

August - October 2025



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

# *out* & *about*

**St Mary Cray and Dartford District**



Music



Art/Crafts



Tasting



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Online



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



## Welcome to the new edition of Out & About, incorporating Pathway, the Magazine of St Mary Cray and Dartford District

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.

## Oddfellows around the country

Did you know that there are nearly 100 local Oddfellows Branches around the country? You can attend any open Oddfellows event too, which means that if you live in any corner of the country, you can make friends with local Oddfellows. You can find out where your local Branch meets and about local activities at [www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk).

For members living outside our area in other parts of London and north Kent, my colleagues and I organise events at Enfield, Harrow, Euston and Islington as well as Clapham, Sidcup, Lee, Forest Hill plus Sidcup and Gillingham in Kent. Contact me for further details (see opposite page).

## Out and About

Not just the name of a magazine but also a wealth of opportunities to meet old and make new friends at events in 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 64 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

*Our cover photo pictures a summer robin at the Himalayan Gardens, Riverhill, Sevenoaks. Photo by Paul Fitton*

*Our photo above shows an atmospheric social event at Flower of Kent Branch's Oddfellows Hall.*

## 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 social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. 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.

## Monthly Walks

For details of our three remaining walks this summer, contact Paul Fitton (see next column). The walks, which are not included in the events listings are: Farningham Woods Nature Reserve at Horton Kirby, St Andrews Wood, Shoreham (near Polhill) and Riverside walk, St Mary Cray.

## Contact Details

### District Secretary:

Eliza Puddefoot

**Address:** 58 Mitchell Avenue,  
Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AX

**Telephone:** 07391 986653

### Email:

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

### District Social 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 next magazine to Paul Fitton by the deadline of Monday 26 September 2025.**

# August 2025

## **WED 13** An Afternoon Well Spent with Good Intent

**L** 1.30pm

**£** Free



Good Intent Branch members have a short information meeting at their South



Darenth base followed by a quiz or games, with coffee or tea and a cake or three! and you're invited to join them. British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

## **WED 13** Cinnamon Trust - The Charity for Older People and their Pets

**L** 2pm

**£** Free



Cinnamon Trust is the national charity for older people, the terminally ill and their pets. The trust provides hands-on assistance to pet owners across the country when any aspect of the day-to-day care of their pets poses a problem; as well as the provision of lifelong care for pets who outlive their owners. Martin Stone visits to tell us more. Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

# August 2025

## **FRI 15** Official Visit and Business Meeting



1pm



Free



Please come along and join us our monthly business meeting, along with the pleasure of our Official Visit. Meeting will start at 1pm. Refreshments will be provided. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

## **FRI 15** A Chance Encounter



2pm



Free



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

## **MON 18** Activity



2pm



Free



Enjoy some gentle exercise with Ann from Mytime Active, followed by tea or coffee and biscuits from 2pm to 4pm. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

## **WED 20** Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal



11am



Donations £1



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 District Chairman's charity. Meal cost as per menu. Book by Tuesday 5 August. Trafalgar Square, Westminster, London WC2N 5DN. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

# August 2025

THURS  
21

## Stay Safe, Stay Informed! Free Fire Safety Talk with the London Fire Brigade



2pm



Free



Join us for a friendly and informative afternoon dedicated to helping our local elderly community stay safe at home. A representative from the London Fire Brigade will be giving a fire safety talk, offering essential tips, advice and practical guidance tailored for older adults. Book by Monday 18 August. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

FRI  
22

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



2pm



Free



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 take in the Second Boer War too. 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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

TUES  
26

## Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



Online



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

WED  
27

## Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques



11am



Free



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. Meet at Clapham Common at 11am or London Bridge Underground station at 10.30am. Book by Tuesday 26 August. Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground Station, The Pavement, Clapham, London SW4 7AJ. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

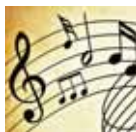


# August 2025

## WED 27 The Inbetweeners



Here is your invitation to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or HOY, or a quiz, have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and most of all – gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Jacqui Lowther who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.



## THURS 28 Garden of England Social Evening



All members and their family and friends are invited to Garden of England Branch's monthly social evenings. After a short meeting advising members about what's new, there'll be chat, a quiz or games with coffee or tea and usually a cake. Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Community Centre, Bexley, Kent DA5 3LH. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.



## FRI 29 Talk and help with Managing Health online and accessing your GP through the NHS App



2pm to 4pm. Everyday tasks are now becoming more and more involved with the use of online apps instead of just face to face contact. Please feel free to come along and listen to Casper from Clear CommunityWeb, who will be joining us to give a short talk on Managing Online Health and Accessing your GP through the NHS app. There will be time to have a chat with him afterwards, whilst enjoying tea or coffee and cake. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



# 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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



## 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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

## **THURS** **04** Friendship Month Summer Party! Hosted by the Oddfellows Mottingham



Come one, come all to our summer party - a joyful celebration as part of Friendship Month! Whether you're young at heart or just love a bit of traditional fun, there's something for everyone at this good old fashioned get-together. From Hook-a-Duck to a classic tombola, tasty treats and refreshments, plenty of laughter and great company!

Everyone is welcome - Oddfellows members, friends and guests alike! Come and join us for an afternoon of lighthearted fun, games and making new friendships. Let's celebrate summer, community and good times together! Book by Monday 1 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.



# September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI  
05

## Minor Degree Lodge



Do you like the ritual side of the Oddfellows? You can come along and take part in our Minor Degree Lodge, where we guide members through the colour degrees. White, Blue, Scarlet and Gold. Whether you are just starting out or want to complete yours, then come along and join us. If you are unsure of what you have already done then speak with us and we can find out. Book by Thursday 4 September. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Eliza on 07391 986653.

SAT  
06

## Quiz Night



Join us for our quiz night hosted by quiz master Travis Whitehead. Teams of up to six people, so feel free to bring your friends and family along. Feel free to bring your own nibbles. This is always a popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Saturday 23 August. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



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. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood BR5 1RD. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

WED  
10

## Good Intent Social Afternoon



Good Intent Branch has a short information meeting followed by a quiz or games with coffee or tea with a cake or three. British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.



# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED  
10

## The Perfect Playground



Michael Gilbert returns to give Part 3 of his Crystal Palace trilogy - The Perfect Playground. It covers the history of the Crystal Palace leading up to its destruction by fire in 1936. Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

FRI  
12

## Business Meeting



Members only may attend Pride of Kent Branch's business meeting from 2pm to 4pm. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



SUN  
14

## Scadbury Moated Manor Open Day



Following our walk in April to the site, we are returning on an annual open day to see the archaeological excavations and Tudor foundations at Scadbury Moated Manor. We can follow a self-guided trail around the moated manor site with experts to answer questions. We will see the archaeological excavations and the foundations of the Tudor kitchens and great hall, showing how these would have been used when the house was owned by the Walsingham family.

Visitors can also see World War II defences and a restored shepherd's hut. Meet at the corner entrance to the park at Perry Street and Old Perry Street, opposite Beaverwood Road. The manor house is a mile walk away. Orpington Archaeological Society (OAS) volunteers will direct you. Buses 160, 269 and 463 stop nearby. No parking at site, but street parking available. You may wish to donate to OAS via their collection boxes at the site. Book by Thursday 11 September. Scadbury Moated Manor, Scadbury Park, Road, Chislehurst BR7 6PT. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



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# September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
15

## Friendship Month Stone Painting Mementos



Join us in Friendship Month and paint a stone or two as a memento of the Friendship Oddfellows brings us all. Refreshments will also be provided. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

WED  
17

## Friendship Month Afternoon Tea



With September being Friendship Month what better way to celebrate it than bringing a friend along to our afternoon tea. You can enjoy lots of tea and cake whilst having a good catch up with your friends. Join on the day - get £5 back. Book by Wednesday 10 September. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS  
18

## Friendship Month Afternoon Tea



Is there a better way to unwind then catching up with old friends and making new ones over a traditional afternoon Tea? Book by Monday 15 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



# September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED  
24

## The Inbetweeners



You're invited to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or HOY, or a quiz, have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and most of all – gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Jacqui Lowther who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS  
25

## Garden of England Social Evening



Garden of England Branch invites you to their monthly social evening. There'll be a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, followed by maybe a quiz or games with coffee or tea and usually a cake. Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Community Centre, Bexley, Kent DA5 3LH. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

FRI  
26

## Carers In Harmony Performance



Please come along and join us in listening to the beautiful voices of The Carers in Harmony. They will be performing a medley of tunes



for us. There will also be time to spend chatting with friends over a lovely cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

# September

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRIENDSHIP  
MONTH  
EVENT

Invite a friend

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 prices 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 3 for details).

TUES  
30

## Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



Our monthly paint along with Dulcie Rowe continues. On this occasion, we are painting Oysters. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



## 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)

# October

WED  
01

## Art Tour with Roger Turner



2.30pm



Free



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 3 for details).



WED  
01

## An Evening with Bob Sinfield



7.30pm



Members Free  
Guests £3



The Gag Trade (Misadventures in TV and Radio Comedy): Bob Sinfield spent 25 years scripting every star on the box, from Lenny Henry and Jasper Carrott to Tracey Ullman and Rory Bremner. Now he joins us to tell us all about the life of a jobbing jokesmith and the celebs he tried to 'gag'. Book early to avoid disappointment by Tuesday 30 September. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS  
02

## Celebrity Hobbies!



2pm



Free



Did you know that Elton John collects sunglasses - 250,000 pairs of them; that Paris Hilton goes frog hunting; and that Brad Pitt and Leonardo Caprio throw pots together? These are just a few of the surprising hobbies of the stars. Find out what other celebrities do in their spare time in Paul Fitton's presentation. Book by Monday 29 September. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

FRI  
03

## Tragic Hollywood: The Story of Peg Entwistle



2pm



Free



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

# 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 3 for details).



## TUES 07 Family History Help and Tutorial



2pm



Free



Online



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

## WED 08 Good Intent Social Afternoon



1.30pm



Free



Good Intent Branch has a short information meeting followed by a quiz or games with coffee or tea and a cake or three! British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

## WED 08 The Iron Curtain Call



2pm



Free



The tragicomic tale of the Cambridge Spies, told in the style of a Footlights revue and based on Bob's play of the same name. Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).





# October

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



2pm



Free



Online



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. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



## **FRI** **10** **Committee of Management Meeting followed by Business Meeting**



2pm



Free



Committee of Management meeting for members, followed by business meeting for all. 2pm to 4pm. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

## **WED** **15** **Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch**



11am



Donations



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 at Pret A Manger nearby between each visit. Eight minutes walk from Farringdon station 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 3 for details).

# October

THURS  
16

## Fabulous Fashion Afternoon!



2pm



Free



Get ready to strut your stuff and show off your style! We're inviting all our fabulous Star of Mottingham members and friends to join us for a fashion afternoon filled with fun, flair and a touch of friendly competition. Come dressed in your best outfit - whether it's bold, elegant, vintage or quirky and you could win a prize for 'Best Dressed!' Book by Monday 13 October. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

FRI  
17

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



2pm



Free



Online



The Roanoke Colony was an attempt by Sir Walter Raleigh to found the first permanent English settlement in North America. The colony was founded in 1585, but when it was visited by a ship in 1590, the colonists had inexplicably disappeared. It has come to be known as the Lost Colony and the fate of the 112 to 121 colonists remains unknown. In his presentation, Paul Fitton explains what might have attempted to the colony and adds some further mystery to the story. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

FRI  
17

## Fish and Chips Bingo



7pm



Members £15  
Guests £18



Join us for a fun filled Friday night where you will enjoy a fish and chips supper followed by eight games of bingo. There will be an optional bonus flyer that can be purchased for an extra £2. Cash prizes to be won. Book by Friday 10 October. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



MON  
20

## Social Get-Together



2pm



Free



You can enjoy games, quizzes, laughs and chats with your friends over tea or coffee and biscuits for a couple of hours. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

# October

## WED 22 The Inbetweeners



You're invited to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or HOY, or a quiz, have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and most of all - gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Jacqui Lowther who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.

## THURS 23 Garden of England Social Evening



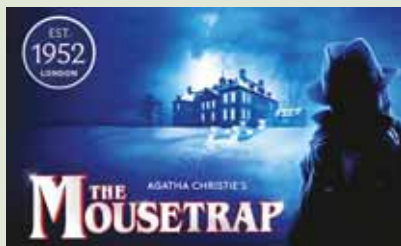
Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on then followed maybe a quiz or games with coffee or tea and usually a cake. Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Community Centre, Bexley, Kent DA5 3LH. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.



## THURS 23 The Mousetrap



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 Friday 15 August. St Martin's Theatre, West Street, London WC2H 9NZ. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

# October

## FRI 24 Ten and More - Famous Belgians



2pm



Free



Melanie Gibson-Barton's 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. Back to the usual Zoom code from next week onwards. Zoom Meeting ID: 876 1449 6492. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



## MON 27 Official Visit



8pm



Free



Join the District Officers at the Star of Nottingham Branch for the Annual Official Visit. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Clare on 01322 665496.

## TUES 28 Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



At the end of our one hour session, you'll have painted Goldfish! Our regular guide Dulcie Rowe shows you how. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



## FRI 24 Handmade Jewellery



2pm



Free



2pm to 4pm. Rose will be displaying her beautiful jewellery which will also be on sale, with all money raised going to St Christophers. Tea or coffee and biscuits will be available whilst you relax and chat with friends Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



# October

THURS  
30

## Autumnal Arts and Crafts



2pm



Free



As the temperature starts to drop and the leaves and nature around us start to change colour, what an amazing opportunity to catch these amazing colours in an afternoon of autumnal arts and crafts at Oddfellows Nottingham. Book by Monday 27 October. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham, London SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

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! Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

## 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

# Chairman's Letter

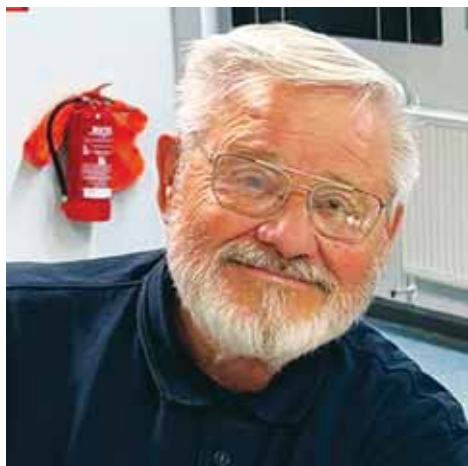
## Words for Thought

**Having arrived home from our Annual Movable Conference (AMC), which was held in Scarborough this year, I feel I need to mention about a particular concern brought by many to Congress which affects all Oddfellows members.**

There were voices that spoke of gearing up local branches to accept more young people to be involved, because at the present time to keep Branch Management Committees active, individuals are repeating officer roles. This will eventually cease for obvious reasons!

To enlist younger people, we need to know what their likes and dislikes are. It was mentioned that more weekend events to accommodate those who work full time, which may be a way to get them involved? It is something every Branch can look at and deal with in their own way that accommodates them and I believe it is very necessary to give serious consideration to this if we wish to keep our society as we know it. I would also like to say that it was a very good conference and it was a real pleasure meeting old faces and new!

On a personal note, my wife and I met a couple on arriving at our Hotel who were from Northern Ireland. Chris and Sandra are their names, both of whom are devoted to the Oddfellows. Chris in particular is a minister of the Presbyterian



Church and it was both him and Sandra's first AMC. I believe that my wife and I were the first people they met in the hotel on their arrival.

We sat and talked for some considerable time learning about each other and about what to expect over the coming days. Meeting others is one of the many benefits of Oddfellowship that we can all enjoy. It was as though we had known one another for years. The conversation was interesting and very welcome. We have made two new friends whom I am sure will remain friends for the foreseeable future.

In Friendship Love and Truth.

**Anthony Greenaway**  
**Provincial Grand Master (District**  
**Chairman)**



# Memory Lane - Crockenhill

By Robert Wyeth

**Member Bob Wyeth's painting of Crockenhill in Kent, shows how the village looked before the war and the bus which was probably the Green Line, which ran from Orpington to Gravesend. Painted from a black and white photo.**



*Crockenhill. By Robert Wyeth of St Mary Cray and Dartford District.*

Bob points out that Crockenhill is still in Kent. 'Yes, Greater London is only a few yards down the road but we don't get free train travel because we are still in the county of Kent with a Bromley post code.'

Bob adds that, 'the building behind the bus was a pub called the Anchor in Hope,'... an ale house only. It was knocked down as we arrived over 50 years ago. We used to have three pubs, The Anchor, The Chequers and the Fruiterers Arms, known locally as the Mud 'ole. It was in a dip in the unmade road at the time, When it rained muddy water would drift into the pub on their wood and sawdust floors and farm labourers

coming off the farms with their muddy boots didn't help. It was an ale house only until about 50 years ago when spirits was introduced and you could get a good meal down there. It was pulled down about ten years ago and a row of houses was built in its place but the pub sign still stand proudly just outside. The only pub we now have though shut through this pandemic is The Chequers. One could buy a decent pint or spirits and two course meal for £9. I really don't know how they are going to survive.'

The Fruiterer's Arms was originally named The Victoria when it opened in 1860 and retained that name until 1886. Bob's painting shows the pub, which was at the end of Crockenhill village in 1993. The pub closed in 2012.



*The Fruiterer's Arms' Crockenhill. By Robert Wyeth of St Mary Cray and Dartford District.*

**If you have any memories of your local area, send them to Paul Fitton (see page 3).**

# 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.

# 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.



# 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?'

# District Dinner Dance

By Eliza Puddefoot



Photo by Paul Calvett.

We celebrated our Annual Dinner Dance in Honour of our Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman), Maria Greenaway, at The Boathouse Function Suite in Danson Park, Bexleyheath on 7 June. It was a great

night celebrated with members and friends visiting from South London Oddfellows and Coventry Oddfellows, raising money in aid of Medical Detection Dogs. Thanks to everyone who attended and raised money for the well-deserved cause.

## 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.*



# Around the Branches

## Flower of Kent



Charlie Carter.

Flower of Kent Branch holds several social sessions every month, one of which is a Saturday night out. One example was April's Saturday session, which saw singer Charlie Carter entertain everyone with his voice. Everyone listened, danced and caught up.



From 65 years ago.

## Star of Mottingham

Branch Secretary Clare Puddefoot (see page 38 for contact details) organises the Branch's monthly business meetings while Carly Hampshire organises fortnightly afternoon social events. These exciting activities include foodie events, dancing, games, art, singers, crafts, presentations and much more. You can find out about forthcoming events in the listings in this magazine. There's on-site and street car parking and buses 124, 126 and 273 stop nearby.

## Good Intent Branch switches to afternoon meet-ups



Good Intent Branch meets monthly in South Darenth. Earlier this summer, the local group switched to meeting on Wednesday afternoons instead of Thursday evenings. All members are welcome to attend.

This local 'Lodge' was established in the middle of the 19th century, one of a growing number forming throughout the country at the time to help its members



should they become sick or unemployed or their family if they died.

The picture shows members at the centenary dinner of Good Intent Lodge, including the guest, Brother T N Kibble Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) and Brother H W Lovelock, President of the Southern Group Conference.

Today, members meet up monthly at Good Intent Branch. What happens there? Well, Branch Secretary Jane Parkin updates everyone about what's new in the Oddfellows and seeks approval for claims for financial help and care assistance requested by members, anonymously. After this short, informal, meeting, members relax, chatting, perhaps playing games and enjoying free light refreshments.

The next social sessions take place on Wednesday 13 August, Wednesday 10 September and Wednesday 8 October – always the second Wednesday of the month. They start at 1.30pm and finish two hours later.

The venue is the British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth, Kent DA4 9AA. You can find a parking place outside the hall. Bus 414 takes less than 20 minutes from Dartford via Wilmington and Sutton at Hone.

Branch Secretary Jane Parkin will be pleased to give you further information if you would like to attend. You can contact Jane on 07791 942969 or at [jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk).

## Garden of England

Jane also looks after Garden of England Branch's business affairs and social activities. Members meet monthly at Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Road, Bexley Kent DA5 3LH. There's plenty of car parking and bus 89 stops nearby. The nearest rail stations are Albany Park and Sidcup. See events listings.

## Star of Mottingham

Branch Secretary Clare Puddefoot (see page 38 for contact details) organises the Branch's monthly business meetings while Carly Hampshire organises fortnightly afternoon social events. These exciting activities include foodie events, dancing, games, art, singers, crafts, presentations and much more. You can find out about forthcoming events in the listings in this magazine. There's on site and street car parking and buses 124, 126 and 273 stop nearby.

## Pride of Kent

Members meet for social events twice monthly at Orpington Methodist Church, near the High Street and at Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common monthly. Business meetings are held monthly at the Lutheran Church in Petts Wood.

One recent visitor was Bromley's Pearly King, Chris Conlan. His role is traditional, dating back to the 19th century. Members are looking forward to another visit by Carers in Harmony, a local choir. Find out more in the events listings and on page 38 for contact details.

# 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

**(Our next theatre trip is to see The Mousetrap, the world's longest-ever performing play. See the listings in this edition. Ed)**

## Tutankhamun Immersive Experience



"Thank you for organising such a wonderful day trip - I had a really good time as I don't think I'd ever visited an 'immersive exhibition' - and it was well worth the money."

Nadine Nylander



"Really enjoyed the exhibition. Spent around 2½ hours. Not too crowded and only a bit of queuing towards the end."

Diane Coxon



## Zoom Presentations

"I felt Michael Gilbert's presentation about The 1851 Hyde Park Exhibition was knowledgeable and interesting and well worth the 90 minutes of my time."

Wade Miller-Knight

"I really enjoyed the talk on the Belgian royal family... quite fascinating and how it was told. I am curious about history, royalty stories etc. I am especially pleased that I clicked on the link and zoomed in, no problem! Keep me informed from now on."

Anon of Mallorca

## Walkie/Talkie

"Lovely walk at Scadbury Park Nature Reserve, with good company and an excellent choice of venue for refreshments afterwards! Looking forward to the next one in Hayes."

Anon

## 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.



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

## Walk and Meal: Chislehurst Ponds



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

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!

## 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.

## Tutankhamun Immersive Experience

This was one of our major events this summer. The encounter deeply engaged members' senses making them feel as if they were physically present in a different environment, whether real or imagined.



*Photo by Nadine Nylander.*

The experience allows visitors to explore Egyptian civilisation, with a fascinating mix of historical information, original and replica artefacts, and Virtual Reality experiences.

## Summer Meal at Walnuts

Once again, 22 members enjoyed the good selection of meals and friendly and efficient service of this Locksbottom restaurant.

## Walk and Meal: Hayes

This short walk of a mile took in three neighbouring parks – Hayes Library Gardens, Husseywall Gardens and the Knoll in Hayes. The slow stroll, taking in the local sights, was followed by a meal at the George in the heart of Hayes, with its comfortable environment.

## Pastures New

By Paul Fitton

**Jacqui Lowther always has a smile on her face – even at her farewell party.**

Around 80 members saw Jacqui off at a special party arranged by Flower of Kent Branch as after 46 years of Oddfellowship, Jacqui is retiring to the coast to be closer to her family.

There's no one quite like Jacqui. She has taken a keen interest in Branch and District life for all of this time, attaining the honour of District Chairman. She has been deeply involved with organising social activities and in the running of Invicta Lodge. In recent years, Jacqui has hosted monthly meet-ups of the Inbetweeners – a place for, shall we say, older teenagers, to gather, have fun and in Jacqui's words, 'gossip'!



We all give a big thank you to Jacqui and wish her good luck in her new adventure.

Tony Greenaway's photo shows (l to r) Flower of Kent Branch officials Bonny Young, Gill Mann, Jacqui and Past Chairman Maria Greenaway. Jacqui is holding a specially made necklace, with three sections of the Oddfellows three links, a gift from her Branch, Flower of Kent.



## Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

### You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare teas/coffees
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender

### Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, like a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

**If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Eliza by phone on 07391 986653, email at [eliza.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:eliza.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk)**

"Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".

**Cynthia, volunteer**



## 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 Harmer 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



**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.”

# 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 Maria on **07946 063890** or email **maria.greenaway@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**

**EDCWA50223**



# Branch Contacts

**District Secretary:** Eliza Puddefoot

**Address:** 58 Mitchell Avenue,  
Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AX

**Telephone:** 07391 986653

**Email:** eliza.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk

**District Event Organiser and**

**Magazine Editor:** Paul Fitton

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# At a glance

## August 2025

<b>Wed 13</b>	An Afternoon Well Spent with Good Intent	1.30pm
<b>Wed 13</b>	Cinnamon Trust - the Charity for Older People and their Pets	2pm
<b>Fri 15</b>	Official Visit and Business Meeting	1pm
<b>Fri 15</b>	A Chance Encounter	2pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Activity	2pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal	11am
<b>Thurs 21</b>	Stay Safe, Stay Informed! Free Fire Safety Talk with the London Fire Brigade	2pm
<b>Fri 22</b>	The Adventures of a 19th Century Englishman in India	2pm
<b>Tues 26</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Wed 27</b>	Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques	11am
<b>Wed 27</b>	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
<b>Thurs 28</b>	Garden of England Social Evening	8pm
<b>Fri 29</b>	Talk and help with Managing Health online and accessing your GP through the NHS App	2pm

## September - Friendship Month

<b>Tues 2</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Friendship Month Summer Party! Hosted by the Oddfellows Mottingham	2pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	A History of Lesnes Abbey	2pm
<b>Fri 5</b>	Minor Degree Lodge	7.30pm
<b>Sat 6</b>	Quiz Night	7pm
<b>Mon 8</b>	Adventure and Prizes await in the London Treasure Hunt!	11am
<b>Wed 10</b>	Good Intent Social Afternoon	1.30pm
<b>Wed 10</b>	The Perfect Playground	2pm
<b>Fri 12</b>	Business Meeting	2pm
<b>Sun 14</b>	Scadbury Moated Manor Open Day	2pm
<b>Mon 15</b>	Friendship Month - Stone Painting Mementos	2pm
<b>Wed 17</b>	Friendship Month Afternoon Tea	1pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Friendship Month Afternoon Tea	2pm
<b>Fri 19</b>	Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace	2pm
<b>Wed 24</b>	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Garden of England Social Evening	8pm

# At a glance

## September – Friendship Month

<b>Fri 26</b>	Carers In Harmony Performance	2pm
<b>Sat 27</b>	Hog Roast and Drinks in the Sun	2pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm

## October

<b>Wed 1</b>	Art Tour with Roger Turner	2.30pm
<b>Wed 1</b>	An Evening with Bob Sinfield	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 2</b>	Celebrity Hobbies!	2pm
<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>Wed 8</b>	Good Intent Social Afternoon	1.30pm
<b>Wed 8</b>	The Iron Curtain Call	2pm
<b>Fri 10</b>	Operation Pegasus: A Story of Extraordinary Bravery	2pm
<b>Fri 10</b>	Committee of Management Meeting followed by Business Meeting	2pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch	11am
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Fabulous Fashion Afternoon!	2pm
<b>Fri 17</b>	The History of Mystery – Part 3: Whatever happened to the Roanoke Colony?	2pm
<b>Fri 17</b>	Fish and Chips Bingo	7pm
<b>Mon 20</b>	Social Get-Together	2pm
<b>Wed 22</b>	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	The Mousetrap	3pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Garden of England Social Evening	8pm
<b>Fri 24</b>	Ten and More – Famous Belgians	2pm
<b>Fri 24</b>	Handmade Jewellery	2pm
<b>Mon 27</b>	Official Visit	8pm
<b>Tues 28</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Thurs 30</b>	Autumnal Arts and Crafts	2pm
<b>Fri 31</b>	Confessions of a reluctant 14th Century Re-enactor	2pm