

July – December 2022

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

# out & about

## Tunbridge Wells



*Taken by Karen Rose on the Ashdown Forest.*



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Online



*Barbecue - Wednesday 20 July*

## Welcome to the next edition of your Events Diary for the Tunbridge Wells Branch.

As a local Branch of the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. This issue features details of all our upcoming events from live music to eating out.

Don't forget that everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events.

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

## Contact Details

**Tunbridge Wells Branch Office**  
**Branch Secretary:** Karen Rose

**Address:**

1 Southwick Close, East Grinstead,  
West Sussex RH19 2EZ

**Telephone:** 01342 324980

The best time to ring is during the week between 10am and 4pm but if there is no reply please do leave your name, telephone number and a short message.

**Email:**

[karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk)

Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to give us a try by attending any of our events that take your fancy before you decide to join.

**Please Note:** Photography will take place at each of our events to be used across Oddfellows' website, social media platforms, adverts and promotional material. If you would not like to be in any of these images, please let a member of staff or the photographer know.

## Find us at



**OddfellowsTunbridgeWells**

# Branch venues and local contacts

## Beacon Branch

Crowborough Social Club,  
Croft Road,  
Crowborough,  
East Sussex, TN6 1DL

**Contact:** Naz Mian

**Telephone:** 07905 472361

## Bexhill and Hastings Branch

Bexhill Conservative Club,  
6A Amherst Road,  
Bexhill-on-Sea,  
East Sussex, TN40 1QJ

**Contact:** Margaret Walisko

**Telephone:** 01424 217243

## Earl of Cottenham Branch

The East Grinstead Ex-Service's Club  
4 Station Road,  
East Grinstead,  
West Sussex, RH19 1DJ

**Contact:** Andy Mason

**Telephone:** 01342 317970

## Sevenoaks Branch

The Woodman,  
2 High Street,  
Otford,  
Sevenoaks,  
Kent, TN14 5PQ

**Contact:** Mike Hyde

**Telephone:** 07711 677 683

## Tunbridge Wells Branch

Constitutional Club,  
1 Sandrock Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent, TN2 3PX

**Contact:** Karen Rose

**Telephone:** 01342 324980

## Weald Branch

Venue to be confirmed.

**Contact:** Mike Hyde

**Telephone:** 07711 677683

# Branch Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and members support.

Any member is welcome to attend these meetings. They are held on the first Wednesday of the month (second in January) at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club either before or after the talk or activity.

# July 2022

WED  
06

## Sextant to Sat Nav Part 1



7.30pm



Free



Join us to welcome Peter Griffiths back to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Peter started flying with BOAC in 1967, on B707s, both as a Pilot and Navigator. He finished a few years ago flying executive jets for the rich and famous. This talk is the second half of Peter's story of a career in aviation from navigating with a compass, map, sextant and a fair degree of hope, to the modern age of Sat Nav and GPS, accurate to a few feet. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Thursday 30 June.

MON  
18

## Life and Crimes of Kenneth Noyes



7.45pm



Free



The Sevenoaks Branch is pleased to welcome back Ian Brown to The Woodman. Ian will talk about Kenneth's life from juvenile bully to an adult murderer and will trace his life through crime. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 12 July.



TUES  
12

## Move Over Dali



8pm



£5



Everyone is welcome to join the Beacon Branch for an evening with Move Over Dali, an acoustic 'bluesabilly' pop band based in Kent. Their material is a mix of original songs and unusual covers in their own style. They are a mature lively band who have fun playing live and can be seen all over the South of the UK in pubs, clubs, and parties. Refreshments will be provided by the Branch at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 6 July.



# July 2022

WED  
20

## Barbecue



8pm



Members £14  
Guests £18



Join the Pride of the Valley and other members for a scrumptious barbecue in the extensive private gardens of the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Sit back and enjoy a relaxing evening in the company of friends. Booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose (01342 324980, [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk)) to book your place. Payment is required in advance to secure your place. Book by Wednesday 6 July.

TUES  
26

## Lunchtime Get-Together - Tunbridge Wells



12 noon



As per menu



Join us for a lunchtime get-together at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. You will be able to purchase your own lunch at the Club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 20 July.

SAT  
23

## Tour of St Swithun's Church



11am



Members to purchase own lunch



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch for a guided tour of St Swithun's Church in East Grinstead which has a memorial to those Oddfellows that died in World War I. Plenty of parking is available in the nearby Chequer Mead Car Park, De La Warr Road, East Grinstead RH19 3AZ (pay and display).



The tour will be followed by lunch and a drink in a nearby bar. Members to purchase their own food and a drink will be paid for by the District. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 13 July. St Swithun's Church, 8 Church Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3BA.

# July 2022

SAT  
30

## Peru and the Lost City of the Incas

L 11am

£ Free



Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome Ray Young to the Bexhill Conservative Club. Ray will talk about his travels in Peru. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 19 July.



# August

TUES  
09

## Petanque and Barbecue

L 7pm

£ Members £12  
Guests £16



Join the Beacon Branch members to play petanque and attend a delicious barbecue in the picturesque garden of Crowborough Social Club. Booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. Cheques should be sent in advance to the District Office. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 3 August.



# August

WED  
03

## The Morse Code

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us to welcome Pete Allen back to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Has there ever been a more perfect tragic hero than Inspector Morse? Someone who, as his creator Colin Dexter noted, was somewhat of a loner by temperament and though never wholly happy when alone, was usually slightly more miserable when with other people, probably down to the knowledge that he was smarter than everyone else in the room. This talk, a companion piece to 'Watching the Detectives', explores the world of Morse from his first appearance in literature to his investigations on screen, stage and radio. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 27 July.



# August

**MON**  
**22** **Alpaco Country**

 7.45pm

 £5



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome Alpaco Country, a mature three piece local band who play music by a variety of bands from Johnny Cash to George Strait and Merle Haggard to Alan Jackson. Refreshments will be provided at The Woodman. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 16 August.



**TUES**  
**30** **Lunchtime Get-Together - Tunbridge Wells**

 12 noon

 As per menu



Join us for a lunchtime get-together at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. You will be able to purchase your own lunch at the Club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 22 August.

# September

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



**MON**  
**05** **The Only One That Got Away**

 7.45pm

 Free



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome back Christoph Bull to The Woodman. This is the story of a German PoW escape from Kent in 1915 and the amazing adventures that took him from China via America to Gravesend. Refreshments will follow the talk. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 29 August.

**WED**  
**07** **Beetle Drive**

 7.30pm

 Free



Beetle Drive enthusiast Roy Wright invites you to join us at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club for an enjoyable and entertaining evening. A prize will be awarded to the winner. The fun and games will be followed by refreshments and the monthly Branch meeting. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 31 August.

# September

TUES  
13

## Heartbeats



8pm



£5



Join the Beacon Branch for an evening of entertainment with the Heartbeats.



Recognised as one of Kent's premier 'Fifties/Sixties' bands, they entertain audiences of all ages with renditions of classic numbers, as well as a few lesser played, but instantly recognisable, tunes that are synonymous with an era of fabulous music and melody. Refreshments will be provided at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 7 September.

# ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

## 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON  
19

## Friendship Lunchtime Get-Together - Crowborough



12 noon



As per menu



Join us this Friendship Month for a lunchtime get-together at the Crowborough Social Club. You will be able to purchase your own lunch at the club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome, so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 13 September.

SAT  
17

## Friendship Dinner Dance



7pm



Members £20, Guests £30



Following on from the success of previous dinner dances, the Tunbridge Wells District are hosting their fourth Dinner Dance at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Please contact Karen for more information and to book a place.

[karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Please note that booking is essential. Book by Wednesday 7 September.





# September

SAT

24

## Friendship Ramble and Pub Lunch



10am



As per menu



The Earl of Cottenham Branch is organising a ramble in the Cowden area. The walk will be about a 3.5 mile circular walk from The Fountain Inn, 30 High Street, Cowden, Edenbridge TN8 7JG and will take approximately two hours. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended as well as being relatively fit and agile for the stiles. A drink will be paid for by the Branch. A menu will be available should you wish to purchase your own lunch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 14 September.



MON

26

## Smokin Mojos Unplugged



7.45pm



£5



The Sevenoaks Branch is pleased to welcome the Smokin Mojos, a local Blues/Soul/Country/Rock band with a diverse and interesting song list and growing in popularity. Unplugged, they provide an acoustic set of their full range of music, but cut down to fit into smaller venues. Expect an exciting evening of great music. Refreshments will also be provided at The Woodman. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 19 September.

# October

SAT

01

## Pompeii AD79



11am



Free



Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome local historian Ken Brooks to the Bexhill Conservative Club. Ken will talk about the infamous volcanic eruption of Vesuvius which engulfed the town and many others in a deep layer of ash, pumice and smoke, as well as the treasure trove uncovered by archaeologists over the years. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 21 September.

# October

WED  
05

## An Evening at the Races

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us for drinks and a buffet, together with horse racing on DVD and cash prizes for the winning punters. The fun and games will be followed by the Branch meeting at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place.

karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 28 September.



TUES  
11

## Mad Billy's Band

L 8pm

£ £5



The Beacon Branch are pleased to welcome back the six band members of Mad Billy's. In April 2019, they treated us to some blues music, a little bit of rock and roll, with a bit of reggae also thrown in. Refreshments will be provided at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place.

karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 5 October.

MON  
17

## More SOE Exploits

L 7.45pm

£ Free



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch in welcoming Gilly Halcrow whose stories include a 'Brighton Spiv' Agent's mission to successfully attack the Lille locomotive sheds. Another to put out of action the Peugeot and Michelin factories and culminating in the amazing destruction of the 'indestructible' dock gates at St Nazaire, crippling the ability to service Hitler's most powerful battleship, the Tirpitz. Refreshments will be provided following the talk at the Ex-Services Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Thursday 6 October.

Tirpitz image is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Germany license.

# October

## **TUES** **25** Lunchtime Get-Together - Tunbridge Wells



12 noon



As per  
menu



Join us for a lunchtime get-together at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. You will be able to purchase your own lunch at the Club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 18 October.

## **MON** **31** Orangutan Rescue in Borneo and Sumatra - Update



7.45pm



Free



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome back Alison Bristo who will update us on the work of the Orangutan Rescue centre. Alison will talk about orangutans, including why they are now an endangered species and the role of crucial care centres. Refreshments will follow the talk at The Woodman. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 24 October.

## **SUN** **30** Spanish Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £25, Guests £35



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch for a delicious tapas lunch at the family run La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar. Members will enjoy freshly prepared dishes and a warm atmosphere that will give them a sense of being on holiday in Spain. An early booking is essential due to the popularity of this excellent occasion and because places are limited. To secure your place cheques should be sent in advance to the District Office. Please contact Karen Rose for further information and to book your place by email at [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 18 October. La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar, 194-200 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1EY.



# November

## **WED** **02**    **The Race to the South Pole and the Sussex Connection**

**L** 7.30pm

**£** Free



Join us to welcome Michael Smith back to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club, who will talk about the dramatic race to reach the South Pole. It is a saga which begins 200 years ago with an enigmatic Irish navigator and obscure Russian seaman who first set eyes on Antarctica. It recalls the intrepid British mariners who braved the perilous pack ice in sailing ships to map the frozen continent and reaches a tragic climax in the contest between Amundsen and Scott. And a direct link to Sussex. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 25 October.



## **SAT** **05**    **Stuart London**

**L** 11am

**£** Free



Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome Ian Bevan back to the Bexhill Conservative Club. The 17th century was one of the most turbulent in the history of this country, and London suffered its own tragedies, especially the Great Fire of 1666. However, this period resulted in some of London's finest architecture – the City Churches, new palaces, hospitals for veterans. London also acquired the first coffee houses and new theatres. Ian's talk covers the expansion and development of London during the time of the Stuart monarchs. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 24 October.



# November

TUES

08

**Mick Sweetman**



8pm



£5



The Beacon Branch are pleased to welcome Mick Sweetman, a local Country and Western singer. Mick will sing upbeat country with rock n roll mixed in which will provide us with a lively evening for dancing, listening and foot-tapping. Refreshments will be provided at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place.

karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Tuesday 1 November.



MON

14

**Talk to be confirmed**



7.45pm



Free



Save the date. Venue and event to be confirmed. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose for further information and to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 7 November.

MON

21

**Lunchtime Get-Together  
- Crowborough**



12 noon



As per  
menu



Join us for a lunchtime get-together at the Crowborough Social Club. You will be able to purchase your own lunch at the club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 14 November.



MON

28

**Talk to be confirmed**



7.45pm



Free



Save the date. Venue and event to be confirmed. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose for further information and to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 21 November.

# December

SAT  
03

## Christmas Lunch Bexhill



1pm



Members £30, Guests £40



Join the Bexhill and Hastings Branch in the festive period for an excellent tasty lunch at The Royal Victoria Hotel. Cheques and menu choices should be made no later than Wednesday 9 November to Karen Rose at the District Office. The hotel requires full payment four weeks in advance.

Booking is essential. Orders cannot be taken after Wednesday 9 November. Contact Karen Rose for further information and to book your place.

karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Royal Victoria Hotel, Marina, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0BD.

WED  
07

## Stories from the Clink



7.30pm



Free



Join us to welcome Neil Sadler to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Which country has a quarter of all the world's prisoners locked up? Why did the prisoner lock his own cell door from outside on the jail landing in front of me? The real three man escape from Alcatraz. Did George Best ever play for the prison football team? Porridge; many people's favourite classic sitcom. All this and more from a former police officer who visited many UK prisons and met many colourful characters. Their stories might well surprise you. Approached with his customary humour, let Neil guide you in (and luckily, out) of a few well known prisons. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Thursday 1 December.





# December

SAT  
10

## High Rocks - Christmas Lunch



1pm



Members £30, Guests £40



Join friends for a delicious meal in beautiful surroundings at The High Rocks. Select your lunch from a menu offering tasty and seasonal food. Cheques and menu choices should be sent in advance to Karen Rose at the District Office.



All bookings must be received by Tuesday 15 November.

Booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose for further details and to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. The High Rocks, High Rocks Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 9JJ.

TUES  
13

## Stevie Bart



8pm



£5



Join the Beacon Branch to welcome back Stevie Bart who will provide us with an evening of Rock 'n' Roll from Elvis to Shakin' Stevens and all in between. Refreshments will be provided by the Branch at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 7 December.

WED  
14

## Christmas Lunchtime Get-Together - Tunbridge Wells



12 noon



As per menu



Join us for a Christmas lunchtime get-together at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. You will be able to purchase your own Christmas lunch at the club. Come along and meet other members for a chat. Everyone is welcome so please bring along your friends. A drink will be provided by the Branch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place. [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01342 324980. Book by Wednesday 7 December.

# Give someone a great start in life **for only £10!**



**It's never too early to start  
making friends for life.**

**We laugh as we learn together and give each other a helping hand through the ups and downs of growing up. That's what being a Young Oddfellow is all about.**

If you have a family member aged 17 or under, and would like them to experience the friendship and support of the Oddfellows, we'd love to welcome them.

There are lots of great reasons\* to join Young Oddfellows – to find out more, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/young-oddfellows](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/young-oddfellows)

**As a parent, grandparent or guardian,  
you can join them online or ask your  
Branch Secretary for an application form.**



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

**\*Terms and conditions apply to membership and financial benefits.  
Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions)**

# 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)

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

For more information visit: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits](http://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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions) or call us on 0800 028 1810.

# At a glance

## July 2022

<b>Wed 6</b>	Sextant to Sat Nav Part 1, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Tues 12</b>	Move Over Dali, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
<b>Mon 18</b>	Life and Crimes of Kenneth Noyes, The Woodman	7.45pm
<b>Wed 20</b>	Barbecue, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	8pm
<b>Sat 23</b>	Tour of St Swithun's Church, East Grinstead,	11am
<b>Tues 26</b>	Lunchtime Get-Together, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	12 noon
<b>Sat 30</b>	Peru and the Lost City of the Incas, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am

## August

<b>Wed 3</b>	The Morse Code, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Tues 9</b>	Petanque and Barbecue, Crowborough Social Club	7pm
<b>Mon 22</b>	Alpaco Country, The Woodman	7.45pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Lunchtime Get-Together, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	12 noon

## September - Friendship Month

<b>Mon 5</b>	The Only One That Got Away, The Woodman	7.45pm
<b>Wed 7</b>	Beetle Drive, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Heartbeats, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
<b>Sat 17</b>	Friendship Dinner Dance, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7pm
<b>Mon 19</b>	Friendship Lunchtime Get-Together, Crowborough Social Club	12 noon
<b>Sat 24</b>	Friendship Ramble and Pub Lunch, Cowden	10am
<b>Mon 26</b>	Smokin Mojos Unplugged, The Woodman	7.45pm

# At a glance

## October

<b>Sat 1</b>	Pompeii AD79, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am
<b>Wed 5</b>	An Evening at the Races, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Tues 11</b>	Mad Billy's Band, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
<b>Mon 17</b>	More SOE Exploits, The East Grinstead Ex-Service's Club	7.45pm
<b>Tues 25</b>	Lunchtime Get-Together, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	12 noon
<b>Sun 30</b>	Spanish Sunday Lunch at La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar, East Grinstead,	1pm
<b>Mon 31</b>	Orangutan Rescue in Borneo and Sumatra - Update The Woodman	7.45pm

## November

<b>Wed 2</b>	The Race to the South Pole and the Sussex Connection Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Sat 5</b>	Stuart London, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am
<b>Tues 8</b>	Mick Sweetman, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
<b>Mon 14</b>	Talk and venue to be confirmed	7.45pm
<b>Mon 21</b>	Lunchtime Get-Together, Crowborough Social Club	12 noon
<b>Mon 28</b>	Talk and venue to be confirmed	7.45pm

## December

<b>Sat 3</b>	Christmas Lunch - Bexhill, Royal Victoria Hotel, Marina	1pm
<b>Wed 7</b>	Stories from the Clink, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
<b>Sat 10</b>	High Rocks - Christmas Lunch	1pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Stevie Bart, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
<b>Wed 14</b>	Christmas Lunchtime Get-Together Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	12 noon

**Learn, have fun, and  
stay in touch from home**

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## New to the Oddfellows?

**Join us at one of our online  
new member welcome events**

Tues 12 July, 7pm  
Weds 13 July, 1.30pm

Tues 18 October, 7pm  
Weds 19 October, 1.30pm



For further information visit: **[www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome](https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome)**





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# Tunbridge Wells News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

## Beacon Branch

Pages 6-8

## Sevenoaks Branch

Pages 12-14

## Bexhill and Hastings Branch

Pages 18-19



**Nothing is too small**

Pages 3



Earl of Cottenham Branch



Friendship Lunchtime  
Get-Togethers



Remembrance Sunday



**Welcome to the thirty-seventh edition of your twice yearly Tunbridge Wells Newsletter.**

## **A message from your Secretary**

**Firstly I would like to welcome any new members who have joined in the last six months. I do hope that you have settled in and are enjoying attending our varied social events and making new friends. It has been a busy time with thirty Face-to-Face events in the last six months plus six online talks.**

Now that all restrictions have been lifted, it seems that the majority of our membership are keen to access the variety

## **Contact Details**

**For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:**

**District Secretary: Dr Karen Rose**

**Address:**

**1 Southwick Close, East Grinstead,  
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**T: 01342 324980**

**E: [karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk)**

**The best time to ring is during the week between 10am and 4pm but if there is no reply please do leave your name, telephone number and a short message.**

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of Face-to-Face events that are being delivered across our District. The Events Diary for the second half of 2022 has been produced and again contains a variety of events including interesting talks, music, games and a walk, as well as plenty of lunchtime get-togethers and of course our Christmas lunches. Everyone is welcome at our events, so if you can encourage family and friends to come then bring them along to try us out before they join and they will be made very welcome. Let your friends and family know that there's so much to get out of being an Oddfellows

member, from our varied social events to our supportive benefits package. Just do not forget to book your place at events as some of our venues have restrictions on numbers!

This newsletter gives a flavour of the events that have taken place across the six branches of the District over the last few months and enjoyed by so many of our members. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for future events or would like to become more involved in the life of the Oddfellows.

## Nothing is too small

**You can also get in touch for advice, to talk over something that is worrying you, or simply to chat. Where we can help, we will. We know many of you do not like asking for help. Please do not think you are putting us out. We are your Society, here to support you. There are also various financial grants that are available should the need arise.**

With the longer days now with us, hopefully the sun will continue to shine. Please do enjoy the friendship of Oddfellowship and help to spread the word about us.

**Karen**



*Karen with Roy Wright at High Rocks.*

# Earl of Cottenham Branch

**Thanks to Pete Gardner, Andy Mason and Karen Rose for their work in providing a variety of events for the Branch.**

At the beginning of November, thirty-four members enjoyed a Sunday lunch at La Farola in East Grinstead where our members consumed three tasty courses over a couple of hours with a glass or two of wine or something similar. Twenty-five members plus two guests returned to La Farola in March to savour another delicious three course Sunday lunch. Everyone was delighted with the warm friendly atmosphere and enjoyed plentiful food.

In February, Ian Everest spoke to twenty-eight members about the Women's Land Army (WLA). Ian gave us a fascinating

account of the WLA, an interest of his that has grown over the last thirty-five years. Indeed, his own mother joined the organisation in March 1943.

The origins of the WLA can be traced back to the dark days of the First World War when the bad harvest of 1916,



*Members and Guests enjoying La Farola*



*Members enjoying La Farola*



combined with severe shipping losses, threatened Britain with starvation and collapse. Under the auspices of the suffragette Mrs Talbot and her assistant, Gertrude Denman of WI fame, the WLA was created in 1917 by the newly formed women's branch of the Board of Agriculture, acquiring 6,000 members by the end of that year. After the Armistice, the WLA was finally disbanded in October 1919.

Resurrection came in April 1939 with the prospect of war. Miss Denman led the organisation, using her own skills and knowledge of the countryside to make it as appealing and effective as possible. Former prejudices had subsided to some extent but farming hadn't really progressed since the previous conflict. By 1943 there



Ian Everest

were 63,000 land girls who made a big difference to Britain's ability to feed itself. After the war, the organisation gradually wound down until its closure in October 1950. Many interesting pictures brought home to us the conditions that were endured by the girls.

## The Roy Hill Shield



*Judy Griffin being presented with the shield by Karen Wickins*

Judy Griffin was the winner for 2020/2021 of the prestigious shield, which is normally awarded annually to the person who recruits the most new members to the Branch. The trophy was purchased in memory of the late Roy Hill, a previous Secretary of the Tunbridge Wells District, who passed away in 2004. It was presented to Judy at the February Bexhill meeting.

## Beacon Branch

**Thanks to the efforts of Naz Mian, a number of music events have again been organised for the Beacon Branch at the Crowborough Social Club. Each event included a very delicious buffet and refreshments.**

In November, Stevie Bart regaled forty-two members with a constant stream of Rock n Roll hits. Many classic tracks were played which encouraged members to get up and dance. There was even some line dancing to a few of the hits. The list of artists that were performed was long but a few of them were Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, Cliff Richard, Elvis, Sam Cooke, The Beatles, Ricky Nelson and Michael Bublé.



*Stevie Bart*

Twenty members attended the meeting in December despite bad weather and were entertained by Justine Clarke who sang a variety of songs including Christmas songs. Many members got up on the dance floor to dance the night away.



*Justine Clark*

The five band members of Shine entertained twenty-six members in January with their own slant on popular 'Ska', New Reggae and really cool songs. They played various hits from the likes of Crowded House, Travelling Wilburys, Madness, Squeeze, Elvis, Buddy Holly and Bryan Adams in their own unique way with some members getting up to dance.



*Shine*

The Bonneville, another five piece band, entertained thirty-seven members with a musical journey from the 50s to the 70s at our February Valentines night. Naz handed out red roses to all the ladies as the band played songs such as Rave On, Rockin' Robin, Fever, Love Potion No. 9, Islands in the Stream, Wipeout and the Wonder of You. Lots of members took to the dance floor to enjoy the evening.



*The Bonneville*





*Naz with the roses*

In March, thirty-eight members enjoyed the return of the Smokin' Mojos who have entertained us previously at our Dinner Dance last September and before that at The Bull at Benenden. The four band members have a diverse and interesting song list and play a mix of Blues, Soul, Country and Rock. Some of the tracks that they performed, encouraging members to take to the dance floor, were Wishing Well, Chasing Cars, Purple Rain, Honky Tonk Woman, Steamy Windows, 9 To 5, Sweet Caroline and Islands In The Stream.



*Smokin' Mojos*

Forty members were entertained by a new act to us in April, the Saturnalia Sisters. The two singers (not actually sisters!)

were attractively dressed in 1940's style, in keeping with the first part of their show, which found them singing in a style reminiscent of the Andrews Sisters, and even included a couple of those artists' songs - "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" and "Rum and Coca Cola". Several more of the numbers dated from that period, including one very jolly song about the joys of eating fish! Later numbers saw the Sisters coming more up to date with their repertoire, and included a very different, jazzy, arrangement of George Michael's hit "Careless Whisper".



*Saturnalia Sisters*

February saw the return of lunchtime get-togethers at the Crowborough Social Club. Although the weather was terrible, thirty-one members enjoyed lunch that was a choice of homemade soup with French bread, fish and chips, macaroni cheese or panini with chips or salad. Dessert was a brownie with ice cream. Everyone enjoyed the social occasion and chance to catch up with friends.

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*Lunchtime get-together at Crowborough Social Club*

## An Evening at the Races

In December, thirty-one members enjoyed an evening of racing at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club expertly organized by Naz Mian. Everyone had fun trying to place their bets on the winning horse in each of the six races with some having a lot more success than others! Each race had fun names such The Bond Baddy Chase; The Misfits Hurdle; and The Gumshoe Stakes. There was lots of cheering and the most successful punter was



*Naz presenting Karen with her prize*

**Karen Rose, with Roy Wright and Debbie Gillan joint second.**

# Looking back to Christmas

**In December, seventy-two members enjoyed a three course meal with wine, crackers and drinks at the High Rocks in Tunbridge Wells. Along with the relaxed atmosphere and social occasion, a raffle for a hamper was organised by Solveig Stanhope, assistant secretary. A total of £175 was raised by the donation raffle with the proceeds going towards our charity of the year – Pickering Cancer Trust.**

A week earlier, thirty-four members sat down to a delicious three course Christmas lunch at the Royal Victoria Hotel in St Leonards on Sea. A raffle was held that raised £94 for local charity St Michael's Hospice. Just before Christmas a cheque for £250 was sent to St Michael's Hospice from the proceeds of all the raffles held in Bexhill since July.



*Members having fun at High Rocks*



*Members enjoying their meal at the Royal Victoria Hotel*



# Friendship Lunchtime Get-Togethers

There have been four lunchtime get-togethers (October, November, January, and March) at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club in the last six months plus a Christmas lunch in December. Each lunch attracted around thirty members except for our March one where only nineteen members came due to the impact of Covid. At each of the lunchtimes,

members were able to purchase their own food and the District paid for a couple of drinks each. In December, the Club put on a two course festive carvery that was very well received. Much fun and laughter was had by all present at each event. A raffle was also held each time for our Charity of the Year - Pickering Cancer Trust.



*Getting into the Friendship spirit*

# Sextant to Sat Nav Part 1

In January, Peter Griffiths gave forty-one members at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club a fully illustrated talk along with highly entertaining anecdotes of his 45 years in aviation. His original introduction to becoming a pilot was an advert in a magazine offering the opportunity to earn £5,000 a year. He applied for an interview with BOAC and was sent to Hamble College and was accepted. His first aircraft was a De Havilland Chipmunk. BOAC had several bases across the country



*Peter Griffiths*

where they sent their recruits and he ended up at Scone with the “misfits”. At this time they were training on the Cessna 150s which fortunately had heaters. After 250 hours flying, Peter qualified as a commercial pilot (with instruments) and went off to start the real job. The very next aeroplane he had was a B707-436! The navigator used a chart, a sextant and compass to plan their route, there was no technical or electronic equipment in those days. After seven years with BOAC, Peter left the airline and joined Cathay Pacific. His final video of commercial airlines attempting the scary landing at the old Hong Kong airport had us all gasping as they veered and yawed all over the runway.

## Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 14 November 2021, Oddfellows throughout the District remembered those who had lost their lives in the First World War

and subsequent conflicts. A wreath was laid on behalf of the District by Iryna Taylor at East Grinstead War memorial.



*Iryna Taylor*

## Sevenoaks Branch

**Once again, Mike Hyde has produced an exciting programme of talks for our meetings at The Woodman, Otford with each event including a very tasty buffet and refreshments.**

In November, one of our favourite speakers, Ian Bevan, came to talk seventeen members through the history of the Theatre Royal - from “Nell Gwyn to Willy Wonka”.



*Ian Bevan*

He walked us from the building of the first 700 seater wooden theatre as approved by Charles II, when an actress called Nell Gwyn became one of the first, and an extremely popular, female stage actress, through to it being burnt down some six years after the Fire of London. Three subsequent theatres followed on the same site, each being developed as the previous one became unfit for purpose. We were shown the details of each theatre, and how each expanded to better use the ground space available. With the front entrance never actually being in Drury Lane.

The current theatre (frontage in Catherine Street) was built in 1812 with 3060 seats, some 550 fewer than the previous version, but subsequently reduced. It is this

version that has seen so many large scale and long running productions in more recent years. Ian highlighted a number of these, including the debut of four Rogers and Hammerstein musicals (Oklahoma, Carousel, South Pacific, King and I), the longest run of all for Miss Saigon, and various others like The Producers, My Fair Lady (twice!), 42nd Street, and, in 2017, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ... starring Willy Wonka.

Christoph Bull very kindly stepped in to give nineteen members a talk on ‘Some Real Kentish Ghost Stories’ in January, with very little prior notice, as our scheduled speaker



*Christoph Bull*

had to postpone because of a family breakout of Covid. Christoph’s talk was described by him as being “some fiction, mostly true, from around Gravesend and West Kent”. For each location described, he explained how credible it was, highlighting how much was hearsay or passed down story compared to where there was properly recorded events that would bear some amount of investigation.

Christoph described a number of such events in great detail; some of them



he had personally spoken to people involved or seen the site evidence. Some tales were simply amusing, some were intriguingly unexplained, some were quite thought-provoking. For a purely spoken presentation (no illustrations), Christoph kept us interested and amused with his usual enthusiastic delivery.

In February, for the second month running, we had a replacement speaker because of the impact of Covid. This time, Delia Taylor had less than 24 hours' notice, so we were extremely



*Delia Taylor*

grateful to her for stepping in. Twenty-three members enjoyed Delia's complete description of the workings of MGM Studios which came into being when Marcus Loew, who already owned about a third of Broadway, merged his Metro Pictures with companies owned by Samuel Goldwyn (for distribution) and Louis B Mayer (film production). After many years of success, MGM found, as did other studios that by the end of the 40's television was beginning to take away the cinema audiences. They had previously had success with some musicals, notably The Wizard of Oz, and decided to develop some expensive but very appealing new musicals - with significant help from producer Arthur Freed who was involved

with the very best of them. What followed involved most of the well-known writers, arrangers and singers of the day; names like Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, etc.

Delia described some of the films in detail, particularly those that had a unique feature. There was Meet Me In St Louis, the first musical where the music matched the story; 10 films for Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland, all with a very similar story; Easter Parade with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire (which was intended to be Gene Kelly); Singing In The Rain, where the song Good Morning alone took 11 hours to film; through to Gigi, the last film of this period. In later years, as MGM finances started to suffer more, James Aubrey sold off all of the props and memorabilia from these films, and all of the original sheet music was buried under the development of a golf course. Delia concluded by showing the wonderful tap dance routine between Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell to Begin The Beguine from Broadway Melody of 1940.

Rukshana Master and her husband Jehan decided they would like a "small project" to purchase and own a cottage in rural France. Her presentation in March to twenty-one members



*Rukshana Master*

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explained their adventures in looking for and renovating such a cottage. They found a stone building in the region of Millau in southern France, some miles north of Montpellier. The cottage they found had been derelict and unused for many years, had no water or electricity supply, was way out in rural, largely uninhabited, countryside, and had an access road that perched on the side of a deep ravine.

Rukshana's tale took us through the work that was necessary to rebuild it, and how successful that was, and the problems

they encountered in doing that - some help from, but also some significant resistance from, the local French mayor and his council. And all of this was done during weekends and holidays, as they continued to live in Surrey, England. Her presentation was accompanied by some stunning photographs of the beautiful countryside in and around that part of France. They no longer own that cottage, but their parting comment to the meeting organiser was that, the day following this talk, they were off to France to work on the latest cottage they have purchased!

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## Dementia Friends

**In February, Joe Mendell, volunteer for the Alzheimer's Society, spoke to thirty-three members at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club about Dementia**

**Friends. Being a Dementia Friend simply means learning more about dementia, putting yourself in the shoes of someone living with the condition, and turning your understanding into action. From visiting someone you know with dementia to being more patient in a shop queue, every action counts.**



*Joe Mendell*

Dementia is caused by a number of diseases that affect the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's. Different types of dementia affect the brain at different rates and in different ways. Dementia progresses in a way that is unique to each individual. The word 'dementia' describes a set of symptoms that may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language. These changes are often small to start with, but for someone with dementia they have become severe enough to affect daily life. A person with dementia may also experience changes in their mood or behaviour. It is true that more people over 65 have dementia but it is not exclusively an older person's disease; younger people get dementia too.

## Captain Oates - Antarctic Tragedy

In November, Michael Smith gave a very interesting and well researched talk to thirty-four members at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Lawrence "Titus" Oates was the epitome of the Victorian English gentleman - an aristocratic member of the Landed Gentry, a pupil at Eton and an officer in an elite cavalry regiment.



*Michael Smith*

After 10 years in the cavalry, he became disenchanted with the army and paid money from his own pocket to join Scott's attempt to reach the South Pole in 1912. But Oates was an outsider on the ill-fated expedition and clashed with Scott.

Michael read out extracts from the diaries and letters left by Oates which provide a starkly different and alternative perspective to the traditional myth of heroic failure by unlucky explorers. However, Oates will always be immortalised on Scott's tragic last expedition when he crawled to his death in a blizzard to save his comrades, uttering the most famous last words of all time - "I am just going outside and may be some time". Another thoroughly entertaining talk by Michael Smith.

## Annual Meeting



*Karen Wickins, Margaret Walisko and Ruth Chambers*

In April at the Annual Meeting, Karen Wickins was thanked by thirty members for her successful year in office as Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman). It was also reported that a total of just under £1000 had been raised through the monthly raffles and High Rocks raffle for Karen's nominated charity of the year - Pickering Cancer Trust.

Margaret Walisko succeeds Karen in this position and Ruth Chambers became Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Margaret has nominated St Michael's Hospice as her charity of the year.

Also at the meeting, donations of £500 were awarded to each of the following charities: Artytime CIC; The Kit Wilson Trust; Compaid, Tunbridge Wells; and Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (KASBAH).

## District Online Talks

**Since January 2021, our District have been hosting a monthly online Zoom talk each month. Members from all over the country have joined us at these talks. Sadly, April 2022 saw the last of our online District talks. The Committee took the decision to stop hosting these due to ever decreasing numbers. However there are still around 20 online events every week being hosted by Districts around the country that include coffee mornings, quizzes, games, talks, exercise classes and much more. Please visit the website to view the online events. <https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/search/?PlaceName=online>. If you would like to be added to the weekly email about online and Face-to-Face events then please contact Karen Rose (contact details on Page 2).**

In November, Jim Whelan gave sixteen members a talk on Christmas with the Soap Stars. Jim Whelan has been an actor for 50 years and has worked with many of the top stars of Television and Film. Over the years Jim has performed in more than thirty Pantos. His first was in 1970 when he played Billy Crusoe at Oldham Repertory Theatre, the Dame that year was Roy Barraclough and they remained friends until Roy's death. Often, the first call for Soap Stars when they leave their regular shows is Pantomime and Jim regaled us with a fund of stories and anecdotes from these encounters over the years.

Pete Allen's talk to thirteen members in December was called Lights, Camera, Ho! Ho! Ho! A Surprising Celebration of Christmas Movies. The question is what makes a Christmas movie? Do the movies need to include Christmas or do they become a Christmas movie because they are released over the Festive season such as The Great Escape? In 2021, on 23rd September, several channels started showing their Christmas movies with 500 new Christmas movies being released. The Americans seem to love their Christmas movies and it is likely that these are their equivalent to pantomime season in the UK. Pete gave us a fascinating insight into Christmas movies and showed us various clips from over the years. A real trip down memory lane.

In January, Paul Whittle took seventeen members on a journey with his talk The Venetian Connection. Paul's talk covered the history and principal sites of Venice plus a look at the many other towns and cities that for several hundred years were under the direct control or influence of Venice. Tradition has it that Venice was founded in AD421 by the people of the Veneto fleeing danger from the mainland to the wild uninhabited islands off the coast. From such humble beginnings Venice grew to be an immensely powerful city state controlling large areas of the Mediterranean shores. A very interesting and informative talk.

Joe Mendell gave twenty-two members a fascinating talk in February about the life of Erik Weiss who later adopted the name of Harry Houdini. Born into a large family in Budapest, Hungary in 1874, Houdini grew up in the USA when the family moved there two years later. He was always interested in locks and used his mother's button hook to practice on, as well as working for a locksmith which also helped to hone his skills. His name derives from the Frenchman Robert-Houdin who was a great influence. At only 5ft 4in Houdini had full control of all his muscles which made it easier to escape from his various famous tricks. He started as a magician with his brother Theo but soon replaced him with his wife Bess. There were always either journalists or cameramen in place to record his various terrifying stunts. He still holds the record of holding his breath at 4 minutes 35 seconds. His most famous tricks were the milk can escape and Chinese water torture trick. He also made several films in the early 1920s. At the age of 52 he was getting very tired doing 3 shows a day, 5 days a week and sustained a broken ankle and a high fever. He died in hospital on 31st October 1926. His wife survived him by 17 years but they were not buried together as she was a Catholic. Harry Houdini will be remembered as the most famous entertainer and escape artist.

In March, Ian Bevan, informed nineteen members about Victorian Leisure and Pleasure. It was during Victorian times, particularly with the onset of the railways, that people began to take holidays away

from their home town or village. This saw the growth of seaside towns, their piers, and fun fairs. The period also saw the advent of travelling circuses, bandstands, music halls and opera houses available to all. The newly developed lawn mower allowed for tennis, croquet, and bowls to flourish. There was an explosion of libraries, free for the first time, and art galleries. London Zoo opened its doors. The invention of arc-lighting and, later, limelight changed the whole way that theatres and music halls were, literally, seen. What an exciting period - what a fascinating talk!

Neil Sadler spoke to nineteen members about Gongoozling for Beginners... Life on the canals. Neil retired from Sussex Police Force in 2008, and decided that a life change was in order. He and his wife, having discussed their preferred options (Neil wanted to sell their house to buy a canal narrow boat!), ended up buying a share in a narrow boat. Neil explained the term 'Gongoozling' - Canal workers' slang for an observer standing apparently idle on the towpath. The term is believed to be from the Lincolnshire dialect (gawn and gooze both mean to stare or gape). He showed us the interior of his canal boat which looked cramped yet very comfortable, and also a map of Britain outlining the canal routes. He then gave us some insights through amusing anecdotes of some of the various trips he had undertaken on the canals with his wife and dog along with some of the mishaps that they have encountered along the way.



# Bexhill and Hastings Branch

**Huge thanks to Margaret Walisko for organising an exciting programme of talks for the Bexhill and Hastings Branch at the Bexhill Conservative Club. Each talk was followed by a buffet lunch and refreshments provided by the Lodge.**

In October, David Horne, regaled nineteen members and a guest with anecdotes and readings in his talk 'A look back at ENSA' - Entertainment National Service Association or Every Night Something Awful

as nicknamed by Tommy Trinder. David recreated some of the songs and sketches that were performed by ENSA artists to boost morale and brighten up the dark days of the Second World War. The last concert was performed in India on 18th August 1946. All the members thoroughly enjoyed David's talk about ENSA as well as his singing and anecdotes, and everyone joined in the sing-along at the end that included well-loved songs such as Bluebirds, It's A Long Way To Tipperary, Roll Out The Barrel, Pack Up Your Troubles, and We'll Meet Again.



*David Horne*

In February, in the spirit of the Mousetrap, before commencing her mystery talk 'Three Women One Man - glamour, wealth and heartbreak', speaker Melanie Gibson-Barton

swore our thirty-nine members all to keep secret the names of the intriguing participants - even from members not attending the meeting! Melanie led us through a wide selection of slides from world-wide locations - many from her own postcard collection - to show how the lives of the four charismatic people of her talk intertwined in surprising ways, in their glamorous world of wealth which brought them both joy and heartbreak. The thoroughly entertaining talk resulted in much discussion in the audience. At the conclusion, though, we were again reminded to keep the identities of the three women and one man secret. After all, we had booked a mystery talk and would not want to spoil the surprise for others.

Thirty-five members were entertained in March by Pete Allen as he took us on a cinematic journey with his latest talk 'How the West was Shot - Hollywood and the Wild, Wild West'. The only Westerns



*Melanie Gibson-Barton*

to have won the best picture academy award at the Oscars are *Cimarron* (1931); *Dances with Wolves* (1990) and *Unforgiven* (1992). However, ever since *Justus D*



*Pete Allen*

Barnes drew his revolver in 'The Great Train Robbery' in 1903, Hollywood and the Western have been inseparable. For over 70 years it made stars of actors like Marion Morrison, Eldred Peck and Yuliy Borisovich Briner. Pete's Talk forged a trail west to celebrate the men and women who helped make the Western the most important genre in cinema history. Various clips were shown from some well-known films as well as some lesser known. Another entertaining talk.

## The Shetland Bus



*Gilly Halcrow*

**In March, Gilly Halcrow visited Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club to talk to forty-one members about The Shetland Bus. Gilly's fascinating talk detailed the deeds of incredibly courageous and patriotic men. The seas between Norway and Scotland are the stormiest in the world. No**

**other series of journeys in such bad weather, in such small boats and in darkness to an unlit coast had been undertaken. The trips involved carrying a cargo of explosives, guns, ammunition, etc. and returning with desperate refugees.**

On the 10 November 1941 the *Arthur* set off from Norway in good weather but ran into a storm with winds of over 100 mph. A large wave wrecked the wheelhouse and flooded the engine room. One crew member was lost overboard. After four days, six crew and one refugee arrived back in Shetland. The *Blia*, which left at the same time with a crew of seven and 38 passengers, was never seen again. Gilly also spoke of many more stories of heroic deeds undertaken by the SOE and Norwegian fishermen. The impact of the operation resulted in 400 tons of arms and explosives being delivered to Norway, 450 refugees rescued and many agents being delivered and recovered.

## Our Branches raised a magnificent £151,000 for charitable causes in 2021!

**Congratulations to our Branches and their members for a tremendous fundraising achievement in 2021. Helping struggling communities and those in need is something the Oddfellows has been doing for over two centuries. And despite the pandemic, last year was no exception.**

Branches and their members raised over £151,000 to support causes close to their hearts, a figure up on 2020's already significant total of £145,700. Fifth generation Oddfellow, Society historian and South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Branch member, Paul Eyre,



*West London Branch*

reflects on the tradition of local giving. He said: "For many years, it has been fairly common practice for the Provincial Grand Master of a District to choose a charity to support during their year of office, with funds being raised by raffles, donations or other fundraising activities."

Oddfellows CEO, Jane Nelson, added: "It always astounds me when we look at the collective yearly fundraising figure. The generosity of our members and Branches, especially at such times where household budgets are becoming increasingly tight and unpredictable, is incredible.



*South East Lancashire Branch*

"I feel immensely proud to represent such a caring bunch of people, those who don't hesitate to help a neighbour in need.

"For those who receive support, it's not just about the financial help, it's knowing that their situation is acknowledged and that there are people out there who care and listen."



*Concord Branch*

## Fundraising for Ukraine

**The Society is collecting donations to support the work the Red Cross is doing in Ukraine. The Red Cross is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response.**

In some areas in Ukraine, water, electricity, and phone connectivity have been affected. Many people are taking cover from the shelling in basements and bomb shelters, but are going without the most basic supplies, like food and water.

Any donations will be used to reach people in urgent need, If you would like to contribute,



cheques should be made payable to "The Oddfellows", and sent to:

**Ukraine Support  
The Oddfellows  
Oddfellows House  
184-186 Deansgate  
Manchester, M3 3WB**

The Society has already pledged £10,000 from central Funds in support of this appeal.

# Access to expert legal help

**From day one of membership, all members have access to the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme.\***

We hope it's something you never have to call on, but if you do it gives you access to the expert help of our appointed solicitors should you need to make a claim for medical negligence, a personal injury, or an employment dispute which is at pre or tribunal stage. It also covers your family members for personal injury and medical negligence cases.

## Help with a medical negligence claim

Medical negligence is when a healthcare provider – NHS or private – has failed in their duty to take care of you and you have suffered an injury. This could be, for example, that you've been given a wrong drug, they've made a mistake during a treatment, or failed to diagnose your condition, or made a wrong one.

Matthew Heap, a Solicitor and Partner at CL Medilaw ([www.clmedilaw.co.uk](http://www.clmedilaw.co.uk)), which is one of the Society's approved solicitors, further explained: "Some people get in touch with us and they know the exact point at which they feel they've been failed. For others, it's less clear-cut, but they know that somewhere along the line, the care they've received has fallen short of medically-acceptable standards.

"Knowing how to raise your case, and to be heard, can be daunting when you don't know the process, have the contacts, or legal knowledge.

"But the support that's available through the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme can help you to get the answers you need and, hopefully, the compensation you deserve."

## Who can make a claim?

You can bring the legal action yourself or, as the executor or next of kin, on behalf of someone who has died because of medical negligence, or on behalf of a family member if that person is unable to take action themselves because they don't have capacity.

Oddfellows members and their family can receive Legal Aid Scheme support as long as the accident, incident or issue happened while you were a member and you have remained a member since that time.

You must start your legal claim within three years from the date that you either realised you'd been injured or when the incident occurred. For children, this three-year time limit doesn't start until the child's 18th birthday.

If you're looking to make a claim on behalf of someone close to you because they don't have capacity, such as they're unable to manage their own affairs or have a mental disability, then the three-year time limit doesn't apply, unless they recover from this incapacity.

"Taking legal action for compensation is a way to try and secure the support that you now need and deserve – financial or medical. The Oddfellows and CL Medilaw will have your back every step of the way," added Matthew.

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### How to apply for the Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme

The first step is to call the Care and Welfare Helpline for a non-committal conversation. If you wish to move forward, you'll need to fill in an Oddfellows Legal Aid application form. The Care and Welfare Helpline number can be found on your membership card or by calling **0800 028 1810**.

### Further information

Read this article in full at:

**[www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-to-make-a-claim-for-medical-negligence](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/help-to-make-a-claim-for-medical-negligence)**

The Oddfellows' Legal Aid Scheme:

**[www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/legal-aid-scheme](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/legal-aid-scheme)**

\*Terms and conditions apply to all financial benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Read the full list of Oddfellows member benefit terms and conditions at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-fcs](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-fcs) or call Membership on 0800 028 1810.

## Member-only offers from Unity Mutual

**Unity Mutual is the Society's financial services brand and they've created a dedicated section on their website to share special deals and rates that are only available to Oddfellows members.**

Unity Mutual's current member-only deal, launched in spring 2022, is a 5 Year Guaranteed Investment Bond with a special fixed rate of 1.75% annual interest, which equates to 9.06% over the full term. It also offers a guaranteed return on your savings and 100% capital protection. The minimum single investment per member is £1,000.

They're only accepting a limited number of applications, however, so this product will be offered to Oddfellows members on a first-come, first-served basis.

\*T&Cs apply.



To find out more, or view their full range of savings, investment and protection products, call **0161 214 4628** or go to **[www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows)**



\*To view Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bond terms and conditions, go to [www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib](http://www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows/gib). If you're in any doubt about whether any Unity Mutual product is right for you, it's a good idea to talk to an Independent Financial Advisor (IFA). You can find a local financial advisor by visiting [www.unbiased.co.uk](http://www.unbiased.co.uk). You may need to pay for a financial advisor's help, so make sure you ask them about their fees first.

# 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 Karen on **01342 324980** or email **karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk**

## 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**

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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