



May - October 2025



out & about

Maidstone Fernlea District



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  Shopping |  Art/Crafts |  Theatre/Culture |  Dining Out |
|  Games |  Day Trip |  Meetings |  Wellbeing |
|  Social |  Talks |  Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea |  Quiz |



Pictionary – Friday 23 May, we hope you can join us!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Maidstone Fernlea District of Oddfellows Events Diary and Newsletter.

We have organised an exciting and varied programme of events for you all. This diary is your handy guide so you know what is happening in your area. Put dates of interest in your diary. Alternatively, keep this diary in a handy place, by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Why not recommend a friend or family member for membership. Find out more by contacting Rose.

Everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member,

Contact Details

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 4 Tunbury Avenue,
Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent ME5 9EH

Telephone: 01634 868308

Email:
rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Julie Broomfield

Telephone: 07910 888607

Email:
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk

we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any events that take your fancy. We like to think we can guarantee you a good time.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

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

May

FRI
02

1940s Memorabilia Day



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and step back in time and relive the 1940s. Bring along any favourite family photographs to share and join in the 'How well do you know your 1940 film stars?' quiz. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
12

1940s Quiz



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



In celebration of VE day, we will be looking back at family lives in 1940s, sharing some stories and enjoying a 1940 quiz on film stars. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
09

VE Day Celebration Party



11am



TBC on
booking



VE Day is celebrating its 80th anniversary and we will be marking this momentous occasion with a celebratory lunch. Lets fly the flag today and look back at this special event with style! For catering purposes, please advise your attendance by Friday 2 May. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



May

FRI
16

Bugs and Bee Quilling



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



With summer looming, we will be creating bees and bugs, using the



quilling technique. Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create decorative designs. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
23

Pictionary



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Bite your lip, don't say the word, just draw it! Pictionary is the game where your pencil does the talking. Your friends will try to guess words by the sketching... sometimes it's harder than you think! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

June

MON
02

Lunch Trip at The King & Queen, East Malling



12.30pm



As per
menu



This quaint English country pub offers fantastic



food and drink inside or outside in their well-manicured garden. Built in 1537, then as a dwelling place connected to the ancient monastery of West Malling, the King and Queen as it is now known was given up to the crown in 1539 with the final dissolution of the monasteries under the tyranny of Henry VIII. Car share may be available. Please advise if you would like to join us by Friday 30 May. The King & Queen, 1 New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6DD. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
06

Let's look at the 1950s



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Memories of leisure time in the 1950s will prompt reminiscence and nostalgic conversation today. Shared photographs and funny stories are the key to this event. Perhaps a light hearted quiz will also be included to bring back all those memories. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
09

&

FRI
13

Pebble Art Craft



11am



Members £4, Guests £5



Pebble art is so easy to make and fun for people of all ages! They are completely customisable and each design has a one-of-a-kind and unique look. We will be providing a backdrop to add these charming designs to be displayed for all to see and admire.

Monday 9 - John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX.

Friday 13 - Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
16

Visit to Brookside Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



This garden centre has always been a firm favourite with our members. Whoever said money can't buy happiness, they have clearly never been to a garden centre! Car share may be available, please advise if you would like to attend. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
20

What's That Sound? Quiz!



11am



Members £4, Guests £5



Test your auditory skills with 'What's That Sound?' quiz! This engaging quiz challenges you to identify various sounds from everyday life, based on descriptive options provided. Are you up for the challenge? Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



July

FRI
04

Living in the 1960s

 11am

 Members £4,
Guests £5



Take a trip down memory lane with a nostalgic look back at life in the 1960's. This is a year that marks the beginning of a shift in Britain and



around the world; war and depression was over and the decade that followed was a time of great hope, excitement and change. Lets share our photographs, family life, funny stories and how things have changed since then. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
14

Bugs and Bee Quilling

 11am

 Members £4,
Guests £5



With summer on its way, we will be creating bees and bugs, using the quilling technique. Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create decorative designs. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
18

Origami Kusudama Flower Craft

 11am

 Lunch and
refreshments £4,
Craft 50p



Get crafty with origami Kusudama flower craft, a brilliant way to practise following instructions, patience and to learn a new skill! The term kusudama originates from ancient Japanese culture, where they were used for incense and potpourri; possibly originally being actual bunches of flowers or herbs. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



July

MON
21

Lunch Trip at George Inn, Leeds, Kent

🕒 11am

£ As per menu



The George Inn is situated in a typical English country village, which is also the home of the loveliest castle in the world Leeds Castle. We will meet up for lunch and enjoy the ambience of the 16th century Inn, which first started its life as a coaching inn, with hay stored above, what is now the back bar. Car share may be available. Please advise if you wish to attend. Book by Friday 18 July. The George Inn, Lower Street, Leeds, Maidstone, Kent ME171RN. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
25

Bingo

🕒 11am

£ Members £4, Guests £5, Three games £2



Eyes down for this bingo session. It's all fun and games, until someone calls 'Bingo!' Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £2 for three games. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

August

FRI
01

Here are the 1970s!

🕒 11am

£ Members £4, Guests £5



The 1970s saw strikes, power cuts, a heatwave (1976) and the arrival of glam rock-singing pop stars touting platform boots, sequins, shimmering makeup and flamboyant multi-coloured hairstyles. Lets see if we have any dramatic photograph to share and stories to reminisce for this great decade! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



August

FRI 08 Classic TV Theme Tune Quiz

L 11am

£ Members £4,
Guests £5



Lets see what we remember of classic TV theme tunes! Some familiar ones included that you may hear all the time, but do you know what it is? We will cover some well known tv tunes, included some historic children's programmes. Will you know Blue Peter or Mr Benn? Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON 11 What's That Sound? Quiz!

L 11am

£ Members £4,
Guests £5



Test your auditory skills with 'What's That Sound?' quiz! This engaging quiz challenges you to identify various sounds from everyday life, based on descriptive options provided. Are you up for the challenge? John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON 18 Millbrook Garden Centre

L 11am

£ As per menu



Millbrooks has all you need to help grow your garden, plus a great range of giftware, home furnishings and clothing. After some retail therapy we will meet for lunch in the Green Café. Car share may be available. Please advise if you wish to attend. Millbrook Staplehurst, Maidstone, Kent TN12 9BT. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 22 The Art of Paper Roses

L 11am

£ Members £4,
Guests £5, Craft 50p



The art of paper flowers makes it easy for anyone to create beautiful roses, completely out of paper. A simple but effective way of making a flower that will last all year round. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. 50p for craft. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

August

FRI
29

Racing Day Game!



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Who is going to be on the home stretch to win hands down! Lets get betting! A



firm favourite game at our Maidstone Branch. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

September Friendship Month

FRI
05

Friendship Day



11am



Free



Friendship is a selfless bond between people. Friendship Day is celebrated the whole month of September, but we have chosen this day to engage with old and new members, or those who just want to find out a little more about Oddfellows and how it brings people together. Tea, coffee and a light lunch is set for the day! Come along, or bring a friend as well. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON
08

Classic TV Theme Tune Quiz



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Lets see what we remember of classic TV theme tunes! Some familiar ones included that you may hear all the time, but do you know what it is? We will cover some well known tv tunes, included some historic children's programmes. Will you know Blue Peter or Mr Benn? Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



September - Friendship Month

WED 10 Woodlands Garden Centre



Plants, Pots, Compost and More: Your one-stop shop for all things gardening. After shopping we will lunch at the Twigg and Spoon, a great restaurant with a huge variety of menu choices. The garden centre also has a unique Kent Firefighting Museum, which we will endeavour to book, for those who are interested. Car share will be available. Please advise if you are interested in attending. Book by Wednesday 3 September. Woodlands Garden Centre, Ash Lane, Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN157EG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI 12 Macmillan Coffee Morning



The banners will be out today to raise as much money as we can for those suffering with cancer. Refreshments will be served along with delicious cakes. Any donations towards the raffle would be gratefully received. All welcome, so please let your friends know. Let's raise the roof on our contribution this year! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI 19 Calla Lilly Crafting



You can easily DIY these realistic paper Calla Lily flowers using



paper. Today we will add a twist to the design by using old pages from books. Stunning results all round! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



September

Friendship Month

FRI 26 Paper Creations - Daisy



Members £4,
Guests £5



We have almost completed our paper flower designs to create a bouquet of loveliness. This week we will concentrate on the beautiful Daisy. A firm favourite with everyone. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



October

FRI 10 Delicate Gypsophila Paper Crafting



Members £4,
Guests £5, Craft 50p



Today we will learn the art of producing this delicate flower out of wire and tissue paper. This will enhance the paper bouquet we have been producing over the last few months. A perfect filler for any bunch of flowers. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. 50p for craft. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

October

FRI 03 Bring on the 1980s



Members £4,
Guests £5



From groundbreaking music to eccentric fashion, the 80s in the UK were a decade of self-expression, innovation and unforgettable cultural phenomena. Lets share stories, photos and the glorious fashion. We are sure we will all have a story to tell! We may include a quiz, to allow those memories to flow! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

October

MON
13

1980s Quiz



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Lets get all nostalgic and enjoy this 1980s travel in time and see how many TV programmes and celebrities we can remember. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
17

The Myth of the Dahlia



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5,
Craft 50p



Wondering how to make a paper Dahlia? In this step-by-step tutorial, we'll walk you through how to make this beautiful flower. Each flower will be wired to complete our bouquet. The myth of the Dahlia comes from the Aztecs and has adorned gardens everywhere for centuries. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. 50p for craft. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
20

Lunch Trip at The Moody Mare



12.30pm



As per
menu



Nestled on the edge of Mereworth Woods The Moody Mare offers a variety of food and settings for everyone to enjoy. Be it the classic country pub bar with real ale direct from the cask, the cosy restaurant, the lodge or the stunning heated tipi's set in our private paddock. Car share may be available. Please advise if you are interested in attending. Book by Friday 17 October. The Moody Mare, 501 Seven Mile Lane, Mereworth, Kent ME185QY. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



October

FRI
24

Racing Day Game!



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Who is going to be on the home stretch to win hands down! Lets get betting! A firm favourite game at our Maidstone Branch. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Rose by phone on 01634 868308 or email rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk



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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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

Regular Events

Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening



8pm



Free



Pride of the Village and Kent Branch social evening. Refreshments will be available. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Rose on 01634 868308.

27 May

26 August

24 June

30 September

29 July

28 October

**Last Tuesday
of the month**



Social Gathering - Let the games commence!



11am



Members £4,
Guests £5



Playing games is a fantastic way of spending time together! If you do not have a competitive streak, why not join our 'chatty' table, where a good chat with a friend is always good for the soul! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

30 May

11 July

27 June

15 August

**Various Fridays
of the month**



31 October

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 13 May, 10am - Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603

Tuesday 10 June, 7pm - Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538. Password: 616704.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Secretary, Rose Mills

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 Rose on **01634 868308** or email rosaline.mills@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**

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Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

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

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

Port one

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



Port two

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

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

Port three

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

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

Port four

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

Port five

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

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

Port six

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

Surprises and celebrations

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

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

Trio receive university funding

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

Easing the pressure

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

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



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

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

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

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

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

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

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



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

Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

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



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

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

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

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



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

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

April to May: The tax refund scam

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

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

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

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

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

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

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

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

Stay vigilant year-round

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



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

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



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Branch Contacts and Meetings

District Business Meetings

District business meetings follow a conventional format covering the minutes, correspondence and accounts. In addition, there are three items particular to the Oddfellows which are covered. The first is a report of any members who are sick, distressed or in any other way may be in need of help. The second is matters pertaining to the local Branch, or Society. The third is membership recommendations. There is also a 'member's slot' for members to raise matters of personal interest. For further details feel free to contact the Secretary. Held first Tuesday of the month. Address: Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. **Members Only. Secretary:** Rosaline Mills **Telephone:** 01634 868308 **Email:** rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

6 May
3 June

1 July
5 August

2 September
7 October

Social Branches Meetings and Contacts

Our Social Branch meetings are a great way to meet other members and to gain an understanding of what is happening in the Branch and the District. There is always a short minuted Branch meeting, which is also a nod to our history and traditions, before refreshments are served and the fun and games start. There is generally a game of bingo, as well as an ever popular raffle.

Hand of Friendship

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 4 Tunbury Avenue,
Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent ME5 9EH.

Telephone: 01634 868308

See diary for meeting dates, at 8pm.
At 62 College Road,
Maidstone ME15 6SJ.

Pride of Kent

Secretary: Roger Baker

Address: 103 Parkway, Coxheath,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 4EX.

Telephone: 01622 745264.

Meets alternative last Tuesday
of the month. At 62 College Road,
Maidstone ME15 6SJ, 8pm.
See diary for dates.

Pride of The Village

Meets alternative last Tuesday in
the month at 8pm at 62 College
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ.
See diary for dates.

Providence Branch

Secretary: Jan Batchelor

Address: 20 Mallard Way, Lower
Stoke, Rochester, Kent ME3 9ST

Telephone: 01634 271319

See diary for meeting dates, 2pm.
At 62 College Road, ME15 6SJ.

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

May 2025

Fri 2	1940s Memorabilia Day	11am
Tues 6	Fernelea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 9	VE Day Celebration Party	11am
Mon 12	1940s Quiz	11am
Fri 16	Bugs and Bee Quilling	11am
Fri 23	Pictionary	11am
Tues 27	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 30	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am

June

Mon 2	Lunch Trip at The King & Queen, East Malling	12.30pm
Tues 3	Fernelea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 6	Let's look at the 1950s	11am
Mon 9	Pebble Art Craft	11am
Fri 13	Pebble Art Craft	11am
Mon 16	Visit to Brookside Garden Centre	11am
Fri 20	What's That Sound? Quiz!	11am
Tues 24	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 27	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am

July

Tues 1	Fernelea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 4	Living in the 1960s	11am
Fri 11	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Mon 14	Bugs and Bee Quilling	11am
Fri 18	Origami Kusudama Flower Craft	11am
Mon 21	Lunch Trip at George Inn, Leeds, Kent	11am
Fri 25	Bingo	11am
Tues 29	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

August

Fri 1	Here are the 1970s!	11am
Tues 5	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 8	Classic TV Theme Tune Quiz	11am
Mon 11	What's That Sound? Quiz!	11am
Fri 15	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Mon 18	Millbrook Garden Centre	11am
Fri 22	The Art of Paper Roses	11am
Tues 26	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 29	Racing Day Game!	11am

September - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 5	Friendship Day	11am
Mon 8	Classic TV Theme Tune Quiz	11am
Wed 10	Woodlands Garden Centre	11am
Fri 12	Macmillan Coffee Morning	11am
Fri 19	Calla Lilly Crafting	11am
Fri 26	Paper Creations - Daisy	11am
Tues 30	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

October

Fri 3	Bring on the 1980s	11am
Tues 7	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 10	Delicate Gypsophila - Paper Crafting	11am
Mon 13	1980s Quiz	11am
Fri 17	The Myth of the Dahlia	11am
Mon 20	Lunch Trip at The Moody Mare	12.30pm
Fri 24	Racing Day Game!	11am
Tues 28	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 31	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am