

May - July 2025



*the* ODDfellows SINCE 1810  
making friends, helping people

# *out & about*

## South London District



*Left to right, Jane Parkin, Karen Lewis and Paul Calvett, who took the photograph*



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

### New District Chairman and Committee

Gill Mann took the Chair at the District Meeting on 8 March, replacing the previous Chairman, Richard Davies. In step behind Gill is Karen Lewis, who was elected as Deputy Chairman. Our District Committee members are: John Mann, Lorraine Mann, Sue Calvett, and newly elected Jane Parkin. District Trustees Peter Mann, Gill Mason and Paul Calvett complete our new committee.

### Open that front door, because...

With summer approaching, you'll find plenty of activities to do and plenty of places to go in our events programme. With 112 events in the next three months – that's more than one every day – you're spoilt for choice. District events include: Tutankhamun: The

## Contact Details

**District Secretary:** Clare Puddefoot

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

**Telephone:** 01322 665496

**Email:**

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

You are invited to send letters, contributions and photos for the magazine by the deadline of Monday 16 June 2025 to Paul Fitton.

Immersive Experience, new West End musical The Great Gatsby, National Trust visit to 575 Wandsworth Road, Westminster to Putney boat trip and three walks.

### Odds and Ends

You can read all our regular features in this edition, including regular contributors: actor/author Linda Regan, our resident poet Jackie Ingleby-Douglass as well as members' stories. Other features include Oddfellows Memorabilia, Letters and Feedback and much, much more.

### Paul Fitton, Editor

*Paul Fitton's photo above details the Walkie Talkie, Gherkin and Cheesegrater buildings in London's financial district.*

# 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**

## Knit, Natter and Craft Group

**Tuesdays - 2.30pm-5.30pm**



Join us every Tuesday anytime between 2.30pm and 5.30pm for our knit, natter and craft group. Whatever you are into, it is more fun doing it with friends in our historic hall. Tea, coffee and encouragement provided free of charge. It's a lovely way to spend an afternoon with friends or making new ones. This is the members' group, so please share your ideas and enthusiasm. Oddfellows members free, guests welcome to come along and try before you join. Just five minutes walk from Clapham Common Underground Station. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

## Chair Exercise

**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. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

## 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. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

# Regular Events - Pride of Clapham Branch

## Cinema Club

Thursdays fortnightly, PM



Afternoons



£4



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, so please contact Jane via WhatsApp on 07791 942969.

**1 May 15 May 29 May 12 June 26 June 10 July 24 July**

## Watercolour Therapy

Thursdays fortnightly, 4.30pm



4.30pm



Free



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. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

**8 May 22 May 5 June 19 June 3 July 17 July 31 July**

## Thursday Friends (Clapham)

Every Thursday, 8pm



8pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



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. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

# Regular Events - Lord Byron Branch

## Coffee and a Chat

Every Thursday, 2pm



2pm



Free



Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and join us for the afternoon. 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. Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

# May 2025

THURS  
01

## Hoy! with Thursday Friends (Clapham)



8pm



Members Free  
Guests £2



May Day is Hoy Day! We're playing the popular game this evening while enjoying 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. We meet on Thursdays and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

FRI  
02

## South London's Actors



2pm



Free



South London has produced a wide array of familiar film and television actors. Paul Fitton's presentation reveals some surprising names and links. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



TUES  
06

## Family History Help and Tutorial



2pm



Free



Our regular family history sessions help you to trace your ancestors. Paul Fitton's monthly presentation shows you how you can date family photos and perhaps identify mystery faces.. 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).



TUES  
06

## Crime Prevention



8pm



Free



Metropolitan Police Officer Steve Cooney of the borough's Safer Neighbourhood Team gives advice on crime prevention. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



# May 2025

FRI  
09

## Walking in Zoomland - Kennington to Stockwell



2pm



Free



Our virtual Blue Plaque Urban Walk from Kennington to Stockwell allows us to see the former homes of film star Charlie Chaplin, Field Marshall Montgomery, artist Vincent Van Gogh and wartime secret agent Violette Szabo. Learn a little about each one on our pictorial tour and more as we tour. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



MON  
12

## Business Meeting



8pm



Free



Business meeting and if we have time it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

TUES  
13

## Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us, as we will be painting Abstract People by Gary Jonathan Maddox. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



FRI  
16

## Children's Wartime Diaries



2pm



Free



The most famous personal diary of WWII is that of Anne Frank, but she wasn't the only child to keep a record of family life at that time. Paul Fitton looks at other wartime diaries written by children in Poland, Leningrad and Hiroshima. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



# May 2025

TUES  
20

## Beer Tasting Evening



7pm



Free



### THE BIRD & BARREL

Norman Warner has arranged a beer tasting event for members at the Bird and Barrel. With an ever changing choice of cask, keg, draught ciders, gins, wines, rum, whisky, bottled beers, low alcohol beer and soft drinks, there is something for everyone. It's also a dog friendly pub! Just a three minutes walk from Barnehurst train station with the 89, 99 and 229 buses running close. The Bird & Barrel, 100 Barnehurst Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6HG. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

FRI  
23

## London 1851 and the Great Exhibition



2pm



Free



The Great Exhibition of 1851 was probably the most successful,



memorable and influential cultural event of the 19th century. With Prince Albert's energetic patronage and Joseph Paxton's gigantic pre-fabricated building of iron and glass, Hyde Park was formed in May to October 1851. Filled with over six million visitors who were able to view over 100,000 exhibits. The first 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).

WED  
21

## National Trust: 575 Wandsworth Road



11am



£15



Visit this National Trust property. Only six places available. Born in Kenya in 1935, Khadambi Asalache was a poet, novelist and British civil servant. He bought 575 Wandsworth Road in 1981 and spent 19 years transforming it, decorating the floors, walls and ceilings with intricate hand-carved fretwork and paintings. Cost: £15, this fee applies to all attendees. There are no concessions available. Wandsworth Road Station is on the Overground and two minutes walk away. It is one stop from Clapham Junction. You may also takes buses 77, 87 or 452 from stand G at Vauxhall Bus station. Book by Friday 16 May. National Trust, 575 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JD. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# May 2025

## **WED 28** Walkie/Talkie: The Ponds at Chislehurst



11am



Walk Free,  
Lunch as per menu



This month's Walkie/Talkie will take in Rush Pond and Prickend Pond in Chislehurst and finish with a meal or drink. Meet at Chislehurst War Memorial. Buses 61, 161, 162, 269, 273 and SL3 stop nearby. Book by Tuesday 27 May. Chislehurst War Memorial, Bromley Road/Centre Common Road, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PQ. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## **THURS 29** The Great Gatsby - A New Musical



2.30pm



£35



The Great Gatsby is the brand new musical based on the classic American novel by F Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age in New York, the new Tony Award-Winning smash hit Broadway success is coming to London's West End and you can be one of the first to see the show. Book now - limited discounted ticket availability by Wednesday 28 May. The London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

## **FRI 30** Flight Sergeant Les Fitton - Wartime Service



2pm



Free



Hear about Les Fitton's RAF wartime service on what would have been his 100th birthday. Presentation by his son Paul. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).





# June

TUES  
03

## Family History Help and Tutorial



Paul Fitton helps you to find out whether any of your relatives were transported as convicts in today's monthly session. 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).



TUES  
03

## Quiz Night at the Montrose



Jackie and Maria host 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.

FRI  
06

## Murder, Madness and Mayhem?



For a monarchy that has only been in existence since independence in 1830, be assured there's lots to tell. Presenter Melanie Gibson-Barton also explores their links with the British Royal Family. The one click link, just for this session, is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87614496492>, or email Paul Fitton for a direct link. Back to the usual Zoom code from next week.



MON  
09

## Business Meeting



Business meeting and if we have time it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

# June

TUES  
10

## Art Unscrewed



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us, as we will be painting Flamingoes (artist unknown). Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



FRI  
13

## The Mystery of William Arnold



William Arnold was an American who murdered his parents. He was imprisoned for life in 1958, but escaped from prison eight years later - the last inmate to successfully escape from the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Find out what happened next 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).



MON  
16

## Tutankhamun: The Immersive Experience



Step into the heart of ancient Egypt. Explore a civilisation shrouded in mystery, where grand temples and the gods of the pyramid land awaken before your eyes. Dive into the myths and riddles buried in the desert sands and dissolved in the waters of the Nile and uncover the secrets to one of the most fascinating eras in human history. Tickets are subject to availability. Cost: £22 (seniors - valid ID required on the day) and £23 (adult). Book by Tuesday 12 June. Excel London, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



TUES  
17

## Quiz Night at the Montrose



Peter and Brenda host 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.

# June

MON  
23

## Dirty Money – A History of Money Laundering

8pm

£ Free



David Chave takes us through some of the methods criminals use to hide the dirty money they make from crime, including some of the more bizarre and ingenious ways. The sheer scale of criminal profit is mind blowing. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

FRI  
27

## The Story of the Mobile Phone

2pm

£ Free

Online



Ian Hutt explores the history of mobile phones, which began in 1973. The 90s saw the rise of GSM networks and the first text message in 1992. In 2000s, we witnessed the advent of smartphones, starting with Nokia's iconic designs and BlackBerry's email capabilities. The 2007 release of Apple's iPhone revolutionised the industry with touchscreen interfaces and Android soon followed. With rapid advancements in technology, including 4G, 5G and sophisticated mobile applications, today mobile phones are essential multifunctional device. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

WED  
25

## Walkie/Talkie: Hayes Library Gardens, Husseywell Gardens and The Knoll

11am

£ Walk Free  
Lunch as per menu



Our walk and talk starts at Hayes Library Gardens. Taking in the Prime



Ministers Pitt's gardens, we shall stroll to Husseywell Gardens and The Knoll. We'll finish with lunch and a drink. Hayes station is 400m away and buses 119, 138, 146, 246, 314 and 353 stop nearby. Book by Tuesday 24 June. Hayes Library, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7LH. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

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

# July

TUES  
01

## Family History Help and Tutorial



Our regular family history sessions help you to add flesh onto your ancestors' bones. Paul Fitton's presentation today tells you what you can learn from family heirlooms. 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).

TUES  
01

## Quiz Night



John Dawson hosts a special 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  
04

## The Life of a Cotton Mill Worker



What was life like for cotton mill workers 200 years ago? The Industrial Revolution changed the lives of



thousands of people. Discover how their lives were affected 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).

FRI  
11

## Peter Sellers - All at Sea



Raconteur, DJ and gag writer to the stars Bob Sinfield brings us his unique storytelling skills with



the hilarious and disastrous story of what happened when the great comic actor tried making a pirate movie on the high(ish) seas off Cyprus in 1973. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

# July

MON  
14

## Business Meeting



Business meeting and if we have time it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

TUES  
15

## Quiz Night at the Montrose



Who'll be asking the questions at this evening's quiz? That's your starter for 10! This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



FRI  
18

## The Origins of The Salvation Army



Find out how and why The Salvation Army was founded 160 years ago. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



TUES  
22

## Art Unscrewed



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us as we will be painting Whispers of Twilight by Irina Nova. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).





# July

WED  
23

## Walkie/Talkie: Horniman Gardens Picnic

L 11am

£ Free



With stunning views across London, the 16 acres of Horniman Gardens are perfect for spotting urban wildlife, architectural treasures, or just a good place to unwind. Visit the Bee Garden, the Wildlife Garden, the Meadow Fields, the Prehistoric Garden. Bring your own picnic. Meet at the park entrance by Hornimans Museum. Book by Tuesday 22 July. Horniman Gardens, 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

FRI  
25

## The Clowns Museum

L 2pm

£ Free



Mattie Faint, the Curator of the Clowns Museum, returns to update us about the museum. He will talk about the new film about the ceramic egg collection, portraying the faces of famous clowns and his own involvement as a clown. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. For a direct link contact Paul (see page 2 for details).

MON  
28

## Linda Regan - Actress and Writer

L 8pm

£ Free



Meet television actress and novelist Linda Regan (Hi De Hi) who tells us about her showbiz life and her career as a crime writer. Colfeian Sports Club, Entrance is Opposite Weigall Road, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.



## Booking and Cancellations

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



# July

TUES  
29

## Sergeant Bilko Night



8pm



Free



Paul Fitton and Mick Coleman team up to give a presentation about Phil Silvers, whose portrayal of Sergeant Bilko was a comedy classic. You'll see an episode from the series too. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



WED  
30

## Thames Boat Trip: Westminster to Putney



11am



Members £21.15  
Guests £25.40



Our annual boat trip takes us from Westminster to Putney and back. Discover the capital's attractions on our adventure. You'll find plenty to do and see when you arrive.

For example, you can lunch in Putney, stroll along the Thames riverside, or cross Putney Bridge and visit Fulham Palace, its museum and historic rooms, its 13 acres of beautiful botanic garden and a walled garden full of horticultural delights. Tickets are non-refundable, unless taken up by a reserve. As with all District events, full details will be sent to all bookers. Book by Monday 30 June. Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, London SW1A 2JH. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details).



# Chairman's Letter

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

**At the start of being your Provincial Grand Master for the forthcoming year, I hope I can do it with a bit more confidence and knowledge than the first time round which was back in 2016 and enjoy it to the full. I remember being so nervous back in 2016 I did relax once I got more involved but it took a while.**

I will look forward to seeing you all at the District Officers visits to the lodges, it is always nice to come and see you all on a social evening.

Although it is my privilege to be in the chair again I wish it was a case that we had new faces willing to go through the chairs, willing to learn more about Oddfellowship and carry on the traditions we all know.

Unfortunately like it has been for the past few years we see the same faces, not that they are bad faces just that it would be nice to see some new ones becoming involved.

I am not going to go over what you have all heard many times before about us needing members, I think the picture speaks for itself with all the old faces doing the roles that we have no one else to fill.

I would like to thank Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM) Brother Richard Davies of the Flower of Kent Lodge for the work he did whilst in his year and I am sure he will be a good support to me whilst I carry out my year in office.



*Gill Mann, photo by Paul Fitton.*

I would also like to welcome as Provincial Deputy Grand Master Sister Karen Lewis from the Lord Byron Lodge, Karen is experienced in going through the chairs having done it four times before.

It is going to be a big year for the South London District as we have Brother John Mann Deputy Grand Master of the Order (DGM) who will be taking his place as the Grand Master this year at the Annual Movement Conference (AMC) being held in Scarborough in May. He will then hold his AMC next year in Eastbourne.

You can imagine that as a family that have all been involved in the Society from a very early age we are proud of him getting to this position in the Oddfellows. The last time the South London District had a Grand Master in position was back in May 1996 when Brother Roger Burley

Past Grand Master took over the chair. His AMC was then held in Brighton in 1997.

There is a lot of organising going on behind the scenes for the South London District to hold Brother John Mann's Grand Master dinner in September this year. A big thank you needs to be given to our District Secretary Sister Clare Puddefoot Prov. CS for all her hard work in the organisation of this event.

I look forward to seeing many of you during my year in office and I wish you all well and hope you all have a healthy and happy year.

Take Care everyone and hope to see you soon.

**Gill Mann PPGM**  
**Lord Byron Lodge**

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## Keep Young and Beautiful (Part One) by Paul Fitton ©

**First of all, an apology. I'd like to apologise to all the Oddfellows who phone me. I never ask how they are, otherwise I spend the next thirty minutes hearing about gammy legs, knobbly knees and bits dropping off. I have to use my remaining time sparingly!**

Best to make the most of it. I worked out that if I lived to age 100, I'd only have another 10,767 sleeps... plus all the daytime dozes, of course!

I'm making the most of leap years. The bliss of having an extra day!

It all started when I reached three score and ten. I realised with a jolt that I had to relearn how to walk like a 69 year old again.

I decided to help myself further, I made a concession to myself and stopped being as adventurous. I no longer stand on one leg

to pull on my socks. I looked like a flamingo standing on one leg playing hopscotch.

Now, I sit on the side of the bed to perform the task. The only trouble is, I can't stand up afterwards!

In public however, I'm much too proud to accept a seat on a bus or a train – and then regret turning down the offer for the rest of the journey. I try to reverse the effect and often wish to give up my seat. Once again, sadly, it's difficult to have 'lift off'. I even have to stand up as my train leaves the antepenultimate station to make sure I reach the door to press the open button in time, otherwise I end up in Margate.

The worst was when I went to an Oddfellows dance and asked one of the ladies, 'Do I come here often?'

**Look out for part two in the next edition.**

# Thank You Roger

**Roger Burley is stepping back from his duties after a lifetime of service to the Oddfellows.**

Roger informs us that he took over as Trustee of Flower of Kent Lodge when he was 21. A few years after that, Roger rose to Provincial Grand Master – now termed District Chairman. Following this, he became South London District Secretary for about 25 years, leaving that post in 2004/5.



*The first photo shows Roger at his Grand Masters reception with his niece Claire Rushen.*



*The second photo shows Roger with his sister Christine Murrell and brother in law Ed Murrell at the same function.*

Roger reached the highest position any Oddfellow can attain when he became Grand Master of the Order in 1997.

A mainstay for the Oddfellows at local, District and national level, Roger has made decisions helping thousands of Oddfellows. His contributions have been vast and we have much to thank Roger for. We wish him well for the future.

**By Charlie Boswell and Paul Fitton**

## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  OddfellowsUK



# Retirement of Trustee By Clare Puddefoot

**Alan Collins has been an integral part of South London District for many years. He was elected as Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM), now termed District Chairman, in 1982 and again in 1993. In 1985, he was elected onto both the Policy and Resources Committee and Junior Advisory Committee (JAC), where he embraced all aspects of the roles with creativity, commitment and good humour.**

**He became the JAC Secretary in 1987, a position he holds until today.**



*Alan Collins, photo by Paul Fitton.*

In 1990, he was elected onto the District Committee of Management. When a vacancy for a new Trustee arose in 1994, Alan was elected to a position that he has held for 31 years. Alan has now retired

from the position and the Committee has expressed their heartfelt appreciation for his exceptional work and dedication as a Trustee, a Sub-Committee member and Secretary over the years.

## Lord Byron Branches Out

**As reported in the last edition, Karen Lewis has become the Branch's Social Organiser for the Lewisham area. Weekly socials are already set up with afternoon tea, coffee and chat at the Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD. You can find out more in the events section at the beginning of the magazine.**

The Branch is also pleased to welcome Saff Dunstan Saffrey as our new Social Organiser for the Medway area in Kent. Saff has an excellent reputation for building rapport, organising and building community collaboration and enthusiasm as well as event promotion. Prepare to be excited Medway!

Members meet fortnightly at Colfeian Sports Club, Horn Park, Eltham Road, London SE12 8UE at 8pm. Recent events have included Paul Fitton's presentation on South London's Actors, which contained a few surprises. This will be repeated by Zoom on 2 May. Forthcoming events at Lee include a visit from Linda Regan on 28 July. The actress and novelist, who writes a regular column in Out & About, will talk about her career. Contact Branch Secretary: Karen Lewis on 020 8699 0929 or email [karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk).

# Activity Suspended at Sheringham Lifeboat Station

**A new Lifeboat is scheduled to be launched in the third quarter of 2025 at Sheringham bearing the name of the Oddfellows. However, the Lifeboat Station has been closed due to safety concerns in respect of the structure of the Lifeboat Station and the movement of the land behind. All activity, including lifesaving operations, at Sheringham RNLI was suspended on 11 February 2025. Search and rescue cover is being provided by Wells RNLI and Cromer RNLI, Sheringham's flanking stations. We shall keep members advised.**

The Oddfellows donated a Lifeboat to the RNLI for the first time in 1961, The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. The Oakley Class type vessel was presented/named by Oddfellows Chairman (Grand Master) JG Barnes and named by HRH Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent. The boat served for 29 years, launching 127 times and saving 134 lives. It has been RNLI Sheringham's longest serving lifeboat and is now in permanent display at The Sheringham Museum.

We donated a second lifeboat in 1994. Named the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, the Atlantic 75 type vessel was named by Oddfellows Chairman (Grand Master) JW Goulding. It was the first Atlantic 75 lifeboat to be placed on service by the RNLI. Spending 13 years on station, the lifeboat made 115 launches and saved 15 lives.

The Oddfellows 2007 is the third vessel funded and donated by The Oddfellows at Sheringham. The B-Class Atlantic 85 fast response lifeboat entered service in 2007 when it was named by Secretary of the Oddfellows East Anglia Group Conference Alison Adamson. At that time, it was the most modern state-of-the-art class of inshore lifeboat in the RNLI fleet.

The cost of this third vessel was £135,000. The Oddfellows also raised £68,000 for the required new drive-on, drive-off launch and recovery carriage and £147,000 for the amphibious tractor.



*Photo of a coastal wall mural at Sheringham taken by member Neil Chatterton.*



*Photo of a coastal wall mural at Sheringham taken by member Neil Chatterton.*

This lifeboat's size is 8.3m x 2.75m (27 feet x nine feet one inch) and its speed is 35 knots (40mph). It houses four crew: Helmsman, Radio Operator, navigator and a fourth member. Its technology: Radar, Chart Plotter, VHF Radio Direction Finder. The Oddfellows has a manually operated, self-righting mechanism that

inflates a large airbag with compressed air. The engines are inversion-proofed and can be restarted following a capsizing.

As at 15 December 2015, the lifeboat had made 56 launches saving three lives.

## 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.

**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

# Clap For Clapham



*Paul Calvett (photographer) left and Richard Bowles at Clapham's bar.*

**Jane Parkin has taken forward her role of Social Secretary in Clapham with afternoon and evening sessions every week.**

We make use of our hall in Belmont Close with three activities between 2pm and 7.30pm every Tuesday and late afternoon and Thursday evenings.

Our members visit Clapham Picturehouse to watch the latest film releases fortnightly paying a special rate of just £4, although

this is under current review. Our season kicks off with a game of Hoy! On 1 May. Jane keeps regulars up to date with all local activities in a WhatsApp messaging group. You can read more about Branch activities at Clapham on pages 3 and 4.

If you are interested in attending any of the SW4 events, please contact Jane Parkin on 07791 942969 or email [jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk).

## 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.

# Memory Lane by Joyce Austin

**During the Blitz the office of the largest Lodge in South London, The Loyal Pride of Clapham Lodge, was bombed and sadly the secretary, Simpson was killed. Our Dad, Howard Coombe, was asked to take over the secretaryship. He had been working for many years for a Bermondsey company of Leather Merchants as bookkeeper and his salary in a commercial company was more than a Friendly Society could pay. We had a 'family conference' and because Dad was a devoted Odd Fellow (always spelt like that in the old days) we all knew that he wanted to do it.**

He had to compile the account books from scratch since all the records were destroyed and was aided in the task by local residents bringing him scraps of charred paper and record books that they found in their gardens after the bomb had fallen on Stonhouse Street.

In 1942 I had been evacuated for three years and begged Dad to let me stay at home since the raids were now less frequent than earlier. I was therefore able to go to Clapham to work with him. I found it fascinating and loved it. He often cycled to Clapham from Lee and one day suggested that we both went on the tandem instead of the tram. I was terrified. We weaved in and out of cars and the trams alongside felt huge. I remember he was very hurt because I didn't trust him!!!

He was conscripted into the Royal Marines at the end of 1942 but returned to



Clapham after he was demobbed in 1945. In 1948 when the new NHS was formed lodge secretaries who understood the National Insurance system were called into the new Ministry of National Insurance to work and Dad had to leave.



Since in those days the Lord Byron was a men only lodge I had to leave the juvenile section and joined the Frances Evelyn Lodge which met in Deptford. I became assistant secretary to Sister Rose Trot and took the CAMU exam to become an auditor. I worked as a bookkeeper all my life and loved it I always said it was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. And all because I had helped Dad sort out the Pride of Clapham books.



# Meanwhile, in Sidcup

## Social Status

Flower of Kent Branch continue to socialise fortnightly. Branch Secretary Charlie Boswell has arranged Tuesday evening events at The Montrose Club in Hurst Road.

In coming months, these include a talk from Local Police Officer Steve Cooney plus general quizzes from Peter and Brenda and from Jackie and Maria. Further entertainment comes from District Event Organiser Paul Fitton and Mick Coleman, who are hosting a presentation on iconic comedic entertainer Phil Silvers. This includes the screening of a classic episode of Sergeant Bilko.

Away from the Montrose Club, Norman Warner has arranged a beer tasting at the Bird & Barrel in Bexleyheath. Other types of drink are available! You can read about all of these events in the programme section of this magazine.

## Mick goes Viral

Mick Coleman has featured in the Oddfellows national publicity this year. He has popped up on the pages of Take a Break and Saga magazines as well as the Daily Express and other publications.



## In Memory of - John Cupman

*Branch members were saddened to learn of the passing of John Cupman on 21 March 2025.*

*John, a member for 47 years, was well-liked by all those who knew him and was instrumental in raising awareness of and helping raise contributions for The SAM Fund charity.*



## Does He Love Me?

By our Resident Poet  
Jackie Ingleby-Douglass

*Does he love me? Does he not?  
Do I care? No! Not a jot.*

*He stole my money and my heart.  
Mother warned me from the start.  
Said I was pretty and so sweet.  
Then he swept me off my feet.*

*'Way to go girl!' friends did shout.  
Then drank and sang and fell about.*

*Toast the bride and toast the groom  
They're fighting in another room.  
Behind closed doors he was a cad.  
Wicked evil and so bad.*

*But I care not. 'Why's that?' you say?  
Because I know I'll have my day.  
The money wasn't mine to take.  
The bank account was just a fake.*

*I'd spiked his drinks. Was that a sin?  
Mixed in crushed up Warfarin.  
I'm so pretty and so sweet.  
What I did was pretty neat.*

## Booking and Cancellations

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

## Oddfellows Memorabilia

This is a Shortland Bowen wall hanging oak barometer and dial thermometer. It is an early gauge by Shortland Bowen, listed in their catalogue of c1934 as model J116. Its price was '95/-', or £4.75 today.



It was a Manchester Unity of Independent Odd Fellows presentation piece to a Past Provincial Grand Master, with a silver plated plaque engraved, 'Presented to P.P.G.M. R. PEARMAIN by the Loyal Widows Protection Lodge, M.U.I.O.O.F., in recognition of his services to the Lodge and Cambridge District. 1948'. The 11cm square dial aneroid barometer is graduated in inches Hg. The 8cm dial thermometer is a Rototherm.

Both dials carry the Shortland Bowen logo. The back has a hanger at the top, measuring approximately 23.5 cms x 32 cms.

# There's a lot of Paddling under the Water!

**My colleagues and I\* have hosted an incredible 27 events for you in the past ten working days.**

For my own part, events that I have hosted and prepared in that time frame included a two course Ploughman's Lunch for 16 members for a nominal £1 in Enfield, hosting and presenting three Zoom sessions, presenting a talk in Lee, hosting a restaurant meal for 22 members in Locksbottom and a pub meal in Highbury. In addition, two events have had to be postponed for reasons out of our control during this period – an afternoon cream tea in Gillingham and a National Trust visit in Chelsea.

These events are in addition to day to day event organisation, magazine production and other duties, which have included interviewing candidates for a new Social Organiser post in Medway.

My colleagues are equally busy on your behalf.

Jane Parkin has attended regular social activities in Clapham (Knit and Natter, Chair Exercises, Yoga, cinema visit, watercolour therapy and games evening. Falling outside the highlighted fortnight are Jane's social activities in South Darenth and Bexleyheath. Charlie Boswell's fortnightly events in Sidcup included a quiz. Karen Lewis arranged an ongoing coffee and chat afternoon in Forest Hill.



*We hope you can join our Zoom sessions*

In the neighbouring Districts of North London and St Mary Cray and Dartford, local Social Organisers have organised a varied range of events for you in the last ten days. Bonny Young organised a great St Patrick's Pint & Pie Night in Footscray. Sue Potts has arranged talks in Bromley and Orpington. Jackie Lancaster arranged a social evening with wine and refreshments in Warren Street and a talk on art at the Wallace Collection. Carly Hampshire arranged a Spring flower arranging afternoon in Mottingham.

All of this in London in a two week period!

If you live outside South London, you can discover events in your area at **[www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)** or contact one of the South London District officials shown on pages 37 and 38 of this magazine.

\* South London District, North London District and St Mary Cray and Dartford District.

# Linda Regan

**And here we are, and hasn't it come round quickly, but, yes, Spring has arrived. The clocks have gone forward and the light evenings are upon us. May is nearly here too, with its two bank holidays. (I have no idea why they call them bank holidays, these days banks holiday all the time, as it is very difficult to find a bank that isn't shut). Apparently, it goes back many years to when banks needed days off to count their money. It doesn't need two long days to count my money, but of course there are other customers.**



Easter is lovely too, because we get another two days of holiday, and there is chocolate to be shared courtesy of the Easter bunny. My Hubby once confided in me that he had never seen a live rabbit. 'But rabbits are everywhere,' I told him, especially if you live near countryside, which we do. So, I took him walking around fields and other grounds where I had seen many a rabbit on my early evening dog walks.

Every time I saw one and shouted to him, 'Look over there quick, darling, a rabbit.' But by the time he had turned in the direction I was frantically pointing in, the rabbit had disappeared down into its warren.

Realising, this project wasn't going to find a rabbit for him, I decided on another idea. I hired a very large rabbit costume from a local fancy dress shop. (Grey in colour, with long rabbit ears and big feet like Thumper in Bambi).

I waited till he was out filming, just a few days before Easter, and had rung to say he was on his way home. Then, I quickly changed into the giant rabbit costume and was ready with a large carrot in my hand. Before he had time to put his key in the door, I opened the door and stood to welcome him in the full rabbit costume.

First of all he looked bemused, his head moved backwards on his neck, and he frowned quizzically. I grinned and was about to squeak the words, 'Say hello to the Easter bunny, but before I had the chance to speak, he peered toward me and said, 'Linda why are you dressed as a cat?

## In loving memory of Brian Murphy

*Brian was delighted to be asked to give a few recent talks at Oddfellows branches, along with his wife Linda Regan. He had clear memories of being made an Oddfellow and brought into the organisation by his father who also belonged to the organisation. He was delighted too, to be taken to the house he lived in as a child, after he gave his talk at Clapham. Many thanks to all for your kind hospitality to him.*



# Changes To Convalescence And Care Benefits

Following an annual review of the discretionary membership benefits by the Oddfellows' Fraternal Board, some changes have been made to the Convalescence Care Benefit, Carer's Respite Benefit and Convalescence Home Benefit. These changes have been made due to an increase in applications and are necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the benefits available.

These benefits are available after two years of membership and every two years from then on. From 1 January 2025, when a successful and eligible convalescence/care application is made, the following will be covered:

## **The Convalescence Care Benefit**

Will cover a stay of up to one week in a convalescence facility agreed by the Society.



## **The Convalescence Home Benefit**

Will cover up to 15 hours of help at home or other services or equipment to help recovery (capped at a maximum of £500).

## **Carer's Respite Benefit**

Will cover a stay of up to one week in a convalescence facility agreed by the Society or replacement care of up to 15 hours (capped at a maximum of £500) to provide a break for a member who is a full-time carer for a family member.

These changes became applicable for new Convalescence, Carer's Respite and Home Care Benefit cases from 1 January 2025.

A member's annual membership fee must be paid and up-to-date in order for them to make an application and access the benefit.



# Didn't we have a Lovely Time

## Soho and Chinatown Tour

The wettest day of the year – but still fun! Several members apologised for absence as a result but those who did attend scooted around Soho's alleyways and past doorways with stairs leading to who knows where before sheltering in an Italian café for coffee and cake. The rain worsened, resulting in a sprint to Chinatown and a promise to repeat the event on a sunnier day! As always, it was great to see members exchanging phone numbers to meet up again at another Oddfellows event.

Carlyle's House (National Trust) and Afternoon Tea at Dobbies It's extremely rare for our events to be cancelled but these two had to be cancelled for reasons out of our control.



## Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. 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 refreshments
- 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.



To find out more, contact Clare on 01322 665496  
[clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk)



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

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

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# Letters and Feedback

## Green Street Green

" I was interested to read in the recent 'Out & About' about the visit to Green Street Green. I know it well, having lived there for the first 22 years of my life. My parents (both from the Peckham area) moved there after their marriage in 1936, buying a bungalow in Glentrammon Road - near the World's End Lane end of the road.

My parents were both Oddfellows having been introduced to the Society by the Jarrett family - they were in the Loyal Gordon Lodge. My mother was at school with Mabel and the families remained close friends until their deaths. My grandparents were bombed out of their Peckham home and also moved to Green Street Green, renting and later buying a house in Glentrammon Road. My parents eventually moved in with my grandmother and stayed there until they 'downsized' in 1986.

My mother's sister worked for several years at the former brewery - Telcon Plastics. I remember the building of Brittenden Close - designed by an architect (Mr Rose) who lived in Chelsfield Hill. Waitrose occupies the site of what was once Penfold's Coaches. There is still quite a lot that has not changed although the shops have changed hands. There were 2 shoe menders in the village. I was rather scared of both of them, but I came to realise that both had been veterans of WW1 and had been injured.

In the late 40s and early 50s there was always a May Queen festival held on Hayes Common. Green Street Green sent a May Queen and attendants. I took part in 2 such festivals. The London May Queen arriving by horsedrawn coach. We would gather cowslips and primroses from the hill at the back of Old Lane, walking up what was known as 'the chalk path'. These we made into posies to carry with our long white dresses and headdresses - all very springlike. I do still have photos of this should you be interested. I was baptised at St. Mary's (the Reverend Jocelyn was then the incumbent) but I went to Sunday school at the Baptist Church as the children next door went and I was bundled off with them!

For most of my time there Glentrammon Road was 'unadopted' - unmade - full of flints and potholes and rough stones which one got to know. The lamplighter came to light the gas lamps in the road - pushing his bike! There were a few shops scattered down World's End Lane - now all gone. I never found Green Street Green a very attractive village although the Green end was always nice to walk. I did visit last year when catching up with some friends but as I now live in Shetland it's a bit of a journey! I have gone on a bit, but the article did stir a few memories and it's good to see there are still Oddfellows in the village."

Jenny Brockless

## Art Unscrewed

"I enjoyed the session. I'm not an artist but it is good as it takes you out of the everyday and its problems and helps you to focus on something else, namely Art."

AW

## Chairman's Charity

"My thanks to everyone who has supported my year's charity, raising much needed funding for The SAM Fund. Your donations have helped to ensure that chronically sick or disabled children will spend quality time with their families on all expenses paid holidays of a lifetime.

During the year we have run two Guess the Name competitions which were won by two Lord Byron members. Sue Calvett won Name the Penguin and John Mann won Name the Football Team. I ran a tribute music night to raise funds featuring The Hijacked Hollies. We ran an Open the Box game and held raffles in my own Branch, Flower of Kent. The Branch and I have reached a total of £1,234.90 this year. Thank you all very much for your support"

Richard Davies,  
Provincial Grand Master  
(District Chairman) 2024/5

## The SAM (Smiles and Memories) Fund

"The Chairman of the charity wrote to Richard Davies part way through the year of fundraising.

On behalf of the SAM Fund, I would like to express my thanks to you for selecting us as your chosen charity and for the wonderful donation of £376.90. I promise to use this donation wisely and take great pride in advising that all of those funds will go to the beneficiary – a selected family with a chronically sick child or children, sending them on a once in a lifetime holiday, all expenses paid, with door to door service. It also fills me with pride to advise that all those that work for the charity do so in a voluntary manner.

We work hard to bring some enjoyment into the lives of these families but we cannot do it without your help. Thank you once again."

Stephen Nottage BEM  
Chairman of The SAM (Smiles and Memories) Fund

# 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**

## Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

**In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.**

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

### Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



### Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

### Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

### Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

### Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

### Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

### Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)



# Trio receive university funding

**Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.**

## Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

## Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

**Edward Smith,**

Erewash Valley  
Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

**Torsten Ellis,**

Derby Derwent Valley  
Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

# Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



## With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

### April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

### Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

### August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

### Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub)  
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products\* visit [www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows)  
For more information call 0161 214 4628.  
\*Terms and conditions apply

# 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:**

Saff Dunstan Saffrey

**Email:** Saffiere.Saffrey@oddfellows.co.uk

**Meeting/Social address:**

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

**Meeting dates:**

**Monday 12 May, Monday 9 June  
and Monday 14 July 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:** **Thursday 15 May,  
19 June and 17 July 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:** **6 May, 3, 17 and  
1 June, 15 and 29 July 2025 at 8pm**

# At a glance

## Weekly Events

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

## May 2025

<b>Thurs 1</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Thurs 1</b>	Hoy! with Thursday Friends (Clapham)	8pm
<b>Fri 2</b>	South London's Actors	2pm
<b>Tues 6</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Tues 6</b>	Crime Prevention	8pm
<b>Thurs 8</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Fri 9</b>	Walking in Zoomland - Kennington to Stockwell	2pm
<b>Mon 12</b>	Business Meeting	8pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Thurs 15</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 16</b>	Children's Wartime Diaries	2pm
<b>Tues 20</b>	Beer Tasting Evening	7pm
<b>Wed 21</b>	National Trust: 575 Wandsworth Road	11am
<b>Thurs 22</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Fri 23</b>	London 1851 and the Great Exhibition	2pm
<b>Wed 28</b>	Walkie/Talkie: The Ponds at Chislehurst	11am
<b>Thurs 29</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Thurs 29</b>	The Great Gatsby - A New Musical	2.30pm
<b>Fri 30</b>	Flight Sergeant Les Fitton - Wartime Service	2pm



# At a glance

## June

<b>Tues 3</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Tues 3</b>	Quiz Night at the Montrose	8pm
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Fri 6</b>	Murder, Madness and Mayhem?	2pm
<b>Mon 9</b>	Business Meeting	8pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 13</b>	The Mystery of William Arnold	2pm
<b>Mon 16</b>	Tutankhamun: The Immersive Experience	11am
<b>Tues 17</b>	Quiz Night at the Montrose	8pm
<b>Thurs 19</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Mon 23</b>	Dirty Money: A History of Money Laundering	8pm
<b>Wed 25</b>	Walkie/Talkie: Hayes Library Gardens, Husseywell Gardens and The Knoll	11am
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 27</b>	The Story of the Mobile Phone	2pm

## July

<b>Tues 1</b>	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
<b>Tues 1</b>	Quiz Night	8pm
<b>Thurs 3</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm
<b>Fri 4</b>	The Life of a Cotton Mill Worker	2pm
<b>Thurs 10</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 11</b>	Peter Sellers - All at Sea	2pm
<b>Mon 14</b>	Business Meeting	8pm
<b>Tues 15</b>	Quiz Night at the Montrose	8pm
<b>Thurs 17</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm

# At a glance

## July

<b>Fri 18</b>	The Origins of The Salvation Army	2pm
<b>Tues 22</b>	Art Unscrewed	4pm
<b>Wed 23</b>	Walkie/Talkie: Horniman Gardens Picnic	11am
<b>Thurs 24</b>	Cinema Club Clapham	Afternoon
<b>Fri 25</b>	The Clowns Museum	2pm
<b>Mon 28</b>	Linda Regan - Actress and Writer	8pm
<b>Tues 29</b>	Sergeant Bilko Night	8pm
<b>Wed 30</b>	Thames Boat Trip: Westminster to Putney	11am
<b>Thurs 31</b>	Water Colour Therapy with Rosana	4.30pm

## Oddfellows Extra

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