

October 2025 - January 2026
Issue 19



O^{the} **DD**fellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & *about*

Pride of Woolwich

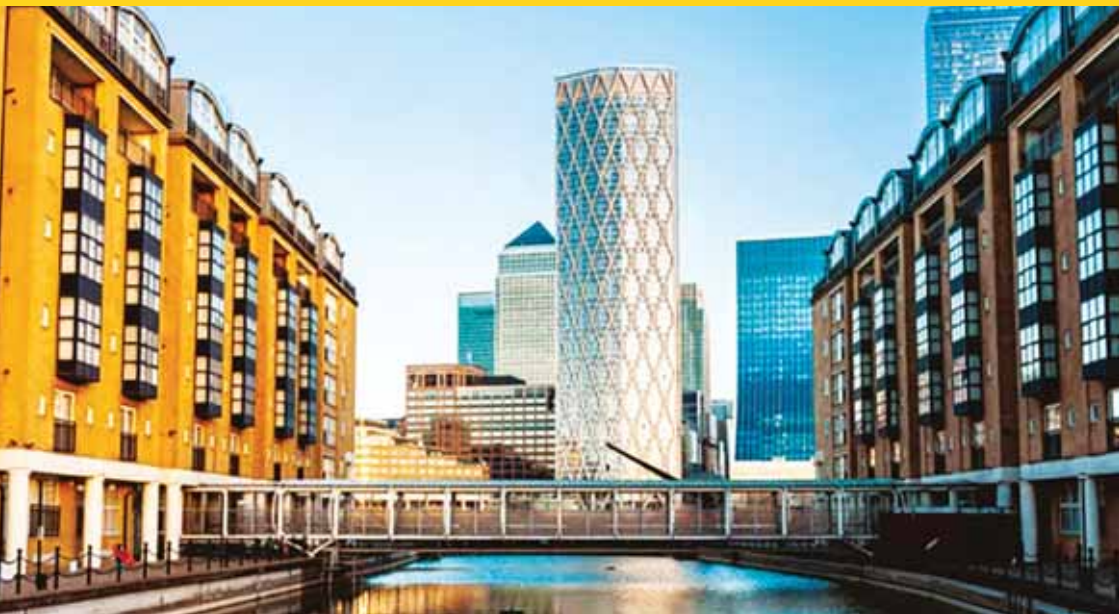


Photo: londonsquare.co.uk



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Sports



Theatre



Film



Meetings



Online



We hope you can join us for our social events!

Welcome to the latest edition of the Events Diary and Newsletter for Pride of Woolwich District

This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

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

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

Contact Details

Secretary: Nicola Budds

Address: 75 Barnehurst Avenue,
Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6QD

Telephone: 01322 348315

Email:

nicola.budds@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Design and Invicta

Secretary: Diane Worsley

Address: 17 Hollingbourne Avenue,
Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 5EU.

Telephone: 01322 441710

Royal Standard and Royal Artillery

Secretary: Jean Payne

Address: 58 Harold Avenue,
Belvedere, Kent DA17 5NL.

Telephone: 01322 436147

Social Events: Keith and Jo Orman

Telephone: 0203 524 9208

October 2025

WED
15

Lunch at The Anchor



12 noon



As per menu



Our first time visiting The Anchor, a traditional pub in Bexley. A good selection of pub classics, healthy options and small plate options. Parking is available outside the pub. The Anchor, Bridgen Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1JE. Please let Jo know on 020 35249208 by Tuesday 7 October 2025 at the very latest, if you would like to join us.



WED
29

Invicta Quiz, hosted by Theresa



2pm



Free



Theresa has kindly offered to host our Invicta Quiz. Teams of three or four people will be made up on the day. Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the quiz and drinks may be purchased from the club bar. 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.



Image by G Lopez from Pixabay

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

November

WED 19 Lunch at Ming of the Avenue



12 noon



As per menu



A return visit to Ming of the Avenue Cantonese restaurant. A two course lunch menu will be available. Bexleyheath train station is just a few minutes walk away and parking is available locally, charges apply. Ming of the Avenue, 54 Avenue Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EG. Booking is essential, so please let Jo know on 020 35249208 by Tuesday 11 November 2025 at the very latest if you would like to join us.

WED 26 Speaker: Bob Ogley, Local Author and Historian



2pm



Free



A return visit from the very popular speaker, Bob Ogley. Bob was born in Sevenoaks, has lived in Kent all his life and is proud to be a Kentish Man. Bob will be talking to us about various historical events which have taken place in Kent and telling us about the new books he has written. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.

December

WED 17 Christmas Lunch at 151 Club



12 noon



£24



Come and join us for a festive three course lunch at the 151 Club in Bexleyheath. Menu choices (see page 5) and payments must be made by Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the very latest please. Payments can be taken by BACS (for account details please contact Nicola), by cash at a Branch meeting or by cheque payable to 'Pride of Woolwich Lodge' (send cheque to Nicola Budds, 75 Barnehurst Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6QD). 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315 or Jo on 020 35249208.



Christmas Menu

Starters

Vegetable Soup

Pâté with Melba Toast and Onion Chutney

Main Courses

Salmon with a Lemon, Butter and Chive Sauce
Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Turkey with all the Trimmings

Nut Roast with New Potatoes
and a Medley of Vegetables (Vegan/Veg Gravy) (V)

Desserts

Christmas Pudding with Custard

Trifle

Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies

Please advise us of any dietary requirements

January 2026

WED **21** **Lunch at Istanbul Kitchen**



12 noon



As per menu

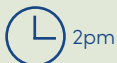


Please join us for a return visit to Istanbul Kitchen in Bexleyheath. A set price lunch menu is available offering a selection of Turkish cuisine including kebabs, casseroles and grilled meats. There are also fish, seafood and vegetarian options. Istanbul Kitchen, 133 Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7EZ. Booking is essential, so please let Jo know on 020 35249208 if you would like to join us by Tuesday 13 January 2026 at the very latest.



Photo by Victoria Shes on Unsplash

WED **28** **New Year Quiz and Social**



2pm



Free



Please join us for our New Year Quiz and Social hosted by our Social Secretary, Keith. Teams of three or four people will be arranged on the day. Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the quiz, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. Contact Nicola on 01322 348315.



Photo by Jill Wellington

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions. These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 28 October 2025, 7pm, 'Ghostly Tales to be Told' with Dr. Ann Featherstone

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsGhostlyTales>

Tuesday 18 November 2025, 10.30am, 'Scam Awareness Talk with Age UK

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/OddfellowsScamAwareness>

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Nicola Budds

Make the most of your membership



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

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

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

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

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

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

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

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



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 Nicola by phone on 01322 348315, email at nicola.budds@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

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 Nicola on **01322 348315** or email **nicola.budds@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@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**

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Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, whose PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

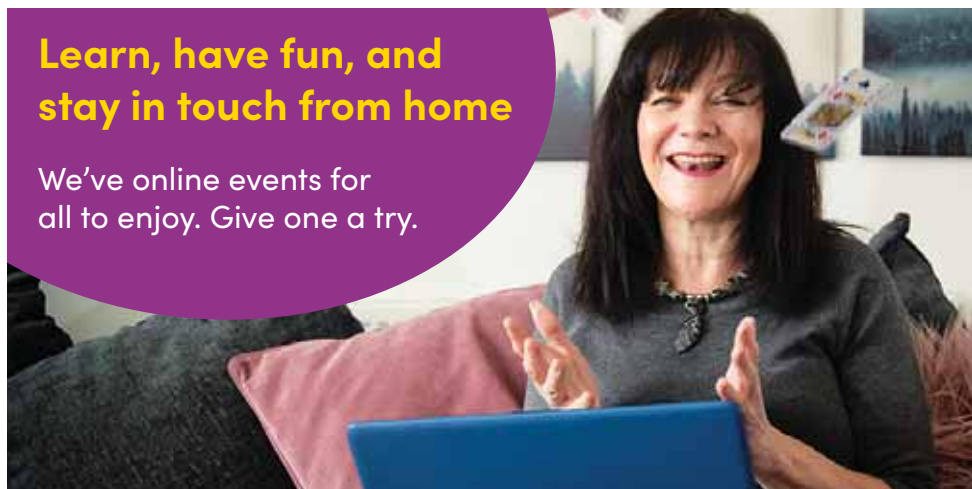
2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

**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**

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Branch Meetings

The Danson Centre, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 4EZ

All members are invited to attend our Branch Meetings where we share and discuss the business of the Branch, including our benevolence grants, finances, social planning, care and welfare development, publicity and volunteering opportunities. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Meetings are followed by refreshments and a chance to socialise. Our meetings are generally quite informal round the table discussions and we invite all members to come and find out more.

Event Contact: Nicola Budds

Telephone: 01322 348315. **Email:** nicola.budds@oddfellows.co.uk.

Members only please.

All start at 2pm

Wednesday 1 October 2025

Wednesday 3 December 2025

**Wednesday 5 November 2025
(Annual Summoned Meeting)**

Wednesday 7 January 2026

At a glance

Booking is now essential for all lunches, please contact Jo on 0203 524 9208 at least eight days before the lunch.

October 2025

Wed 15	Lunch at The Anchor	12 noon
Wed 29	Invicta Quiz, hosted by Theresa	2pm

November

Wed 19	Lunch at Ming of the Avenue	12 noon
Wed 26	Speaker: Bob Ogley, Local Author and Historian	2pm

December

Wed 17	Christmas Lunch at 151 Club	12 noon
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January 2026

Wed 21	Lunch at Istanbul Kitchen	12 noon
Wed 28	New Year Quiz and Social	2pm

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Find us at  OddfellowsUK

A bit about us...

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

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.

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