

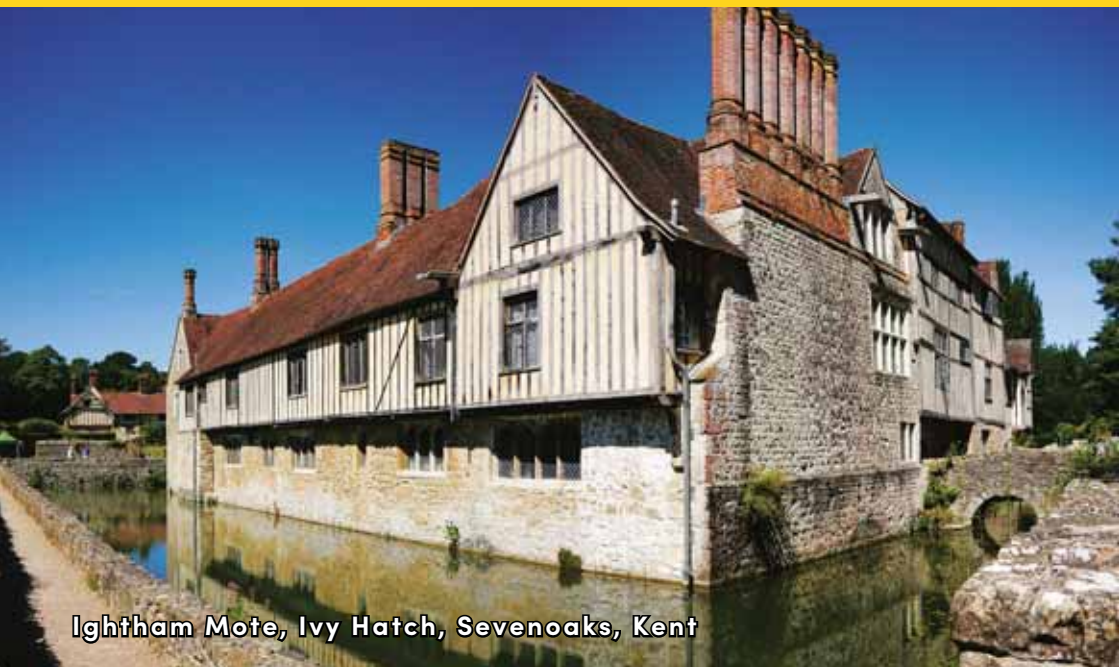
July - December 2024



O^{the} **DD**fellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & *about*

North West Kent



Ightham Mote, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



To
book

To Book Events



Online



We hope you can join us for our various Coffee Morning and Armchair Yoga events, please see events pages for more details.

Welcome to the latest edition of the news and events diary for North West Kent Branch

This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the events diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy – we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Contact Details

Address:

42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN

North West Kent District and Hope of Dartford Branch

Social Organiser: Sarah Robinson

Telephone: 01322 274822

Email:

sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

Newtown Branch

Social Organiser: Chris Jordan

Telephone: 01322 221129

Branch Secretary: Lesley Pimm

Telephone: 01322 292 374

Email:

lesley.pimm@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 our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Please bring your friends to our events, so they can enjoy all that the Oddfellows is about. Unless otherwise stated please contact Sarah Robinson on **01322 274822** or email sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk to book or find out more information on any of our events.

July 2024

WED
03 **Coffee Morning**
(Newtown Branch)



11am



Members Free
Guests £2



Come and start the day with a coffee morning, having a chat and a cup of tea or coffee with friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



August

WED
07 **Coffee Morning**
(Newtown Branch)



11am



Members Free
Guests £2



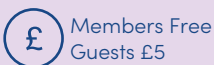
Join us at our coffee morning; enjoy a chat and a cup of tea or coffee with friends old and new. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



MON
22 **Evening Tea**
(Hope of Dartford Branch)



7pm



Members Free
Guests £5



Another favourite! Our Evening Tea is back and it would be great to see you all for an evening with friends, food and laughter. Theme to be confirmed, Book by Monday 3 June. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
04
**Coffee Morning and
Armchair Yoga**
(Newtown Branch)



As its
Friendship
Month why not
bring along
someone you



know who may enjoy all the
things that Oddfellows has
to offer! Join us for a little gentle
chair yoga, a hot drink and a chat with
friends old and new. Oddfellows Hall,
42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY.
Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

WED
18
**Macmillan
Coffee Morning**
(Newtown Branch)



Join us today to raise money for
Macmillan. There will be a raffle and
donations are welcome. As always
enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a
chat with friends. Oddfellows Hall,
42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY.
Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

SAT
21
**North West Kent
Annual Celebration
Dinner Dance**



All are welcome to join us for a
fantastic evening with friends,
laughter, dancing and food.
Always a great night. Doors open
at 6.30pm. Book by Monday 26
August. Princes Park, Grassbanks,
Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT.
Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

October

WED 02 Coffee Morning and Armchair Yoga (Newtown Branch)

⌚ 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come and start the day with a coffee morning, having a chat and a cup of tea or coffee with friends and a great way to do a little light exercise. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



WED 16 Coffee and Games Morning (Newtown Branch)

⌚ 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £2



Come along for some fun, try your hand at some games; have a chat and a cup of tea or coffee with friends.



Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

MON 21 Curry Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)

⌚ 6.30pm

£ Members £5
Guests £25



Come and join us for a meal at the Siam Radhuny in Dartford. You can choose either Curry or Thai. A great evening for all. Book by Monday 30 September. Siam Radhuny, 85 Lowfield Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1HP. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



November

WED 06 Coffee and Yoga Morning (Newtown Branch)

⌚ 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Start the day with a coffee morning, having a chat and a cup of tea or coffee with friends and try your hand at some gentle exercise. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

November

MON 18 Quiz Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)

7.30pm

Members Free
Guests £5



Time for a quiz, get your thinking caps on and come and enjoy a fun evening with friends. Always a great night, with a few different styles of quiz in one. Book by Monday 21 October. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



December

WED 04 Christmas Party (Newtown Branch)



12 noon

TBC



Come and join us for our afternoon Christmas party. 12 noon to 3pm. Food, drink and friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA2 6JY. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



December

SAT 07 Christmas Party (Hope of Dartford Branch)

6.30pm

Members £10
Guests £35



Join us at Princes Park for a Christmas party with a full Christmas dinner and dancing. Book by Monday 30 September. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.

Booking and cancellations

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

Pride of Woolwich Branch Events

All are welcome to come along to our neighbouring branch's events:

Speaker, Steve Jones: London Ambulance Paramedic Wednesday 31 July, 2pm

We are very pleased to receive a visit from Steve Jones, a Flight Paramedic and Motorcycle Response Unit Paramedic with London Air Ambulance. Everyone is welcome so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge.

Address: 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



London's
Air Ambulance
Charity

Speaker, Mel Byron: 'Old Movies Saved My Life'. Wednesday 28 August, 2pm

Mel Byron is a speaker, comedian, writer and passionate old movie fan. Whilst her friends were sneaking into nightclubs underage, Mel was spending her weekends learning about life from the films of the 30s, 40s and 50s. From these she learnt about life, if not entirely accurately. Could she grow up to be as glamorous as Carole Lombard or Margaret Lockwood? Might she actually marry a movie star? Mel will share her encyclopaedic knowledge and recommend the films you need in your lives too. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



Speaker, Tony Harris as Margaret Thatcher Wednesday 25 September, 2pm

A return visit from Tony Harris, comedian and historical 'In Character' performer. Tony specialises in historical talks with a humorous twist and will give a captivating portrayal of the 'Iron Lady' Margaret Thatcher, our first female Prime Minister. Tea or coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar.

Address: 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



Invicta quiz, hosted by Theresa. Wednesday 30 October, 2pm

Theresa has very kindly offered to host our Invicta Quiz. Teams of three or four people will be made up on the day. Everyone is welcome so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the quiz, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free.

For further information and to book contact Nicola on 01322 348315 or email nicola.budds@oddfellows.co.uk.

REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile



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

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

Ref 1644

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are
here to stay



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter 'Ayr' in the place name search box

OE/0122A6

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

Different benefits apply to other membership categories.
Contact your local Branch Secretary for further information.

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions or call us on 0800 028 1810.

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 Ann Yearsley on **01322 345587**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@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

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

EDCWA50223

Society-funded cancer research on track

The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.



Nur updating AMC last year

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student."

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer



Dr Tim Fenton

vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."

HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

Our fantastic four

Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.

George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

Jamie Messett

Loyal Lord Byron
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards



learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

Charlotte Stevenson,

Pride of Woolwich
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.



The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Striving for a greener future

The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO₂e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

Investing in futures

Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

*T&Cs apply.

Branch Meetings

We regularly hold Branch meetings and all members are welcome to attend. Visitors are generally welcome to attend and observe all meetings with permission granted by the secretary prior to the meeting. We share and discuss the business of the Branch includes social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Most evenings are rounded off with refreshments and a chance to socialise.

District Meetings, which are open to all members, are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm and in the event of the Monday being a Bank Holiday, it will move to the Wednesday. Any other alterations to the dates will be notified in the monthly newsletter. Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA1 1YN. The dates are:

Monday 1 July

Monday 2 September

Monday 4 November

Monday 5 August

Monday 7 October

Monday 2 December

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 Sarah by phone on **01322 274822** or email **sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk**

 **the Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people
www.oddfellows.co.uk

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At a glance

July 2024

Wed 3	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 22	Evening Tea (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7pm

August

Wed 7	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
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September - Friendship Month

Wed 4	Coffee Morning and Armchair Yoga (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 18	Macmillan Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 21	North West Kent Annual Celebration Dinner Dance	6pm

October

Wed 2	Coffee Morning and Armchair Yoga (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 16	Coffee and Games Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 21	Curry Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	6.30pm

November

Wed 6	Coffee and Yoga Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 18	Quiz Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm

December

Wed 4	Christmas Party (Newtown Branch)	12 noon
Sat 7	Christmas Party (Hope of Dartford Branch)	6.30pm

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  [northwestkentoddfellows](#)

 [OddfellowsUK](#)

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