

October 2025 - March 2026



the
Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

South Essex & Stepney Branch
With Branches in Hockley, Southend and Chelmsford



VE Day



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Friendship



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together at The Giggling Squid – Wednesday 12 November 2025

Welcome to this edition of our combined Events Diary and Newsletter

What a summer we have all had coping with the extremes of heat, how our gardens have dried out to the brown colour of burnt leaves and grass. Now we are just coming into autumn and the wonderful colours of the leaves that have managed to hang on to life. We would like to use this time to say thank you for everyone being so understanding with delays of social events and diaries. Sometimes it is unavoidable and family matters or health just get in the way of work.

We would like to point out that in March 2026 we will be holding an evening AGM with a social event where we will have a buffet and presentations to Committee members who have served a long time in this branch. This is a free event where all can come but you do need to book your place as the room only holds 60 people.

We would like to wish you seasons greetings for the end of the year.

South Essex and Stepney Committee of Management

Contact Details

Secretary Stepney and South Essex Branch:

Nicola O’Riordan Finley

Address: 43 Oak Walk, Hockley, Essex SS5 5AR

Telephone: 07802 678255

Email:

nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk

Southend Social Organiser:

Rachel Voller

Telephone: 07548 368761

Email:

rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk

Venues and Contacts

Chelmsford – Hope Branch:

Address: 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.

Contact: Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

Hockley – Greensward Branch:

Address: Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre, in Car Park behind the Library, Rochford District Car Park Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ.

Contact: Nicola O’Riordan Finley on 07802 678255.

Southend Branch:

Address: The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1NR.

Contact: Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

October 2025

WED
22

&

THURS
23

Bonkers Bingo



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A fun afternoon of various bingo games with prizes! Free refreshments and great company. New members always welcome.

Wednesday 22 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The Age Concern Centre is located behind the Cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop Cathedral stop. Five minute walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane car park CM11BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 23 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

Facebook

As we grow and evolve we would like to remind all our members that we have our own dedicated Facebook page South Essex and Stepney. On this page Nicola and Rachel post the events again from the events diary but they will also post news "On the new adhoc events" that could not be included in the events dairy and newsletter but have since been arranged. We also are able to post cancellations or alterations to events.



WhatsApp

Rachel's two groups have WhatsApp group chat so members can talk to each other and get information from Rachel. We are now launching a WhatsApp group for Hockley and Hawkwell. For the same reason, we have sent invites to members involved with Greensward and if you wish to join the group it is Hockley and Hawkwell Oddfellows.



October 2025

SUN
26

Sunday Halloween Lunch



£ Members £6
Guests £8



Do you eat Sunday lunch on your own, why not come along to our Sunday lunch and share our company.

The menu is: chicken casserole with dumpling, potatoes, carrots and green beans. Dessert: Pumpkin pie or pecan pie with cream. Book by Monday 20 October 2025. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.



November

WED
12

Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together at The Giggling Squid

12.30pm

£ As per menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. Lunch venue will be confirmed a week before each meeting. Lunch will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm. Confirming attendance by calling, or emailing Rachel, or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members, please let Rachel know if you need help with transport. Book by Friday 7 November 2025. Giggling Squid, 109-111 Bond Street, Chelmsford CM1 1GD. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



THURS
13

Southend Branch Monthly Lunch at Old Walnut Tree

12.30pm

£ Free



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, just pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Please contact Rachel to request transport. Book by Monday 10 November 2025. Old Walnut Tree, Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea SS2 4XA. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



November

SUN
16

Greensward Sunday Lunch Belated Father's Day



1pm

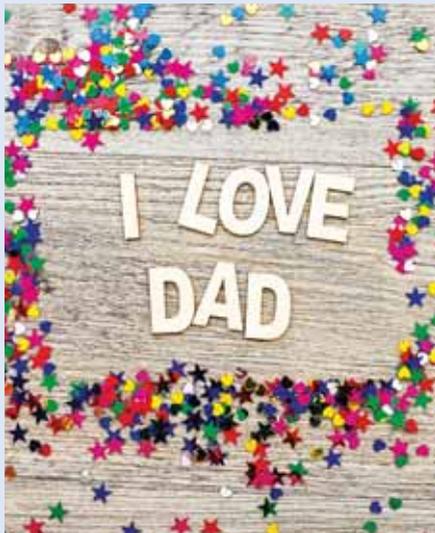


Members £6
Guests £8



Why not come along to our event and meet a group of people who have like mind friends and activities.

The menu is: beef meatloaf, gravy and mash, fine beans and peas, followed by spotted dick and custard. Book by Monday 10 November 2025. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.



SAT
22

Quiz Night - Fundraiser for the Samaritans



7pm



£6 per person



Why not get a table of up to eight people to come along to our 'World Treasure Hunt Quiz'. For each round if you get 75% of the questions right in each round, you will get a piece of the picture that gives a clue as to where in the world the treasure is hidden. Identify the place and your table wins the prize. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Book by Friday 7 November 2025. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.



November

WED
26

&

THURS
27

All on Board - Fun Games Afternoon



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm-4.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm-3.30pm



£3 cash payable on arrival.



A fun afternoon enjoying playing various games. Please bring a game of any sort to add to the activity. free refreshments and great company.

Wednesday 26 - Chelmsford Hope Branch

Limited parking available on site.
The Age Concern Centre is located behind the Cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop Cathedral stop. Five minute walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Entry charge £3 cash, please bring the correct money if possible. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 27 - Southend Branch

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church Car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). Lifts may be available from other members. The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

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

November

SOLD OUT

FRI
28

Fawlty Towers - Cliffs Pavilion - Southend



6pm

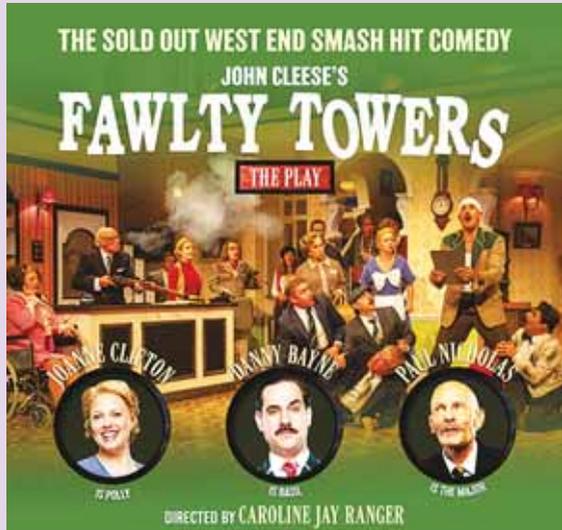


£55.80



The 'Greatest British Sitcom of All Time' (Radio Times) is back - this time on stage! 50 years since it first graced our TV screens, Fawlty Towers is now a brand-new stage play adapted by comedy legend John Cleese and directed by Caroline Jay Ranger.

Fresh from a sold out West End season! This laugh-out-loud production was universally acclaimed by every London and national critic, selling out every single performance during its record-breaking West End run.



Join Basil (Danny Bayne), the delightfully bumbling Major (Paul Nicholas) and Polly (Joanne Clifton), with an 18-strong cast as they bring to life all your favourite moments from the show's unforgettable twelve episodes. With sharp wit, chaos, and calamity at every turn, this is the comedy event of the year! No transport. Cliffs Pavilion, Station Road, Southend-on-Sea SS0 7RA. Speak to Rachel, Social Organiser on 07548 368761 for further information.

A bit about us

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need.

Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.



November

SUN
30

South Essex and Stepney Christmas Lunch

🕒 1pm

£ Members £12
Guests £15



Open to all our members and friends. Why not come along and enjoy the festivities at the Branch? **Menu:** paté and melba toast or melon fan, followed by roast turkey, stuffing, sausage meat, roast potatoes, brussels sprouts, carrots and parsnips. Christmas pudding or yule log with cream or brandy sauce. There will be a raffle. Drinks included in the meal wine, non alcoholic wine, fruit juice, sparkling water. Chocolates and mince pies.

Book by Monday 17 November 2025. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.

December



WED
10

Christmas Celebration Lunch at County Hotel - Chelmsford Hope Branch

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Our Christmas lunch is a chance to celebrate the festive season together at a local venue, enjoying great food and company. Confirming attendance by calling or emailing Rachel, or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential. A deposit may be required for this event and pre-order of meal choice. Further details to follow.



This event will be updated as soon as possible. Pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members. Please let Rachel know if you need help with transport, as lifts may be available. Book by Friday 31 October 2025. County Hotel, 29 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2PZ. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.

December



THURS
11

Southend Branch Monthly Lunch - Christmas Celebration Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a friendly, Christmas celebration lunch. No charge to attend, just pay for your own meal and drinks. You may be required to pay a deposit and pre-order your meal. Details to follow when available. This event will be updated as soon as possible. Transport may be available through lifts if required.

12.30pm to 3pm. Please contact Rachel to request help with transport. Book by Monday 10 November 2025. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



SUN
28

Christmas at the Movies by Candlelight Concert - Chelmsford Cathedral



6pm



£42



Get ready to unwrap the ultimate holiday treat with London Concertante's 'Christmas at the Movies' concert, a jolly journey through the heart-warming and hilarious worlds of beloved Christmas films. This festive celebration boasts a programme of music from timeless films, including 'White Christmas', 'Love Actually', 'Home Alone', 'Elf' and 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Experience the magic of Santa's workshop, embark on a train ride to the North Pole, and rediscover the true meaning of Christmas.



Christmas at the Movies' promises an unforgettable evening of music, laughter, and holiday cheer. No transport. Book by Friday 28 November 2025. Chelmsford Cathedral, New Street, Chelmsford Essex CM1 1TY. Speak to Rachel, Social Organiser on 07548 368761 for further information.

January 2026

THURS
08

Southend Branch Monthly Lunch



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser for Southend to request transport 07548 368761.

WED
14

Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together



12.30pm



As per
menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. Lunch will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members, please let Rachel know if you need help with transport. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Confirming attendance by calling (07548 368761) or emailing (rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk) Rachel or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential.



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  SouthEssexandStepneyOddfellows

January 2026

SUN
11

&

SUN
25

Greensward Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6, Guests £8



Sunday 11 - Greensward Sunday Lunch

Come along to our New Year lunch and clear the cobwebs away from the Christmas festivities.

The menu is: cottage pie, carrots and brussels sprouts followed by Jubilee pancakes (cherries) and ice-cream.

Book by Monday 5 January 2026.

Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ.



Sunday 25 - Greensward Sunday Lunch

A group of friends, a comfy room and someone else cooking your lunch. Why not come along and meet your friends while having a meal.

The menu is: gammon, hash browns, fried tomatoes, baked beans, mushrooms sweetcor. Dessert is profiteroles and cream. Book by Monday 19 January 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ.

Please contact Nicola, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.

New members always welcome, call or message on 07802 678255 or email nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk

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 where necessary.

January 2026

THUR
22

&

WED
28

Treasure Hunt - Can you solve the clues to find the treasure?



Southend: 1.30pm-3.30pm
Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm-4.15pm



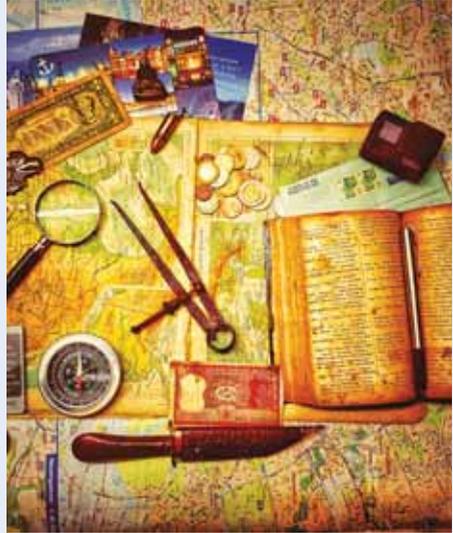
£3 cash payable on arrival.



A fun afternoon hunting for treasure. Solve the clue, find the place on the map, solve the next one! Who will get to the treasure first. Refreshments and great company.

Thursday 22 - Southend Branch

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church Car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). Lifts may be available from other members. The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.



Wednesday 28 - Chelmsford Hope Branch

Limited parking available on site. The Age Concern Centre is located behind the Cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop Cathedral stop. Five minute walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

February

WED
11

Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together



12.30pm



As per menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. Lunch will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members, please let Rachel know if you need help with transport. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Confirming attendance by calling (07548 368761) or emailing (rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk) Rachel or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential.



THURS
12

Southend Branch Monthly Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser for Southend to request transport 07548 368761.



February

SUN
08

&

SUN
22

Greensward Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6, Guests £8



Sunday 8 - Greensward Sunday Lunch

Why not come along and join us in our Sunday lunch. **The menu is:** roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Followed by a dessert of stewed mixed fruit crumble and custard. Book by Monday 2 February 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.



Sunday 22 - Greensward Sunday Lunch

A traditional lunch of toad in the hole, mash potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower followed by cheesecake and cream. Why not come along and join us. Book by Monday 16 February 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.

**Please contact Nicola, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.
New members always welcome, call or message on 07802 678255
or email nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk**

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 oddfellows.co.uk/events

OEW/1024SMALL

February

WED
25

&

THURS
26

Rhythm and Clues - Music Quiz



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm-4.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm-3.30pm



£3 cash payable on arrival.



A fun afternoon enjoying music across the decades. What do you remember? Refreshments and great company.

Wednesday 25 - Chelmsford Hope Branch

Limited parking available on site. The Age Concern Centre is located behind the Cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop

Cathedral stop. Five minute walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 26 - Southend Branch

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church Car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). Lifts may be available from other members. The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

March

WED
11

Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together



12.30pm



As per menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. Lunch will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm.



No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members, please let Rachel know if you need help with transport. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Confirming attendance by calling (07548 368761) or emailing (rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk) Rachel or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential.

THURS
12

Southend Branch Monthly Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Venue to be confirmed, at least two weeks before the date. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser for Southend to request transport 07548 368761.



SUN
15

Greensward Mothering Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Feeling lonely on Mother's Day and not wanting to put yourself out for a Sunday lunch, then why not come along and meet new friends.



The menu is: beef stew with vegetables and dumplings followed by mini raspberry pavlovas. Book by Monday 2 March 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.

March

SAT
21

South Essex and Stepney Supper Buffet and Annual General Meeting



7pm



Free



Come along to our annual meeting and social event. This is where we vote on the members for the Committee of Management, the 2027 Annual Movable Conference and receive a written and already circulated management/social report. We are presenting four District Merit Jewels to long serving Committee of Management members and then we will be holding a social event with drinks, buffet and a raffle for the Day Centre which is the chosen charity for the new Chairman (Provincial Grand Master). Book by Monday 9 March 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.

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 Nicola by phone on **07282 678255** or email nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk

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www.oddfellows.co.uk

March

WED
25

&

THURS
26

A Trip Down Memory Lane - Trivia and Memory Challenges



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



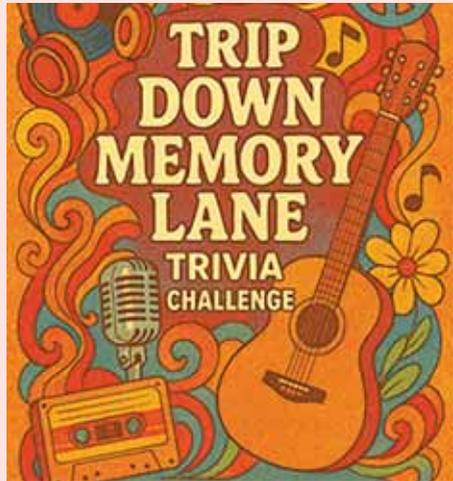
£3 cash payable on arrival.



Wednesday 25 - Chelmsford Hope Branch

A fun afternoon enjoying music across the decades. What do you remember? Refreshments and great company. Entry charge £3 cash, please bring the correct money if possible. Meeting is from 2.15pm to 4.15pm, limited parking available on site. The Age Concern Centre is located behind the Cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop Cathedral stop. Five minute walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD.

Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral),
17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 26 - Southend Branch

A fun afternoon enjoying music across the decades. What do you remember? Refreshments and great company. £3 per person, cash payable on arrival. Meeting is from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church Car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). Lifts may be available from other members. The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

**Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.
New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or
email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.**

March

SUN
29

Greensward Easter Palm Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £10
Guests £12



Our annual Easter lunch this year is on Palm Sunday. We will be having starter of mushroom tartlet or paté, followed by roast pork loin, roast potatoes, roast parsnips and baked apple, spring greens. Mixed fruits gateaux and cream.



Wine and soft drinks included with the meal, tea or coffee with Easter eggs. There will be a raffle for the Day Centre. Book by Monday 9 March 2026. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in Car Park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 07802 678255.

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

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)

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.

Southend and Chelmsford Social Groups Editorial

October 2025 - March 2026

Catch Up...

It has been wonderful to watch both Chelmsford and Southend social groups continue to grow this year. Word is spreading about the fun and happy times our members are enjoying at our monthly meetings and lunches, seeing new members joining us every month. Our newly revived Chelmsford group now has a number of regular members attending, enjoying getting to know each other whilst welcoming a steady flow of new members each month.

The Southend group has established a firm following and continues to do so, also full of kind, caring people who are enjoying good company and fun activities.

Over the last six months we have enjoyed a variety of activities at our meetings including:

Back in the Day Trivia Quiz, Chair Yoga, Catchphrase and Pictionary games, How Good is your Guess quiz fun, Beetle Drive, Music, Film and TV Trivia Quiz finishing with a special meeting in September to celebrate our annual Friendship Month with a cream tea and fun games themed around Reminiscence.



The next six months is packed again with unique and fun activities including a Treasure Hunt, Bonkers Bingo, Rhythms and Clues and more. Take a look through this publication or online for all event details.

Lunches are also popular and a nice time to enjoy good food (mostly!) and time to get to know each other with good conversation and sharing of life experiences. Members have enjoyed choosing local venues to host the lunch events.

Extra-Curricular Activity!

As well as our regular meetings, day trips and evenings out are becoming more popular and a great opportunity to join the groups together, members are enjoying meeting other Oddfellows and sharing their experiences of the Society and what it has to offer. So far this year we have enjoyed a boat trip at Papermill Lock, a visit to Ely including a guided tour of the Cathedral, Audley End House and Gardens plus trips to the Theatre for Riverdance and an Elvis tribute night.

The Southend group were also invited to a wonderful Cockney Sing a Long evening to raise money for a local Parkinsons support group in Westcliff. Thanks to Barry, one of our members, for arranging

and inviting us to what was a great evening of nostalgic entertainment and highly successful fundraiser.

With Christmas approaching there are plenty of options to celebrate the festive season together including a lunch time dinner and dance, Christmas meals and a candlelit concert. Laughter is also on the agenda for the Fawly Towers play in October at the Cliffs Pavilion. More trips will be available over the next six months and listed online and advertised at meetings.

The most up to date details can be found on online in the Events section, check here if you can for the latest information. This will also be posted in our dedicated WhatsApp groups and emailed separately if needed. Rachel Voller, Social Organiser is always happy to assist you with queries, and more details so please contact her on 07548 368751.

Members for Members

Book Swap

At Southend, one of our members suggested a Book Swap table which we have now introduced at our monthly meetings. Members are enjoying swapping good reads and magazines – great idea, thanks Sue Croft. We will be extending this to the Chelmsford branch this Autumn.



Social Committee

As we move into the Autumn, a new social committee has been formed at the Southend group to assist the Social Organiser with planning and delivering events. Sue Gutteridge, June Brewer, Colin Berry and Pat O'Neil are all on board to ensure members interests are represented as well as helping with admin and practicalities of running the events. Big thanks to these members for volunteering and I hope this will keep the group running smoothly as we continue to get bigger. This will also be introduced to the Chelmsford group in 2026. Thanks also to the regular members who kindly prepare and serve refreshments at our meetings and help with tidying at the end. This is very much appreciated and very helpful!

Branch Committee – as current members are aware we are always looking for new members to join the Branch Committee, which is central to the delivery of the South Essex and Stepney services.

Meetings are held quarterly and your input into Branch matters and finances will be helpful to secure the future of the branch and all its offerings. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Nicola O'Riordan Finley on 07802 678255 or email Nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk After what has been another great year of development, we are looking forward to another helping of unique and fun activities, socialising and eating! Thanks to members for helping to make both groups successful and a good place to be.

Chelmsford Meetings - Meeting Fun



Striking a Pose!



Eyes Down!



Always Fun!



Working Together



Winning Team!



Making Friends

Lunch Is Served! - Chelmsford



The Brambles



A Canteen



Buzzing at Bills



Great crowd at The Ship

Meeting Fun - Southend



Naming That Tune!



New Friends Fun



Pictionary Perfect!



2 Heads Better Than 1!



Serious Quizzers!



Three Is Never A Crowd

Lunchtime Gatherings - Southend



Plane Spotting at the Holiday Inn



Meadowlark Pub



Meadowlark Pub



Kings at the Castle!



Lunch Favourite - Castle Hadleigh



Tucking in at the Toby!

Day Trips - Papermill Lock - May 2025



All Aboard!



Enjoying the Commentary

Cockney Sing a Long - Parkinsons Support - Westcliff - August 2025 Fundraiser



Barry Is In Charge!



Roll Out the Barrel!

Ely Cathedral & Town - August 2025



Dinner at Dusk!



Cathedral Tour!

Riverdance - Cliffs Pavilion - September 2025



Its showtime!



Fun Night for All

Audley End House and Gardens - September 2025



Looking Good In the Gardens



Perfect Seat For Us All



Now This Is Comfy!



Great Friends - Good Memories

Scarborough Annual Movable Conference

In May of this year, our two deputies travelled to Scarborough to attend the Annual Conference of the Society. They were William Stallwood our Immediate Past Chairman/ Trustee and Doreen Stallwood one of our Past Chairman's and a Committee Member.

If you would like to read the report of the actual meetings then please contact Nicola O'Riordan Finley our Finance Secretary (District Secretary and a past Chairman of the Society).

Highlights of the week; Clause 1 was an obituary clause for the very well-liked Past Grand Master Brother Ron Munro who had sadly passed away during the year.

The Secretary of the Order (CEO) Sister Jane Nelson would be retiring the end of 2026 Eastbourne AMC and Succession Planning was well ahead with the splitting of her role as CEO and Secretary of the Order. The two positions had recently been filled and training would start immediately after the end of the conference.

Finances were becoming difficult for the central office (Unity based in Manchester) and they had asked conference for an increase in Levies. The Conference disagreed with the level of the increase and rejected the proposition referring it back to the board for them to look at cost cutting measures. It was pointed out that branches were all suffering from the cost of living



crisis and had nowhere to go to raise the extra income to pay these new levies.

The Board agreed to review the outgoings but warned there would be consequences. South Essex and Stepney was mentioned under recruitment and our new social organiser got a special mention for her quick successes since being employed in November 2024. Well done Rachel.

Brother John Mann was elected as our new Chairman



(Grand Master) he is from South London District but lives in our own District and he told our District Secretary that he may well try to come along to the Chelmsford Meetings.

Our District Lodge can have four Deputies to attend Annual Conference, plus someone to take the place of District Secretary as Nicola will be attending as a Past Grand Master. To be eligible to stand as a Deputy, you have to be member of over two years and have taken all of the levels of training (Degrees) up to the purple. We don't have that many members who can fill these roles at the present time but we are trying to get through the lectures with our new Committee Members.

Fund Raising for The Samaritans (Our Chairman's Charity)

This year we have been fund raising for The Samaritans and we raised £450 for them by sharing an event with the Day Centre. We held a VE Day Rations Lunch. The menu was carrot soup, Lord Woolerton pie (vegetable pie), corn beef hash, spam fritter and vegetables, followed by a mixed fruit crumble crisp and custard with tea or coffee.



The event was held in the Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre, who are in the Council car park behind Hockley Library which allowed one of their volunteers to bring in his WWII Jeep. Any one who got in it had their pictures taken. We decorated the hall and had flags and hats for everyone. Some even got in the spirit by dressing up and winning a prize or two. The event raised £900 in total, which meant the District Lodge raised £450 for our charity.



Later in the year, we fundraised via a quiz night a further £200 towards the Chairman's charity.

We have one last event for this charity which is a Treasure Hunt Quiz on 22nd November in the Day Centre. Thank you to all who have attended and entered in to the spirit.



The Grand Masters (Societies Chairman) Weekend

This year Brother John Mann was elected as our Society's Chairman. He is a South London Member, but actually lives in our District.

Our District used to be called Stepney and our District Office use to be down in the East end right in Stepney and then Forest Gate. In 1987 we moved to Grays Thurrock and then again in 2008 we moved to Hockley and the District Secretary now works from home.

However, when we first started, our Membership was taken from South London who had been both sides of the Thames at the Tower of London.

When it was proposed that Lodges were moving east, out of the city, it was decided to split from South London. So we have that special bond with them and used to visit South London on inter-District visits and they would come to the Oddfellows Hall in Grays.

On the Friday night, we were taken to a Pearly King and Queen Evening with pie, mash and jellied eels not to mention the liquor (parsley sauce) and Saturday we had the big event in County Hall Hotel by the London Eye and over the Thames near Parliament. It was a wonderful event!





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 Nicola on **07802 678255** or email nicola.oriordan@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



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**

Unity Mutual: A brand-new website and exciting Oddies member benefits

Unity Mutual, the financial arm of the Oddfellows, is delighted to have launched a brand-new website.

The fresh design reflects its updated brand identity, but more importantly, it has been built with accessibility and inclusion at its heart – a continuation of the Oddfellows’ ethos.



Whether looking for information on savings, investments or life insurance, the new site is easier to use, clearer to navigate and designed so that everyone can get the most from it.

Unity Mutual has partnered with Recite Me to introduce a full suite of accessibility tools, allowing visitors to customise their browsing experience. These include a text-to-speech function, styling features and translation options, which ensure their online services are available to all –

including those who may face barriers due to disability, neurodivergence or limited English language ability.

James Gilliver, Chief of Operations at Unity Mutual, explained: “Accessibility is extremely important to us at Unity Mutual. Our new website reflects our promise to inclusivity, ensuring all customers can access information in the way that best meets their needs.”

“But it’s not just about accessibility. We’ve also worked hard to make our content clearer and more engaging, so you can feel confident in understanding your financial choices. Our aim is to empower you and your family to make informed decisions about saving for the future.”

An extra reason to take a look is that Oddfellows members can currently benefit from special Guaranteed Investment Bond rates, available exclusively through Unity Mutual.

To see the new website, its new accessibility features and for more information about its products and rates, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows, and discover how Unity Mutual can help build a brighter financial future.

Application deadlines approach!

Whether it's enhancing careers or highlighting fantastic people, the Oddfellows has a number of ways we can give our members a boost – but we can only do so if we hear about them.

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for two of our wonderful schemes are fast approaching – the Apprenticeship Educational Award and the Making a Difference Awards.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



Each year, the Oddfellows grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards, which consist of £250 per year for the duration of the apprenticeship.*

Eligible members must apply via their Branch. If you, or someone you know, has been an Oddfellows member for five or more years, which includes Young Oddfellows membership, and started or plan to start an apprenticeship in 2025, get in touch with your Branch Secretary.

The Branch's deadline for submitting applications for consideration is **Wednesday 31 December 2025**.

*Each case is reviewed on personal merit. For previous recipients' stories, details on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Making a Difference Awards



Want to shine a light on those special people at your Branch who go above and beyond? Every Branch has them, so make sure we hear about their brilliance.

Any member can nominate a fellow member, so if there are people at your Branch who make a difference, speak to your Branch Secretary to find out how you can nominate them.

The deadline for Branches to submit their shortlist is **Saturday 31 January 2026**, so get your nominations in as soon as possible so they can be considered.

To find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, the categories, nomination process and the prior winners, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

If you've missed these deadlines this time don't worry, just make a note for next year!

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

This Friendship Month, we've been encouraging people to say 'yes' to trying new things, making new friends, and discovering all the brilliant things happening at our Branches throughout the nation.

It's safe to say, September 2025 has been another fabulous celebration of friendship. The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Friendship Month 2025 has once again demonstrated what the Oddfellows is all about, and I'm thankful of every single

person up and down the country who had been a part of it."

"Saying 'yes' to trying new things can be daunting, but you've all done an excellent job of showing how positive it is to be a part of friendship groups like ours. So, thank you for saying 'yes' to helping make your Friendship Month events a success, whether that's organising events, serving cups of tea, or simply making people feel welcome and comfortable. It all adds up to another wonderful Friendship Month."



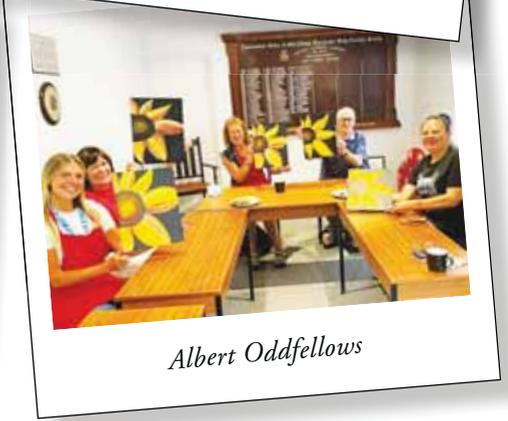
Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

At a glance

October 2025

Wed 22	Bonkers Bingo - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 23	Bonkers Bingo - Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 26	Sunday Halloween Lunch	1pm

November

Wed 12	Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together at The Giggling Squid	12.30pm
Thurs 13	Southend Branch Monthly Lunch at Old Walnut Tree	12.30pm
Sun 16	Greensward Sunday Lunch - Belated Father's Day	1pm
Sat 22	Quiz Night - Fundraiser for the Samaritans	7pm
Wed 26	All on Board - Fun Games Afternoon - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 27	All on Board - Fun Games Afternoon - Southend Branch	1.30pm
Fri 28	Fawlty Towers - Ciffs Pavilion - Southend	6pm
Sun 30	South Essex and Stepney Christmas Lunch	1pm

December

Wed 10	Christmas Celebration Lunch at County Hotel - Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Thurs 11	Southend Branch Monthly Lunch - Christmas Celebration Lunch	12.30pm
Sun 28	Christmas at the Movies by Candlelight Concert - Chelmsford Cathedral	6pm

January 2026

Thurs 8	Southend Branch Monthly Lunch	12.30pm
Sun 11	Greensward Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 14	Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together	12.30pm
Thurs 22	Treasure Hunt - Can you solve the clues to find the treasure? - Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 25	Greensward Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 28	Treasure Hunt - Can you solve the clues to find the treasure? - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm

At a glance

February

Sun 8	Greensward Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 11	Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together	12.30pm
Thurs 12	Southend Branch Monthly Lunch	12.30pm
Sun 22	Greensward Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 25	Rhythm and Clues - Music Quiz - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 26	Rhythm and Clues - Music Quiz - Southend Branch	1.30pm

March

Wed 11	Chelmsford Hope Branch Monthly Lunch Get Together	12.30pm
Thurs 12	Southend Branch Monthly Lunch	12.30pm
Sun 15	Greensward Mothering Sunday Lunch	1pm
Sat 21	South Essex and Stepney Supper Buffet and Annual General Meeting	7pm
Wed 25	A Trip Down Memory Lane - Trivia and Memory Challenges - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 26	A Trip Down Memory Lane - Trivia and Memory Challenges - Southend Branch	1.30pm 1.30pm
Sun 29	Greensward Easter Palm Sunday Lunch	1pm

Branch Meetings and Contact

Hope Branch

Social meetings start at 2pm and are held once a month on a Tuesday. 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL. Contact Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

Greensward Branch

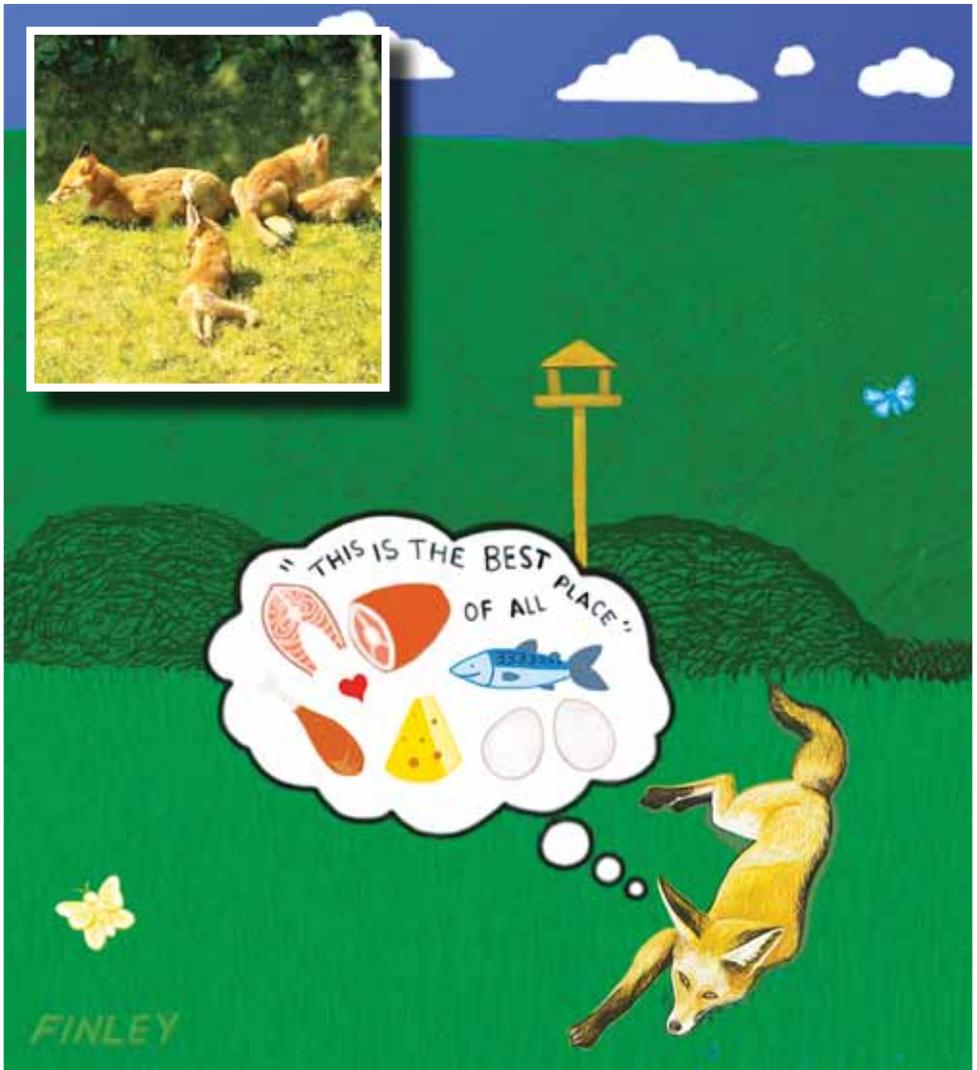
We do have the odd Saturday evening events and two Sunday lunches a month at the Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley, Essex. The occasional month has been moved as we are unable to secure all dates, please check diary before coming. Contact Nicola O'Riordan Finley on 07802 678255 for times and locations.

Southend Branch

Social meets are two Thursdays in a month, one at the Stables Community Centre, Chalkwell Park Drive Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 1XL, the second is going out in Essex. Contact Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

Dog's Tails

This summer we have not held any events in the District Secretaries garden due to a family of five cubs and two adult foxes moving in. We have reached autumn and they have all gone except for one runt of the litter cub who has learnt that Nicola will throw out the dogs left overs or even the odd out of date morsel from the fridge so each tea time he is laying there dreaming of what delicious tip bit is coming out the kitchen window she calls him Foxy Loxy.



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.
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