

November 2025 - January 2026



out & about

St Mary Cray and Dartford District



Music



Art/Crafts



Tasting



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Online



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Welcome to the new edition of Out & About, incorporating Pathway, the Magazine of St Mary Cray and Dartford District

Charity Donations

District Chairman Tony Greenaway is raising funds for Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice this year. The Hospice helps anyone with a terminal illness, their loved ones and their carers with free support, care and advice at any time of day or night. Their comprehensive services include pain management, physio support, pastoral services and end of life care. If you would like to donate, please contact Eliza Puddefoot, whose details you can find on the opposite page.

Bob Sinfield – our new columnist

We welcome a new regular contributor to our pages. Bob Sinfield is well-known to many Oddfellows members having entertained them at local Branch events and via online Zooms.

Bob is an actor, author, scriptwriter, playwright, presenter and raconteur. He has appeared at theatre festivals from Edinburgh to Brighton and written scripts for some of the best comedy performers of the last four decades, including Bob Monkhouse, Leslie Phillips, Tracey Ullman, Joan

Sims, Stan Freberg and Rory Bremner. He writes for us from today.

Bob's new drama Peter Sellers At Sea premiered on Radio 4 Extra in September. It marks what would have been the star's 100th birthday.

Robert Wyeth

Our Memory Lane article in the last edition featured Bob Wyeth's recollections and paintings of Crockenhill. Sadly, Bob passed a few days before the magazine was issued. Many of you will remember that Bob was a livewire during the pandemic, writing regular stories in our weekly emagazine. Our condolences to his wife Chris and family.

Retirement

I am retiring from the post of District Event Organiser on 30 January 2026. I'd like to thank all the members that I have known since starting in 2009 for their friendship. Health and happiness to you all – and Carry on Oddfellowing!

Paul Fitton
Editor

Front cover: Disco at our Flower of Kent Branch's hall in Footscray.

Paul Fitton's photo above shows happy Inbetweeners, 'older teenagers' who enjoy their monthly meet-ups at our hall in Footscray.

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 social events, as well as support our members through a range of benefits and services. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

Enjoy a Christmas Dinner in Bredhurst

Thursday 18 December 2025, 1pm

Christmas is all about good food, great company and making lots of brilliant memories. The Bell, The Street, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JY. Book with Paul Fitton – see right.

Contact Details

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Event Organiser: Paul Fitton

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You are invited to send letters, contributions and photos for the magazine by the deadline of Tuesday 2 January 2026 to Paul Fitton.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

OEW/1024A6

November 2025

TUES
04

Family History Help and Tutorial



Paul Fitton shows how you can best use resources for tracing 17th and 18th century ancestors in this month's family history presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

FRI
07

Songs from Stage and Screen



Step out of the busy streets of Covent Garden into the beautiful Actors' Church for a free lunchtime concert celebrating the magic of stage and screen. Featuring a mix of favourites from Les Mis, Prince Of Egypt, Sound Of Music, West Side Story, Wicked, Lord Of The Rings, Gladiator, Cinderella and more. Please book your ticket early - limited availability. St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, London WC2E 9ED. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

FRI
07

Business Meeting



Pride of Kent Branch Business Meeting for members only. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

FRI
07

Transported to Australia Talk and Rhiannon Rees' Moonlight Walk Talk



John Silver was a young Suffolk man who was suddenly transported to Australia for housebreaking in 1834. Hear about his life in Suffolk,

Tasmania and Melbourne and how he 'lives on' today in Paul Fitton's presentation about his relative. Rhiannon Rees completed the September 10km Thames Moonlight Walk. A challenge in which participants see London's landmarks in a different light. Rhiannon will share a poem that she has written to share her remarkable experience. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



November 2025

TUES 11 Art Unscrewed

4pm

£ Free



Our monthly paintalong with Dulcie Rowe continues. On this occasion, we are



painting Beach Huts. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

WED 12 Good Intent Social

1.30pm

£ Free



Good Intent Branch has a short information meeting followed by a quiz or games with coffee or tea with a cake or three. British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

WED 12 Jerry Dowlen

2pm

£ Free



Local historian Jerry Dowlen returns with more local history stories. Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

THURS 13 Strolling through Korean Gardens and a Meal at Little Korea

11am

£ Free, Meal £12 to £20



An exhibition that re-imagines Korea's rich garden heritage through large-scale digital projections, immersive soundscapes and multisensory environments, the exhibition brings to life celebrated gardens such as Soswaewon, Bokildo and the Secret Garden of Changdeokgung Palace. The exhibition presents the Korean garden not only as a historical legacy, but also as a living source of artistic and philosophical inspiration, offering a rare pause in the flow of daily life, inviting visitors to reflect on where nature and art meet. A short walk afterwards takes us to Little Korea for lunch. Book by Wednesday 12 November 2025. Korean Cultural Centre UK, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BW. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

November 2025

THURS
13

Pub Games



2pm



Free



Come and join us for an afternoon of traditional classic pub games. Book by Monday 10 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.



FRI
14

Early Explorers in Australia



2pm



Free



Online



The Burke and Wills expedition was an 1860–61 attempt to cross Australia. Led by Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills, the team successfully reached the Gulf of Carpentaria. However, their return was plagued by misfortune, leading to the deaths of Burke and Wills from starvation and thirst, a tragic end to an ambitious journey. Ian Hutt gives another informative presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

MON
17

Social Get Together



2pm



Free



2pm to 4pm. Come along and join in some games and quizzes with your friends over tea or coffee and biscuits Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

WED
19

The Inbetweeners



1.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



You're invited to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or Hoy, or a quiz and have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Caroline and John Shine who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.



November 2025

WED
19

Singo Bingo



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Back by popular demand 'Singo Bingo' is a fun and exciting spin on the traditional game of bingo. Instead of listening for numbers you are listening for the song titles from short clips of music played by DJ Mick. Book by Tuesday 18 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

FRI
21

Talk on Top Tips To Be Safe Online



2pm



Free



2pm to 4pm. Once again we have the pleasure of Casper from Clear CommunityWeb joining us to give a talk on top tips to be safe online. Afterwards, there will be time for tea or coffee and biscuits. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

FRI
21

Double Bill: The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and The World's Shortest Ever War



2pm



Free



Ian Hutt gives the first presentation. We probably all know several of the ancient wonders of the world. Do you know how many still exist today and what happened to the others? All will be explained! This is followed by Paul Fitton describing the complete story of the world's shortest ever war, the Anglo-Zanzibar war of 27 August 1896 - from 9am to 9.38am to be precise. (Will the presentation be longer!). Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 2 for details) for a direct link.

WED
26

Teddy Bear Talk - 'And so to Ted'



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Melanie Gibson-Barton will be hosting a very interesting talk about the history of teddies and bears. Please feel



free to bring your very own bear along with you (only stuffed ones of course he he). Book early to avoid disappointment by Tuesday 25 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

November 2025

THURS
27

Stir Up Thursday



2pm



Free



Stir up some tasty festive ingredients in our Christmas pudding making event. Book by Monday 24 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

THURS
27

Garden of England Social



8pm



Free



Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, then followed maybe a quiz or games with coffee or tea and usually a cake. Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Community Centre, Bexley, Kent DA5 3LH. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

FRI
28

The Perfect Playground



2pm



Free



The Crystal Palace was surrounded by 200 acres of parkland.

Laid out to rival

Versailles, Joseph Paxton's landscape included lakes, cascades, thousands of fountains and featured life-sized models of prehistoric animals as a backdrop to grand events. It's also became home to national events including the FA Cup final and even the birth of television. The Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire on 30 November 1936. Today, the future of the site is still under debate. The third in a series of three presentations by Michael Gilbert. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



December

TUES
02

Family History Help and Tutorial



2pm



Free



This month's family history guide talk shows the useful information that you can gain from inquest records. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

December

FRI
05

Marriage Through The Ages



2pm



Free



Paul Fitton's presentation takes in marriage from its earliest days over 4,000 years ago, through medieval times to the present day. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

FRI
05

Business Meeting



2pm



Free



Pride of Kent Branch Business Meeting for members only. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

MON
08

Railway 200 Exhibition



1.15pm



Free



The Travelling Railway 200 Exhibition Train is returning to London in December and we are offering you the opportunity to visit with other members. Inspiration comprises four train carriages, spanning the past, present and future of the railways in its 200th anniversary year.

Rail's history is explored in a 'Railway Firsts' coach, highlighting landmark moments in rail's development. Alongside will be a 'Wonderlab on Wheels', inviting visitors to test their engineering skills with hands-on exhibits.

Next is the 'Your Railway Future' carriage, which showcases some of the lesser-known roles in rail and encourages people to join the railway to shape the next 200 years. The final coach is a 'Partner Zone', offering an exhibition space. We will finish with a meal nearby - cost as per menu. Book early to receive full details. Limited ticket availability. If you can't make this date, we are also visiting the exhibition at Victoria Station later this month. Book by Friday 5 December 2025. Paddington Station, Praed Street, London W2 1HQ. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



December

WED **10** **Good Intent Social**

L 1.30pm

£ Free



Good Intent Branch has a short information meeting followed by a quiz or games with coffee or tea with a cake or three. British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

WED **10** **The Inbetweeners**

L 1.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



You're invited to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or Hoy, or a quiz and have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Caroline and John Shine who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.



WED **10** **Christmas Frolics**

L 2pm

£ Free



All you want for Christmas is... here, today! If it's laughter you're after, you've come to the right place! Refreshments of the Christmas kind too! We shall be collecting for the Chairman, Tony Greenaway's chosen charity - Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice. Wesley Hall, Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

THURS **11** **Christmas Party Afternoon**

L 2pm

£ Free



Time for some festive cheer at our 2025 Christmas party. Book by Monday 8 December 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

December

FRI
12

Greenwich Park - The Queen's Favourite



Greenwich Park is the oldest Royal Park and teeming with history. Why was it so popular with Queens



of England? How did Greenwich come to be the centre of the world with its iconic Royal Observatory? Tudors, giant steps, anarchists, French gardeners and Canadian history all feature in its 600 year history. Chris Hawkins returns following his Lesnes Abbey presentation in September. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

TUES
16

Art Unscrewed



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us as we paint Highland Cow. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



MON
15

Christmas Tree Decorations



See how to make Christmas tree decorations from jam jar lids. Come along with some plain lids and have a go! Also enjoy refreshments of tea, coffee and Christmas nibbles. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



December

FRI
19

Railway 200 Exhibition



12.30pm



Free



The Travelling Railway 200 Exhibition Train is returning to London in December and we are offering you the opportunity to visit with other members. Inspiration comprises four train carriages, spanning the past, present and future of the railways in its 200th anniversary year. Rail's history is explored in a 'Railway Firsts' coach, highlighting landmark moments in rail's development. Alongside will be a 'Wonderlab on Wheels', inviting visitors to test their engineering skills with hands-on exhibits.

Next is the 'Your Railway Future' carriage, which showcases some of the lesser-known roles in rail and encourages people to join the railway to shape the next 200 years. The final coach is a 'Partner Zone', offering an exhibition space. We will finish with a meal nearby – cost as per menu. Book early to receive full details. Limited ticket availability. If you can't make this date, we are also visiting the exhibition at Paddington Station earlier this month. Book by Thursday 18 December 2025. Victoria Station, Victoria Street, London SW1 1JU. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

FRI
19

Social Get Together



2pm



Free



Social get together 2pm to 4pm. Come along and join us for a fun afternoon of games and quizzes. Spend time chatting over a lovely cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

FRI
19

It's Chrissmaaasss! Online Christmas Party!



2pm



Free



Join an online Christmas party. Bring your own food, drink and party streamers. Look out for Father Christmas squeezing down the chimney as you enjoy Christmas themed fun and frolics with your Oddfellows friends. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

December

SAT
20

District Christmas Disco



7.30pm



Members £4
Guests £7



We want to invite you to join us at this years Christmas disco. Join in the festivities with us as we kick off Christmas! Bring your own nibbles along and the bar will be open. Book by Monday 1 December 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Eliza on 07391 986653.

January 2026

TUES
06

Family History Help and Tutorial: My Family and other Famous People and how to find out more



2pm



Free



Paul Fitton tells the story about the lives of his ancestors and advises you how to discover your ancestor's interests and pastimes. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

THURS
08

Cheese Tasting Experience



2pm



Free



Sample and enjoy different tasty cheeses. Book by Monday 5 January 2026. Oddfellows



Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

THURS
08

Good Intent Social



1.30pm



Free



Good Intent Branch has a short information meeting followed by a quiz or games with coffee or tea with a cake or three. British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth DA4 9AA. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

January 2026

FRI
02

Business Meeting



2pm



Free



Pride of Kent Branch Business Meeting for members only. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

January 2026

FRI
09

The Life of a Cotton Mill Worker



2pm



Free



What was life like for cotton mill workers 200 years ago? The Industrial Revolution changed the lives of thousands of people. Discover how their lives were affected in Paul Fitton's presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

WED
14

Farewell Party



2pm



Free



Paul Fitton invites you to a farewell party on his retirement after 16 years as an Event Organiser for the Oddfellows. Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

FRI
16

Social Get Together



2pm



Free



Come along for a fun afternoon of games whilst enjoying a lovely cup of tea or coffee. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

FRI
16

Two Firsts! Dixie Locke Talk and The Story of Laika - the First Dog in Space Talk



2pm



Free



Double Header! Dixie Locke was Elvis Presley's first love. This is a sweet tale of love between a couple of teenagers with their whole lives in front of them... and how things could have been. Paul Fitton's second presentation tells the story of how a stray dog in Moscow became the first earthling to enter space back in 1957. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



January 2026

MON
19

Social Get Together



2pm



Free



Come and join us for some fun and games whilst enjoying a lovely cup of tea or coffee. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



WED
21

The Inbetweeners



1.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



You're invited to Flower of Kent Branch's next regular monthly social afternoon. The 'Inbetweeners' meet to play games, such as bingo, or Hoy, or a quiz and have a raffle, eat cakes, drink lots of tea or coffee and gossip. The Inbetweeners start at 1.30pm and usually finish about 3.45pm. These occasions are organised by Caroline and John Shine who will be pleased to see you there. Free car park. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS
22

Strictly Dance Afternoon



2pm



Free



The afternoon will be led by a professional dance tutor who will be giving lessons. So pull out your dancing shoes and come and join us. Book by Monday 19 January 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07546 735431.

THURS
22

Garden of England Social



8pm



Free



Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, then followed maybe a quiz or games with coffee or tea and usually a cake. Hurst Community Centre, Hurst Community Centre, Bexley, Kent DA5 3LH. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

January 2026

FRI 23 Wallington's Henry Codling



Michelle Andrews tells the story of one of her distant ancestors, Henry Codling. You'll have a glimpse of his life as a carpenter/joiner on the Wallington Estate,



Northumberland in the 19th century. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

TUES 27 Art Unscrewed



At the end of our one hour session, you'll have painted Whisky Sour. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



WED 28 The London Silver Vaults and a Meal



A visit to The London Silver Vaults is jaw-dropping! This hidden gem in central London is a centre of excellence and expertise, a magnet for royalty and celebrities. Familiar faces such as Mick Jagger, Princess Margaret, Liberace and Gregory Peck have visited. Don't worry, you don't have to buy! You can just 'window shop!'. Meet outside Southampton Buildings and enjoy lunch locally afterwards. Book by Tuesday 27 January 2026. The London Silver Vaults, 53-64 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1QS. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



January 2026

WED
28

Cheese and Wine Tasting



7.30pm



Members £3
Guests £5



Join us for an evening of cheese and wine tasting where you will enjoy trying a variety of different cheeses, washed down with a glass of wine. Paul Fitton will also be providing us with a very interesting talk on the various cheeses.

Book by Friday 23 January 2026.

Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS.

Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

FRI
30

Committee of Management Meeting



1.30pm



Free



Committee of Management Meeting
- Summoned Draft Agenda Meeting.
Committee Members only. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 1RD.
Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

FRI
30

Tour of Trafalgar Square



2pm



Free



135 members have already enjoyed our tours of Trafalgar Square. Paul Fitton helps you to explore the history of the vicinity with some secrets and surprises in store, in a virtual tour. Travel back to King Henry VIII's time, learn about Nelson, discovering who was the real hero of Trafalgar and hear about the beautiful buildings surrounding the square in this virtual tour. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

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.

Forthcoming Event

Sunday 26 April 2026, 7.30pm

The Shoop Shoop Show - The Cher Collection

Aldwych Theatre, 49 Aldwych, London WC2B 4DF

Get ready to experience a Cher show like no other! 'Turn Back Time' with The Shoop Shoop Show - The Cher Collection, an exhilarating music-led production with a party atmosphere is led by international powerhouse vocalist Rachael Hawnt, the winner of ITV's Starstruck.



The show spans every decade of Cher's incredible career so be prepared to be dazzled by disco HITS and pop rock chart-toppers. With incredible custom-made costumes, jaw-dropping production, choreography and a world class live band, The Shoop Shoop Show - The Cher Collection will have you singing and dancing the night away. Save up to 46%. Subject to availability. Contact Paul on 07851 910619, paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk

Cost: Tickets £12.50 Grand Circle, £20.83 All Areas and £29.17 Dress Circle and Stalls. Please book by Tuesday 21 November 2025.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  **OddfellowsUK**

Chairman's Letter



Dear Sisters and Brothers

May I say, it is a privilege to stand before you today as your District Chairman. I'm genuinely filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on all that you have accomplished in helping our society. I refer to all those whose relentless activities and hard work that bring together the important

membership without which our society would not function.

When I speak of our Order, I speak of its great legacy, our fellowship is not found in history books; it is built by each of you, every single day, with every act of kindness and every moment of companionship.

I finish this letter with a poem I found which mirrors in my opinion what Oddfellowship is all about.

A band of 'odd' but loyal friends,
Whose fellowship on truth depends.
Like vessels on the sea of life,
They brave the waves and worldly strife.
With friendship's anchor holding fast,
Their charitable deeds are cast
To aid the poor and help the weak,
And comfort to the distressed speak.
No stormy sea can break their bond,
With hope and love, they sail beyond.
A ship of service, built to stand,
A helping heart and steady hand.

In Friendship, Love and Truth

Anthony Greenaway
Provincial Grand Master
(District Chairman)

Used Stamps

Jane Parkin is collecting used stamps for Many Tears Animal Rescue Charity. She would love to receive your used stamps. Please either hand them to her or send to her at Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY.



Around the Branches

This edition highlights events at Flower of Kent Branch who meet in Footscray

Flower of Kent

The District Officers visit to the Flower of Kent Lodge saw 26 members in attendance including two new members who were welcomed into the Lodge. A donation was kindly given for the Provincial Grand Master's (District Chairman) charity, Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.



Reg Knapp (right) presenting a cheque to District Chairman Tony Greenaway.

*Photos above by Eliza Puddefoot.
Photo below by Tony Greenaway.*



This is the new book and puzzle swap at Flower of Kent hall. If you have any books or puzzles that you are done reading add them to our swap and take something else you fancy.

Caroline and John Shine are the new organisers of the Inbetweeners monthly afternoon social events at the hall, taking over from Jacqui Lowther. Thanks to Jacqui and best of luck to Caroline and John.



'Really successful ploughman's lunch. Hard work but worth it. Gill, Clare and Bonny made it a success', reports District Chairman Tony Greenaway.

The Branch has hosted several successful social events during the summer, including an afternoon tea for Friendship Month. Several varied forthcoming events include a Christmas Disco on 20 December. I hope that you can still squeeze into those flares!

Good Intent Branch

Jane Parkin runs the local Oddfellows for members living in South Darenth, Sutton-at-Hone, Horton Kirby, Farningham and Eynsford.

Members enjoy a social meet-up on the second Wednesday every month from 1pm to 3pm at the British Legion Hall, Devon Road, South Darenth, Kent DA4 9AB. Our next three socials are on 12 November, 10 December 2025 and 14 January 2026.

Cup of tea or coffee usually with a cake or two (or three!) and plenty of giggles and chat make an enjoyable afternoon. Jane and the other local members look forward to meeting you. Call her on

01322 663706 if you would like to come and see what we are all about.

Star of Mottingham

Carly Hampshire organises social afternoons fortnightly. From fashion to food, dancing to games and art to crafts, the pleasure will be all yours. Why not have a look at the local events in our listings? The Lodge/Branch will be 135 years old next year by the way!

Pride of Kent...

... has a few events in the Orpington and Bromley area every month. Entertainers, presenters and public servants amuse and educate members and members also socialise at local restaurants regularly.

Garden of England

The Branch continues to meet at the Hurst Community Centre in Bexley. This is handy for those who live in the surrounding areas, such as Sidcup and Blackfen.

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

Didn't we have a Lovely Time, the Day we went to...

Thames Riverboat Trip



A wonderful day, with one voyager saying, 'What a great day those who didn't come along missed'. Our Thames Clipper boat took us from Westminster to Putney Pier where we embarked with a choice of exciting adventures. Most visited Fulham Palace with its magnificent botanical gardens and a park café lunch while others opted for a riverside walk past boating houses and pub/restaurant meals. *Photo above by Paul Fitton.*



*Photo of the Botanical Gardens by
Paul Fitton.*



*Photo of Fulham Palace by
Loraine Toynton.*

All the members, including a few first timers got on so well with each other that they've already agreed to meet up again at our next central London outing. Everyone returned home with a smile on their face after a lovely day in west London.

Tour of Trafalgar Square



135 members have enjoyed this popular tour in the past ten years. Without leaving the square, Paul Fitton covers the history of the area going back to King Henry VIII's time, the story of Nelson – and the real hero of the Battle of Trafalgar, tells the background to the statues, the surrounding buildings and uncovers the secrets in the nooks and crannies of the square in 45 minutes. Our lunch was in the atmospheric, subterranean and modern Café in St Martin's in the Fields Crypt - a unique dining experience surrounded by history and original brick-vaulted ceilings. *Photo by Paul Fitton.*

Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques

A dozen members learned about a dozen famous Clapham people whose former homes display blue plaques during a 1½ mile walk led by Paul Fitton. Perhaps the most poignant was the story behind WWI poet Edward Thomas in Shelgate Road, the writer of *Adlestrop*, which says so much in its 16 lines. Afterwards, we ate at the London and South Western in Clapham Junction.

London Treasure Hunt

Unfortunately, Friendship Month's central London event had to be cancelled because of the transport strike.

River Cray Riverside Walk

A bright and sunny September day with eight bright and sunny members strolled by the peaceful and calming River Cray to the Bull Inn, a traditional pub in St Paul's Cray. As always, a slow stroll – never a route march – to allow everyone to walk and talk!

Scadbury Moated Manor

Julian Burrows reports: 'Thanks for letting us know about the open day at Scadbury Moated Manor. Weather could have been better, and it was a bit of a trek, but very enjoyable and, thanks to the knowledge of the guides, and the information boards, very interesting.' Julian's photo is right.



Bob Sinfield Remembers Peter Sellers

Inspector Clouseau, Major Bloodnok, Dr. Strangelove, even James Bond: these characters and so many others were brought



to life by one of film and radio comedy's greatest names, Peter Sellers. Whenever I get the chance to address an Oddfellows gathering on the subject of this extraordinary performer, I jump at it (no mean feat at my age).

Born 100 years ago to theatrical parents who toured the country as a variety act, young Peter seemed destined to make his mark as a comedian and impersonator. But at that time, the talkies were in their infancy and wireless mirth was strictly rationed by the dour Lord Reith, so it wasn't until the post-war era that he broke into BBC radio by phoning a top Light Entertainment producer and pretending to be Kenneth Horne. His mimicry was so convincing that it led to a glittering - if poorly paid - comedy career in 'steam' broadcasting, notably on the long-running Goon Show.

Cinema success beckoned and in the 1960s, he became an international star, sharing the screen – and romantic scenes – with the likes of Sophia Loren...but he found it hard to distinguish fantasy from reality and went round telling the world that Sophia was in love with him. Nobody believed this, especially not her.

Still, he really did get to play the ultimate ladies' man, 007, in a massively unpopular version of *Casino Royale* where he refused to appear on the set with Orson Welles despite being in the same scene as him. Worse disasters were to follow and, by the early '70s, he had a string of box-office flops behind him, plus three broken marriages and a fourth one on the way.

It was then that he decided to make a pirate comedy caper called *Ghost in the Noonday Sun*. His plan was to shoot the picture on a ship off the coast of Cyprus. Fellow Goon Spike Milligan was drafted in to work on the script and a young Hungarian director called Peter Medak tried his best to call the shots and cope with the increasingly erratic behaviour of the star. Everything went wrong from the first day and when completed, it was deemed to be so bad that Columbia Pictures refused to release it.

Some good did come of it, though. While on Cyprus, Sellers made a commercial for Benson & Hedges (you could do that then), wearing a Clouseau-style overcoat. This led to a revival of the bungling French detective so beloved of slapstick fans. Peter Sellers was back on top.

So, a happy ending, then...of sorts. It was short-lived, though, and so was he. Sellers died of a coronary in 1980 at the shockingly early age of 54. I've been a fan of his since childhood and am still an enormous admirer of his outstanding gifts as a character actor...but knowing what I do of how difficult he could be, I'm very glad I never had to make a film with him!



Goodbye Tension, Hello Pension

'The meal was scrumptious!' So said Jacqui Lowther, whose friends at Flower of Kent branch hosted a farewell lunch for her at The Moat in Wrotham. Her friends are the 'A' Team, those who have helped set up the Branch for many years decorating the Christmas tree and all the decorations and helping out at all the functions, including dressing up as elves and organising the games for the children's parties. Jacqui is

sitting at the top of the table in Reg Knapp's photo.

Footnote: one of the most difficult things about editing the magazine is coming up with relevant and punchy headlines. Running through my mind here were Jacqui's Lackeys, Bye-Bye Work – Hello Happiness, Thanks for the Memories, Enjoy your 'Workend' and Warning: Jacqui has a lot of free time now - let's celebrate! Which would you have used, or can you come up with one of your own?

Art Unscrewed

Our monthly paintalong with Dulcie sees members relax for an hour as they follow her guidance on 'how to' paint each image. The sessions, given via Zoom, are suitable for beginners and practised artists. This is Michelle Andrews' pop art style image of Oysters painted at September's Art Unscrewed session. Find out more in the events listings.



Linda Regan

Someone once said that we learn something new every day. I don't know who said it, but I feel sure that is something I will learn on another day.

What I really want to tell you about, is, what I learned today.

I had a hospital appointment, and after giving in my name at reception, I was told to sit in the waiting area, which was situated in between three wards. This I did. However, as I delved into my bag to get out my book to read while waiting to be called, my attention was drawn to a hospital cleaner in the aisle with a dustbin and brush. He was tutting and rattling the scooper loudly as he tried to sweep something up. And to my horror, I saw it was a rather large and lively Daddy Longlegs spider who was fighting like mad to avoid the degradation of the prickly broom.

"No, stop", I cried loudly, making every head in the waiting area turn in my direction. "Please. You might hurt him".

You may know by now I am very animal orientated and don't believe we have the right to harm anyone from the animal kingdom.

"It's a spider", the cleaner told me. "They are ghastly. They frighten everyone. I need to get rid of it".

"No, please. You might break one of its legs if you brush too harshly. I'll pick it up and I'll take it outside".

As I bent down to retrieve the poor creature, which was attempting to run for its life as I'm sure it was petrified, I caught it in my tissue and assured it all was well,

that it was safe and I would find it some nice greenery and earth outside where it could scamper about and be safe. At the exact moment out came my doctor to call me in for my appointment.

"Can you just give me a moment", I asked him as the spider wriggled around trying to free itself from the tissue I had placed around it. "There's a spider here and rather than get swept up, I'll just take it outside".

The doctor smiled, "We get a lot of those in here at this time of the year", he told me. "It's because its warm in here and it's the time of the year when they lay their eggs".

"Oh", I said, "Now I have learned something".

"You didn't know it was the time of the year that spiders mate?" He shrugged, "Well why would you".

"No, I didn't", I told him, "And I didn't know they laid eggs either, so that's something else I've learned". I glanced down at the spider and then looked up and jerked my head to the signs on the wall. "But actually, I've learned three things". I pointed to the sign on the wall that said, "Straight ahead for the **Maternity Ward**". "I didn't know spiders could read, either". That seemed to amuse him.

Then I thought again, "No, four things", I added, looking down at the leggy creature now curled into a ball in my tissue. "In that case this little lady must be a SHE, so why is SHE called a **Daddy** Longlegs?".



Memory Lane

Mottingham Branch member recalls the building of Oddfellows Hall at Mottingham.

John Wellington was born in Dorst Road in Mottingham, the neighbouring road to the Oddfellows Hall in Beaconsfield Road. However, the hall didn't appear until later.

John recalls that he started school at Dorset Road at the age of four. A few years later, he moved to the big school in Mottingham which was next to Martins Bank and opposite the Porcupine public house, which is now a supermarket. The school was closed when it was hit by a flying bomb in 1944. (The bank was the first branch of Martins to suffer an armed robbery, in 1967.)

John commenced an apprenticeship with J Stones of Deptford, the marine and railway engineering company and left after ten years' service.

Older members of Oddfellows' Mottingham Lodge had bought some land to build a hall. The land was used as allotments. A builder's yard, where doors and windows were made was next door. The yard has long been covered by two houses.

Chislehurst and Sidcup Urban District Council were responsible for building permission at that time. Their preferred option was to build a school on the site rather than a hall. The Oddfellows had quite a fight to obtain permission for the



hall to be built before it was eventually agreed. Construction began in 1956.

The architect was Ted Wilson and outside builders were used to build the hall. It was constructed in stages. Initially, the hall front was built. It included a kitchen, cloak room and toilets. As further funding became available, there were two further builds of three bays, five years apart.

The hall has parking for several cars. Oddfellows ephemera is displayed on its walls, including certificates of early days of Mottingham Lodge, a unique 'three links' clock, made by Bro Lovelock and a photo of members outside the building at its opening 69 years ago. Looks like there'll be a big birthday to celebrate next year!

Another interesting feature is that a mausoleum was opposite the hall. Although it was bombed in WWII, three gravestones are laid flat on the grass there and can be viewed from the pavement.

Photo by Paul Fitton

Keep Young and Beautiful

Part Three© By Paul Fitton

Last time, we signed off talking about memory. I remember arriving at work 20 years ago and opening my bag to pull out my phone. I was surprised to pull out the television remote control. I spent the rest of the day wondering how my wife was going to watch Bargain Hunt using my mobile phone to turn on the television!

Well my memory can't be that bad. I remembered that story!

You'd think with all the brain cells that I'm losing so rapidly, my weight would reduce, but no - my weight stays the same.

One thing that I am losing though is height. I've shrunk from 6'2" to 6 feet in the last year. When I was young, my mum used to mark my height with a pen on the door frame as I grew. Now my wife marks the door frame measuring how I shrink! I look like John Wayne riding a

horse – without the horse. I'll have to give up driving soon at this rate as my feet won't reach the pedals.

Are you finding bending down difficult? I now have a de minimus rule if I drop any coins. If it's less than £2, I don't bother, knowing that I'd have to try and stand up again afterwards.

Are you looking forward to the new year? Watch out for that awkward moment when you realise that 1972 and 2026 are as far apart as 1972 and 1918.

I'll give you a little piece of advice for a longer life at the end of each of this series of articles. Today's tip is keep breathing.



Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):
District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):
District Secretary – responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):

Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

Walking Back to Happiness

Our series of walks this year has been successful in the health, wealth and happiness stakes.

In addition to the physical and mental health benefits of walking, we have collected over £100 by members contributing £1 for charity each time. The beneficiary is the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. This charity is the one chosen by District Chairman Tony Greenaway for his year in office.

Our eight monthly walks started in March and have taken members to High Elms Country Parks, Scadbury Park Nature Reserve, Chislehurst Ponds, Hayes Parks, Hornimans Gardens, Andrews Wood and the banks of the River Cray. Members also donated a nominal £1 at our tours of Trafalgar Square and Clapham.

These walks have not been complete without lunch or a meal. Eateries have included Green Roof Café, the Sydney Arms, The Queens Head, The George, The Bo-Peep, The Bull Inn. Which do you know? We had a picnic too, sat in the beautiful Wildlife Gardens at Hornimans Park.

One of the main features of these pleasurable strolls – they are not route marches – has been the friendliness shown between members, many meeting for the first time. We've taken time to take in our surroundings: the beautiful views, peaceful atmosphere and flora and fauna.

A lovely summer of Walkie/Talkies!

A Christmas Poem for the Little Ones – The Bairns or Children By Jacqueline Ingleby-Douglass, our Resident Poet

'Mammy... Daddy... Santa's been.
May we go downstairs?
We heard the sleigh bells and some noise –
the scraping back of chairs.

He must have found the brandy
and the sweet mince pies.
He found the stockings on our bed.
That man is very wise.

Let's hope he's brought my laptop.
Let's hope he's brought my bike.
Let's hope he's brought us loads
of things,
The things he knows we'd like.

What's that - it's only midnight?
and Santa hasn't been.
So back to bed to try to sleep.
We think that's rather mean.

Letters and Feedback

Zoom

“ I felt Michael Gilbert’s presentation about The 1851 Hyde Park Exhibition was knowledgeable and interesting and well worth the 90 minutes of my time.”

Wade Miller-Knight

“ I really enjoyed the talk on the Belgian royal family... quite fascinating and how it was told. I am curious about history, royalty stories etc. I am especially pleased that I clicked on the link and zoomed in, no problem! Keep me informed from now on.”

Anon of Mallorca

“ Thank you and Rhiannon so much; I thoroughly enjoyed her talk about her journey from Lands End to John O’Groats and look forward to many more.”

Janty Thomas

“ Wonderful talk which has totally opened my eyes. I had no idea how magnificent the relocated Crystal Palace was.”

I an Hutt

Tour of Trafalgar Square

“ Paul led a very interesting tour of Trafalgar Square, enlightening us with detailed information on the various monuments and buildings nearby. I would recommend it.”

Loraine Toynton



“ Thank you so much for organising and leading the Trafalgar Square tour. Who’d have thought that lions can’t sit like that! According to AI Google, the sculptor used his Labrador dog as a model so that must be correct! Loved the old metric measurements – they will be a relic soon – and my favourite fact, George Washington and the USA soil. I’ll have to come again when the 4th Plinth is re modelled with another thrilling installation and the fountains are working cooling and soothing us. Thank you Paul for all your hard work.”

Diane Smethurst

Boat Trip

“The 30 July Boat Trip went very well. It was my first event since joining and felt welcomed by Paul and other members. Thoroughly enjoyed the Boat trip, it was nice seeing the sights along the Thames. Visiting Fulham Palace and Gardens was interesting. An enjoyable day out.”

Loraine Toynton



“Thank you for the wonderful boat trip to Putney. I really enjoyed the journey and the great company.”

Clare Rublano

“I had a really enjoyable day on the Thames boat trip. There were three of us from St Mary Cray and Dartford, along with members from South and North London Districts. Travelling from Westminster Pier to Putney on one of the Thames Clippers, was a new experience for me. We had time for a snack lunch, and visiting Fulham Palace and the Botanic Gardens, before our return to Westminster. Looking forward to the next Oddfellows outing!”

Sue Potts

Out and About

“I’ve just read your Out & About magazine from cover to cover. It’s about 4x thicker than we ever got from my own District. That only had the diary – no news or interesting articles. Regarding the presentations, my mother remembered when the Crystal Palace caught fire!”

Anon of another District

“I have just received the latest magazine – and am very impressed with it. The presentation and the content are excellent. Also, somehow you consistently find interesting topics for your excellent Friday talks. You sure congratulated on the quality and content you always provide. Very well done.”

I an Hutt

“What an excellent magazine the August to October edition is! It must have taken a lot of work to put it all together.”

Anon of Clapham



Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare teas/coffees
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender

Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, like a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Eliza by phone on 07391 986653, email at eliza.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk

"Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".

Cynthia, volunteer

Unity Mutual: A brand-new website and exciting Oddies member benefits

Unity Mutual, the financial arm of the Oddfellows, is delighted to have launched a brand-new website.

The fresh design reflects its updated brand identity, but more importantly, it has been built with accessibility and inclusion at its heart – a continuation of the Oddfellows' ethos.



Whether looking for information on savings, investments or life insurance, the new site is easier to use, clearer to navigate and designed so that everyone can get the most from it.

Unity Mutual has partnered with Recite Me to introduce a full suite of accessibility tools, allowing visitors to customise their browsing experience. These include a text-to-speech function, styling features and translation options, which ensure their online services are available to all –

including those who may face barriers due to disability, neurodivergence or limited English language ability.

James Gilliver, Chief of Operations at Unity Mutual, explained: “Accessibility is extremely important to us at Unity Mutual. Our new website reflects our promise to inclusivity, ensuring all customers can access information in the way that best meets their needs.”

“But it’s not just about accessibility. We’ve also worked hard to make our content clearer and more engaging, so you can feel confident in understanding your financial choices. Our aim is to empower you and your family to make informed decisions about saving for the future.”

An extra reason to take a look is that Oddfellows members can currently benefit from special Guaranteed Investment Bond rates, available exclusively through Unity Mutual.

To see the new website, its new accessibility features and for more information about its products and rates, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows, and discover how Unity Mutual can help build a brighter financial future.

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

This Friendship Month, we've been encouraging people to say 'yes' to trying new things, making new friends, and discovering all the brilliant things happening at our Branches throughout the nation.

It's safe to say, September 2025 has been another fabulous celebration of friendship. The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Friendship Month 2025 has once again demonstrated what the Oddfellows is all about, and I'm thankful of every single

person up and down the country who had been a part of it."

"Saying 'yes' to trying new things can be daunting, but you've all done an excellent job of showing how positive it is to be a part of friendship groups like ours. So, thank you for saying 'yes' to helping make your Friendship Month events a success, whether that's organising events, serving cups of tea, or simply making people feel welcome and comfortable. It all adds up to another wonderful Friendship Month."



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

Whether it's enhancing careers or highlighting fantastic people, the Oddfellows has a number of ways we can give our members a boost – but we can only do so if we hear about them.

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for two of our wonderful schemes are fast approaching – the Apprenticeship Educational Award and the Making a Difference Awards.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



Each year, the Oddfellows grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards, which consist of £250 per year for the duration of the apprenticeship.*

Eligible members must apply via their Branch. If you, or someone you know, has been an Oddfellows member for five or more years, which includes Young Oddfellows membership, and started or plan to start an apprenticeship in 2025, get in touch with your Branch Secretary.

The Branch's deadline for submitting applications for consideration is **Wednesday 31 December 2025.**

*Each case is reviewed on personal merit. For previous recipients' stories, details on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Making a Difference Awards



Want to shine a light on those special people at your Branch who go above and beyond? Every Branch has them, so make sure we hear about their brilliance.

Any member can nominate a fellow member, so if there are people at your Branch who make a difference, speak to your Branch Secretary to find out how you can nominate them.

The deadline for Branches to submit their shortlist is **Saturday 31 January 2026**, so get your nominations in as soon as possible so they can be considered.

To find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, the categories, nomination process and the prior winners, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

If you've missed these deadlines this time don't worry, just make a note for next year!

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 Maria on **07946 063890** or email **maria.greenaway@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

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Pride of Kent Branch

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Pride of Kent Social Organiser:

Sue Potts

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Star of Keston/

Lord Holmesdale Branch

Secretary: Anna Saunders

Contact details as above

Social Organiser: Sue Potts

Contact details as above.

Good Intent Branch

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Flower of Kent Branch

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Flower of Kent Hall Caretaker:

Mel Martelly

Garden of England Branch

Secretary: Jane Parkin

Contact details as left

Star of Mottingham Branch

Secretary: Clare Puddefoot

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At a glance

November 2025

Tues 4	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
Fri 7	Songs From Stage and Screen	1.15pm
Fri 7	Business Meeting	2pm
Fri 7	Transported to Australia Talk and Rhiannon Rees' Moonlight Walk Talk	2pm
Tues 11	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Wed 12	Good Intent Social	1.30pm
Wed 12	Jerry Dowlen	2pm
Thurs 13	Strolling through Korean Gardens and a Meal at Little Korea	11am
Thurs 13	Pub Games	2pm
Fri 14	Early Explorers in Australia	2pm
Mon 17	Social Get Together	2pm
Wed 19	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Wed 19	Singo Bingo	7.30pm
Fri 21	Talk on Top Tips To Be Safe Online	2pm
Fri 21	Double Bill: The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and The World's Shortest Ever War	2pm
Wed 26	Teddy Bear Talk - 'And so to Ted'	7.30pm
Thurs 27	Stir Up Thursday	2pm
Thurs 27	Garden of England Social	8pm
Fri 28	The Perfect Playground	2pm

December

Tues 2	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
Fri 5	Marriage Through The Ages	2pm
Fri 5	Business Meeting	2pm
Mon 8	Railway 200 Exhibition	1.15pm
Wed 10	Good Intent Social	1.30pm
Wed 10	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Wed 10	Christmas Frolics	2pm
Thurs 11	Christmas Party Afternoon	2pm

At a glance

December

Fri 12	Greenwich Park - The Queen's Favourite	2pm
Mon 15	Christmas Tree Decorations	2pm
Tues 16	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Fri 19	Railway 200 Exhibition	12.30pm
Fri 19	Social Get Together	2pm
Fri 19	It's Chrissmaaasss! Online Christmas Party!	2pm
Sat 20	District Christmas Disco	7.30pm

January 2026

Fri 2	Business Meeting	2pm
Tues 6	Family History Help and Tutorial: My Family and other Famous People and how to find out more	2pm
Thurs 8	Cheese Tasting Experience	2pm
Thurs 8	Good Intent Social	1.30pm
Fri 9	The Life of a Cotton Mill Worker	2pm
Wed 14	Farewell Party	2pm
Fri 16	Social Get Together	2pm
Fri 16	Two Firsts! Dixie Locke Talk and The Story of Laika - the First Dog in Space Talk	2pm
Mon 19	Social Get Together	2pm
Wed 21	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Thurs 22	Strictly Dance Afternoon	2pm
Thurs 22	Garden of England Social	8pm
Fri 23	Wallington's Henry Codling	2pm
Tues 27	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Wed 28	The London Silver Vaults and a Meal	11am
Wed 28	Cheese and Wine Tasting	7.30pm
Fri 30	Committee of Management Meeting	1.30pm
Fri 30	Tour of Trafalgar Square	2pm

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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