

March – September 2019
Issue 2

out & about

North West Kent



Knole, Sevenoaks in Kent



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



Meetings



Saturday 11 May – Coach Trip to Brighton Hope of Dartford, we hope you can join us!

Welcome to the new edition of the news and events diary for North West Kent District

This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the Events Diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy – we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Contact Details

Address:

42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA11YN

**North West Kent District,
Hope of Dartford Branch
Social Organiser:**

Sarah Robinson

Telephone: 01322 274822

Email:

sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

**Newtown Branch
Social Organiser:**

Chris Jordan

Telephone: 01322 221129

District Secretary

Joy Jeffery

Telephone: 01322 228129

Email:

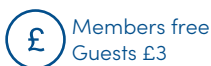
joy.jeffery@oddfellows.co.uk

A bit about us...

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

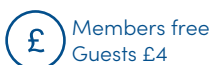
March 2019

WED 06 Quiz Afternoon Newtown Afternoon Branch



Come and have fun and test your brains with friends. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

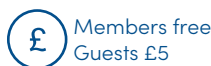
MON 11 Movie Night



Come and join us to watch Bohemian Rhapsody with friends and enjoy a drink, popcorn and sweets. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



MON 25 An Audience with Winston Churchill Hope of Dartford Branch



Come and join us for an Audience with Winston Churchill. Should be very interesting! Book by Friday 1 March. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



WED 20 Lunch with Friends at The Bull Beefeater in Swanley Woolwich District




Join the Woolwich District for lunch at this popular steakhouse and grill with friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Wide and affordable menu from succulent steak, chicken and fish to fresh salads and indulgent puddings. Ample free parking outside the restaurant. Please let us know if you are coming so we can look out for you. The Bull Beefeater, London Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7QD. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.



March 2019

FRI **29** **Speaker, Ian Brown -** **The Ronnie Biggs Story** **Woolwich District**

 7pm

 Members free
Guests £5



Join our Woolwich friends for what we are sure will be fascinating talk. Ian Brown is a retired Scotland



Yard Detective and will take us behind the headlines with a blend of reality, honesty and dry humour. The Ronnie Biggs Story is told from a different side - from the point of view of Charmian, Ronnie's wife. There will be tales from people who knew Ronnie, rare film footage and family photos. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge. Hall Place Sports Pavilion, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

SAT **30** **Annual General Meeting**

 10.30am

 Free




All members are welcome to attend our Branch meetings. We share and discuss the business of the Branch including social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Joy on 01322 228129.

April

WED **03** **Afternoon Tea with** **Ellenor, Talk** **Newtown Afternoon Branch**

 2pm

 Members free
Guests £3




Donations for Ellenor will be gratefully received. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



MON **08** **Talk by Multiple** **Sclerosis Society**

 8pm

 Members free
Guests £5



A relaxed chat and talk about Multiple Sclerosis. This will also include a cheque presentation. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



April

WED 17 Lunch at The Miller and Carter, Bexley Woolwich District



12 noon



As per menu



Join our friends from Woolwich at this popular steakhouse. The Miller and Carter is a beautifully restored Jacobean barn, right on the doorstep of Hall Place Tudor Mansion and its gardens. Join us for what promises to be a scrumptious meal. There is a large free car park outside the restaurant. Please let us know you are coming and we can look out for you. Miller and Carter, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

May

SAT 04 Disco Flower of Kent, South London



7.30pm



Members £5
Guests £6.50



The Flower of Kent Branch would like to invite North West Kent members to join them at one of their now legendary Disco nights. Popular local DJ and Oddfellow Mick Coleman will be playing the tunes we know and love to get us all on our feet. With all profits going to Mencap and a comprehensive bar open at the venue you will not want to miss this great night. Contact Charlie for tickets and further information. Book by Wednesday 1 May. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

May

WED 08 Day Trip to Pashley Manor Gardens Newtown Afternoon Branch



10am



Members £8
Guests £10.50



A lovely day with friends visiting beautiful gardens. Book by Monday 1 April. Pashley Manor Gardens, Pashley Road, Ticehurst, Wadhurst TN5 7HE. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



SAT 11 Coach Trip to Brighton Hope of Dartford



9am



Members £8
Guests £20



Come and have a lovely day out, enjoy the beach, pier and the lanes with friends. Even chance to enjoy a bit of Fish and Chips Book by Monday 1 April. Brighton, Madeira Drive BN2 1TW. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



May

WED 15 Lunch with Friends at Horse and Groom Harvester Woolwich District

🕒 12 noon

£ As per menu



Come and join the Woolwich Oddfellows for lunch at the Harvester in Sidcup. Tasty menu choices including rotisserie chicken, ribs, steaks and unlimited salad bar. There is a large free car park outside the restaurant. Horse and Groom Harvester, 136 Main Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6NZ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

MON 20 Cyber Security Talk with Gary Morley Hope Of Dartford

🕒 2pm and 8pm

£ Members free
Guests £5



Come and find out how to keep safe online. Important information for all those using a computer and the internet, two separate talks. Book by Wednesday 1 May. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.

June

MON 03 Race Night Hope of Dartford

🕒 8pm

£ Members free
Guests £5



Come and have some fun with friends, always a very enjoyable night. Must book in! Book by Wednesday 1 May. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



WED 05 Mocktails Party Newtown Afternoon Branch

🕒 2pm

£ Members £3
Guests £5



Oooh! Come and join us for our Mocktails Party. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



June

WED 19 Summer Lunch at Cray Valley Golf Club Woolwich District



12 noon



As per menu



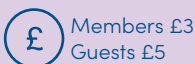
Come and join the Woolwich members for a lovely summer lunch overlooking the golf course. Large free car park outside the Clubhouse. Please call Nicola and book your place. The Cray Valley Golf Club, Orpington Golf Centre, Sandy Lane, Orpington Golf Centre, Sandy Lane, St Paul's Cray, Orpington BR5 3RY. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

July

WED 03 Charity Cream Tea Newtown Afternoon Branch



2pm



Members £3
Guests £5



This tea is for charity, come and have a lovely afternoon and chat with friends. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

July

SAT 13 Coach Trip to Wisley



9am



Members £12.20
Guests £20



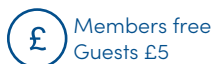
Visit the beautiful gardens of Wisley, have a lovely day out with friends. Coach will leave from Dartford Library at 9am sharp! Book by Saturday 1 June. RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley Lane, Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



MON 15 Flower Arranging Evening Hope of Dartford



8pm



Members free
Guests £5



A very enjoyable practical evening with a beautiful end result. Come and have fun with friends. Book by Monday 1 July. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.



July

WED 17 Food with friends at Pradas in Bexleyheath Woolwich District



A return visit with Woolwich District to this well renowned Mediterranean Grill and Bar. Lunch menu available of two or three courses. Parking available at Broadway Shopping Centre or Oaklands Road car park, charges apply. Call to confirm you are coming so we can look out for you. Pradas Mediterranean Grill and Bar, 198-200 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7BD. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

August

WED 07 Open House Newtown Afternoon Branch



Branch open to all. Joy Jeffery, our District Secretary will be available for any members seeking advice or visitors wanting to learn more about the Oddfellows Society. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129 or Joy on 01322 228129.



August

WED 21 Lunch at Travellers Home, Bexleyheath Woolwich District



Join the Woolwich District at this popular local pub with a large selection of pub classics. There is a small free car park outside the restaurant. Travellers Home, Long Lane, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 5AR. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

September

SAT 14 Celebration Dinner Dance



Come and join us at our Annual Celebration Dinner Dance. Dancing, music and food with friends. Raising money for the current Provincial Grand Master's Charity Book by Sunday 18 August. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 01322 274822.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

WED
18



Newtown Afternoon Branch



11am



Free



September is Friendship Month and where we especially welcome you to bring friends and colleagues to enjoy all the Oddfellows have to offer. A drink and a warm welcome are guaranteed and an opportunity to hear about our great range of social activities, care and welfare support and other national and local member benefits. Meet the team and find out more, all are welcome. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



Please bring your friends to our events, so they can enjoy all that the Oddfellows is about. Unless otherwise stated please contact Sarah Robinson on 01322 274822 or email sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk to book or find out more information on any of our events.



Share the love Help your friends get more out of life...

Why not invite them to become an Oddfellow? The more you refer that join, the greater rewards you'll receive – starting with a £10 Love2shop voucher.*

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

Terms and conditions apply*

The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers**.

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 Iris Loivette on **01322 272511** or Ann Yearsley on **01322 345587**.

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

*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

Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Discover the best of Hampshire's Coastline with Oddfellows members and friends at the Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel.

Situated on Hayling Island, Sinah Warren is a large, comfortable hotel surrounded by elegant gardens and spectacular view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course evening meals are included.

Standard rooms from only £280 per person

With evening entertainment, activities and use of leisure facilities.



To book call Warner's on 0330 1009 772

(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS



This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.

Jane Nelson, CEO

Members of Distinction

Whether through the old Portraits Scheme, or the recently launched Making a Difference Award – we love to recognise and celebrate members who go over-and-above in their support of the Society and its work.

So thank you to three of Portraits 2018's final winners Gerald, Miriam and Adrian for everything you do for the Oddfellows. We appreciate it.



*Gerald Gordon Baxter
Nene and Welland District*

Meet Gerald, member of the Nene and Welland District, who was singled out for his long-standing support to the Society at many different levels – from local Branch through to International Conference.

Some of Gerald's notable positions held over his seven decades as an Oddfellow include Noble Grand and Vice Grand

for his Branch, Provincial Grand Master for his District, 28 years' service as a District and Branch Trustee, as well as Past President (1988-1989) at East Anglia Group Conference.

Reflecting on his 71-year relationship with the Oddfellows, Gerald shared: "I liked the idea of what Oddfellowship stood for – Friendship, Love and Truth.

"We all need friends that we can turn to when we need them. There are times when we all need support and the Oddfellows has been there for me and my family."



*Miriam Witcomb
Heart of England District*

The Oddfellows is very fortunate to have people such as Miriam in its membership. She embodies the Society's humanitarian spirit through her commitment to helping others.

Since joining in her 40s, Miriam has served as Noble Grand for Leigh and Knightly Branch, as well as Heart of England District Oddfellows Club President and Trustee.

However, what sets Miriam apart is her devotion to fundraising and volunteering. Year-round, she knits items to sell and organises regular tombolas to raise money for her Provincial Grand Master's chosen charities.

For over 20 years, she has provided fellow members with care and support in their times of need as Branch Welfare Officer.

In the words of her District Committee of Management, Miriam is 'a much loved member'. And as a Society, we couldn't agree more!

Introduced to the Oddfellows by his father at age 16, Adrian's constant energy has kept him incredibly busy and active in his District and regional group conference.

Since 2006, he has been a member of Beds and Bucks District Committee of Management, in which he serves as Trustee and second-time Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was during his tenure as Provincial Grand Master in 2009 that his career reached new heights – as he undertook a charity indoor skydive for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Other appreciated contributions include his time as Past Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands, Midland Group



*Adrian Taylor
Beds and Bucks District*

Conference President and, while studying at university in Birmingham, attendance at monthly Branch meetings and District annual meetings.

Speaking about his time with the Oddfellows, he explained: "It provides excellent opportunities to be able to meet people at home and overseas. An example of this is when I travelled around Australia and New Zealand and visited Lodges in Brisbane and Wellington."

Well done and thank you to all our members who've featured as portraits over the years. We can't wait to continue celebrating members who go the extra mile in supporting our Society through a Making A Difference Award.



On your marks, get set, parkrun

There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website www.parkrun.org.uk and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events

Branch Meetings

We regularly hold Branch meetings and all members are welcome to attend. Visitors are generally welcome to attend and observe all meetings with permission granted by the secretary prior to the meeting. We share and discuss the business of the Branch includes social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion.

This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Most evenings are rounded off with refreshments and a chance to socialise.

Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA1 1YN Mondays at 8pm.

The dates are:

4 March	13 May	22 July	16 September
18 March	10 June	5 August	30 September
15 April	24 June	19 August	
29 April	8 July	2 September	

At a glance

March 2019

Wed 6	Quiz Afternoon (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	2pm
Mon 11	Movie Night	8pm
Wed 20	Lunch with friends at The Bull Beefeater in Swanley (Woolwich District)	12 noon
Mon 25	An Audience with Winston Churchill (Hope Of Dartford Branch)	8pm
Fri 29	Speaker, Ian Brown - The Ronnie Biggs Story (Woolwich District)	7pm
Sat 30	Annual General Meeting	10.30am

April

Wed 3	Afternoon Tea with Ellenor, Talk (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	2pm
Mon 8	Talk by Multiple Sclerosis Society	8pm
Wed 17	Lunch at The Miller and Carter, Bexley (Woolwich District)	12 noon

At a glance

May

Sat 4	Disco (Flower of Kent, South London)	7.30pm
Wed 8	Day Trip to Pashley Manor Gardens (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	10am
Sat 11	Coach Trip to Brighton (Hope of Dartford)	9am
Wed 15	Lunch with Friends at Horse and Groom Harvester (Woolwich District)	12 noon
Mon 20	Cyber Security Talk with Gary Morley (Hope Of Dartford)	8pm

June

Mon 3	Race Night (Hope of Dartford)	8pm
Wed 5	Mocktails Party (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	2pm
Wed 19	Summer lunch at Cray Valley Golf Club (Woolwich District)	12 noon

July

Wed 3	Charity Cream Tea (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	2pm
Sat 13	Coach Trip to Wisley	9am
Mon 15	Flower Arranging Evening (Hope of Dartford)	8pm
Wed 17	Food with Friends at Pradas in Bexleyheath (Woolwich District)	12 noon

August

Wed 7	Open House (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	10am
Wed 21	Lunch at Travellers Home, Bexleyheath (Woolwich District)	12 noon

September – Friendship Month

Sat 14	Celebration Dinner Dance	6.30pm
Wed 18	Friendship Month (Newtown Afternoon Branch)	11am