

July - December 2025



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

out & about

Canterbury District Oddfellows



Town of Sandwich



Games



Quiz



Dining Out



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Travel



Crafts



Social



Meetings



Talks



Culture



Walks



Wellbeing

Welcome to the latest edition of the Events Diary and Newsletter for Canterbury District of Oddfellows.

As your local Branch of a national organisation called the Oddfellows, we like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when they need them. See us like a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising and helping people.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to

Key Colours

Canterbury

Thanet/
Sandwich

Folkestone

Faversham/
Ashford

Other Events

Contact Details

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Email:

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f OddfellowsCanterbury

you and your friend/family to attend any of our events that takes your fancy – if you like what we have to offer, you'll be made very welcome.

Meet the team



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Secretary

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Oliver Rayson

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**Join the conversation @
OddfellowsUK**

Find us at f OddfellowsCanterbury

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July 2025

SAT 05 Sandwich Folk and Ale Festival



12 noon



Free



Come and join us as we celebrate this annual multi-arts festival that highlights traditional and contemporary folk life and arts, in the medieval beautiful town of Sandwich. If you plan on attending this event then do get in touch, so we can look out for you. 14 Delf Street, Sandwich CT13 9BZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON 07 Herne Bay Meet-Up



11am



As per menu



Come and enjoy a warm drink, a bite to eat (maybe some of their famous ice-cream!) and great company at Makcaris Corner Café in Herne Bay. It's the perfect chance to relax, have a chat and soak up the seaside atmosphere. Afterwards, if the weather is kind, we will take a gentle stroll along the beach or pier, or maybe a wander around the town centre. A lovely way to spend time together and enjoy the fresh sea air! Makcaris Corner Café, 54 Central Parade, Herne Bay CT6 5JG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

WED 09 Secret Voices with Sarah Gristwood



3pm

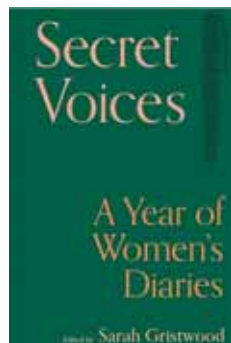


£13



Journalist, author, broadcaster and local resident, Sarah Gristwood's latest book - 'An anthology of diary entries by women throughout history' is filled

with unexpected twists and turns. It contains a host of entries from over a hundred women's lives, from more than 20 countries, spanning four centuries. Described by The Telegraph as echoing the randomness of real life, it is a delightfully mixed bag. This event lasts approximately one hour, followed by a book signing. The Astor Theatre, Stanhope Road, Deal CT14 6AB. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.



Booking and cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

July 2025

THURS
10

Fish and Chips at The Captain's Table Café



11.30am



As per menu



Why not treat yourself to fish and chips by the sea? We are heading to The Captain's Table in Folkestone for a relaxed lunch with great food and even better company. Afterwards, we will enjoy a gentle stroll along the harbour. What a perfect way to round off a lovely afternoon by the coast. All are welcome, we would love to see you there! The Captain's Table Café, 26 The Stade, Folkestone CT19 6AE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRI
11

Coffee Morning in Margate



10am



As per menu



Why not take a little time for yourself and join us for a relaxed coffee morning at the Big Shot Diner in Margate? It's the perfect chance to enjoy a drink, share a few laughs, catch up with friendly faces old and new and enjoy the stunning views of Margate beach. Whether you're popping in for a chat or staying for a slice of cake (or two!), we'd love to see you there. No need to book - bring a friend if you like, the more the merrier! Then just turn up and enjoy! Big Shot Diner, 3 Marine Drive, Margate CT9 1DH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SUN
13

Skirmish Through Time at The RAF Manston Museum



10.30am



£6.50



Join us for a fascinating day out at the RAF Manston Museum for their special Skirmish at the museum event. This lively day brings history to life with authentic wartime re-enactments, vintage military vehicles, and displays from living history groups. What to expect: Historic aircraft and exhibits, military re-enactments, live skirmish displays, café on site for refreshments. It's the perfect outing for history buffs, aviation enthusiasts and anyone who enjoys a unique and immersive experience. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a day of nostalgia, discovery and good company. Please let us know if you're planning to come so we can coordinate transport. Book by Sunday 6 July. RAF Manston History Museum, 821 Manston Road, Ramsgate CT12 5DF. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



July 2025

MON
14

Coffee Morning in Canterbury



10.30am



As per menu



We're back. This time trying a brand new venue. So, stop on by for a friendly coffee and catch-up! Whether you're new to the Oddfellows or a long-time member, everyone is welcome. Our monthly coffee mornings are a great way to meet new people, enjoy good conversations within good company. We meet in a cosy private room (upstairs) at a local café right in the heart of Canterbury. No need to book, we'd love to see you there. Garage Coffee Roasters, 17 Sun Street, Canterbury CT1 2HX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
17

Trip to The Kent Battle of Britain Museum



10.30am



Museum admission £12



We warmly invite all to join us for a trip to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum – a place of great historical significance and remembrance. Located in Hawkinge, on the site of a former RAF airfield, the museum is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who served and sacrificed during the Battle of Britain. It houses the largest collection of Battle of Britain artefacts in the country, including original aircraft parts, uniforms and personal stories that bring this crucial chapter of history to life. This visit is a chance to reflect, learn and honour the bravery of the men and women who helped shape the course of the Second World War. The Kent Battle of Britain Museum, Aerodrome Road, Hawkinge, Folkestone CT18 7AG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



Booking and cancellations

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July 2025

MON
21

Catch Up in Whitstable



3pm



Members £3
Guests £4



Why not join us for a relaxed get-together at the Whitstable Community Centre? It is a chance to take a break, have a chat and enjoy some friendly company. The centre is a welcoming space, with local artwork and some bric-a-brac for sale. Catch up with familiar faces (and maybe meet a few new ones too). Whether you pop in for 10 minutes or stay the whole time, it would be lovely to see you. Additional donations will be given to the centre. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
25

Timeball Museum Visit



11.30am



Admissions from £3



Standing proudly on Deal's seafront, The Timeball Tower is a unique piece of maritime history. Built in the 19th century, it was once a crucial part of the system that helped ships in the English Channel synchronise their clocks - essential for accurate navigation at sea. The Timeball still drops at 1pm each day, a nod to its original purpose. Inside, you'll find interactive displays and exhibits on navigation, communication and the role Deal played in maritime history.

It is a small but fascinating museum with something for all ages and an amazing view from the top! After our visit, why not grab some lunch at a nearby café or pub, or enjoy a stroll along the pier or beach promenade? There's plenty to explore in Deal - from quirky shops to quiet spots to sit and watch the sea. See you there? Deal Timeball Tower, Victoria Parade, Deal CT14 7BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

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July 2025

SUN
27

Cliftonville Farmers' Market



10.30am



Free



Join us for a visit to the Cliftonville Farmers' Market, where you'll find a fantastic selection of fresh, local produce and artisan treats. From seasonal fruit and vegetables to homemade jams, cheeses, baked goods, meats and more - there's something for everyone to enjoy. It's a great chance to support local producers, discover something new and pick up a few delicious bits for the week ahead. Whether you're after ingredients for dinner or just fancy a browse. Come along for a wander, a chat and maybe even a treat or two to take home. Please let us know if you can make it so we know who to look out for! Walpole Bay Lawns, (Behind Walpole Bay Hotel on Fifth Avenue), Margate, Kent CT9 2LN. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
31

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!



11am



As per menu



Welcome back to one of our favourite venues - The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The food never disappoints, whether you like a fish and chips or a roast. If you do not have time for lunch, their coffee is also excellent and good value for money! This venue also has parking. Whether you've been here a few times before or it is your first time coming, we are always happy to welcome you. No need to book, but please let us know if you would like to come. Cost as per menu (cash only for food). Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

August

MON
04

Fun and Games Morning in Canterbury



10.30am



Free



We are back at the Canterbury Umbrella for a friendly morning with fun, games and a lovely catch-up! Whether you are new to the Oddfellows

or a long-time member, everyone is welcome. There is variety of hot and cold food and drinks that are freshly prepared in their own kitchen. No need to book - just turn up. See you there. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



August

THURS
07

Meet-Up at Badgers Hill Farm



11am



As per menu



Come along for a friendly and relaxed get-together at Badger's Hill Farm, where good company, great conversation and a warm welcome are always on the menu. Whether you're a long-time member or curious about what the Oddfellows is all about, this is a perfect opportunity to enjoy a coffee, connect with others and experience the spirit of friendship that makes our community truly special. We'll meet in the charming café, set in the peaceful countryside with farm animals and garden surroundings. It is on the bus route between Ashford and Canterbury. Come on your own or bring a friend - everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you can make it, so that we can look out for you! Badgers Hill Farm & Cidery, New Cut Road, Chilham CT4 8BW. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
11

Herne Bay Meet-Up



11am



As per menu



Come and enjoy a warm drink, a bite to eat (maybe some of their famous ice-cream!) and great company at Makcaris Corner Café in Herne Bay. It's the perfect chance to relax, have a chat and soak up the seaside atmosphere. Afterwards, if the weather's kind, we'll take a gentle stroll along the beach or pier, or maybe a wander around the town centre - a lovely way to spend time together and enjoy the fresh sea air! Makcaris Corner Café, 54 Central Parade, Herne Bay CT6 5JG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
15

Coffee Morning in Margate



10.30am



As per menu



Why not take a little time for yourself and join us for a relaxed coffee morning at the Big Shot Diner in Margate? It is the perfect chance to enjoy a drink, share a few laughs, catch up with friendly faces old and new and enjoy the stunning views of Margate beach. Whether you pop in for a chat or stay for a slice of cake (or two!), we'd love to see you there. Perhaps, afterwards, we will take a walk to The Turner Contemporary to admire a new exhibition of his famous works. No need to book, bring a friend if you like - the more the merrier! Big Shot Diner, 3 Marine Drive, Margate CT9 1DH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

August

MON
18

Catch Up in Whitstable with Mystery Guest Speaker



3pm



Members £3, Guests £4



With a mystery guest speaker, you never know who it might be... but we are sure you will find it an informative talk nevertheless. The centre is a welcoming space, with local artwork and some bric-a-brac for sale. It is the perfect place to catch up with familiar faces (and maybe meet a few new ones too). Whether you pop in for 10 minutes or stay the whole time, it would be lovely to see you. Additional donations will be given to the centre or chosen charity. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
22

Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs



2pm



£4.50



Step into the World of Charles Dickens! We are heading to the Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs, a charming and atmospheric

place with a fascinating connection to one of England's famous writers.

The museum is set in the former home of Miss Mary Pearson Strong – the inspiration for the character of Betsey Trotwood in David Copperfield. Dickens was a regular visitor to Broadstairs and the house is filled with memorabilia, letters and treasures that bring his world to life. Please note: The museum is set over two floors and there is no lift, so accessibility is limited. If you enjoy history, literature, or just a lovely day out by the sea, we would be delighted to have you with us. Let us know if you'd like to come along. Dickens House Museum, 2 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs CT10 1QS. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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August



MON
25

Summer Bank Holiday Picnic at Reculver Towers



11am



Free



This summer bank holiday, we're heading to the stunning Reculver Towers near Herne Bay for a relaxed picnic and day out and you're invited! Why Reculver? With its iconic twin towers standing dramatically on the clifftop, Reculver is a place full of history, natural beauty and sweeping sea views. It's perfect for soaking up the fresh air, exploring the ruins and enjoying peaceful walks along the coast. Kids can run around, adults can relax and everyone will love the stunning backdrop.

There's also a lovely café on site, serving drinks, snacks and ice-cream - ideal if you fancy something extra with your picnic. What to bring: Your favourite picnic food and drinks, a blanket or camping chair, sun cream and layers (you know what the weather's like!). A great chance to unwind, catch up with friends old and new and enjoy one of Kent's most atmospheric spots. We would love to see as many of you there as possible, so please let us know if you're coming so we can look out for you on the day! Reculver Towers and Roman Fort, Reculver Road, Reculver, Herne Bay CT6 6SS. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

TUES
26

Kent Spitfires vs Yorkshire Cricket Match



10.30am



Tickets from
£20



Stumped for something to do? Then be bowled over by this event. We invite you to join us at a live fixture of the Men's Metro Bank One Day Cup between Kent Spitfires vs Yorkshire. The match starts at 11am. But we will arrive early to ensure we make the match on time. Booking is essential for this event - so make sure to book fast to secure your spot. Book by Monday 28 July. The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3NZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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August

THURS
28

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!



11am



As per menu



Welcome back to one of our favourite venues - The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The food never disappoints, whether you like a fish and chips or a roast. If you do not have time for lunch, their coffee is also excellent and good value for money! This venue also has parking. Whether you've been here a few times before or it is your first time coming, we are always happy to welcome you. No need to book, but please let us know if you would like to come. Cost as per menu (cash only for food). Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
29

The Laurel and Hardy Cabaret in Broadstairs



7pm



Free



Fancy a free summer evening treat? Then luck would have it, we have just the event for you... The Laurel and Hardy Cabaret Lucky Dog Theatre Productions are generally regarded as being the best Laurel and Hardy re-enactors in the world. Featuring some classic movie sequences, along with some hilarious music hall sketches, the pair toured in the 1940s and 50s, you will be transported back to a more innocent time - yet still be amazed at how current their comedy remains. Pierremont Hall, Pierremont Park, Broadstairs CT10 1JX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SUN
31

Andre Rieu at the Carlton Cinema!



2pm



£11.50



This year's concert, 'Waltz The Night Away', promises to be a magical experience filled with beautiful music, joyful atmosphere and André's signature showmanship - all set in the stunning backdrop of his hometown in the Netherlands. Whether you're a long-time fan or just fancy something different, this is a real treat for the senses. We'll meet at 12.30pm for a relaxed bite to eat or a walk along the promenade before heading into the cinema. It's a great chance to enjoy a bit of summer sparkle together. Tickets can be booked directly through the Carlton Cinema's website or on the day, but we recommend booking ahead to avoid disappointment. Let us know if you're coming - it will be lovely to enjoy this special event together! Book by Thursday 24 July. Carlton Cinema, 29 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON
01

Friendship Quiz in Canterbury



11am



Members £5, Guests £7



We are back in Canterbury, to celebrate the start of Oddfellows Friendship Month with a exciting quiz about all things friendship! Where everyone is welcome join. Hot and cold refreshments are available at the centre's kitchen – the first drink is on us! So, come and say hello and join in on the fun! Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun

THURS
04

Meet-Up at Longacres Bybrook Barn



11am



As per menu



Celebrating Friendship Month – an extra special time to reach out, connect and welcome new and older faces. Inviting members, friends, and anyone curious about the Oddfellows to join us for a relaxed coffee and light bite at Longacres Bybrook Barn Garden Centre. Explore the garden centre and meet like-minded people in a welcoming atmosphere. No need to book – just let us know, so that we can look out for you. Let's make September a month of connection and community – we would love to see you there! Longacres Garden Centre Bybrook Barn, Cemetery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN24 9JZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

Booking and cancellations

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FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

SAT

06

Trip to Le Touquet



8am



Members £75, Guests £80



Bonjour! We welcome you to join us for a truly special day trip to the beautiful French seaside town of Le Touquet. Another perfect way to celebrate friendship and enjoy a change of scenery together! We will be picked up and dropped off from Stop 24 Services near Folkestone. Travelling in comfort with Britannia Coaches. Once in Le Touquet, you will have plenty of time to explore with its charming streets, boutiques and their famous market, stroll along the beach, or simply sit back with a coffee and enjoy the atmosphere. Maybe it will be warm enough for a swim? So, grab your passports and book yourself on this exciting trip! We require a 50% deposit to secure your place. Please book by Monday 18 August. Stop 24 Motorway Services, Junction 11-M20, Hythe CT21 4BL. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON

08

Herne Bay Meet-Up



11am



As per menu



Come and enjoy a warm drink, a bite to eat (maybe some of their famous ice-cream!) by returning to Makcaris Corner Café in Herne Bay. It's the perfect chance to relax, have a chat and soak up the seaside atmosphere. Afterwards, if the weather is kind enough, we'll take a gentle stroll along the pier, or maybe a wander around the town centre full of independent shops. Makcaris Corner Café, 54 Central Parade, Herne Bay CT6 5JG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI

12

Coffee Morning in Margate



10.30am



As per menu



Returning to the popular Big Shot Diner in Margate. We can enjoy a drink, share a few laughs, catch up with friendly faces (old and new) and enjoy the stunning views of Margate. Whether you want to pop in for a chat or stay for something to eat - we would love to see you there. No need to book. Bring a friend if you like - the more the merrier! Just turn up and enjoy! Big Shot Diner, 3 Marine Drive, Margate CT9 1DH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRI
12

Heritage Open Days



11am



Free



We're excited to let you know that Heritage Open Days will be running again this year from Thursday 12 to Saturday 21 September and we will definitely be getting involved! Every year, this fantastic event opens the doors to historic buildings, hidden gems and fascinating places that are usually closed to the public.

Best of all - it is completely free! A great chance to explore local heritage, discover new stories and enjoy a day out together. We don't yet know which sites will be taking part, but rest assured, we will be picking at least one (probably more!) to visit as a group. So you are warmly invited to join us! Full details will be shared as soon as their programme is released. So keep in touch, check your messages, or give us a call. You won't want to miss out! 14 Delf Street, Sandwich CT13 9BZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SUN
14

Whitstable Oyster Festival



1pm



Free



Join us for a joyful day at the Whitstable Oyster Festival - a vibrant celebration of local culture, food and community by the sea! Everyone is welcome to be with us to enjoy live music, fresh oysters and the town's unique coastal charm. Bring a blanket and your favourite snacks for a relaxed picnic by the beach, or explore the delicious local offerings. Let us know if you are coming to this event and together celebrate this wonderful town's seaside tradition! Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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MON
22

Canterbury Punting Experience



11am



Punting from £14



Another Friendship Month treat for you. We invite you to come along on the popular and relaxing punt along the River Stour, taking a new perspective of the historic city of Canterbury. Afterwards, we may have an impromptu walk in the beautiful Westgate Gate Gardens. This will no doubt be a great way to unwind, connect, create and enhance friendships. We'd love to see you there! Please book as soon as possible. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

THURS
25

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!



11am



As per menu



Welcome back to one of our favourite venues - The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The food never disappoints, whether you like a fish and chips or a roast. If you do not have time for lunch, their coffee is also excellent and good value for money! This venue also has parking. Whether you've been here a few times before or it is your first time coming, we are always happy to welcome you. No need to book, but please let us know if you would like to come. Cost as per menu (cash only for food). Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Invite a friend

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER


FRI
26

Quex House and Gardens – The Powell Cotton Museum



11.30am



Concessions (65+) £4.50, Full Price £5



As part of our Friendship Month celebrations, we head off to Quex House and Gardens, including a visit to the Powell-Cotton Museum and we would love for you to join us. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore one of East Kent's most unique heritage sites. The museum is known for its extraordinary natural history and ethnographic collections. Quex House itself offers a glimpse into the fascinating Victorian era. The beautifully maintained gardens provide a peaceful setting for a sit-down or a stroll. Entry includes access to the Powell-Cotton Museum and a tour of Quex House and entry to the formal gardens. There's also several on-site cafés. So, why not make a day of it? Tickets can be purchased on-site. Let us know if you wish to attend this event. Quex House and Gardens, Manston Road, Birchington CT7 0HR. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



SAT
27

Ramsgate Comedy Club at The Granville Theatre



7pm



£30



Is there any better way to celebrate the end Friendship Month than with laughter and reminiscing? Come and attend this incredible night of comedy with the magnificent comedians Ed Byrne, Keith Farnan, Cerys Nelmes and a special guest comedian! This a show is bound to give you a good laugh and really enjoying your evening. The show starts at 7.30pm, but we will be there earlier to ensure your seats and tickets are all sorted before the show begins. Booking is essential to secure your place at this event. Book by Friday 12 September. The Granville Theatre, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8DG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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October

THURS
02

Trip to Potten Farm Shop, Ashford



1.30pm



Free



Come and enjoy a leisurely trip to Potten Farm Shop in Sellindge, near Ashford – a lovely local spot full of fresh produce, home-made treats, and countryside charm.

Browse the farm shop together, take in the seasonal goods on offer while catching up with friends old and new and support this local gem. If we fancy it, we could enjoy a refreshment at the Duke's Head (Main Road, Ashford TN25 6EG), which is a village pub only three minutes' walk away. Whether you are a regular visitor or it is your first time, everyone is welcome to come along but let us know you are coming. Potten Farm Shop, Main Road, Ashford, Kent TN25 6EQ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON
06

Coffee Morning in Canterbury



10.30am



As per menu



We are back in the heart of Canterbury for a friendly coffee and catch-up! Whether you are new to the Oddfellows or a long-time member, everyone is welcome. Our monthly coffee mornings are a great way to meet new people, enjoy good conversation, and start the month with a warm drink in good company. We meet in a cosy private room (upstairs) at a local café right in the heart of Canterbury. No need to book – just pop in, grab a drink, come upstairs and say hello! We'd love to see you there. Garage Coffee Roasters, 17 Sun Street, Canterbury CT1 2HX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
09

Visit to Folkestone Museum



1pm



Donations



Discover the hidden stories of Folkestone's past! We're planning a visit to its local museum, where you can explore everything from ancient archaeology to the town's wartime history, all set inside the beautiful old town hall. An opportunity to perhaps learn something new, enjoy a bit of local culture and spend time together. All are welcome, feel free to bring a friend along too! Donations to the museum are welcome. Folkestone Museum, The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone CT20 1DY. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



October

FRI
10

Trip to the WonderWorks in Margate



11.30am



Members £3, Guests £5



Why not join us for a charming day out to WonderWorks in Margate? This delightful museum is full of nostalgia, classic model railways, vintage toys and fascinating history. It is a perfect chance to reminisce, enjoy some gentle fun and explore the inner child still within you. There is something truly special about

this place. There is a café on site and plenty of seating - ideal for a relaxed and comfortable visit. Come along, take a trip down memory lane - we would love to see you there! Let us know in advance so we know to look out for you. Book by Monday 22 September. The WonderWorks, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate CT9 4JX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



FRI
17

Pub Lunch at the Smugglers in Birchington-on-Sea



12.30pm



As per menu



Ahoy there! We're heading off to The Smugglers for lunch - a truly unique and characterful venue tucked away in the heart of Birchington-on-Sea. With its cosy, historic charm and reputation

for delicious food, is the perfect spot to enjoy a relaxed afternoon together.

Please let us know if you can make it! Book by Friday 10 October. The Smugglers Bar & Restaurant, 212 Canterbury Road, Birchington-on-Sea CT7 9AQ. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.



Booking and cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

October

SAT
18

Now That's West End - A Musical Production



7pm



From £17



An extraordinary performance of magic at the musicals as 'Now That's West End' arrives to The Malthouse Theatre, for one dazzling night only. Get ready to be swept away by the sensational tunes of your beloved musicals as a stellar cast delivers unforgettable performances that will leave you mesmerised. So, grab your seat, sit back and immerse yourself in the timeless melodies of musical theatre, spanning from the classics to the latest chart-toppers – the ultimate celebration of musical theatre awaits you! Book as soon as possible to save disappointment by Monday 22 September. The Malthouse Theatre, St Stephen's Road, Canterbury CT2 7JA. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON
20

Catch Up in Whitstable



2pm



Donations



We would love you to be with us at this relaxed get-together at the Whitstable Revivals Café. This fabulous venue offers a change of scene from the Waterloo Centre. This delightful community café works hard to reduce isolation, challenge stigma and improve understanding of mental health and wellbeing. Come to support this wonderful place and perhaps yourself. Whitstable Revivals Café, 58 High Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BB. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

FRI
24

Sandwich Guildhall Museum



11am



Donations



Join us for a special trip to the Guildhall Museum in Sandwich! We're in for a real treat – one of our lovely members volunteers at the museum and will be giving us a personal tour. Explore local history with someone who knows all the hidden gems and stories behind the exhibits. Maybe we could have a spot of lunch afterwards at one of the lovely pubs/café's that Sandwich has to offer? There is plenty of parking nearby in the Guildhall car park. Donations to the museum are welcome. Book by Friday 3 October. Guildhall Museum, Sandwich CT13 9AH. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

October

THURS
30

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!



11am



As per menu



Welcome back again to the Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The food and service never disappoint – whether you do not have time for lunch, their coffee is also excellent and good value for money! This venue also has parking. Whether you've been here a few times before or it is your first time coming, we are always happy to welcome you. No need to book, but please let us know if you would like to come. Cost as per menu (cash only for food). Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

November

THURS
06

Pub Lunch at the Bull Inn, Bethersden



12.30pm



As per
menu



Today, we are getting together for a relaxed and friendly lunch at The Bull Inn, a lovely traditional pub right in the heart of Bethersde, near Ashford and we would love for you to join us! It's a great chance to catch up, meet new people and enjoy some hearty food in a new, warm and welcoming

setting. Please let us know in advance if you would like to join us, as we need to let the pub know how many will be attending. Please book with us by Monday 27 October. The Bull Inn, Bull Lane, Bethersden TN26 3LB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



Booking and cancellations

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November

MON
10

Coffee Morning in Canterbury with Guest Speaker



10.30am



Donations



We are back in the heart of Canterbury for a friendly coffee and catch-up! Whether you are a long-time member or this will be your first time, everyone is welcome. Our monthly coffee mornings are a great way to meet new people, enjoy good conversation and start the month with a warm drink in good company. We often introduce guest speakers from a wide range of topics and the subject will be announced nearer the time. Try and let us know you are coming, so we get an idea of numbers - we'd love to see you there. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
14

Coffee Morning in Ramsgate



10.30am



As per menu



Why not take a little time and enjoy the spectacular views across Ramsgate's famous harbour and skies you will be sure to beat the winter blues and be in good company amongst friends old and new. Let us know you want to come so we can all be seated together. Looking forward to seeing you. Please

let us know if you intend on coming, so we can all be seated together. Bring a friend if you like - the more the merrier! Book by Sunday 2 November. The Galley, 3 Westcliff Arcade, Ramsgate CT11 8LH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
17

Catch Up in Whitstable



2.45pm



Members £2.50
Guests £3



Why not join us for a relaxed get-together at the Whitstable Community Centre? The centre is a popular and welcoming space, with local artwork and some bric-a-brac for sale. It is the perfect place to catch up with familiar faces (and maybe meet a few new ones too). Whether you pop in for 10 minutes or stay the whole time, it would be lovely to see you. Additional donations will be given to the centre. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



November

FRI
21

The Crab Museum in Margate



11am



Free



Today we are off to The Crab Museum in Margate – yes, you read that right – a whole museum dedicated to crabs! Educational, hilarious, a little bit bizarre, but its supposed to be brilliant. Expect quirky facts, curious exhibits and plenty of crustacean-themed fun. It's not your average museum trip, which is exactly why we think – you'll love it. Important note: Access to the museum is up a flight of stairs, so please bear this in mind when planning your visit. So be nippy in booking your place on coming along for this pinch of fun! Book with us by Friday 31 October please. The Crab Museum, 9 Broad Street, Margate CT9 1EW. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
24

Meet-Up in Canterbury and Christmas Quiz!



11am



As per menu



Kick off the start of festive season with us at our cosy morning get-together in Canterbury! Join us for a warm drink, good conversation and a light-hearted Christmas quiz to get you in the spirit – even if it is still November! It's a lovely chance to slow down, catch up with friendly faces and enjoy a bit of early festive cheer. Why not stick around afterwards and make a day of it? Canterbury's perfect for a spot of early Christmas shopping or stay and we might make some Christmas type crafts. It's all up to you. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

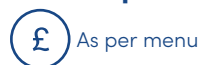


THURS
27

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club with Guest Speaker!



11am



As per menu



We are here again and welcome you back to the Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, with its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The food never disappoints, whether you like a fish and chips or a roast. If you do not have time for lunch, their coffee is also excellent and good value for money! We also hope to have a guest speaker join us (details nearer the time). This venue also has parking. Whether you've been here a few times before or it is your first time coming, we are always happy to welcome you. No need to book, but please let us know if you would like to come. Cost as per menu (cash only for food). Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

November

SAT

29

Performance of Handel's Messiah



7pm



£15



Dover Choral Society warmly invites you to an uplifting evening of music as they perform Handel's Messiah in the stunning surroundings of the newly restored Dover Town Hall (Maison Dieu). Experience this timeless masterpiece in a setting that beautifully blends historic charm with modern elegance. Whether you're a lifelong lover of choral music or new to the joys of classical performance, this promises to be a truly memorable occasion. Come and share in the music, the atmosphere, and the joy! Tickets can be purchased at the door or book by Monday 17 November. Maison Dieu House, Dover Town Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1DW. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

December

TUES

02

Coffee and Games Morning in Canterbury



10.30am



As per menu



We are back in the heart of Canterbury for a friendly coffee and catch-up! Whether you're new to the Oddfellows or a long-time member, everyone is welcome. Our monthly coffee mornings are a great way to meet new people, enjoy good conversation and start the month with a warm drink. We meet in a cosy private room (upstairs) at a local café right in the heart of Canterbury. We might even indulge a few friendly favourite games, nothing serious just a bit of fun. Just pop in, grab a drink, come upstairs and say hello! We don't bite! We hope to see you there. Garage Coffee Roasters, 17 Sun Street, Canterbury CT1 2HX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

December

FRI
05

Festive Wreath Making at Brogdale Farm, Ashford



10am



Members £45, Guests £50



Back due to popular demand, we invite you to come with us in celebrating the changing seasons by making a sustainable foraged wreath. We will start the morning's workshop with a little immersive walk around the farm getting inspiration from the natural environment.



Noticing the colours, textures and shapes as we walk, we will collect some ivy, hollies, mistletoe, dried oranges and other foraged materials. Once back inside, a warm drink and mince pie await you and then Brogdale's own instructor will teach you how to construct a woven willow wreath. The step by step instructions are easy to follow and no prior experience is needed. Individual help will be on hand.

Come and give it a try! You will learn transferable skills and knowledge that you can take home and put into practice throughout the seasons, enabling you to create your own truly unique style. Booking is essential and places are limited - so get in touch as soon as possible to reserve your place by Friday 31 October. Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham ME13 8XZ. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

Booking and cancellations

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December

MON
08

Christmas Shopping at Macknades!



11am



As per menu



Get into the festive spirit and come along for a Christmas shopping trip to Macknade, one of Kent's best-loved food halls and lifestyle destinations – the perfect place to pick up unique gifts, festive treats and continental delights! Macknade is a vibrant blend of food hall, delicatessen and lifestyle store, known for its exceptional selection of local and continental produce – from fine cheeses, charcuterie and wines to beautifully packaged gifts, kitchenware and gourmet Christmas goodies. Whether you're shopping for presents or stocking up for your own festive table, there's something for everyone. After a wander through the shop, we'll head to the on-site café, which offers delicious seasonal dishes, fresh coffee and tempting desserts – a perfect chance to rest, refuel and chat. Macknades Farm Shop, Selling Road, Faversham ME13 8XF. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

THURS
11

Christmas Lunch at the Indoor Bowls Club!



1pm



Members £25, Guests £30



Join us for a warm and welcoming Christmas celebration at the Indoor Bowls Club in Folkestone. This festive season, join us to enjoy the company of friends, family and fellow members. We will be served a Christmas carvery lunch with all the trimmings, including turkey and gammon, seasonal vegetables and classic festive desserts. If you wish to book, please let us know of any allergies/dietary requirements. We will send out the menu closer to the date. Arrival from 1pm, lunch will be served at 2pm. The venue will be beautifully decorated for the season and there will be plenty of festive cheer to go around. It's the ideal way to start the holidays with great food and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Please book early so we have an idea of numbers! Book by Monday 1 December. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.



December

FRI
12

Trip to Rochester Christmas Market



11am



Members £10, Guests £15



Rochester Christmas Market is set against the spectacular cathedral and castle's backdrop and is in its 16th year. More than 220,000 people visit each year to shop in over 80 stalls. Enjoy the food and drink in the Bavarian Village, step into the Christmas Village or just take in the roaming performances, music and other entertainment. With a wide variety for shoppers, with many unique gift ideas, it ensures that visitors have a truly festive and enjoyable outing.



The Victorian theme creates a traditional Christmas offer for audiences and helps set this market apart from others, even more so on the first weekends of December, when the Rochester Dickensian Festival is also held. Help with transport can be arranged and so please let us know you would like to come so we can arrange this. Book by Friday 21 November. Rochester Cathedral and Castle, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1SX. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
15

Christmas Catch Up in Whitstable



2.30pm



Members £5
Guests £7



Come and join us for a festive get-together at the Waterloo Community Centre. We'll have mince pies, plenty of cheer and a cosy space to catch up before the holidays begin. It's a lovely

chance to have some Christmas type fun, see some friendly faces and share a bit of Christmas spirit together. Whether you're feeling festive or just fancy a warm welcome and a chat, we'd love to see you there. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.



December

THURS
18

Christmas Party in Canterbury!



12.30pm



Members £30
Guests £35



Ho ho ho! We are delighted to invite you to join us in Canterbury for a celebratory two course Christmas lunch at the St Lawrence Cricket Grounds, Canterbury. This extra special occasion promises a warm and welcoming Festive themed atmosphere, excellent food and the opportunity to enjoy the season in good company and in new surroundings. Ample free parking is available on-site for your convenience. Menu available upon request (please let us know if you have any dietary requirements when you book. Please book by Friday 5 December or as early as possible. The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3NZ. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
19

Sleeping Beauty at The Canterbury Malthouse Theatre



2pm



From £20 for adult



You are cordially invited to be with us in a wonderful visual adventure in a land of enchantment, where a beautiful princess sleeps deeply under a magic spell whilst our heroic prince battles to find true love, which can only be awoken with 'loves first kiss'. Book now for the affordable family treat that will create memories for you for years to come! Cost from £20 for adult - child concessions available. Book by Monday 1 December. The Malthouse Theatre, St Stephen's Road, Canterbury CT2 7JA. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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Palace of Westminster Visit

Rochelle Lewis (long term member and trustee)

Welcome Dear Oddies!

In the last two months, I have had enormous enjoyment and want to share the delights of some of the Spring events highlights that have been my pleasure to attend. First up, an exciting visit to the Houses of Parliament, home of all state legislation, which I'd always wanted to see. Inspired by tantalising snippets seen on television of MPs being interviewed, or being asked off the record questions (we all have wanted to ask), led me to think it looked very grand in a high Victorian way. Our guide was an outrageously dressed pink haired Scots woman with a rich sense of humour, which made the whole visit even more unforgettable.

Many features come to mind such as the resplendent gilded robing room next to the House of Lords, where every comfort was available, and the Monarch coming to open Parliament and having their own private bathroom and chambers to hold all the sumptuous costumes of the peerage. There was a throne where Queen Victoria sat, with booster steps to improve her tiny stature. Everywhere - gold leaf, Pugin and Barry, interior designer and architect knew how to impress. The House of Lords was also the epitome of grandeur with two fine thrones for Charles and Camilla, shields above all seating, all the heraldry motifs giving a who's who of the peers' family crests.

The House of Commons is reached by a passage that has witnessed great moments of history from William Pitt onwards to Margaret Thatcher's final humiliating



moments at the end of her career. No such decorations or gold anywhere. The seating was worn green leather upholstery unlike the neighbouring Lords' red leather benches. The only shields seen were dedicated to David Ames, Jo Cox and Airey Neave who died whilst in office, that is to say murdered. All three killed by fanatics, hell bent on mayhem – a poignant reminder of the troubled times we are still living through.

MPs have their own Post Office and though the Commons chamber was a more modest affair. Flooring had geometric mosaic patterns and the walls housed statues to all the past prime ministers. The best for likeness was Harold Wilson whose pipe had to be replaced from time to time thanks to souvenir hunters. The most inept alas was Margaret Thatcher – the sculptor was no Michelangelo! Alas we were not allowed to take photos – security was very tight so hence my word pictures.

When entering, we were checked in airport style – shoes taken off, watches, phones, all passed through x-ray machines. Those with pacemakers were frisked – nothing left to chance.

High above the Gothic arch entrance to St Stephens Chapel was a decorative light feature

of colourful discs that changed colour once an hour. Each disc commemorated milestones of women achieving the vote. It was operated by tidal movements of the Thames.

Lest you all think this visit was all history and no social side, our lunch together was in a spacious cafeteria in Westminster Hall,

and the journey to and from meant we could all chat and share the good time we had. I could mention so much more – it was a case of be there or be square as the saying goes. A bucket list visit ticked off for me. There was so much to see but I would definitely go again. Thank you Rose for supervising. It was a great visit – worth every penny!

Visit to RAF Manston Open Cockpit Day

80 years of mighty flying! Saving our country

I suppose I have always had a sneaking fondness for things aeronautical. My father used to give me balsa wood model aeroplane kits, so I became familiar with Tiger Moths, biplanes with camels etc. I loved cutting out the balsa wood, gluing the parts together, covering the wings with wet tissue paper, which dried to a drum-skin tightness, covered with dope whose noxious fumes would be banned these days as a health and safety concern. As children of the 50s we were less cosseted and protected from so many dangers. The only warning I can recall from childhood being “don’t take sweets from strangers”. For post war sugar rationing could mean sweets were seductive.

The sun shone perfectly, and conditions for visiting the RAF museum were perfect for flying or being on the ground. Entering the museum was a modest doorway with kits lining shelves to lure any modellers like my dear spouse, as well as myself (we resisted)!

Opening onto an astonishing hangar filled with collections of whole planes, rescued

cockpits, wings, microlights, gliders, and parts too precious to expose to the elements, plus screens showing



documents and period footage. Photos depicting airs of confidence possibly hiding the undoubted bravery. These heroes went about their business, fixing analogue machinery that saved us from Nazi invasion. There were even parts of MIGS and Messerschmitts, the collections being comprehensive in scope and all this being maintained by passionate volunteers. These men and women were full of information and care for their objects. It made one realise what a close run thing it was that we finally won a long battle fought in the skies. There was even respect for some of the enemy airmen, and as POWs they were treated less harshly than many others.

Outdoors was another joy to inspect, parts of Lightnings and Nimrods and stare down into the cramped cockpits, showing much wear and tear. How tight the space was, one felt the pilots were more like trussed chickens wedged into such a tight space, Think of the skills that they needed

besides navigation, like engineering and early electronics. For example, inside the front part of the Nimrod, which could hold up to 13-20 staff were banks and banks of analogue switches, lights, instruments and tiny screens - every one of these was allocated to an engineer or a commando. These days, thanks to miniaturisation and microchips, such a quantity is not needed, though even now modern planes still have enough banks of dials and switches to assess. Some of the work is now guided by the airport control towers.

The chances to learn and witness so much could never be covered in one day, but my memories of being there enriched my knowledge. My other half having made and still makes model aircrafts, can identify and knows about most planes that fly or were flown but for me it was an exciting revelation. An experience for all ages and felt very family friendly too, as adults and children, men and women explored the amazing collection, with so much on show. Thank you for organising this visit, another wonderful day. Oh yes, the tea, cakes, meals out of the aptly named NAAFI café were to die for too!

Maunsell Forts and Vattenfall Wind Turbine Visit

We were blessed with a calm sea as we forged our way out from Whitstable harbour. The back part of the boat was open to the elements, so we were all able to top up our tan and enjoy the clear, sweet sea breeze.

Our captain Steve was very welcoming and assumed we were sensible enough or it was safe enough? Not to wear life jackets. Though wrapping up when facing the wind was needed (for me anyway). Thanks to him, we were able to go right up to the now rusting hulks that had been placed in the sea war wartime to see off the enemy in WW2. They were magnificent as they stood on high stilts in every colour of decaying paint work, surfaces, broken, empty-eyed windows which gave them a mournful look. Such a sight impossible to imagine seen through binoculars from Whitstable harbour or beach.

Our boat chuffed to a standstill, enabling us to take photos and observe these eerie monuments to an anxious wartime past. We charged away full throttle to come up close to the array of Vattenfall windmills that were gently rotating in the breeze, generating some green electricity. Whether it would ever be enough to replace the old power stations of old is debatable? But a mixed source of generating more electricity can't be a bad thing. Many I know are hostile to these towering, graceful additions to our seascape locally but I thought them beautiful. They were quiet, but some say the fishing grounds around them are less abundant and entail fishing further away. The contrast of the new and the rusting memorabilia of the old made this a great visit. I am so glad to have been. A calm sea and a tasty lunch at Whitstable harbour all helped, though I pride myself on having good "sea legs"! Another tick on my bucket list!

The Roman Painted House Museum in Dover

Another sunny day but windy so not particularly warm. The drive down to Dover is set in spectacular landscape as one winds down to the centre of town. We met in the museum and were greeted by Rose, who brought her babies along; they were very sweet.

We were introduced to our guide, who was an archaeologist who had been involved in uncovering the Roman remains of the painted house since the 1970s. He explained that this receiving house (guest house if you will) for important visitors to Dover had only a brief 70 year existence before being deliberately buried by soil in the process of building new fortifications to protect a newly developing army barracks. A fort was built to defend the port and prevent marauding pirates and invaders from northern Europe from attacking.

Pompeii was buried by a volcano erupting in 79AD, leaving archaeologists in the 20th century to discover this amazingly preserved time capsule. In medieval times, the area became a rubbish dump as holes were dug to dump rubbish and in so doing, dug deep into the by then waste ground, making a hole in the concrete floors of the original painted room. Modern digs later found this area revealed underfloor heating (hypocausts). These Romans were modern in their taste for comforts (central heating). Amazing!

As to the painted room – well, the low broken walls were plaster-lined and painted with murals, panels depicting scenes of Bacchus and Plautus. Painstaking fragments

of the frescos were on display like a jigsaw puzzle, besides many other finds: stamped tiles, heads of gods, goddesses, and elegant pieces almost complete with fragments of pretty pottery imported from Europe. It is astonishing how these and coins can so accurately date the place. Really, there are still so many more finds to be found as this area had Roman baths and temples besides the barracks.

Budgets deter development to uncover the rest of the remains of an encampment. Future plans include CGI displays etc and Dover could enjoy the same fame as Bath were it to be able to find these much needed funds. Much like Canterbury put a trowel inches down anywhere something Roman or later historic turns up.

The guide made vivid and informative narration and it was so interesting. Only the finds at Hadrian's Wall compare with these finds and the history they reveal. It made one appreciate the patience and determination to uncover our history that these excavations have shown. Today's display showed much more than mere foundations.

I think I would go for another visit when the whole museum has been reopened to create a more modern display, it's rather dated now. Right now it is under threat of permanent closure. It's only open Saturdays, but we were given a privileged private opening and felt very lucky. It was a worthwhile visit, rounded off with a nice lunch in a small Italian bistro with good company. Another well organised trip and day. More to come soon.

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 Sammie on **01227 452517** or email **sammie.rayson@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**

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Hamer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, who's PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for
all to enjoy. Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

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Branch and District Business Meetings

We regularly hold meetings in your area and all members and prospective members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meetings is to share and discuss the business of the Branch, including our benevolence grants, finances, social planning, care and welfare development, publicity and volunteering opportunities.

This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Following the business meeting, time permitting, most evenings are rounded off with a drink, biscuit and chance to socialise. Our meetings are generally quite informal round the table discussions and we invite all members to come and find out more.

Canterbury District

Secretary: Sammie Rayson

Telephone: 07885 436025

Email: sammie.rayson@oddfellows.co.uk

These meetings are for representatives of the Branches of the District.

All meetings starts at 11am on the first Friday of the month except January and September. We hold 10 meetings per year, please contact Sammie for more details.

Meeting address to be confirmed nearer the time.

Social Events at a glance

July 2025

Sat 5	Sandwich Folk and Ale Festival	12 noon
Mon 7	Herne Bay Meet-Up	11am
Wed 9	Secret Voices with Sarah Gristwood	3pm
Thurs 10	Fish and Chips at The Captain's Table Café	11.30am
Fri 11	Coffee Morning in Margate	10am
Sun 13	Skirmish Through Time at The RAF Manston Museum	10.30am
Mon 14	Coffee Morning in Canterbury	10.30am
Thurs 17	Trip to The Kent Battle of Britain Museum	10.30am
Mon 21	Catch Up in Whitstable	3pm
Fri 25	Timeball Museum Visit	11.30am
Sun 27	Cliftonville Farmers' Market	10.30am
Thurs 31	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!	11am

August

Mon 4	Fun and Games Morning in Canterbury	10.30am
Thurs 7	Meet-Up at Badgers Hill Farm	11am
Mon 11	Herne Bay Meet-Up	11am
Fri 15	Coffee Morning in Margate	10.30am
Mon 18	Catch Up in Whitstable with Mystery Guest Speaker	3pm
Fri 22	Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs	2pm
Mon 25	Summer Bank Holiday Picnic at Reculver Towers	11am
Tues 26	Kent Spitfires vs Yorkshire Cricket Match	10.30am
Thurs 28	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!	11am
Fri 29	The Laurel and Hardy Cabaret in Broadstairs	7pm
Sun 31	Andre Rieu at the Carlton Cinema!	2pm

September - Friendship Month

Mon 1	Friendship Quiz in Canterbury	11am
Thurs 4	Meet-Up at Longacres Bybrook Barn	11am
Sat 6	Trip to Le Touquet	8am

Social Events at a glance

September – Friendship Month

Mon 8	Herne Bay Meet-Up	11am
Fri 12	Coffee Morning in Margate	10.30am
Fri 12	Heritage Open Days	11am
Sun 14	Whitstable Oyster Festival	1pm
Mon 22	Canterbury Punting Experience	11am
Thurs 25	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!	11am
Fri 26	Quex House and Gardens – The Powell Cotton Museum	11.30am
Sat 27	Ramsgate Comedy Club at The Granville Theatre	7pm

October

Thurs 2	Trip to Potten Farm Shop, Ashford	1.30pm
Mon 6	Coffee Morning in Canterbury	10.30am
Thurs 9	Visit to Folkestone Museum	1pm
Fri 10	Trip to the WonderWorks in Margate	11.30am
Fri 17	Pub Lunch at the Smugglers in Birchington-on-Sea	12.30pm
Sat 18	Now That's West End – A Musical Production	7pm
Mon 20	Catch Up in Whitstable	2pm
Fri 24	Sandwich Guildhall Museum	11am
Thurs 30	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club!	11am

November

Thurs 6	Pub Lunch at the Bull Inn, Bethersden	12.30pm
Mon 10	Coffee Morning in Canterbury with Guest Speaker	10.30am
Fri 14	Coffee Morning in Ramsgate	10.30am
Mon 17	Catch Up in Whitstable	2.45pm
Fri 21	The Crab Museum in Margate	11am
Mon 24	Meet-Up in Canterbury and Christmas Quiz!	11am
Thurs 27	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club with Guest Speaker!	11am
Sat 29	Performance of Handel's Messiah	7pm

Social Events at a glance

December

Tues 2	Coffee and Games Morning in Canterbury	10.30am
Fri 5	Festive Wreath Making at Brogdale Farm, Ashford	10am
Mon 8	Christmas Shopping at Macknades!	11am
Thurs 11	Christmas Lunch at the Indoor Bowls Club!	1pm
Fri 12	Trip to Rochester Christmas Market	11am
Mon 15	Christmas Catch Up in Whitstable	2.30pm
Thurs 18	Christmas Party in Canterbury!	12.30pm
Fri 19	Sleeping Beauty at The Canterbury Malthouse Theatre	2pm

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 Sammie by phone on 01227 452517 or email sammie.rayson@oddfellows.co.uk

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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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