear about her summer's journey from the tip of Scotland to the foot of England by train. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# August

## MON 11 Medway Meal at The SpyGlass & Kettle



Our regular Medway meals continue. This time, at The SpyGlass & Kettle. You can pair up for great value on any of the range of classics with two dishes for the price of one! Cost: Main meals from £6 to £13. Book by Friday 8 August. The SpyGlass & Kettle, 2 Woodside, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0PG. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



## TUES 12 Music Bingo with Mick



Mick Coleman promises another great night of songs with his music bingo game! This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



## THURS 14 Cream Tea or Tea and Cakes at Clapham



We have a get together every fortnight to have a lovely cream tea or tea with cakes afternoon. Time to relax and have a chat. A chance to mix and bring friends



along. Book by Monday 11 August. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham SW4 6AY. Please contact Jane on 07791 942969 to let her know if you are coming along. We don't want to run out of cakes if members have booked!

## THURS 14 Johnny Clamp Entertains



Veteran quick-fire comedian, singer and raconteur Johnny Clamp entertains you with gags, music and stories of the stars he has worked with. These range from Veronica Lake to Madonna, Morecambe and Wise to Des O'Connor and many, many more. Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

# August

## FRI 15 A Chance Encounter



Ian Hutt relates the story of how he became aware of a hero in his family. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## WED 20 Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal



120 members have already enjoyed our 'Tours of Trafalgar Square'. Paul Fitton helps you to explore



the history of the vicinity with some surprises in store, without having to leave the square! Travel back to King Henry VIII's time, find out about Nelson and the beautiful buildings surrounding the square. Follow this up with a meal. Meet at the foot of Nelson's Column facing Whitehall. Cost: Donations of £1 to Chairman's charity. Meal cost as per menu. Photo by Paul Fitton. Book by Tuesday 19 August. Trafalgar Square, Westminster, London WC2N 5DN. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## FRI 22 The Adventures of a 19th Century Englishman in India



Paul Fitton tells of Henry Butters' life, which involved his role in the Relief of Chitral, his railway career,



his father's adventures as a Bombay policeman and the Second Boer War. Oh yes and what happened between Henry and his brother's wife! We weave a tiger attack into the story too! Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## TUES 26 Art Unscrewed



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us, as we paint Ready to Sail, by Jennifer Lush. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).





# August

## TUES 26 Curling Evening



Play indoor curling – a great game of strategy, thrills and laughter for all ability levels. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

## THURS 28 Ploughmans Lunch at Clapham



We have a get together every fortnight to have a lovely Ploughmans lunch. Time to relax and have a chat. A chance to mix and bring friends along. Book by Monday 25 August. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham SW4 6AY. Please contact Jane on 07791 942969 to let her know if you are coming along. We don't want to run out of cakes if members have booked!

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



## TUES 02 Family History Help and Tutorial



Our regular family history sessions help you to trace your ancestors. A year after our first family history session, Paul Fitton gives you the top 10 resources and tips for breaking down walls in your research. The questions and answers that follow will also stimulate interesting discussion to maintain interest. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## WED 27 Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques



Clapham has a high proportion of London's Blue Plaques marking the homes of famous people. Paul Fitton reveals several



stories, including a secret about one of the famous occupants, who is also one of his relatives, on a guided tour. We'll finish with a light café meal. Book by Tuesday 26 August. Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground Station, The Pavement, Clapham, London SW4 7AJ. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI  
05

## A History of Lesnes Abbey



A little known medieval abbey ruins in a public park, surrounded by ancient woodland. This gem set amid the busy urban landscape of south east London. Local historian Chris Hawkins invites you to join us to learn something of the history of this fascinating place from the 12th century until today. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



MON  
08

## Ten and more! - Famous Belgians



There's some surprises in store with this wide ranging talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton and way more than just ten Belgians. Plenty of 'Well I didn't know that' moments!.

Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.



MON  
08

## Adventure and Prizes Await in the London Treasure Hunt!



Embark on an adventure through the streets of London! Enjoy the thrill of the chase as you unravel mysteries to discover hidden treasures. Embrace the journey, embrace the treasure and win a great prize! Starting at Nelson's Column, your challenge is to solve the clues and move around London picking up your great bonus prizes on the way! Let the hunt begin! Book by Friday 5 September. Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT  
Invite a friend

# September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



## TUES 09 Quiz Night



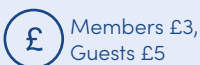
Jackie and Maria are your hosts for tonight's quiz evening. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

## FRI 19 Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace



The Hyde Park building was moved to the high point of Sydenham on the outskirts of London. Paxton devised a grand plan to rival the Palace of Versailles, terracing the steeply sloped site of 200 acres. A huge workforce erected an enlarged palace that dominated the landscape. The Crystal Palace had become a place of wonder and education. The second in a series of three presentations by Michael Gilbert. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## THURS 11 Cream Tea or Tea and Cakes at Clapham



We have a get together every fortnight to have a lovely cream tea or tea with cakes afternoon. Time to relax and have a chat. A chance to mix and bring friends along. Book by Monday 8 September. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham SW4 6AY. Please contact Jane on 07791 942969 to let her know if you are coming along. We don't want to run out of cakes if members have booked!



## TUES 23 Quiz Night



Norman Warner asks the questions at this evening's quiz. This follows the short business meeting.

The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



# September - Friendship Month

THURS  
25

## Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace



2pm



Free



Michael Gilbert returns to give part two of this fascinating building and explores the amazing background to one of Victorian Britain's greatest achievements. Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.



FRI  
26

## The Story of Laika - the First Dog in Space



2pm



Free



Learn how a stray dog in Moscow became the first earthling to enter space back in 1957. Find out more in Paul Fitton's presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



## ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT  
27

## Hog Roast and Drinks in the Sun



2pm



Members £10,  
Guests £15



North London District invites you for a hog roast (and salads too). The bar will be open and hopefully, it'll be a sunny day. Ticket costs include your food and one drink (glass of wine or soft drink). All of the family are welcome. Make your own way or meet at London Bridge underground station at 1pm. Please book your tickets well in advance to secure your place by Thursday 25 September. Highbury Crescent Rooms, 70 Ronalds Road, Islington, London N5 1XA. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



# September

## - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES  
30 **September Art  
Unscrewed**



Our monthly paint along with Dulcie Rowe continues. On this occasion, we are painting 'Oysters'. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



# October

WED  
01 **Art Tour with Roger  
Turner**



Back by popular demand, Roger will guide you through a selection of 20th century paintings at Tate Britain. Meet at 2pm inside the Manton Foyer (this is the side entrance on Atterbury Street). Book by Wednesday 24 September. Tate Britain, Atterbury Street (side entrance), London SW1P 4RG. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

FRI  
03 **Tragic Hollywood: The  
Story of Peg Entwistle**



Paul Fitton's presentation tells of the sad story of Peg Entwistle, the Welsh actress who threw herself from the Hollywood sign. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

Further events are being added, see: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/events](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events).



# October

## MON 06 Medway Meal at The Bredhurst Bell



1pm



As per menu



Nestled in the idyllic village of Bredhurst, The Bell is rich in history. This Greene King pub offers cask ales, premium spirits and a lunch menu offering prices as low as £7 and mains from £11 to £16. There's a sharing option too. Book by Friday 3 October. The Bell, The Street, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JY. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



## TUES 07 Family History Help and Tutorial



2pm



Free



The Oddfellows archives hold over 200 years of genealogical, social and organisational history and they're all yours to browse and research any time you like online. Paul Fitton advises you about this valuable resource in this month's family history presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## TUES 07 From Classical to Pop



8pm



Free



What links Billy Joel and Beethoven, or Perry Como and Chopin? Many popular songs have been directly or indirectly inspired by classical music. Tonight, Paul Fitton and Mick Coleman combine to feature several pop songs originating in the classics. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

## FRI 10 Operation Pegasus: A Story of Extraordinary Bravery



2pm



Free



Tony Sheldon has documented the experiences of Dutch civilians during and after the Battle of Arnhem. In particular, the help they were able to give British and Polish troops caught behind enemy lines. The Dutch Resistance combined with British officers to organise Operation Pegasus, the largest home run, or escape from behind enemy lines, of allied troops in the Second World War. Their story is of extraordinary bravery. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# October

WED  
15

## Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch



11am



£5 to £10



Mattie Faint aka 'Mattie the Clown' opens up the doors of 'The Clown' archives exclusively to Oddfellows. See costumes worn by some of the world's most famous clowns, learn about 'The Clown Egg Register' and see many artefacts from the fascinating world of clowns.



Two groups, morning and afternoon, meeting up for lunch between each visit. Visits 11am and 1.30pm. Please state choice, or both, when booking. Limited numbers, so please book your place early. The two groups will meet up for lunch at Pret A Manger nearby between each visit. Eight minutes walk from Farringdon Station, which is served by the Circle, Hammersmith and City, Metropolitan and Elizabeth underground lines and the Thameslink overground line. Cost: Suggested donation £5 to £10. Book by Tuesday 14 October. The Clowns' Museum, 37B Sekforde Street, Farringdon, London EC1R 0HA. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

THURS  
16

## Peter Sellers - All at Sea



2pm



Free



Bob Sinfield presents this hilarious and disastrous account of what happened when the renowned comic actor tried making a pirate movie on the high(ish) seas off Cyprus in 1973. By the way, is Sellers's centenary year. Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

FRI  
17

## The History of Mystery - Part 3: Whatever happened to the Roanoke Colony?



2pm



Free



Online



What happened to the 120 colonists sent by Sir Walter Raleigh to establish the first permanent English settlement in North America? Paul Fitton tries to discover the answer to their mysterious disappearance. Zoom Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# October

## TUES 21 Music Night



8pm



Free



Special music night with Mick Coleman. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



## FRI 24 Ten and more! - Famous Belgians



2pm



Free



Online



Melanie Gibson-Barton's Zoom talk will show that the people of the tiny country of Belgium, not given their independence until 1830, are famous for more than their chocolate, chips and beer. The wide-ranging talk will give the stories of men and women born through the centuries to modern times in the area covered by present-day Belgium; a country just 14% the size of the United Kingdom. Melanie sets out to prove that there are many reasons to be grateful to this tiny country, where she had a second home for many years. Zoom Meeting ID: 876 1449 6492. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## THURS 23 The Mousetrap



3pm



Tickets £26.10  
or £36.54 or  
£52.20



Agatha Christie's 'The Mousetrap' is the world's longest-running play. This thrilling West End production, which has become as much of a London icon as Big Ben or Buckingham Palace is the genre-defining murder mystery from the best-selling novelist of all time and case closed! For almost 70 years, this 'whodunit' has kept 10 million people on the edge of their seats until its twist ending, which the audience are traditionally asked not to reveal after leaving the theatre. Tickets are subject to availability and must be booked and paid for by the deadline. Cost: Tickets available for £26.10 and £36.54 (Upper Circle) or £52.20 (Dress Circle). Book by Wednesday 15 August. St Martin's Theatre, West Street, London WC2H 9NZ. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# October

MON  
**27**

## Pyjama Fairies

⌚ 8pm

£ Free



Pyjama Fairies is the only UK charity to make pyjamas and surgical gowns specially designed for babies and children up to age 16 having surgery or any other associated medical test. Each garment is made in colourful, age-appropriate fabric by Pyjama Fairies and is designed to minimise discomfort when medical intervention is necessary. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.



TUES  
**28**

## Art Unscrewed

⌚ 4pm

£ Free



At the end of our one hour session, you'll have painted Goldfish! Our regular guide Dulcie Rowe will show you how. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

FRI  
**31**

## Confessions of a Reluctant 14th Century Re-enactor

⌚ 2pm

£ Free

Online



The story of one family who spent 12 summers living the 14th century life in encampment compounds. Come with us to experience camping in the grounds of medieval castles and ruined abbeys, to jousting events, medieval fairs, heritage celebrations and Wiccan festivals. See how the family survived the Black Death, famine, war, pillage and Portaloos! Presented by Anne-Marie Brennan. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



# Linda Regan

**Who doesn't love this time of the year. It's the time we can jet off to sunshine. I have to admit to needing a holiday recently, and to be sure of sunshine, I jetted off to a tropical Island.**

Some of you know me as I am lucky enough to have got to know you at your meeting places. So, you may also know I am a strong animal supporter. Hence the smack on the wrist I gave myself for what I am about to tell you.

We had arrived on this sunny Island just the day before and were walking around admiring its beauty: flowers as big as large balloons, trees abundantly healthy and green from constant sunshine. It felt like paradise.

I leaned in to admire a large tree and lo and behold found two enormous black eyes staring at me.

At first it made me jump, and then when I looked again, I noticed it was a large crab. In a tree! We were a mere few feet from the sea, and as that's where crabs live, under the sand, or so I learned at geography or was it biology? I turned to my friend, 'There's a large crab stuck in this tree,' I told her. 'It's obviously lost and in distress.' 'It'll pinch you if you touch it,' she answered.'

'Yes, but it may have run away from crab hunters and now is lost,' I told her. I was getting worried by this time. 'It will be very stressed, poor thing, it's clearly lost.'

She fished into her beach bag and handed me a towel. 'Ok let's get him back to the

beach,' she said,' But be careful it really hurts if they pinch you.'

I took the towel and leaned in toward the creature. It stared at me with its large black appealing eyes. I then very carefully lifted, her or he, and hurried toward the beach. I spoke to her, or he, to assure them I was taking them home.

We reached the beach, and I carefully placed, he or she, down on the sand. There it stood, making no effort to dig a hole as crabs do. Then, after a few seconds, it turned sideways and started running like crazy back the way we came. As soon as it reached the tree, it crawled, sideways, back up to where I had found her, or he.

Next thing, a lovely native lady came up to me. 'Lovely creatures,' she said tilting her head toward the now settled crab.

'But it's lost I protested. It needs to be on sand. That's where they live.'

She threw her head back and chuckled. 'My dear, you can tell you're not from round here. On this Island there are two different types of crabs, sand crabs, and this little fella here, he's a tree crab. He lives in trees, not the beach. His house is here, in this tree.

I have to admit I blushed. 'So sorry I said, immediately wishing I'd paid more attention at geography lessons, or was it biology?'





# Why Lord Byron?

**Lord Byron Branch was established in 1839, that's 186 birthdays.**

Next month, you can read about how Lodges obtained their names. For today, however, we'll look briefly at Lord Byron Lodge (now Branch).

Lord Byron lived from 1788 to 1824. He was a major figure in the Romantic movement. A celebrity for his time, he was admired for his poetry, personal life and charisma that he created. As a peer, he was also a supporter of radical reform, supporting the Luddites and Italian and Greek independence. No wonder that this liberal and popular figure was in such high esteem to have a Lodge named after him.

How would Lord Byron have enjoyed today's Oddfellows? Well, he could attend the great new and regular events in Lee and Forest Hill set up by Karen Lewis for the rest of the year. Members meet twice

a month at Colfe's sports ground, Eltham Road in Lee for a business meeting and a presentation or games evening. Members also meet socially every Thursday afternoon at the Stanstead Lodge, Stanstead Road in Forest Hill with outside presenters visiting regularly. You can find out more in the events section at the beginning of the magazine and in the listings.

The Branch has appointed Amy Thomas as its Social Organiser in the Medway area. Amy will be organising events and while she is setting up shop, we have arranged local meals on 11 August and 6 October.

You can find out more about Lord Byron Branch and its activities from local Secretary Karen Lewis on 020 8699 0929 or email [karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk).



## New Social Organiser for Medway

**Amy Thomas has been appointed as Lord Byron Branch's Social Organiser for the Medway area. Amy's current work involves organising activities and she will bring her ideas across to local Oddfellows.**

Amy has promotional plans and plenty of event ideas. These include both indoor and outside events

and visits, which will be held regularly on Fridays.

I hope that you will give Amy your full support as she starts her adventure – and yours too.

# Oddfellows Memorabilia

Paul Fitton continues his look at past Oddfellows items

**This Oddfellows commemorative pearlware mug has green, red and black transferware. It was made probably in Staffordshire and could be a quite early piece, perhaps between 1820 and 1840. It weighs 276gms and is 10.5cms or 4¼" high and 9.5cms or 3¾" in diameter.**

This first picture portrays Lady Justice balancing the scales. This dates back to the goddess Maat in ancient Egypt. She is holding a set of scales to measure the weight of evidence for and against. Since the 16th century, Lady Justice has been depicted wearing a blindfold. This represents impartiality.

The inscriptions read 'Independent Order of Odd Fellows' and the Latin Oddfellows motto 'Amicitia Amor et Veritas', meaning 'Friendship, Love and Truth' at the front. It bears a shield at the front containing Oddfellows symbols. The interior of the rim is also decorated with a beautiful floral border.

The figure of a woman worker values the female labourer at that time. Women had second-class status in industry. She was generally confined to less skilled and lower-paid work than men for performing the same work. This picture recognised the changing role of women at that time from domestic to economic.



# Keep Young and Beautiful

## (Part Two) by Paul Fitton ©

**I've had a birthday since the last issue. Another year older, another year wider!**



Needed a calculator to add the candles on the cake. Continuing the birthday theme, studies have shown that people who have more birthdays live longer than those that do not have as many.

How are you doing with your weight? I remember having an argument with an 'I Speak Your Weight' machine. I've always had a weight problem – I've never had enough if it... until now. I usually add 8lbs on every Christmas/New Year and lose it within a week. This year, it's stayed... and grown.

My weight has been edging up closer and closer to 14st until last weekend when it reached 13st 13lbs. Eight restaurant and cafe meals in the past 2 weeks haven't helped. But great news! I've suddenly found a magical way to lose those pounds.



It's easy. Just switch the scales to kgs and you never know what you weigh. 88kgs and proud.

I was having a pint with some old pals in my local. One told me that he's now at the age where an 'all-nighter' just means that he doesn't need to get up out of bed to pee. Another mentioned his creaky knees and this led to a chorus of complaints about aches and pains. I've reached the age where it's considered rude to pull out a bottle of painkillers if I don't have enough for everyone else, so I bought a round of drinks instead.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, 'I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it'. So, you can trust me to tell me your secrets. I'll forget them straightaway anyway.

I was going to say something else. If I remember what it was, I'll add it to part three in the next edition.

# Meet the Members: Mel Ryan

Continuing our series introducing members

**Melanie Ryan is a regular attendee at Clapham social events. She has become a key member of the growing group of new members meeting weekly for craft, exercise and yoga sessions and the weekly social evening. The fortnightly cinema visits to watch new films at nearby Clapham Picturehouse are high on Melanie's list too.**

Qualifying as a nurse in 1983, Melanie was exposed to complimentary therapies in 1986. After training, Melanie used Traditional Chinese Acupuncture and Medical Acupuncture as a nurse specialist for over 20 years at Charing Cross Hospital.

Melanie is an advocate for the use of SCENAR for the treating her patients. Its advanced technology helps to relieve chronic and acute pain and injuries on many conditions including arthritis, back pain and stress and anxiety.



*Melanie Ryan with actor Brian Murphy at a Clapham social event*

Melanie is happy to help members who can call her on 07956 539761. She will still find time to meet her friends and enjoy activities at Oddfellows Hall in Belmont Close.

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

OEW/1024SMALL

# Memory Lane

## Southwark Streets of my Youth

By Chris Brown

**The air of homely life has disappeared, an air that once enriched my Southwark strolls.**

That endless sea of yellow chimney pots and row on row, red-bricked, 'two up-two downs' have given way to towering concrete blocks. Their steel and glass rise scraping at the skies.

Slow traffic streams and twists by roundabouts where once the backstreets stood, with long gone friends who since have moved, forced out by planners' schemes, and shops for sweets and toys, a child's delight, demolished for re-buildings thrice their size. But, most of all, I miss



*An old Liquorice Allsorts tin, photo by Glen Bowman*

my favourite shop which stood beside the grass some years ago. There did I spend my weekly two-and-six on drinks and sweets for picnics on the green.

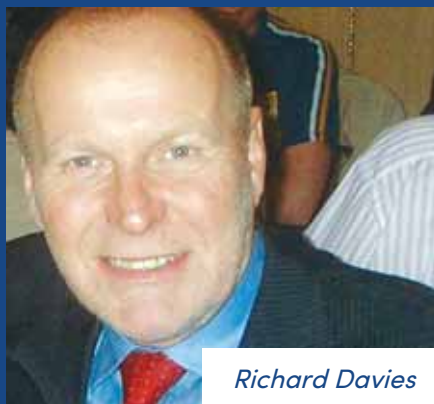
It's now a concrete mass, abhorred by all who loved that simple life, seventy years past.

## South London Members in National Elections

**John Mann of Lord Byron Branch was elected as Grand Master of the Order at the Annual Moveable Conference (AMC) in Scarborough in May.**

He wasn't the only South London District member to take up a national post. Last year's District Chairman Richard Davies was elected to the Benevolence Committee for 2025/2026.

Congratulations to both members.



*Richard Davies*



# 100 per cent at the Flower of Kent

**Actress Dot Pullan performed an hour of monologues to over 30 members on 22 April. Oddfellows member Dot's main performance was *Soldiering On*, five short acts and one of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* series. Dot portrayed the widowed Muriel, a dramatic role with subtle and serious undertones.**

Dot's finale was a short dramatic sketch written by Michael Frayn (*Noises Off*). Her vignette portrayed a talkative and friendly lady with time on her hands and her telephone interaction with the modern world of call centre staff.

Large applause – and an audience most impressed with how Dot managed to remember all of her lines!

*There's always a good use for Out & About magazine...once you've read it, of course See below picture!*

About 30 members usually attend Flower of Kent Branch's fortnightly evening socials at the Montrose Club to enjoy musical entertainment, quizzes. The address is 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9AJ. The Montrose has a large car park, is a mile from Sidcup station and buses 229 and 269 stop nearby.

Branch Secretary Charlie Boswell will be pleased to tell you more on 020 8306 8846 or at [charlie.boswell@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:charlie.boswell@oddfellows.co.uk).



*Dot Pullan, photo by Paul Fitton*

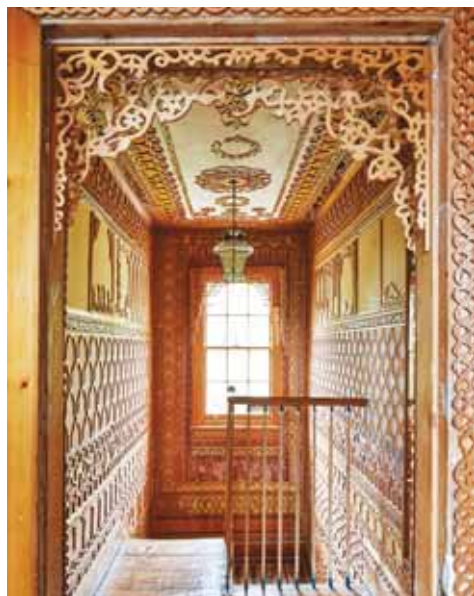


*Photo by Paul Fitton*

# Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to...

## 575 Wandsworth Road

This Georgian house is one of only four National Trust properties in south London. The former home of a civil servant, the house is a uniquely decorated memorial to the Kenyan-born poet, novelist and civil servant, Khadambi Asalache. The house contains intricate fretwork that he carved to fill every nook and cranny and his carefully arranged collection of textiles, pink and copper lusterware and illustrations of African landscape. Only a few hundred people are allowed to view the house each year.



*Photo courtesy of National Trust*

## Walk and Meal: Chislehurst Ponds

We enjoyed chatting as we took a woodland trail through a long-gone pond, finishing by circumnavigating Rush Pond and Prickend Pond and taking in the village surroundings. We still found time for refreshments on our travels!



*Some of the members at our  
Chislehurst Ponds walk  
Photo by Paul Fitton*

## The Great Gatsby

This all-new musical took our members back to the Roaring 20s to meet mysterious millionaire, Jay Gatsby. He entertains the rich and famous with riotous parties at his Long Island mansion yet never joins in. Read Dave Slaughter's feedback in our Letters page.

# Clapham Wham Bam!

**Our historic, 173 year old hall at Clapham is just waiting to be explored. The building is rich in history. It was built originally as a Baptists hall as the Ebenezer Chapel, with the adjoining building, (the manse), known as the Ebenezer Cottage, in 1853. However, just a few years after, the Baptists moved elsewhere and the chapel was purchased by the Wesleyan Bible Christians.**

Ebenezer Hall remained in the Wesleyans' possession until 1908, when Oddfellows' Pride of Clapham Lodge bought the two buildings and continues to hold activities there regularly. Part of the building is rented to the London Shambhala as their meditation centre.

Eleven members were initiated on 5 June, including one from Lord Byron Branch. This strengthens base, making a core of potential new officers for Clapham's management team.

Locally. Members visited the National Trust property at 575 Wandsworth Road in May and are looking forward to a guided tour of several of Clapham's Blue Plaques on 27 August.

Clapham Branch's Secretary and Social and Development Officer is Jane Parkin. She opens the door at 2.30pm every Tuesday to welcome everyone for a Knit and Natter, which is something like a Sit and Chatter. As the name implies, you can knit and sew, etc and learn new



crafting skills. The afternoon flows into late afternoon exercise classes and an early evening Yoga group. Members pay just £5 a month for the weekly Yoga sessions. Members also meet at 8pm every Thursday for a games evening. In addition, Thursday afternoons alternate between a visit to Clapham Picturehouse for only £4 and a two-course meal and tea/coffee for only £5 for members (£7 for non-members). The menu is varied. Our summer meals started with a Ploughman's Lunch.

The fortnightly cinema visits are at Picturehouse, just five minutes' walk from Oddfellows hall. The cinema has modern seating and bar showing mainstream new, classic and cult films. Members can return to Oddfellows Hall after the viewing if they wish, the evening continuing with a social drink at our bar, or tea and coffee if preferred, as well as a fun evening.

Members can chat, play games or cards, do puzzles, read, play darts or pool – and just relax! Jane updates everyone weekly via WhatsApp.

On the third Thursday every month, a business meeting is held to facilitate Branch work with Branch Secretary Jane Parkin guiding officials.

In fact, if you would like to attend any of the events at Clapham, contact Jane Parkin at [jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk) or on 07752 502589.

Oddfellows Hall is at 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. It is 5 to 10 minutes' walk (about 600 metres or 650 yards) from Clapham Common underground station on the Northern Line. Local buses along Clapham High Street include 35, 37, 50, 88, 137, 155, 322, 345 and 417.

## Used Stamps



**Jane Parkin is collecting used stamps for Many Tears Animal Rescue Charity. She would love to receive your used stamps. Please either hand them to her or send to her at Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY.**

## Young Jayney

**By our Resident Poet  
Jackie Ingleby-Douglass**

*Young Jayney left the party late,  
Waved to Angie at the gate.  
Off she walked into the night.  
Not another soul in sight.*

*She'd said she'd meet him in the park -  
not a good choice after dark.  
As she walked she looked around,  
jumping at the slightest sound.*

*She'd told her mum she won't be home.  
Staying at Angie's, wouldn't roam.  
She felt the cold snow on her face,  
so she quickened up her pace.*

*She reached the park all cold and wet.  
No sign of him, no worries yet.  
The church clock chimed the midnight hour,  
high up in the big bell tower.*

*Five minutes passed, another ten,  
then the snow came back again.  
Where are you Tommy? Please come soon.  
It seemed like daytime with the moon.*

*She huddled up against a wall  
feeling oh so very small.  
With hands like ice and feet like lead  
she wished that she was home in bed.*

*How could he do this? Leave her there.  
He said he loved her. That's not fair.  
She didn't see the car go by.  
All she could do was stand and cry.*

*The car had stopped. Her mum jumped out.  
They hugged and hugged each other  
Oh Jayney baby, never lie.  
Especially to your mother.*

# Top Mann

## **Congratulations on becoming Chairman of the Society. How did it feel being installed in front of such a large crowd at the Annual Moveable Conference (AMC)?**

To be honest it seemed to happen in a bit of a daze. What I can remember though is after being installed and sitting in the chair, I took a few seconds to think of my mum and dad, who would have been so proud to have seen it happen, then looking up and seeing my sister Gill getting ready to come up and make a presentation with tears in her eyes. To be honest that very nearly started me off. Then I looked at our deputation who all looked so pleased and proud that South London had yet again had one of our members as Grand Master!! My only real regret about the installation was that my brother Peter couldn't be there to celebrate with us, as he couldn't make conference because he had Covid. The fact that he could watch it on You Tube was a plus, but not the same as having him there in person.

## **So when did the Oddfellows start for you and why?**

I was made a Junior member by my parents in February 1952, at the tender age of 6 months!!! Why? Well seeing that my parents did exactly the same for all of my siblings, they must have thought that membership of the Oddfellows was something that would help and benefit us in later life, and to that extent they were correct. We all enjoyed immensely the

Annual Sports Days held at Charlton Park, not only for the competition, but also for the friendship and the sense of community it engendered. We also



enjoyed the annual Christmas parties – at least we did until we found out that on some occasions Father Christmas was our dad!! However, our education in what it means to be an Oddfellow really started after we were initiated into our Lodge. I'm sure that my brother Peter, and my sister Gill would agree with me that the help and education we received from the officers and members of our branch and district over those formative years has stayed with us throughout our journey in Oddfellowship.

## **What's happened since in your Oddfellows life?**

Well, myself and my brothers got to know a young firebrand who was always dressed in black (or at least it always seemed that way to us) called Roger Burley, who was the mainstay of the Intermediate lodge at that time, and a lifetime friendship was formed. We all followed our separate journeys through Oddfellowship, eventually managing to be part of the party at AMC that nominated and supported



Roger in his bid to become Grand Master. I think it was then that I first thought that 'I can do that'! It's taken nearly 30 years, but I managed it!

## **What's your best Oddfellows memory?**

Funnily enough, we were talking about that at Roger's retirement do! I have always had an abiding memory of running around the corridors of The Albert Hall with my two brothers having a game of tag. I was aged about nine, and we were at an Oddfellows function with our parents and little sister. Up until recently I haven't bothered to investigate what function that might have been. However, on looking at the Oddfellows magazine for 1960, I found that it was the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Oddfellows, which was attended by the Grand Master, and our District had a hand in arranging the celebrations. I think myself and my brothers ran for miles that night until we were too tired to continue!!

## **What are you most looking forward to in your new role?**

I'm looking forward to the challenge and to do the job that the deputies voted me in to do, which is to work to keep on developing our Society, not only by increasing membership, but by attempting to educate our new members about our history, and for the need to embrace that history and the ritual that goes with it.

## **You have some large-scale social events planned for 2025/6**

Yes, the big event for me, as for all Grand Masters, is the Grand Masters reception, which will be held on September 20th at The County Hall. Hopefully I will be supported at that function by a good number of members from the South London District.

The other big event is to visit and hand over a cheque to the new recipients of sponsorship from the H A Andrews fund. This will be done later in the year at the Oglesby Cancer research building in Manchester, where they are researching and investigating ways to prevent breast cancer in women.

## **Have you a charity this year?**

I don't have a charity per se, but any money that may be collected I would like to go to either the H A Andrews fund or to a Cancer charity.

## **As the Oddfellows' biggest ambassador this year, what is your message to members and potential new members?**

My main message to members is that although we are going through a state of flux at the moment, with the upcoming retirement of our CEO and Secretary of the Order (SOO), Jane Nelson, we do

have a succession plan in place which is progressing nicely, with a new SOO, Pam Casey of the Combermere District Lodge, taking up her post in September, and the new CEO hopefully being announced early in the New Year.

To all prospective new members, as far as we are concerned it's business as usual, and to that end we continue to stress that we are a 'not-for-profit' mutual organisation that provides friendship, uplifting meetings and trusted welfare advice to all of our members in difficult times. Plus, we offer a supportive range of benefits that have been shaped by our members needs since our inception in 1810.

## To finish on a lighter note, what's your favourite film?

I like all John Wayne films, and as far as a favourite one it's really difficult.

I like the Quiet Man, Rio Bravo (1959) and the remake El Dorado (1966) which were basically the same film with different actors – excepting Wayne!! However, the one I could watch again and again is The Alamo.

## Here is that Oddfellows magazine article from 1960:

### THE ODD FELLOW

#### CELEBRATION AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

#### Attended By 3,000 Members And Friends

**T**he night of Friday, October 21st, was one that will long be remembered by the 3,000 members and friends of the Metropolitan district, who joined together in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Order. The stage, surrounded with floral decorations, formed a delightful setting and with music provided by the well-known Mr. Sydney Thompson and his orchestra, the whole company got down to a really enjoyable evening. The programme for dancing was left in the capable hands of Sydney Thompson, who also acted as master of ceremonies, and the cabaret was compered by Ken Wilson, the comedian.

#### Parade Of Officers

One of the spectacles of the evening was the parade of the associated districts' officers, who formed up in pairs and spaced in sets of four, paraded across the dance floor, led by Watford, then St. Mary Cray and Dartford, Woolwich, West London, Stepney, North London, South London,

Lovelock (St. Mary Cray and Dartford) Bro. F. L. Norris (Watford), together with Bro. Director J. W. Morgan, who had attended as a representative of the Stepney district.

The Stepney district, owing to another commitment, was unable to give full support, but rendered financial assistance in the preliminary arrangements.

The success of the evening was in no small measure due to the amount of work put in by Bro. Director J. W. Morgan, Bro. W. Cutts, Prov. C.S. (South London), and Bro. J. C. Dodd, Prov. C.S. (North London), to whom thanks were given.

### THE ORDERS JOB IS TO BE A FAMILY

#### Says Bro. Watson At Lynn

**W**ELL over 100 members, representing 21 of the 23 lodges in the Lynn district, took part in the 150th anniversary dinner at Lynn Town Hall, on October 15th, when the chief guests were Bro. H. F. Watson, LL.B., and Sister Watson, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Lynn, Mr. E. M. Benefer and Mrs. Eileen Dye.

Other guests included Bro. H. E. Walker, Prov. G.M., Sister Trumpess, I.P.P.G.M., and Bro. W. E. M. Trumpess,

# Letters and Feedback

## The Great Gatsby and more!

“ We went to see the Great Gatsby musical in May and met and talked to fellow Oddfellows at the show. We met Dave and Sheila, and I was able to indulge in a bit of nostalgia as I discovered Sheila was born in the same hospital, The ‘Lying-in Hospital’, as me and like me spent most of her formative years in Bermondsey. I had seen Lying-in Hospital on my birth certificate but always assumed it was wrong as it seemed a very unlikely name until I looked it up. Apparently, it was common in those days to have a separate maternity hospital.

Sheila mentioned ‘The Blue’, a term I hadn’t heard for many years but it referred to the local shopping area close to where we lived in Bermondsey. I recall that it seemed quite a distance away when I walked there as a child. Many years later I went back to find it was only just round the corner but I was a little smaller when I lived there and my legs a lot shorter! I still have the scar on my eyebrow from when I walked into a lamp post on my way to The Blue so I have a permanent reminder.

Anyway, back to the Great Gatsby.

The show sparkled and shone right from the opening chorus. The costumes were amazing. You couldn’t miss the performers on stage with their glitzy outfits. Spectacular Art Deco sets and scenery with some exceptional male singers who, unusually eclipsed the females by far. We thoroughly enjoyed the show and had some nice company. We have seen quite a few West End shows and this was certainly one of the best shows we have ever seen.

If you get a chance then you must go! Especially, if you can get some good priced tickets courtesy of the Oddfellows. Thanks Paul. ”

Dave Slaughter

## National Trust

“ The tour of 575 Wandsworth Road was mind blowing. Laura the Tour Guide was lovely. It’s definitely worth going to visit. ”

Melanie Ryan

“ It was so lovely to meet you all. It was such a treat and so worthwhile. ”

Rita

# 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 Clare on **020 7735 2770** or email **clare.puddefoot@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**

## Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



**For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.**

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

## Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

**Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.**

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."





## Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

### Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

### Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

## Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

*Working in the Spirit of Mutuality*

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

## Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

*Giving Something Back*

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

## Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

*Giving a Helping Hand*

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

# Incredible total raised for good causes



*Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.*

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

**Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.**

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

**Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back)**

## Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



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



**In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.**

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual’s members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society’s sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

# Branch Contacts and Meetings

## District Meetings

**District Secretary:** Clare Puddefoot

**Address:** South London District,  
Oddfellows, 240 Clapham Road,  
London SW9 0PZ

**Telephone:** 01322 665496

**Email:**

clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk

Biannual District Meetings are held for Branch Deputies. District Committee Meetings take place monthly.

**District Event Organiser and**

**Magazine Editor:** Paul Fitton

**Address:** 15 Moat Close, Orpington,  
Kent BR6 6ET

**Telephone:** 07851 910619

**Email:** paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk

**Event Organiser** Paul Fitton

## Branch Meetings

All members and prospective members are invited to attend Branch meetings. Business meetings start at 8pm and are followed by social events at 9pm with refreshments and a chance to socialise.

## Lord Byron Branch

**Secretary:** Karen Lewis

**Secretary and Social and Development Officer:**

55 Kilmore Road,  
Forest Hill, London SE23 2SS

**Telephone:** 020 8699 0929

**Email:**

karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

**Social and Development Officer for Medway:**

Amy Thomas

**Email:** Amy.thomas@oddfellows.co.uk

**Meeting/Social address:**

Colfeian Sports Club, Horn Park,  
Eltham Road, London SE12 8UE

**Meeting dates:**

**Mondays 11 August, 22 September and 13 October at 8pm**

## Pride of Clapham Branch

**Secretary:** Jane Parkin

**Correspondence Address:** 18

Glendale, Swanley, Kent BR8 8TB

**Telephone:** 07791 942969

**Email:** jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk

**Meeting/Social address:** Odd

Fellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close,  
Clapham, London SW4 6AY

**Meeting dates:** **Thursdays 21**

**August, 18 September and**

**16 October 2025 at 8pm.**

## Flower of Kent Branch

**Secretary:** Charlie Boswell

**Correspondence Address:**

12 Garden Avenue, Bexleyheath,  
Kent DA7 4LF

**Telephone:** 020 8306 8846

**Email:** charlie.boswell@oddfellows.co.uk

**Meeting/Social address:**

The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road,  
Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ.

**Meeting dates:** **Tuesdays 12 and 26**

**August, 9 and 23 September and**

**7 and 22 October 2025 at 8pm.**

# At a glance

## Weekly Events

Every Tuesday	Knit, Natter and Craft Group (Clapham)	2.30pm
Every Tuesday	Chair Exercise (Clapham)	5.30pm
Every Tuesday	Yoga for all levels (Clapham)	6.30pm
Every Thursday	Thursday Friends (Clapham)	8pm
Every Thursday	Coffee and a Chat (Forest Hill)	2pm

## August 2025

<b>Fri 1</b>	Short Story	2pm
<b>Tues 5</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Garden Party	1pm
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 8</b>	John O'Groats to Lands End by Train	2pm
<b>Mon 11</b>	Medway Meal at The SpyGlass & Kettle	12 noon
<b>Mon 11</b>	Business Meeting	8pm
<b>Tues 12</b>	Music Bingo with Mick	8pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Cream Tea or Tea and Cakes at Clapham	1.30pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Johnny Clamp Entertains	2pm
<b>Fri 15</b>	A Chance Encounter	2pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal	11am
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 22</b>	The Adventures of a 19th Century Englishman in India	2pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Quiz Night	8pm
<b>Wed 27</b>	Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques	11am
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Ploughmans Lunch at Clapham	1.30pm

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



# At a glance

## September – Friendship Month

<b>Tues 2</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 5</b>	A History of Lesnes Abbey	2pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Adventure and Prizes Await in the London Treasure Hunt!	11am
<b>Mon 8</b>	Ten and more! – Famous Belgians	8pm
<b>Tues 9</b>	Quiz Night	8pm
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Cream Tea or Tea and Cakes at Clapham	1.30pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 19</b>	Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace	2pm
<b>Mon 22</b>	Business Meeting	8pm
<b>Tues 23</b>	Quiz Night	8pm
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace	2pm
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Fri 26</b>	The Story of Laika – the First Dog in Space	2pm
<b>Sat 27</b>	Hog Roast and Drinks in the <b>Sun</b>	2pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm

## October

<b>Wed 1</b>	Art Tour with Roger Turner	2.30pm
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 3</b>	Tragic Hollywood: The Story of Peg Entwistle	2pm
<b>Mon 6</b>	Medway Meal at The Bredhurst Bell	1pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Tues 7</b>	From Classical to Pop	8pm
<b>Thurs 9</b>	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	2.30pm
<b>Fri 10</b>	Operation Pegasus: A Story of Extraordinary Bravery	2pm
<b>Mon 13</b>	Business Meeting	8pm

# At a glance

## October

<b>Wed 15</b>	Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch	11am or 1.30pm
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Peter Sellers - All at Sea	2pm
<b>Fri 17</b>	The History of Mystery - Part 3: Whatever happened to the Roanoke Colony?	2pm
<b>Tues 21</b>	Music Night	8pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	2.30pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	The Mousetrap	3pm
<b>Fri 24</b>	Ten and more! - Famous Belgians	2pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Pyjama Fairies	8pm
<b>Tues 28</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Thurs 30</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 31</b>	Confessions of a Reluctant 14th Century Re-enactor	2pm

## 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)



**\*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.

OEAS0723