

May - October 2024



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

out & *about*

Maidstone Fernlea District



Shopping



Art/Crafts



Theatre/Culture



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Wellbeing



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Friendship Day – Friday 20 September

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

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

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

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

Contact Details

Secretary: Rose Mills

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

Telephone: 01634 868308

Email:
rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Julie Broomfield

Telephone: 07910 888607

Email:
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk

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

A bit about us...

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

May 2024

FRI
03

Cream Tea



11am



Members £4.50
Guests £5.50



Join us for an informal cream tea, consisting of scones, jam and cream, selection of sandwiches and refreshments and of course, a perfect chat with perfect friends! 'Cream tea to the English, is a picnic indoors'. Cost: £4.50 for members and £5.50 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Book by Friday 26 April. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
17

Food and Drink Quiz



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Is your brain bigger than your stomach? Find out with this food and drink related quiz. Put your thinking caps on and let your inner foodie shine through as we embark on this culinary trivia journey. Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
10

&

MON
13

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 1



11am



Members £4, Guests £5,
Craft £3



As the holiday season approaches we will be creating a 3D beach theme. This will be a four part craft session, over four months.

The theme will be created on a tile, using different mediums, such as paper mache, painting, resin, clay and of course where would a beach be without sand. There are lots of ways to interpret a beach theme, including nautical, beach house, rustic and tropical. Each one will have its own set of colours, plants and decorative elements.



Friday 10 - Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

Monday 13 - John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Tonbridge TN12 9JX.

Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. All crafting materials will be supplied at a cost of £3. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

May 2024

TUES
21

Staplehurst Nurseries and Frankies Farmshop



11am



As per own cost



Staplehurst Nurseries and Frankie's Farm shop are passionate about the community and serving fresh, home-made food. We will spend time looking around the vast produce they have in the nursery and farm shop, followed by lunch in the new dining area. Staplehurst Nurseries & Frankies Farmshop, Clapper Lane, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0JT. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
24

Pictionary!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Pen in hand, we will be holding a fun Pictionary game, testing our art skills to the limit. 'How old do you have to be to make a bad drawing? Fancy joining us? Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
31

Social Gathering - Let the games commence!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good games of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



June

FRI
07

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 2



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



This week we will continue our craft journey, working on beach huts and creating a sand base. This will be a four part craft session, over four months. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

June

MON
10

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 2



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Continuing with our crafty creations, will be adding to our sand base.

This will be a four part craft session, over four months. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Tonbridge TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
14

Name that in Five game!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Name that in Five game! is the quick-thinking team trivia game where teams must name five things fast, before time runs out. You draw a card and you try to name five things that fit into a category within 30 seconds. Lets see how skilled you are! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



TUES
18

Trip - The Friars, Aylesford



11am



As per own cost



Lets meander around these beautiful buildings dating back as far as the 13th Century. The Friars has a fine collection of religious modern art with sculptures, paintings, stained glass and ceramics. The restoration, followed by the building of the Shrine, began in the early 1950s when people were captivated after the distraction of the war years. The first Prior, Fr Malachy Lynch was a charismatic figure who inspired people with the words 'Courage to Build Anew Ending this walk'. We will have a sumptuous meal in Pilgrims Hall. A firm favourite for everyone. The Friars, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7BX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



June

FRI
21

Social Gathering - Let the games commence!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good games of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
28

Eye's Down for Bingo



11am



Members £4
Guests £5
Bingo £1



Get your bingo dabber to hand for a fun game of bingo! Eyes down for a line and house... will you be lucky? Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £1 for bingo (three games). Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



July

FRI
05

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 3



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



This week will be completing our beach huts and dabbling in some clay work to produce some beach accessories. Deck chairs are a must and we will create some seating with some cocktail sticks and paper! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
08

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 3



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



We will carry on accessorising our beach huts, finishing off those deck chairs. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Tonbridge TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

July

FRI
12

Gardening Quiz



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Can you tell a weed from a prized flower? Fancy yourself a botanist? See how much you know with our gardening quiz. Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
19

Social Gathering - Let the games commence!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good games of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

TUES
23

Lunch at The Horseshoes Pub, East Farleigh



12.30pm



As per menu



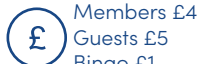
If you're looking for a real country pub experience in Kent, then pay a visit to East Farleigh. The Horseshoes is a premium pub, bar and restaurant with its very own garden, centrally located in the heart of the picturesque town of East Farleigh. The Horseshoes, Dean Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0PR. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
26

Eye's Down for Bingo



11am



Members £4
Guests £5
Bingo £1



Get your bingo dabber to hand for a fun game of bingo! Eyes down for a line and house... will you be lucky? Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £1 for bingo (three games). Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

August

FRI
02

Social Gathering - Let the games commence!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



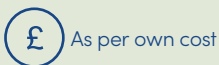
There is nothing better than a good games of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

TUES
06

Millbrook Garden Centre



11am



As per own cost



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

FRI
09

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 4



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



For this penultimate session we will be putting the finishing touches to our beach theme tiles! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
12

Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 4



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



This is the final craft session to complete your beach theme tiles, after which you can enjoy all your handiwork! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Tonbridge TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



August

FRI
16

Race Day!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Fancy a flutter on a race day! Do we have any competitive horse owners out there? Lets have some fun with our specially made indoor race track. Let's roll the dice and see who wins! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
23

Pictionary!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Pen in hand, we will be holding a fun Pictionary game, testing our art skills to the limit. 'How old do you have to be to make a bad drawing? Fancy joining us? Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
30

Guess that Baby Games!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



You may need to rummage through your old photographs and produce a child or baby photo for this game. We all know how cute you and your friends are now, but who blossomed into the beauty we see today and who was always just as adorable? In this super-fun game you must guess which baby photo belongs to whom in the group. Let's see who is the bonniest! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Crafting - Wine Glass Painting

FRI
06

&

MON
09



11am



Members £4
Guests £5
Craft £1



Discover the joy of wine glass painting. Join us to create stunning designs on stemless or stemmed glasses. They are very easy to create and look amazing.

Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £1 for materials. Bring your own wine glass.



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

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

Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
13

Bingo!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5
Bingo £1



We love a game of Bingo! Lets see who is luck this week! Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £1 for bingo (three games). Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

TUES
17

Visit to Brookside Garden Centre



11am



As per own cost



Who doesn't like a Garden Centre and to add to this they have a great café with a lovely selection of plants and gifts! Car sharing may be possible if you are located near to another member. Brookside is a perfect setting to start perusing for that special gift. There is a wide selections of great gifts, as well as gardening, outdoor living, ponds, aquatics and the perfect coffee shop. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

FRI
20

Friendship Day



11am



Free



Friendship is a selfless bond between people. Friendship Day is celebrated the whole month of September, but we have chosen this day to engage with old and new members, or those who just want to find out a little more about Oddfellows and how it brings people together. Tea, coffee and a light lunch is set for the day!

Come along, or bring a friend as well. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
27

Macmillan Coffee Morning



11am



As per menu



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

Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun.

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

October

FRI 04 Social Gathering - Let the games commence!

L 11am

£ Members £4
Guests £5



There is nothing better than a good games of cards, or if you fancy working your brain, a team game of Rummikub. If you just fancy a cuppa with friends and a good chat, then welcome to our world! Today's social is anything you want it to be! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



TUES 08 Lunch at The King & Queen, East Malling

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



This quaint English Country pub offers fantastic food and drink inside or outside in a well-manicured garden. Built in 1537, then as a dwelling place connected to the ancient monastery of West Malling, the King and Queen as it is now known was given up to the crown in 1539 with the final dissolution of the monasteries under the tyranny of Henry VIII. The King & Queen, 1 New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6DD. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI 11 & MON 14 Crafting - Bookmarks

L 11am

£ Members £4, Guests £5, Craft £2



DIY Pressed Flower Bookmarks are simple to make and a beautiful way to enjoy dried flowers for any book lover. Create one for yourself or as a gift. Cost: £4 for members, £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. £2 for craft materials.



Friday 11 - Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ.

Monday 14 - John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Tonbridge TN12 9JX.

Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

October

FRI
18

Autumnal Pumpkin Soup Lunch!



11am



Members £4, Guests £5



Pumpkin Soup is on the menu today and great to warm up any chilly day! Served with batch bread and finished off with pumpkin cake. This moist pumpkin cake recipe is the perfect dessert for autumn. Each bite is full of spiced pumpkin goodness, with a tender crumb that melts in your mouth. Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
25

October Quiz



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Put your knowledge to the test with this ultimate October quiz! Cost: £4 for members and £5 for guests, lunch and refreshments included. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at:  **MaidstoneOddfellows**

Regular Events

Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening



8pm



Free



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

28 May

25 June

30 July

27 August

24 September

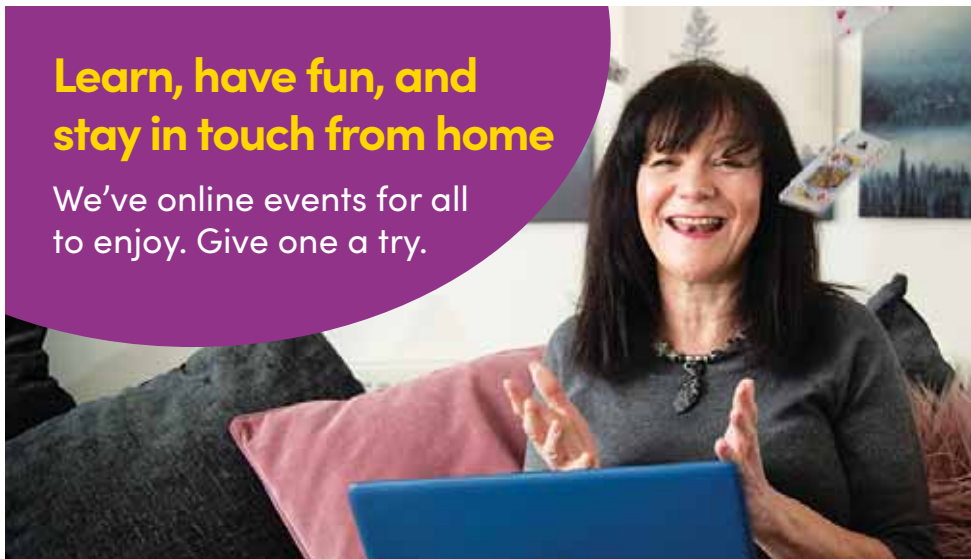
29 October

Last Tuesday
of the month



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 and enter 'Ayr' in the place name search box

OE/0122A6

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



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

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

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

Access Oddfellows Extra

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

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



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Rose on **01634 868308** or email **rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

EDCWA50223

Society-funded cancer research on track

The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.



Nur updating AMC last year

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer



Dr Tim Fenton

vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."

HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

Our fantastic four

Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.

George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

Jamie Messett

Loyal Lord Byron
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards



learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

Charlotte Stevenson,

Pride of Woolwich
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.



The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Striving for a greener future

The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO₂e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

Investing in futures

Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

*T&Cs apply.

Can you help by volunteering?

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

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



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



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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

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REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile



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

*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.

Ref 1644

Branch Contacts and Meetings

District Business Meetings

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

7 May

4 June

2 July

6 August

3 September

1 October

Social Branches Meetings and Contacts

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

Hand of Friendship

Secretary: Rose Mills

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

Telephone: 01634 868308

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

Pride of Kent

Secretary: Roger Baker

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

Telephone: 01622 745264. Meets
alternative last Tuesday of the
month. At 62 College Road,
Maidstone ME15 6SJ, 8pm.
See diary for dates.

Pride of The Village

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

Providence Branch

Secretary: Jan Batchelor

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

Telephone: 01634 271319

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

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

May 2024

Fri 3	Cream Tea	11am
Tues 7	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 10	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 1	11am
Mon 13	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 1	11am
Fri 17	Food and Drink Quiz	11am
Tues 21	Staplehurst Nurseries and Frankies Farmshop	11am
Fri 24	Pictionary!	11am
Tues 28	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 31	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am

June

Tues 4	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 7	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 2	11am
Mon 10	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 2	11am
Fri 14	Name that in Five game!	11am
Tues 18	Trip - The Friars, Aylesford	11am
Fri 21	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Tues 25	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 28	Eye's Down for Bingo	11am

July

Tues 2	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 5	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 3	11am
Mon 8	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 3	11am
Fri 12	Gardening Quiz	11am
Fri 19	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Tues 23	Lunch at The Horseshoes Pub, East Farleigh	12.30pm
Fri 26	Eye's Down for Bingo	11am
Tues 30	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 14

August

Fri 2	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Tues 6	Millbrook Garden Centre	11am
Tues 6	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 9	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 4	11am
Mon 12	Crafting - 3D Beach Theme Part 4	11am
Fri 16	Race Day!	11am
Fri 23	Pictionary!	11am
Tues 27	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 30	Guess that Baby Games!	11am

September - Friendship Month

Tues 3	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 6	Crafting - Wine Glass Painting	11am
Mon 9	Crafting - Wine Glass Painting	11am
Fri 13	Bingo!	11am
Tues 17	Visit to Brookside Garden Centre	11am
Fri 20	Friendship Day	11am
Tues 24	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 27	Macmillan Coffee Morning	11am

October

Tues 1	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 4	Social Gathering - Let the games commence!	11am
Tues 8	Lunch at The King & Queen, East Malling	12.30pm
Fri 11	Crafting - Bookmarks	11am
Mon 14	Crafting - Bookmarks	11am
Fri 18	Autumnal Pumpkin Soup Lunch!	11am
Fri 25	October Quiz	11am
Tues 29	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

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.
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