

July - December 2020  
Issue 4

# out & about

## North West Kent



Bluewater Shopping Centre, Dartford, Kent



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining  
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



Meetings



## *Annual Dinner Dance – Saturday 12 September*

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

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 DA11YN

**North West Kent District,  
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

**District Secretary:** Joy Jeffery

**Telephone:** 01322 228129

**Email:**

joy.jeffery@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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810 to speak to one of our team.

**Front cover:** Bluewater Shopping Centre, Dartford, Kent by Andy Potter and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

# July 2020

WED  
01

**Cream Tea**  
Newtown Afternoon



Come and join us for a lovely afternoon with cream tea. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

SUN  
26

**Visit to Kew Gardens**  
Hope of Dartford



This would involve travelling by coach to Kew Gardens, where you would be spend the day walking around and enjoying the splendour of this amazing place. Book by Monday 1 June. Kew Gardens, Richmond, London TW9 3AE. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



Image by Jim Barton and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.

# August

WED  
05

**Open Day**  
Newtown Afternoon

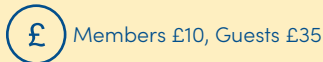


A chance to come along and see what we are all about. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

# September

SAT  
12

**Annual Dinner Dance**



Our annual dinner dance will take place on Saturday 12 September. Be sure to book as this will fill up very quickly and is extremely popular. Dancing, eating, singing, music and laughing, this is a great evening with friends. Be sure to bring lots of money for the raffle. Book by Saturday 1 August. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.

# September

WED  
16

**Friendship Day**  
**Newtown Afternoon**



12 noon



Free



In conjunction with Friendship Month and the Heritage Day. Come and see what we do and what we are all about. Have a coffee and find out more. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
21

**Celebrating 50 Years of Togetherness -**  
**By Syd and Kathy Goodwin**  
**Hope of Dartford**



8pm



Members Free  
Guests £5



This is a lovely talk about being together and friendship for 50 years and how they celebrate it with a lovely out of this world holiday. Come and join us for a lovely evening with friends. Book by Monday 14 September. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



**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](mailto:sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk) to book or find out more information on any of our events.**

# October

## WED 07 Quiz Newtown Afternoon



A chance to test your knowledge with friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



## MON 19 Bingo with a Fish and Chip Supper Hope of Dartford



Come and join us for a game of bingo and a fish and chip supper (there will be a cost for the fish and chips). It will be a great evening with friends. There will be a raffle. Cost: Cost of fish and chips plus £5 for bingo. Book by Friday 2 October. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



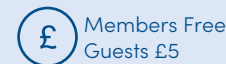
# November

## WED 04 Fish and Chip Lunch Newtown Afternoon



Come for fish and chips and a natter with friends. Book by Wednesday 21 October. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

## MON 16 Chocolate Fun with Wendy Hope of Dartford



Come and try your hand a making things with chocolate. This will be demonstrated, then it will be your turn. There will be a raffle all proceeds to go to the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) charity. Book by Monday 2 November. The Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1ED. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



# December

WED  
02

## Christmas Party Newtown Afternoon

🕒 12 noon

£ Members Free  
Guests £9



Come and have some fun and frolics at our Christmas party. Book by Wednesday 4 November. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

MON  
14

## Christmas Party Hope of Dartford

🕒 7.30pm

£ Members Free  
Guests £5



Come and have a lovely evening with friends, play some silly games, have food, drink and sing some christmas songs. Book by Monday 2 November. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



SUN  
27

## Pantomime at The Orchard

🕒 1pm

£ Members £10  
Guests £36



Come and see Jack and The Beanstalk at the Orchard Theatre starring Christopher Biggins. This is first come first served as we only

have so many tickets. Payments will need to be paid by Tuesday 1 September. The Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1ED. 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.

# Friendship and Social activities across the UK



At North West Kent Oddfellows we put on a range of social activities each month for us to enjoy together in friendship. We always welcome new people to come along and give us a try...

We often also feature other local events but at the time of print do not have a full list. Why not check out the social activities being put on by other local Branches.

Visit the Oddfellows Website ([www.oddfellows.co.uk](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk)) and click on the events tab to search for local activities. Members and non-members are always welcome to the events put on by Branches across the country.

## Defibrillator

We are pleased to announce that a defibrillator has been installed in our Oddfellows Hall. Let's pray we never need it, but it's there if we do.



## 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 outlook's great when you join the Oddfellows



Looking to make friends and meet new people - backed with a great range of benefits? Then find out more about the Oddfellows. With a warm welcome guaranteed, and a calendar of events at your local Oddfellows Branch, how much you get involved is up to you.

Join the Oddfellows for as little as £25 a year, or add extra benefits for £35 a year.\*

## **£25 a year membership\* gives you access to...**

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Active Travel Club
- 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\* with the additional benefits of...**

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

For more information or to join, call freephone **0800 028 1810**.

9am-5pm Mon to Thurs, 9am-4pm Fri, or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits).

Ref1824

\*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services. For full details, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions), or call us on 0800 028 1810.



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.





# Travel places with Friendly Faces

With group holidays, short breaks, exclusive discounts, travel offers and the opportunity to get to know other Oddfellows travellers, the Active Travel Club has something for everyone to enjoy.



## **Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines**

5% off your  
first booking  
over and above  
offers currently  
in the market.



## **Haven Holidays**

Save up to 10%  
on top of Haven's  
best prices  
through exclusive  
member benefits.



## **Warner Leisure Holidays**

Receive up to £350  
off selected rooms  
and an extra £10  
off per person.



## **Travel Insurance\***

11% discount on  
[JustTravelcover.com](https://www.justtravelcover.com)  
insurance policies.

Check out the latest holidays at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)  
Contact **0161 832 9361** or email [active@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:active@oddfellows.co.uk)

**All holidays are booked through third party travel companies and terms and conditions apply.**

**Please ask for further details before booking.**

**Holidays are open to Oddfellows members and their guests.**

\*Oddfellows Support Services Limited will introduce members to the above organisation. Oddfellows Support Services Limited receives a commission payment for any introduction. Oddfellows Support Services Limited is registered in England and Wales, Company No. 8309175. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB and is a non-regulated wholly owned subsidiary of The Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited.



# 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 Iris Loivette on **01322 272511** or 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@manchestercab.org](mailto:oddfellows@manchestercab.org)



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**

## Lifting neighbourly spirit

### How well do you know your neighbours?

**Many of us are guilty of being caught up in our busy lives, forgetting to stop and say hello. We share so much with the people who live on our street, but often we barely know their names.**

A strong community spirit is something we actively encourage. Our ethos of making friends and helping people means that our members enjoy a strong support network to get them through the good, and the bad.

So why not spread that net of kindness a little wider, by extending your hand of friendship to those who live around you? If you notice that your neighbour lives alone, has a lot on their plate, or doesn't often get many visitors, then why not stop by to see if you can help? Colder seasons provide a great opportunity to drop a card through their door with your contact details for them to give you a call if they're ever in need of



*A little neighbourly spirit goes a long way*



a helping hand. Or, better still, extend the gesture with a knock on their door and a friendly hello.

You don't have to become their best friend, but being a friendly face and an ambassador for community spirit could be the lift your neighbourhood needs. I'm of the firm belief that you can never have too many social plans. Sometimes people just need someone to talk to, or someone to suggest getting out, so why not let them know about your Branch's local coffee mornings, the trips out and the wonderful benefits of membership? You can be sure they'll receive a warm welcome whenever they choose to come to an event.

Wishing you, your families and your neighbours a very happy and healthy 2020.

**CEO, the Oddfellows**



## HA Andrews and the Lupus Trust

**For the next three years, the Oddfellows' HA Andrews Memorial Fund is supporting the Lupus Trust with its research into how Lupus develops, in order to find ways to prevent or cure this lifelong condition.**

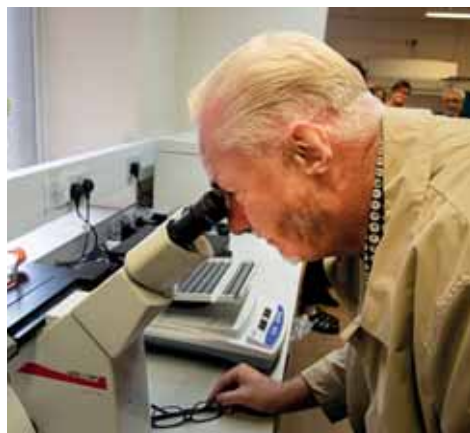
### So what is Lupus?

Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which antibodies, which usually work with the immune system to protect us from infection, instead attack the body and cause disease. It is not known why these antibodies are made in Lupus patients, or even how the system in healthy people stops this from happening.

The Lupus Research Team at Guy's Hospital recently identified an immune response pathway that is defective in patients with the most severe forms of Lupus. The HA Andrews Memorial Fund will support the team's research into understanding B-cell defects in Lupus patients, and what causes them.

### Why did we choose the Lupus Trust?

The Lupus Trust was suggested as a beneficiary of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund by members of Ware Lodge, Brian and Pamela Weavers. Their son, Paul, was diagnosed with the condition at just 17, and as there's no cure, he has lived with the effects ever since.



*Paul takes a closer look at the research*





*The Oddfellows' team is shown around the lab*

Paul now 53, says: "Lupus leaves me feeling constantly exhausted and the skin rashes which flare up occasionally have caused permanent scarring. Holidays are difficult, as I have to avoid the sunshine, and sand can irritate my skin. As a college lecturer, I try not to let it get in the way of anything I do. When I found out the Oddfellows was supporting the Lupus Trust, I was genuinely over the moon."



*The fund will support the addition of Bekki Velounias (pictured) to the research team*

When we visited the Lupus Trust, to present the first of three annual donations which will total £85,000, we spoke to Professor D'Cruz, Professor and Consultant Rheumatologist at Guy's Hospital, London. He's working closely with the research team and says: "This is a vital and very exciting piece of research into Lupus, so we are extremely grateful for the kind grant the Lupus Trust has received from the Oddfellows to fund the project for 3 years."



*CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Randall at the lab*

Lupus is often called "the great mimic", as it can affect different parts of the body and is often misdiagnosed. It is currently unknown what causes Lupus, although studies have identified a definite genetic tendency, which may be triggered and become active. It isn't a contagious disease, but there isn't yet a cure, only treatments which help to control symptoms.

To learn more about Lupus, the Lupus Trust and the work they do, please visit [www.lupus.org.uk](http://www.lupus.org.uk)



# Sharing is caring – thank you Pat!

**We love to recognise those who go above and beyond when recommending the Society to their friends. So we're pleased to share that Patricia Sexton, member of the King's Lynn Oddfellows, has achieved the Gold Refer a Friend Award.**



## Congratulations, Pat!

Thank you. I'm very grateful and proud to have reached this level. I really enjoy being a member of the Oddfellows, and I often volunteer for a lot of the social activities, to help them run as smoothly as possible.

## When did you join the Oddfellows, and why?

It was a friend who referred me, actually! Back in late 2016, I attended a few events with my friend Violet, and I decided to join in January 2017. I love the Oddfellows ethos of 'making friends, helping people', as it truly sums up what we do.

## How many members have you referred?

I've referred 23 new members so far, and I'm very blessed to have a wonderful and rather large circle of friends who have seen how happy Oddfellows makes me, before joining on my recommendation.

## What's your favourite thing about the Oddfellows?

My favourite thing about being a member is having the opportunity to meet so many lovely people, and with new members joining all the time, it's a lovely way to make some new friends. My husband, Richard, is also a member, so it's lovely to go to events as a couple as well.

## What's the general response when you first tell people about the Oddfellows?

Lots of people have heard of us, but they don't know what we do. I'll often show them a copy of our events diary and invite them along to the next coffee morning or talk. Usually, at the end of the event, they're keen to come to the next one!

## Did you know we have a monthly e-newsletter?

Featuring exclusive member offers, real life stories, advice and news, it's delivered direct to your email inbox once a month. If you don't receive this already, speak to your Branch Secretary, or call Membership on 0800 028 1810, so we can get you added to the mailing list.

## 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.

Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA1 1YN. Start at 8pm.

The dates are:

**Monday 13 April**

**Monday 27 April**

**Monday 11 May**

**Wednesday 27 May**

**Monday 8 June**

**Monday 22 June**

**Monday 6 July**

**Monday 20 July**

**Monday 3 August**

**Monday 17 August**

**Wednesday 2 September**

**Monday 14 September**

**Monday 28 September**

**Monday 12 October**

**Monday 26 October**

**Monday 9 November**

**Monday 23 November**

**Monday 7 December**

# Is there someone you know who'd enjoy what we do?

## Refer a friend today

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

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

Ref 1644



# At a glance

## July 2020

<b>Wed 1</b>	Cream Tea (Newtown Afternoon)	2pm
<b>Sun 26</b>	Visit to Kew Gardens (Hope of Dartford)	9am

## August

<b>Wed 5</b>	Open Day (Newtown Afternoon)	2pm
--------------	------------------------------	-----

## September - Friendship Month

<b>Sat 12</b>	Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm
<b>Wed 16</b>	Friendship Day (Newtown Afternoon)	12 noon
<b>Mon 21</b>	Celebrating 50 Years of Togetherness - by Syd and Kathy Goodwin (Hope of Dartford)	8pm

## October

<b>Wed 7</b>	Quiz (Newtown Afternoon)	2pm
<b>Mon 19</b>	Bingo with a Fish and Chip Supper (Hope of Dartford)	7.30pm

## November

<b>Wed 4</b>	Fish and Chip Lunch (Newtown Afternoon)	12 noon
<b>Mon 16</b>	Chocolate Fun with Wendy (Hope of Dartford)	8pm

## December

<b>Wed 2</b>	Christmas Party (Newtown Afternoon)	12 noon
<b>Mon 14</b>	Christmas Party (Hope of Dartford)	7.30pm
<b>Sun 27</b>	Pantomime at The Orchard	1pm