

January - June 2023

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

out & about

Tunbridge Wells



Knole, Sevenoaks in Kent



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Online



Sunday Lunch – Sunday 12 March

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

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

Don't forget that everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are

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Contact Details

Tunbridge Wells Branch Office
Branch Secretary: Karen Rose

Address:

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

Telephone: 01342 324980

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

Email:

karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk

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

Please Note

Photography will take place at each of our events to be used across Oddfellows' website, social media platforms, adverts and promotional material.

If you would not like to be in any of these images, please let a member of staff or the photographer know.

Find us at

 **OddfellowsTunbridgeWells**

Branch venues and local contacts

Beacon Branch

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

Contact: Naz Mian

Telephone: 07905 472361

Sevenoaks Branch

The Woodman
2 High Street
Otford
Sevenoaks
Kent

TN14 5PQ

Contact: Mike Hyde

Telephone: 07711 677 683

Bexhill and Hastings Branch

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

Contact: Margaret Walisko

Telephone: 01424 217243

Tunbridge Wells Branch

Constitutional Club
1 Sandrock Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 3PX

Contact: Karen Rose

Telephone: 01342 324980

Earl of Cottenham Branch

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

Contact: Andy Mason

Telephone: 01342 317970

Weald Branch

The Vine
High Street
Goudhurst
Kent
TN17 1AG

Contact: Mike Hyde

Telephone: 07711 677683

Branch Meetings

Every Oddfellows Branch is run independently by a committee of members. Regular meetings are held to discuss matters such as Branch finances, membership and members support. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings. They are held on the first Wednesday of the month (second in January) at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club either before or after the talk or activity.

January 2023

MON
09

Side By Side



The Weald Branch are pleased to welcome 'Side By Side' to The Vine, Goudhurst. They will perform a variety of music through the decades from the 50s to the 80s including some Country and Rock 'n' Roll. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place
karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk
or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Thursday 5 January.

TUES
17

Marco Magic



Join the Beacon Branch to be dazzled by Marco Seymour who's a member of the world-famous Magic Circle. Marco will not only do magic, but Alison will sing. Refreshments will be provided at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place
karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk
or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Wednesday 11 January.

WED
11

Sextant to Sat Nav Part II



Join us to welcome Peter Griffiths back to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Peter started flying with BOAC in 1967, on B707s, both as a Pilot and Navigator. He finished a few years ago flying executive jets for the rich and famous. This talk is the second half of Peter's story of a career in aviation from navigating with a compass, map, sextant and a fair degree of hope, to the modern age of Sat Nav and GPS, accurate to a few feet. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place
karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Friday 6 January.



January 2023

MON
23

Harry Houdini



7.45pm



Free



Join the Sevenoaks Branch to welcome John Field, who will give a talk on the life and exploits of Harry Houdini, maybe with a trick or two thrown in. Refreshments will be provided at The Woodman. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Wednesday 18 January.



SAT
28

Hercule Poirot



11am



Free



Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome Tony Harris back to the Bexhill Conservative Club as Hercule Poirot who will help to get the little grey cells working. Refreshments will be provided after the talk. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Thursday 19 January.



February

WED
01

Buried Secrets



7.30pm



Free



We are pleased to welcome Harry Pope back to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Harry started at the bottom, literally, falling in the grave only a few weeks into his new job as a funeral assistant. His career then took him through numerous phases until he worked for a prestigious London firm making arrangements for the higher echelons of society. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Thursday 26 January.

February

MON
06

Victorian Street Life

L 8pm

£ Free



The Weald Branch is pleased to welcome Delia Taylor to The Vine, Goudhurst. Delia will give a fascinating insight into how poor people in London lived and survived in the late nineteenth century. The fear of the Workhouse, what sort of food was popular, and the plight of working children are just a few of the topics covered. We follow them throughout a typical day, ending in a Music Hall. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Tuesday 31 January.

TUES
14

Stevie Bart

L 8pm

£ £5



Join the Beacon Branch to welcome back Stevie Bart to the Crowborough Social Club. Dance the night away on Valentine's Day. Stevie will provide us with an evening of Rock 'n' Roll from Elvis to Shakin' Stevens and everything in between. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Wednesday 8 February.

MON
20

The Lady with the Lamp

L 7.45pm

£ Free



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch to welcome Paul Whittle, who will talk about Florence Nightingale. Born in 1820 Florence Nightingale lived to the age of 90 and achieved far more than she is generally known for during the Crimean War. She was instrumental in making nursing in Britain a respectable and skilled profession whilst her initiatives in health care and hospital design are still relevant today. The talk covers her life and achievements, and the places with which she is associated. Refreshments will be provided at the Ex-Services Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Monday 13 February.



February

SAT
25

**Lancelot 'Capability'
Brown**



11am



Free



MON
27

Impressed



7.45pm



£5



Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome back Martin Heard to the Bexhill Conservative Club. Martin's talk will give an insight



into the life and work of Britain's greatest landscape gardener. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Thursday 16 February.

Join the Sevenoaks Branch to welcome Impressed - The Sea Shanty version of the Wealden Ramblers. Refreshments will be provided at The Woodman. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Wednesday 22 February.



March

WED
01

Annual District Meeting and Social



7.30pm



Free



The Annual Meeting aims to approve the 2022 accounts and appoint District Officers for the forthcoming year. A drink at the bar and a buffet will be provided for all members who attend this most important meeting at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Please note that booking is essential. Please contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Friday 24 February.

March

MON
06 **Castagneri Trio**



Join the Weald Branch to welcome Castagneri Trio. The trio will play Gypsy Jazz - Hungarian, movie themes, classics, and a bit of Django. Refreshments will be provided at The Vine, Goudhurst. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Wednesday 1 March.

TUES
14 **Delhi Temples, Fort Agra, Taj Mahal**



Join the Beacon Branch to welcome Ray Young to the Crowborough Social Club. Ray spoke to the Bexhill Branch last year on Peru. This time he will talk about his travels to various places in India. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Tuesday 7 March.

SUN
12 **Sunday Lunch at La Farola**



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch for a delicious Sunday lunch at the family run La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar. Members will enjoy freshly prepared dishes and a warm atmosphere. An early booking is essential due to the popularity of this excellent occasion and because places are limited. Cheques should be sent in



advance to Karen Rose at the Branch Office. Booking is essential as places will be limited. Please contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980. Book by Monday 20 February. La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar, 194-200 London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1EY.

March

MON
20 **Tudor London**

L 7.45pm

£ Free



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome Ian Bevan to The Woodman. In the 16th century, the population of London multiplied four times and many changes took place – new palaces, the dissolution of the monasteries, new housing. Ian's talk charts the development of London as it erupted beyond the Roman wall and became a very prosperous city. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Tuesday 14 March.

SAT
25 **St Michael's Hospice**

L 11am

£ Free



st michael's hospice
HAUTIMUS AND BOTHER

Join the Bexhill Branch to welcome a representative from St Michael's Hospice who will tell us about their work. The hospice has been our charity of the year (2022 to 2023) for Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) Margaret Walisko. A cheque will be presented to the Hospice from the proceeds of our fundraising. Refreshments will be provided at the Bexhill Conservative Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Thursday 16 March.

April

MON
03 **Soviet Russia in the 80s and 90s**

L 8pm

£ Free



Join the Weald Branch to welcome Irina Friedman who will talk about her experience of living in Soviet Russia in the 80s and 90s. Refreshments will be provided at The Vine, Goudhurst. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Tuesday 28 March.

April

WED
05

An Evening at the Races



7.30pm



Free



Join us for drinks and a buffet, together with horse racing on DVD and cash prizes for the winning punters. The fun and games will be followed by a buffet and the Branch meeting at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Booking is essential. Please contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Solveig on 07443 926944 by Friday 31 March.

TUES
11

Scene and Hird



8pm



Free



Join the Beacon Branch to welcome back Pat Bryer, who will talk about the famous actress 'Thora Hird'. Pat will also include a



performance of the 'Talking Heads' play by Alan Bennett, waiting for the telegram. Refreshments will be provided at the Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Tuesday 4 April.

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SUN
16

Lunch and Ten Pin Bowling



12.30pm



TBC



Join us at the Constitutional Club for a two course lunch and a drink. Members to purchase their own food and the Branch will provide a free drink. We will then move on to the Hollywood Bowl, Knights Park, Knights Way, Tunbridge Wells TN2 3UX to enjoy some games of bowling. The Branch will subsidise the cost of bowling for each member. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Solveig Stanhope to book your place on 07443 926944 by Wednesday 5 April.

April

MON
24 **Ian Petrie and
Ted Handley**

L 7.45pm

£ £5



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome back Ian Petrie and Ted Hanley (accordion) to The Woodman. They are always enormously popular any time we manage to get to see them. They perform a mixture of folk, and popular songs - all well-known, all worthy of a sing along, and all hand-clappingly good. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Please contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Tuesday 18 April.

SAT
29 **Plastic - An Inconvenient
Convenience**

L 11am

£ Free



Join the Bexhill Branch in welcoming Andy Dinsdale to talk about Plastic - An Inconvenient Convenience.



Refreshments will be provided at the Bexhill Conservative Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Thursday 20 April.

May

WED
03 **America's Presidents
in Bits and Pieces**

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us to welcome Joe Mendell to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. A presentation of America's 45 (now 46) presidents but not in detail. In this fascinating presentation Joe brings out some of the lesser known facts about the men who have been President of the USA. Which President is considered to be the best and worse? Which President kept pet alligators in the White House? Things you might never had known about these men if you hadn't seen Joe's presentation. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Friday 28 April.

May

TUES
09 Shine



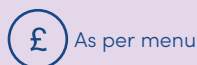
MON
15 Alpaco Country



The Beacon Branch is pleased to welcome back Shine, a Tunbridge Wells band who put their own slant on popular 'Ska' New Wave, Reggae and really cool songs to get you on the dance floor. Refreshments will be provided by the Branch at The Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Wednesday 3 May.

The Weald Branch are pleased to welcome back Alpaco Country, a mature three piece local band who play music by a variety of bands from Johnny Cash to George Strait and Merle Haggard to Alan Jackson. Refreshments will be provided at The Vine, Goudhurst. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Monday 8 May.

SAT
13 Ramble and Pub Lunch



The Earl of Cottenham Branch is organising a ramble in the Ashurst Wood area. The walk will be about a 3.5 mile circular walk from The Three Crowns, 10 Hammerwood Road, Ashurst Wood, East Grinstead RH19 3TJ, and will take approximately two hours. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended as well as being relatively fit and agile for any stiles. A drink will be paid for by the Branch. A menu will be available should you wish to purchase your own lunch. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Wednesday 3 May.



May

MON
22

Tales From My Life

L 7.45pm

£ Free



Join the Sevenoaks Branch in welcoming Bob Ogley to The Woodman who will talk about tales from his life as a journalist for the Sevenoaks Chronicle. Bob spent 30 years as a reporter and then editor of the paper. He has since retired and spends his time writing books about all things Kent. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Tuesday 16 May.

SAT
27

Wildlife of East Sussex

L 11am

£ Free



Join the Bexhill Branch in welcoming Ian Rumley-Dawson to the Bexhill Conservative Club. Ian's talk will look at some of the animals, plants, scenery and nature reserves of East Sussex: Also describing when and where to see them. Refreshments will be provided at the Bexhill Conservative Club. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Wednesday 17 May.

June

MON
05

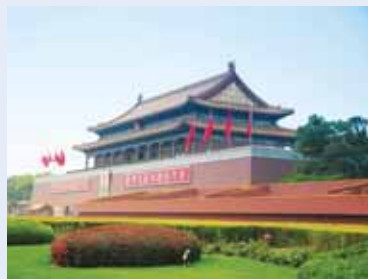
Adventures in China

L 8pm

£ Free



The Weald Branch are pleased to welcome Ray Young, who has spoken previously to the Bexhill and Beacon Branches. Ray's talk about China, will include the Three Gorges Dam, the mighty Yangste River, and the remarkable find of the Tomb of the Marquis of Yi. Refreshments will be provided at The Vine, Goudhurst. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Wednesday 31 May.



June

WED
07

The History of the Red Arrows



7.30pm



Free



Join us to welcome Guy Bartlett to the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. During the display season the Red Arrows perform between 75-85 air displays and more than 100 fly-pasts. Each pilot is hand-picked and only a very few will be given the privilege of representing the RAF both in the UK and abroad. Guy will share some of their history with you. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Friday 2 June.

TUES
13

Saturnalia Sisters



8pm



£5



The Beacon Branch is pleased to welcome back the Saturnalia Sisters, a vocal harmony partnership with a rich seductive sound, charisma and chemistry like no other. Once they step in to the spotlight, prepare to be dazzled! The Brighton based duo conjure up soul stirring harmonies tailored to any event. Refreshments will be provided by the Branch at The Crowborough Social Club. Please note that booking is essential. Please contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Naz on 07905 472361 by Tuesday 6 June.

MON
19

A Sussex Farm during the 1950s



7.45pm



Free



Join the Earl of Cottenham Branch in welcoming Ian Everest back to the Ex-Services Club in East Grinstead. To 'Make Hay' and 'Bring in the Harvest' sound like idyllic past times, but Ian's talk shows just how tough life was on the South Downs during the 1950s. The war was over, but the battle was still being fought to feed the nation. The talk includes original cine film. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01342 324980 by Monday 12 June.

June

SAT
24

Spike Milligan



11am



Free



Join the Bexhill Branch in welcoming David Hatherell to the Bexhill Conservative Club. David is a volunteer at the Bexhill museum and will talk about the life and works of Spike Milligan. Spike Milligan spent time in Bexhill during the 1940s while taking part in military training. The comedian famously described the town as 'The only cemetery above ground'. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Margaret on 01424 217243 by Thursday 15 June.

MON
26

Jessica de Giudici



7.45pm



£5



The Sevenoaks Branch are pleased to welcome Jessica de Giudici to The Woodman. Jessica has sung to us twice before but not since 2018. Jessica is a blues and jazz singer who has worked in many prestigious venues, as well as internationally, and is currently the lead singer of a five-piece classic jazz band. A first-class singer who will give a first-rate performance. Refreshments will be provided. Please note that booking is essential. Contact Karen Rose to book your place karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk or call Mike on 07711 677683 by Monday 19 June.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. We welcome everyone of all ages. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

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.

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

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions or call us on 0800 028 1810.

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

Oddfellows Travel 2023

www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel



Sat 11-Thurs 23 February

In Search of the Northern Lights

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. From £1,399 per person based on 2 people sharing. Full board. Departing from Southampton.

Sat 29 April-Weds 3 May

Beautiful Bournemouth

Daish's Holidays. From £269 per person based on 2 people sharing. Half board (coach pick-up option available).

Mon 3-Fri 7 July

Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Warner's Thoresby Hall

From £351 for a Standard room based on 2 people sharing. Half board.

Sat 1-Sat 15 July

Lapland and Scandinavia

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. From £2,099 per person based on 2 people sharing. Full board. Departing from Newcastle.



Mon 7-Sun 13 August

Isles of Scotland and the Faroes

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. From £999 per person based on 2 people sharing. Full board. Departing from Dover.

Mon 4-Fri 8 September

South Downs Discovery Tour

HF Holidays. Classic single room £659. Classic twin room £659 based on 2 people sharing. Full board.

For further information and to book contact Mike Hall **0161 832 9361 (ext 2224)** or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk

At a glance

January 2023

Mon 9	Side By Side, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Wed 11	Sextant to Sat Nav Part II, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Tues 17	Marco Magic, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Mon 23	Harry Houdini, The Woodman	7.45pm
Sat 28	Hercule Poirot, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am

February

Wed 1	Buried Secrets, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Mon 6	Victorian Street Life, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Tues 14	Stevie Bart, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Mon 20	The Lady with the Lamp, The East Grinstead Ex-Service's Club	7.45pm
Sat 25	Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am
Mon 27	Impressed, The Woodman	7.45pm

March

Wed 1	Annual District Meeting and Social, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Mon 6	Castagneri Trio, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Sun 12	Sunday Lunch at La Farola Restaurant and Tapas Bar, East Grinstead	1pm
Tues 14	Delhi Temples, Fort Agra, Taj Mahal, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Mon 20	Tudor London, The Woodman	7.45pm
Sat 25	St Michael's Hospice, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am

At a glance

April

Mon 3	Soviet Russia in the 80s and 90s, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Wed 5	An Evening at the Races, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Tues 11	Scene and Hird, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Sun 16	Lunch and Ten Pin Bowling, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	12.30pm
Mon 24	Ian Petrie and Ted Handley, The Woodman	7.45pm
Sat 29	Plastic - An Inconvenient Convenience, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am

May

Wed 3	America's Presidents in Bits and Pieces, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Tues 9	Shine, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Sat 13	Ramble and Pub Lunch, The Three Crowns, East Grinstead	10am
Mon 15	Alpaco Country, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Mon 22	Tales from my life, The Woodman	7.45pm
Sat 27	Wildlife of East Sussex, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am

June

Mon 5	Adventures in China, The Vine, Goudhurst	8pm
Wed 7	The History of the Red Arrows, Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club	7.30pm
Tues 13	Saturnalia Sisters, Crowborough Social Club	8pm
Mon 19	A Sussex Farm during the 1950s, The East Grinstead Ex-Service's Club	7.45pm
Sat 24	Spike Milligan, Bexhill Conservative Club	11am
Mon 26	Jessica de Giudici, The Woodman	7.45pm



Online events you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home...

**Talks, coffee mornings, exercise classes,
quizzes, fun & games and much more**

**Visit oddfellows.co.uk/events
and enter 'Kelso' in the place name box**

Need help to attend an online event? Just give your local Social Organiser
or Branch Secretary a call or email events@oddfellows.co.uk



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

Winter 2022
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Tunbridge Wells News and Views

News and views from your local friendship group

Beacon Branch

Pages 6-8

Bexhill and Hastings Branch

Pages 10-11

Sevenoaks Branch

Pages 14-16



Earl of Cottenham Branch

Pages 4-5



Annual Movable Conference



An Evening at the Races



Friendship Dinner Dance



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

A message from your Secretary

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

Everyone is welcome at our events, so if you can encourage family and friends to come then bring them along to try us out before they join and they will be made very welcome. Let your friends and family know that there's so much to get out of being an Oddfellows member, from our varied social events to our supportive benefits package.

Picture above: West Promenade, Bexhill-on-Sea by Malc McDonald and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Contact Details

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

District Secretary: Dr Karen Rose

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

T: 01342 324980

E: karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk

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

This newsletter gives a flavour of the events that have taken place across the branches of the District over the last few months and enjoyed by so many of our members.

With Christmas nearly upon us it is time to start thinking about 2023. The Events Diary for the first half of 2023 has been produced and again contains a variety of events including games, music, interesting talks, walks and lunchtime get-togethers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for future events or would like to become more involved in the life of the Oddfellows.

In May, at the Annual Movable Conference, I was elected by the deputies as a Director of the Society. It has been an interesting few months. We are a membership society, run by members for members. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions about Oddfellows.



Karen Rose.

Please note that the District Office will be closed over the Festive period from Friday 16 December through to Tuesday 4 January. I do hope that you all have a relaxing Festive break.

Karen

Annual Movable Conference (AMC) 2022

In May, Tunbridge Wells District Branch sent four delegates to represent our Branch at the three day conference in Scarborough. The delegates voted on behalf of the Branch membership regarding various rule changes and reported back to the Lodge at the June meeting in Tunbridge Wells. Left to right in the picture are

Karen Rose, Andrew Stanhope, Solveig Stanhope, and Karen Wickins. Next year the conference moves to Eastbourne.



Deputies at AMC 2022.



Earl of Cottenham Branch

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

In May, nineteen intrepid ramblers plus one guest took on a 7km (4.3 mile) walk across Sussex countryside on a lovely warm and sunny day. Our ramblers negotiated eleven stiles on the two hour walk which started and finished at The Fox in West Hoathly. A well-deserved drink was consumed at the finish along with a selection of very tasty dishes at The Fox.

Picture above: The Fox Ramblers.

In June, when the speaker failed to turn up at the Ex-services Club, Andy Mason stepped in to talk to twenty-two members about his life in the Fire Service. Andy regaled us with many anecdotes and tales from his thirty years in the Service. He started working in Bognor Regis before

transferring to East Grinstead Fire Station four years later in 1978. Andy spoke about a devastating fire in a council estate in the early 1980's as well as kitchen fires, a chimney fire on Christmas day, and over the border calls. East Grinstead is in West Sussex and bordered by three other counties – Surrey, Kent and East Sussex. Andy spent his final seven years working



Andy Mason.

in Horley as a Fire Safety Officer. A very interesting and entertaining talk.



Members at St Swithun's.

In July, twenty-four members met outside St Swithun's Church in East Grinstead for a tour of the graveyard and Church. There has been a church on this hilltop site since the late 10th century. The current church was rebuilt in 1789 after the previous one was destroyed when the tower collapsed. Our tour started outside by the memorial

to the three Protestant martyrs who were burned at the stake in 1556 for refusing to turn from the Protestant faith. We then saw the grave of Rev'd John Mason Neale (1818-1866) who was the warden of nearby Sackville College and is famous for writing many hymns and carols including Good King Wenceslas. The tour then took us inside to discover more about the building, stained glass windows, various features and the chapels. Afterwards, our members went for a drink and a bite to eat nearby at CJ's Café Bar.

Sixteen members and a guest enjoyed a relaxing 6km (3.7 mile) circular walk from The Fountain Inn in Cowden. The walk followed some of the Sussex border path and thankfully there were no stiles this time but we did see lots of sheep. The weather was warm but not too hot. Afterwards, a refreshing drink was had at The Fountain Inn followed by a delicious meal.



The Fountain Inn Ramblers.

Beacon Branch

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

Three lunchtime get-togethers have been held over the last six months with twenty-two members attending in April, fifteen members in June and sadly only eleven members in September as the event had to be rescheduled. However, the steward of the club, Nick, did us proud again

with a good selection of meals from soups and sandwiches to cottage pies. Several members commented about the food and the variety. There was lots of chatting as members new and old had a chance to catch up with each other.

Twenty-four members were regaled in May by Stevie Bart who sang a constant stream of Rock 'n' Roll hits. Many classic tracks were played which encouraged members to get up and dance. The songs ranged from That'll Be The Day, Runaway and



Lunchtime get-togethers at Crowborough Social Club.

Summer Holiday, to Summertime Blues, Poetry in Motion and La Bamba.



Stevie Bart.

In June, thirty-eight members were entertained by Gez Gold as he took us on a journey through music with significant songs from over the centuries and through the decades from 1910 to the 1980s. He started off with tunes such as Greensleeves and You Take the High Road, and then went on to the decades from 1910 starting with Harvest Moon. He played various songs such as Babyface (1920s); Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (1930s); Wake up Little Suzie



Gez Gold.

(1950s), as well as taking requests from the floor. A very entertaining evening.

In July, twenty-five members gathered to enjoy an evening of music provided by the six-piece band Move Over Dali. The band played a mixed selection of reasonably familiar songs including Only You, Wherever I Lay My Hat, and Baby Come Back, as well as several rockabilly songs and some songs that had been written by one of their own members. Despite it being a very hot day, several members took to the dance floor.



Move Over Dali.

Forty-four members plus four guests gathered on a very pleasant (not too hot!) evening in August for a competitive game of pétanque, although some members preferred to forego the exercise and just sit and chat while enjoying the fresh air. Playing in teams of three, participants quickly discovered that tossing a silver metal ball along a gravel pitch towards a fairly small target is not as easy as you'd think! Many balls fell short of the target, others sailed past to hit the backboard and thus be declared "out of play", while a few skewed off sideways onto the next rink! Never mind, it's the taking part that

Continued on the next page...

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counts and all who did so thoroughly enjoyed the game, regardless of whether their trio won or lost. To win, a side must beat their opponents to be the first to reach a score of 13 - so definitely unlucky for some!

After the game both players and spectators enjoyed a splendid barbecue supper provided by the Club. Thanks to Naz for organising the event and we look forward to gathering again for a return match next year.



Pétanque fun.

In September, Mick Sweetman entertained thirty-five members by playing county music. The range of songs he played encouraged members to get up and dance. Some members were able to show off their Line Dancing skills as everyone enjoyed the music.



Mick Sweetman.

Weald

A new venue has been found for our Weald meetings – The Vine, Goudhurst. The Vine is in the centre of Goudhurst on the crossroads at the bottom of the hill. There is a small free public car park a couple of hundred yards along the road opposite the pub, past the duck pond. There are no yellow lines, so there is also parking available on all of the streets of the village.

Please enter by the right-hand door at the front of the pub. This opens to a short passage, with stairs on the right up to the room we will be using. The staircase is wide, quite short, and easy to climb. Our room is on the left at the top. The first Weald meeting will be held there on Monday 14th November and should be a success (too late for this newsletter!). A full programme of events have been booked there for 2023.

An Evening at the Races

In July, forty-five members enjoyed an evening of racing at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club expertly organized by Naz Mian. Everyone had fun trying to place their bets on the winning horse in each of the six races with some having a lot more success than others! Each race had fun names such as The Comedy Catchphrase Cup; Chocoholics Anonymous Stakes; and The Sick 'As A' Dog Derby. There was lots of cheering and the joint winners were Solveig, Debbie, Dermot and Trevor (left to right in photo with Naz far right).



Race winners with Naz.

Friendship Lunchtime Get-Togethers

There have been two lunchtime get-togethers (May and July) at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club in the last six months. Unfortunately our August one had to be cancelled at the last minute due to staffing issues at the Club. The May lunch attracted twenty-seven members and three guests, and there were twenty-six members at the July lunch. The members present in July were also able to see our charity of the year for 2020 to 2022, Pickering Cancer Trust, presented with a cheque from the fundraising that had been done during that period.



Karen presenting the cheque to Polly and Caroline.

Bexhill and Hastings Branch

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



Tony Harris - Bygone Brands.

In April, popular speaker Tony Harris took thirty-seven members on an entertaining and often funny trip down memory lane. Tony came dressed as a butcher from bygone times. He also brought along several items. Some of these were Quality Street tins and it was obvious how they had reduced in size over the years and yet prices have increased. The old tin would have cost 25p and the current size now costs £5. Tony also took us through the origins of supermarkets with the original being Co-op which was established in 1849 followed by Sainsbury's in 1869. Tony spoke about various popular brands of cigarettes, soap powders, soaps, sweets

and drinks through the years and how their prices have changed and their popularity. A very interesting talk.

Geoff Hutchinson regaled thirty-one members with a humorous and entertaining performance of Mad Jack Fuller in May. Geoff, in the guise of Mad Jack (though he preferred to be known as Honest Jack) entertained us with stories of his career



Mad Jack Fuller.

as a politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1780 and 1812. Mad Jack is probably best known, however, for two of his follies: the first, his pyramid-shaped mausoleum in the churchyard in Brightling, and the 'sugar loaf', a cone in a field at Dallington. The story goes that Fuller, while in London, made a wager claiming he could see the spire of Dallington Church from his estate. On his return he found this to be untrue, so to win the wager he had the sugar loaf erected overnight to mimic the spire. Geoff entered fully into the character of

Mad Jack, leading us all to believe that in his top-coat and tails he was standing there before us in the flesh.

In June, David Clarke spoke to twenty-five members about the battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge in 1066. With



David Clarke.

King Harold down on the South Coast, waiting for an expected invasion by Duke William of Normandy, the north lay unprotected and ripe for invasion by Harald Hadrada's Vikings. David explained that on Friday 9 September, the invasion fleet of 300 Viking ships assembled at the River Tyne in Northumbria to sail down the coast to the Humber. This drew King Harold and his armies north to defend the country, first at Fulford Gate and later at Stamford Bridge. These battles led to the death of Harald Hadrada and Tostig Godwinson and preceded the Battle of Hastings. David's talk reviewed the battles and the devastating effect on the events of 1066.

Ray Young took thirty-three members and two guests on a journey through Peru from Lima to Machu Pichu and the lost city of the Incas. Ray gave us many facts and figures about the country along with stunning photos that he had taken during his trip around the country. He explained that the national delicacy of Peru is the

Guinea Pig and that the dish can be found in many restaurants there! A truly fascinating talk that finished with a film that he took on his travels. A donation was made to the local Air Ambulance Service for Ray's talk.



Ray Young.

Due to a last minute cancellation, Derek Fickling organized a quiz for twenty-four members in October. Our Quiz-Master arranged 10



Margaret with Derek.

rounds of five multiple choice questions on subjects including history, geography, and film and TV. Everyone enjoyed testing their knowledge on a Saturday morning and were rewarded with a tasty buffet afterwards. The winner of the quiz was Margaret Walisko with Rod Page coming second.

Quiz Night

In May, the annual quiz was held at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club with thirty-two members in attendance. Derek Fickling, our Quiz-master, had devised fifty tricky multiple-choice questions from topics such as film and television, history, science and sport. Questions included 'The TV detective series Van Der Valk is set in which European City?' a – Brussels, b – Antwerp or c – Amsterdam? Answer is c. The winner of the Branch Cup was Andrew Hathaway with 40 points. Second was Jack Griffin with 37 and third was Rod Page with 36 points. Everyone thanked Derek for an entertaining and challenging quiz.



Andrew with the Branch cup.

The Morse Code

In August, thirty-seven members listened to Pete Allen's talk on 'The Morse Code – deciphering Britain's favourite detective' at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. Pete's talk explored the world of Morse from his first appearance in literature to his investigations on screen, stage and radio.

The first episode of Inspector Morse aired in 1987 – "The Dead of Jericho" – with John Thaw playing Morse and Kevin Whately as Lewis. This book was actually the fifth Morse novel written by Colin Dexter. Each episode always had a great supporting cast of actors including

Colin Dexter who would make an appearance much like Alfred Hitchcock did in his films. Although only thirteen novels were written by Colin, there were thirty-three

episodes of Inspector Morse with eighty-one deaths. The spin-off series Lewis also had thirty-three episodes. So far there have been thirty episodes of Endeavour. Will the next series of Endeavour be three episodes and the last? A very informative and entertaining talk.



Pete Allen.

Bowling

Thirty-five members and guests enjoyed a lovely carvery at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club in July. There was a choice of beef or lamb with roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings and a selection of vegetables. Dessert consisted of carrot cake, Black Forest gâteau, baked cheesecake and cheese and biscuits.

Afterwards twenty-seven members went to Hollywood Bowl for two games of ten-pin bowling. The staff looked after us well providing plenty of iced water on a really hot day. We had fourteen people



Winner Marina with Derek and Roy.

with scores in excess of 100 points. In the end the winner was Marina Stanhope with 117 and tying for 2nd place with 109 were Roy Wright, Derek Fickling, and Chris and Heather Vickery (guests). A great time was had by all at an event which had been missed over the last couple of years.

Friendship Dinner Dance

In September, thirty-nine members and guests gathered at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club to enjoy one of their splendid carvery roasts, followed by dancing to one of our most popular bands, The Heartbeats.

Notwithstanding that they had to bring in a substitute guitarist as one of their regular members had very sadly passed away only a week before, the band put on an excellent show, playing many popular songs from a range of eras, most of which were well suited to the sort of "dancing" most of our members are able to



Members dancing to The Heartbeats.

do! Good old rock 'n' roll along with some slower numbers. The music, and indeed the meal, was greatly enjoyed by all present. The raffle in aid of St Michael's Hospice raised £52 on the night. A minute silence was also held in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II followed by a toast to King Charles III.

Sevenoaks Branch

Once again, Mike Hyde has produced an exciting programme of talks and music for our meetings at The Woodman, Otford with each event including a very tasty buffet and refreshments. It should be recognised that, following the loss of The Bull at Benenden, The Woodman has stepped up to help us significantly, taking some of the booked dates from Benenden, accepting that we wanted some musical evenings, and being extremely helpful in serving and feeding us.



Ian Petrie and Ted Handley.

After discovering that The Woodman now had a music licence, it was obvious that Ian Petrie and Ted Handley should be our first music act there in April. We have very much enjoyed - and joined in with - their pleasing mix of Irish, Scottish and English (and one Australian) folk songs, mixed with a few other well-known popular tunes worth singing along to. And of course they did not disappoint the eighteen members who had a thoroughly good evening, and

as usual with Ian and Ted it only came to an end when we said that this should be their last tune - it wasn't though as they managed to sneak another three or four in! They have already jumped at the chance to play for us again in 2023; now that we can look forward to.

In May, Delia Taylor told us the fascinating story of Annie Cohen Kopchovsky, a Latvian immigrant living in Boston, USA.

She accepted a wager to cycle around the world, starting with no money but finishing with \$5k when she finished. Her problems were many - she had no bike riding experience and ladies in those days wore corsets. In truth, she travelled with a bike rather than on a bike for much of the journey, and there were a few lies and exaggerations on the way, but the publicity (for her and the bike company) was good. Her major sponsor was Londonderry Springwater, hence the name. She travelled 17,432 miles in 15 months, won the \$10k wager, made the required \$5k - and got \$400 for her bike! A truly remarkable, and enjoyable, story.



Delia Taylor.

Popular speaker Guy Bartlett spoke to twenty-one members in June, giving us the

little-known (by most of us, anyway) facts of how much Kent, and its immediate surroundings, was involved in the early days of aviation. The Short brothers (Eustace, Oswald and Horace) started giving pleasure flights in a second hand balloon from 1897, located their workshop in Battersea before starting their first balloon and hang-glider factory in Eynsford. The Aero Club at Muswell Manor on Sheppey can lay claims to be the site of the birth of British aviation; it was members of this club that saw a demonstration of the Wright brothers aircraft at Le Mans who then wanted to have their own. The Short brothers started building the Short No1 biplane for members Charles Rolls, Francis McClean, and others at Leysdown (later Rochester, before the company moved to Belfast in 1948). John Moore Brabazon, first Briton to fly to France, was based on Sheppey. Many WW1 seaplanes were designed and built on Sheppey and around Rochester. Then Guy described Kent's involvement in WW2 and afterwards; the Battle of Britain, the testing of the bouncing bomb at Herne Bay, Manston aerodrome (which the RAF finally left in 2021). A very interesting talk indeed.



Guy Bartlett.

members of the Tonbridge Folk Club, appeared as The Wealden Ramblers. They sang a mixture of known and self-penned folk songs to nineteen members; many of their own songs were penned by Bob and had a very decided Kentish leaning. They entertained us extremely well and gave us a most enjoyable evening with many of those present asking to see them again (we will!).

In July, the speaker for the evening was Rob Poole who spoke to twenty-one members on Railway Curiosities. He had a wealth of examples of unusual, strange



Rob Poole.

and downright dubious ideas and creations for the "possible" development of the railway from around the world. Very few of which worked, or even had the opportunity of really showing their worth. They included the Dehli monorail, the Regents Street (yes, that one) monorail, Boynton's bicycle railway (just as it says on the tin!), double deck trains (a few did get into use in the UK, but tunnel sizes were a major problem). The Poppleton railway nursery, the Vatican railway, the silk train. So many oddities - if the evening had a downside it was that there was insufficient time to get into any real depth on any of them.

At the end of June, a group new to us, Roger Resch and Bob Kenward, two

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Alpaco Country.

Another new group for us; Allan, Alan and Richard were Alpaco Country. In August, the first half of the evening had them (and twenty members) singing very well-known Country songs by the likes of the Everly Brothers, Johnny Cash, Dr Hook, Eagles, the Drifters. And a few by The Mavericks. After we had our buffet and recharged our glasses, they performed some less well-known tunes, but what they had picked to play were superb. One of the best groups we have had; such an enjoyable evening, again with requests coming in immediately to have them rebooked.

The life of Gunther Pluschow, the aviator, aerial explorer and author from Munich whose feats include the only escape by a German prisoner of war in WWI from Britain back to Germany, and being the first man to explore and photograph Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia from the air. At the start of the war he was assigned to Tsingtau in the small German controlled part of China; when that was invaded by Japan he was put into a PoW camp. He escaped from there and flew to the main part of China, and thence by boat to (then neutral) America and on



Christoph Bull.

to Gibraltar where he was arrested by the British. He escaped from Donington Hall in Leicestershire and went, in disguise, to London and Gravesend where he lived for a while. By observing the river movements, he managed to sneak aboard the ferry Princess Juliana sailing for neutral Netherlands and then to home. And his life after the war was just as extraordinary too. Our speaker Christoph Bull gave twelve members in September a very enthusiastic and detailed account of this remarkable story entitled ‘The Only One That Got Away’, which was very much enjoyed by us all.



Smokin Mojos.

A major success for us back in early 2020, which was Smokin Mojos first outing “unplugged”, and appearing since then at Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells “plugged”, we finally managed to get them to perform for us again at the end of September as they had originally. This rock, soul, blues and country band, now having reached their 12th anniversary together, gave seventeen members the benefit of their favourite songs from that period. And so very good it was too. A very wide list of different styles and genres, from Creedence Clearwater Revival to Janice Joplin, Bruce Springsteen to Temptations, Dolly Parton to Rolling Stones. Another excellent performance from an excellent band that we will have to see again.

Beetle Drive

In September, Beetle drive master Roy Wright organised an exciting competition for twenty-five members, which preceded a buffet at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. After a period of energetic and frantic play, the winner was Joan Downing with 72 points followed closely by Karen Wickins and Barbara Turner with 69 points. Joan was presented with the Oddfellows Shield for accumulating the most Beetle parts during the evening.



Roy Wright with Joan, Barbara and Karen.

Pride of the Valley

Thirty-five members plus two guests enjoyed another scrumptious barbecue at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club! The meal was expertly prepared by the staff and a selection of meats were enjoyed along with a jacket potato and

a variety of salads plus dessert. Everyone had a very enjoyable time at this informal social occasion and everyone chose to take advantage of the warm summers evening by sitting outside in the extensive grounds of the club.



Members at the BBQ.

Doods Road

In October, thirty-six members and two guests heard John Griffiths-Colby talk about The Doods Road Great



John Griffiths-Colby.

Pigeon Loft at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club. This was the third part of the Sapper Clay trilogy and John updated us on his search for the family of Sapper Clay. He was pleased to say that the medal that he found has now been reunited with the family. This talk is about the house next door to Sapper Clay and the wartime history of Reigate.

No 18 Doods Road had armed guards during both World Wars as it was commandeered by the National Pigeon Service which was part of the Air Ministry. He went on to talk about how pigeons were used during the war as well as the Dickin Medal, the PDSA award to animals, and some of its pigeon recipients. In all 250,000 pigeons served for the Air Ministry with thirty-two of them being awarded medals. John also spoke about the connections Spike Milligan, Spitfire pilot Bob Doe, and Field Marshall Montgomery had with Reigate. A very informative and interesting talk.

Stories of my Life

In June, former journalist and Controller of Information at Sky Television, Tony Flood, spoke to forty-nine members at the Tunbridge Wells Constitutional Club about My Life with the Stars – Sizzling Secrets Spilled! In his talk he revealed anecdotes and revelations about showbiz and sports stars that he had met and interviewed throughout his career. He even got to play football with George Best and Bobby Moore although they were just testimonial matches. Tony also revealed how Elvis Presley embarrassed Tom Jones and also why Erin Boag asked him to put his hand on her thigh. A truly eye-opening and entertaining talk.



Tony Flood.

Don't just take our word for it...

Oddfellows Travel is a brilliant way to explore with a group of friendly, like-minded people. There's always an Oddfellows host on hand to make introductions, or assist with any questions you might have.

Check out these fabulous member reviews from two of our recent Oddfellows Travel holidays!

Doreen Swain and Maureen Burgoyne, Derby Oddfellows

"We visited Nidd Hall in Harrogate with Oddfellows Travel, and from the very start we were made to feel most welcome. The pre-dinner drinks reception was such a good idea, we met other Oddfellows members from across the UK – and the welcome gift of a backpack was a lovely surprise!

Our Oddfellows group was always sat together for meals, which were of a high standard. The hotel facilities were fantastic, and there was a variety of games and events put on by Warner's. The tour of the grounds from the head gardener was such a treat, too.



*Doreen Swain and
Maureen Burgoyne*

Home-time came far too quickly and we had to say goodbye to friends old and new. We look forward to reconnecting with our Oddfellows friends soon. Whether you come on your own or in a group, you will find a friend on the Oddfellows summer holiday."

Wendy Atkins, Ipswich Oddfellows

"Our recent cruise of the Norwegian Fjords with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines was spectacular. Food on board was second to none, with five-course à la carte dinners, breakfast and lunch buffets and even late night snacks.



Wendy Atkins

We were a diverse group. Some of us have been going on cruises for years, whereas for some it was their first time. For one passenger it was her first time on holiday as a widow which can be so tough, but having the rest of the group for company made it a little less daunting for her."

For further information, check out our upcoming holidays at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk

Friendship Month 2022: A warm welcome to all!

Another September, another wonderful Friendship Month celebration.

This year, our Branches went above and beyond to extend the hand of friendship to their local communities. From afternoon teas and coffee mornings, through to friendship walks and museum

tours – there certainly was something for everyone. Thank you to everybody who attended, hosted, or volunteered at our Branches' Friendship Month events, from the pictures we've been sent, and seen shared across Facebook, it looks like you all had an absolute ball!





Music to our ears



Ben Smith accepted the position of Oddfellows Brass Musical Director earlier this year, and has been welcomed with open arms as he introduces

a lively new programme to audiences across the UK.

Having graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with a First-Class Honours in 2021, Ben is already seeing huge success with Oddfellows Brass, as he's guided them to a 2nd and 4th place result in their first two contests together.

If you would like to see Oddfellows Brass performing near you, please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back/oddfellows-brass/ or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk for a copy of their upcoming tour dates.

Oddfellows Travel 2023

It's never too soon to start planning your next holiday. So if you're keen to discover somewhere new, take a look at our upcoming holidays with Oddfellows Travel!

Sat 11–Thurs 23 February In Search of the Northern Lights

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £1,399 per person

Sat 29 April–Wed 3 May Beautiful Bournemouth

Daish's Holidays
From £269 per person
(coach pick-up option available)

Mon 3–Fri 7 July Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Warner's Thoresby Hall
Nottinghamshire
From £351 per person

Sat 1–Sat 15 July Lapland and Scandinavia

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £2,099 per person

Mon 7–Sun 13 August Isles of Scotland and the Faroes

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £999 per person

Mon 4–Fri 8 September South Downs Discovery Tour

HF Holidays
From £659 per person



For further information and to book contact Mike Hall 0161 832 9361 (ext 2224) or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk



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Why not make someone's day by telling them about the Oddfellows?

You might be surprised who would appreciate getting involved – membership brings lots of benefits and so much more*.

To refer someone you know and make their day, either call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or fill in the **Refer a Friend form** available from your Branch Secretary.

*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards 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 Karen on **01342 324980** or email **karen.rose@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

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