

January - June 2022



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

# out & about

## Maidstone Fernlea District



*Kent County Hall, Maidstone*



Shopping



Art/Crafts



Theatre/Culture



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Wellbeing



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



*The Friars Tea Rooms and Gift Shop in Aylesford - Friday 22 April*

## 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:** 139 Robin Hood Lane,  
Walderslade, Chatham,  
Kent ME5 9NI

**Telephone:** 01634 868308

**Email:**  
[rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk)

**Social Organiser:** Lisa-Rae Brough

**Telephone:** 07939 323937

**Email:**  
[lisa-rae.brough@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:lisa-rae.brough@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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call 0800 028 1810 to speak to one of our team.

# Regular Events

## Marden Social Group and Light Lunch



11am



Members £3, Guests £4

Meeting and making new friends in the area. With various activities every time, such as games, quiz, sketching, group discussions, crafts, pamper sessions, light stretch with resistance bands and exercise. Followed by a light lunch. Come and join us, be lovely to see you and add to our exciting friendly group. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

### Dates:

10 January	4 April
24 January	18 April
7 February	2 May
21 February	16 May
7 March	13 June
21 March	27 June



## Pride of the Village Branch Social Evening and Bingo



8pm



50p for refreshments and the bingo

After a short meeting and feedback on what is happening in the Branch and any future social events, the bingo set comes out. 'Eyes Down' with refreshments. All welcome to join us. 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. Contact Norman on 01622 726031.

### Dates:

25 January	26 April
22 February	24 May
29 March	28 June



# Regular Events

## Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)



8pm



Cost of the bingo cards and raffle

After the usual short meeting and update regarding the Branch matters. Time for some fun; eyes down for bingo. We will also have refreshments and a raffle. Everyone welcome to join us and meet new friends. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. Contact Rose on 01634 868308.

### Dates:

10 January

7 February

7 March

11 April

9 May

13 June



## Social Group at Maidstone Centre



11am



Members £3  
Guests £4

A fun social group and an ideal way to get to know new friends and new hobbies. Activities vary each week of discussion groups, quiz, arts, exercises and also time to sit back and enjoy a pamper and spend time with friendly people. You could have a manicure, hand massage or foot spa. Followed by a light lunch and refreshments. 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

### Dates:

14 January                      15 April

28 January                     6 May

11 February                   20 May

25 February                   27 May

11 March                        10 June

1 April                            24 June

## Wellbeing at College Road



11am



Members £3  
Guests £4

Come and treat yourself to a foot spa, manicure or neck and shoulder massage. Nice friendly group some social interaction and light lunch. Treatments are £5 per treatment for members and £6 for guests. 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

### Dates:

7 January

21 January

18 February

4 March

18 March

8 April

29 April

13 May

3 June

17 June



# January 2022

# February

MON  
17

## Millbrook Garden Centre



11am



Own cost



Come and enjoy a social, shop and lunch if you choose at this lovely garden centre in Tonbridge. Millbrook Garden Centre, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9BT. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

MON  
14

## Brookside Garden Centre



11am



Whatever you choose to eat or buy



Brookside Garden Centre is a favourite for shopping, lunch and a social gathering. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

# February

# March

FRI  
04

## Unicorn Pub Lunch



12.30pm



As per menu



Come and enjoy a lovely lunch and social gathering in the Unicorn Pub in the village of Marden, a favourite with our group. Unicorn Pub Marden, High Street, Marden, Kent TN12 9DR. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.



Unicorn Pub Marden, High Street, Marden, Kent TN12 9DR. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

MON  
14

## The Cavendish Coffee House in Bearsted



11am



Whatever you choose to order



A delightful place to meet friends and sample some delicious home-made cakes etc. The Cavendish in Bearsted, 8 Cavendish Way, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME15 8PW. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.





# March

## **FRI** **25** **Hollywood Bowl** **Maidstone**

 12 noon

 From £3.25



Come and enjoy some fun ten pin bowling with friends. We may play one or two games depending on what everyone wants to do on the day. Hollywood Bowl Maidstone, Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre, Barker Road, Maidstone ME16 8SF. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

# April

## **MON** **11** **Walk Through** **East Farleigh**

 11am

 Free



A nice walk through the beautiful village of East Farleigh, followed by refreshments in Norman's Barn and social. Norman's Barm in East Farleigh, Lynden, Lower Road, East Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0HD. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.



# April

## **FRI** **22** **The Friars Tea** **Rooms and Gift Shop** **in Aylesford**

 11.30am

 Own cost



Set in the heart of Kent, The Friars is an ancient house dating back to the 13th Century. Lovely place to meet friends, enjoy refreshments and to shop. The Friars Aylesford Priory, Aylesford ME20 7BX. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

# May

## **MON** **09** **Hollywood Bowl** **Maidstone**

 12 noon

 From £3.25



Come and enjoy some fun ten pin bowling with friends. We may play one or two games depending on what everyone wants to do on the day. Hall, Lockmeadow Entertainment Centre, Barker Road, Maidstone ME16 8SF. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

# May

MON  
30

## The West End Tavern Pub in Marden

🕒 12 noon

£ As per menu



We are excited to offer another lunch at this great pub. West End Tavern Pub, West End



Marden, Marden Village, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9JB. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

# June

MON  
06

## Herbert Hall Winery in Marden

🕒 11.30am

£ Own cost



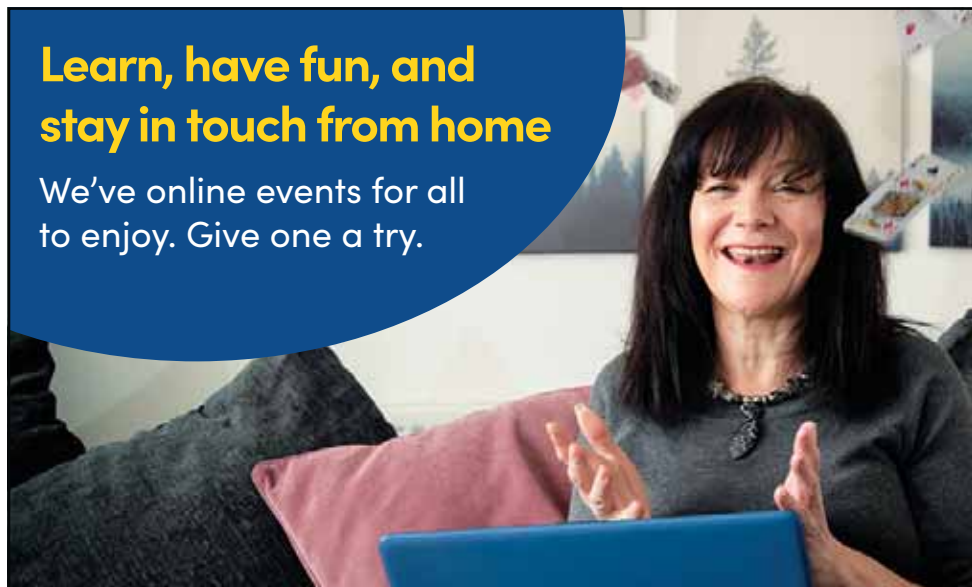
The Herbert Hall Winery makes traditional method English sparkling wine, great way to learn more about the wines and



also taste. Herbert Hall Winery, Poultry Farm, Plain Road, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 9LS. Contact Lisa-Rae on 07939 323937.

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

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



To see what's coming up visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events) and enter 'online' in the place name search box

OE/0521A6

# Get away with the Oddfellows



## London Theatre Break Friday 18 March 2022 (2 Nights)

We'll be staying at the 3\* St Giles Hotel, located in central London.

£215 per person<sup>†</sup> includes breakfast and theatre ticket to see **Wicked**, at the Victoria Apollo Theatre.

<sup>†</sup>Based on 2 people sharing



## Look what's coming up in 2022:

- **Rugged and Remote Spitsbergen:**  
Cruise from £2,599 per person. Departs 22 June (15 nights).
- **Oddfellows Summer Holiday: Warner's Nidd Hall Hotel:**  
N Yorkshire from £351 per person. 4 July (4 nights).
- **Scenic Norwegian Fjords:**  
Cruise from £1,149 per person. Departs 12 August (7 nights).
- **Church Stretton, Shropshire Hills Discovery Tour:**  
From £655 per person. 19 September (4 nights).
- **Canada in the Fall:**  
Cruise from £3,199 per person. Departs 28 September (19 nights).

For further information and to book contact Mike Hall  
**0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224) [travel@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:travel@oddfellows.co.uk)**  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel)



# Make the most of your membership



## Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

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

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

### £35 a year membership\* provides you with additional benefits of...

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

---

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

For more information visit: [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits).

\*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

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







# 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@manchestercab.org](mailto:oddfellows@manchestercab.org)



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

\*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

## Care and Welfare Helpline

**Call 0800 0149 822**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

**Email:** [care@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:care@oddfellows.co.uk)

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care)  
for care and welfare information**

## Peak District Discovery Tour

**September's Peak District Discovery Tour was our first Oddfellows Travel group holiday since the pandemic began. We teamed up with HF Holidays, who provided a knowledgeable guide to some of Derbyshire's most stunning locations. Holiday-making members and their guests explored Bakewell and the Chatsworth estate, (Chatsworth House and Edensor Village), Tideswell, Castleton, Derwent, Hathersage and Eyam.**

The group replaced their cars for the comfort of a coach for the duration of the three-night trip, and were in a safe pair of hands as the driver took the strain of navigating narrow lanes and busy car parks so they could relax and enjoy the views. He also pointed out features that only a local driver would know. Sightseers travelled from far and wide. One lady from Grenada had been visiting family when travel restrictions forced her to stay in England, so she made the most of her time here by joining the group as a guest!

It didn't matter if people didn't know anyone else on the trip, as Oddfellows Travel's on-board host, Mike Hall, was a friendly face and helped people to feel comfortable and included. It was fantastic to see complete strangers leave as friends. Oddfellows Travel is busy preparing its holiday programme for 2022, so keep checking our website at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel), call Mike on 0161 832 9361, or email him on [mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk).



*Dam Busters film location  
– Derwent Dam.*



*The adventurous group.*



*HF Holiday Guide Alistair and guests.*

# Bringing friends back together

**After 18 difficult months of repeated lockdowns and social restrictions, where so many of us were held back from spending time with each other in person, it has been incredible to finally reunite.**

And what better an excuse than Friendship Month this September! It was a great chance to catch up with old friends, re-build any lost social confidence and show newcomers all the benefits of Oddfellows membership. Jane Nelson our CEO, said: "It's been fantastic to see so many members and new faces come together to celebrate Friendship Month. Thank you to all our Branches and member volunteers who have worked tremendously hard to host hundreds of online and in-person taster events this year."

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



*Fun for all ages  
 - Brighton and Sussex Branch*



*Bringing folk together on the Isle of  
 Mona - Ormskirk and Southport Branch*



*Walking in great company  
 - Nottingham Trent Branch*



*Sharing a laugh  
 - Heart of England Branch*



*The warmest of welcomes  
 - Bradford Branch*



# Apply now for a 2021 Apprenticeship Educational Award

**If you're an apprentice, or soon to become one, take a look at our Apprenticeship Educational Awards.**

Each year, the Society grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards consisting of £250 a year for the duration (a maximum three years) of a member's apprenticeship.

Oddfellows Chairman and Grand Master, David Ogden, said: "We were thrilled to grant awards to three young members last year and support their apprenticeships in carpentry, plumbing and manufacturing engineering.

Establishing yourself in a trade has significant investments, such as starting to build up your own set of tools or buying training resources, so we're always happy to help where we can."



## Eligibility and how to apply

You need five years' continuous Oddfellows membership to apply, which can include Young Oddfellows membership.

To apply, speak to your Branch Secretary. The deadline for Branches to submit applications for consideration is 31 December 2021 and judging takes place in February 2022. Good luck!

## Shaun Wallace

We were delighted to have Shaun Wallace ('The Dark Destroyer' from ITV quiz show 'The Chase') support Friendship Month this year! You can listen to his special message on our UK Facebook channel. He also joined our CEO, Jane Nelson, on 19 regional radio interviews.



As a team, they aired the importance of friendship and talked about our recent survey into friendship and the pandemic. You can find out more about the survey at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/news](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/news)

## Oddfellows in conversation

**Do you enjoy a podcast? In our latest 'Oddfellows in conversation' recording, presenter and podcaster, Dom Burch, chatted with CEO, Jane Nelson, about all things Friendship.**

It's the second in the series with the first being a conversation with our new Chairman and Grand Master, David Ogden, about his appointment to the role. You can listen to them on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/Oddfellows](http://www.youtube.com/Oddfellows)



We're also proud to be sponsoring national magazine The People's Friend's latest round of 'Reading Between the Lines' podcasts, which feature recordings of Oddfellows members from across the UK.



In each episode, they choose a story from the publication's extensive back catalogue of fiction and have a friendly chat about it. They're well worth a listen. You can find them at [www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk/category/reading-between-the-lines](http://www.thepeoplesfriend.co.uk/category/reading-between-the-lines)

## Simple savings and investments with Unity Mutual

Helping your family plan for the future. Part of the Oddfellows family.



**0161 214 4650**  
**[WWW.UNITYMUTUAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.UNITYMUTUAL.CO.UK)**  
**@UNITY\_MUTUAL**

 **Unity Mutual**  
FAMILY FRIENDLY FINANCE

Unity Mutual is a 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. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, registration No. 109995.

# 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. Address: Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. **Members Only.**

**Secretary:** Rosaline Mills

**Telephone:** 01634 868308 **Email:** rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

## 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.

### Flower of Kent Branch

**Secretary:** Freda Russell

**Address:** 334 Upper Fant Road,  
Maidstone, Kent ME16 8DD.

**Telephone:** 01622 728089

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

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

### Hand of Friendship

**Secretary:** Rose Mills

**Address:** 139 Robin Hood Lane,  
Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9NI.

**Telephone:** 01634 868308

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

### Providence Branch

**Secretary:** Jan Batchelor.

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

**Telephone:** 01634 271319

Meeting the second Monday in the month 8pm. At 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ.

### Pride of The Village

**Secretary:** Norman Hickmott,

**Address:** Lynden Lower Road,  
East Farleigh, Maidstone,  
Kent ME15 0HD.

**Telephone:** 01622 726031

### 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.

# Social Events At a glance

## January 2022

<b>Fri 7</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 10</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Mon 10</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 14</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 17</b>	Millbrook Garden Centre	11am
<b>Fri 21</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 24</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Tues 25</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm
<b>Fri 28</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am

## February

<b>Fri 4</b>	Unicorn Pub Lunch	12.30pm
<b>Mon 7</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Mon 7</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 11</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 14</b>	Brookside Garden Centre	11am
<b>Fri 18</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 21</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Tues 22</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm
<b>Fri 25</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am

# Social Events At a glance

## March

<b>Fri 4</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 7</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Mon 7</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 11</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 14</b>	The Cavendish Coffee House in Bearsted	11am
<b>Fri 18</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 21</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Fri 25</b>	Hollywood Bowl Maidstone	12 noon
<b>Tues 29</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm

## April

<b>Fri 1</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 4</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Fri 8</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Walk Through East Farleigh	11am
<b>Mon 11</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 15</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 18</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Fri 22</b>	The Friars Tea Rooms and Gift Shop in Aylesford	11.30am
<b>Tues 26</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm
<b>Fri 29</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am

**Front cover:** Kent County Hall, Maidstone by Malc McDonald and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.



# Social Events At a glance

## May

<b>Mon 2</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Fri 6</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 9</b>	Hollywood Bowl Maidstone	12 noon
<b>Mon 9</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 13</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 16</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Fri 20</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Tues 24</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm
<b>Fri 27</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 30</b>	The West End Tavern Pub in Marden	12 noon

## June

<b>Fri 3</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Mon 6</b>	Herbert Hall Winery in Marden	11.30am
<b>Fri 10</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Social Evening and Bingo (Providence)	8pm
<b>Fri 17</b>	Wellbeing at College Road	11am
<b>Fri 24</b>	Social Group at Maidstone Centre	11am
<b>Mon 27</b>	Marden Social Group and Light Lunch	11am
<b>Tues 28</b>	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening and Bingo	8pm