

January – June 2025



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

out & about

Canterbury District Oddfellows



Faversham Market



Games



Quiz



Dining Out



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Travel



Crafts



Social



Meetings



Talks



Culture



Walks



Wellbeing

Welcome to the latest edition of the Events Diary and Newsletter for Canterbury District of Oddfellows.

As your local Branch of a national organisation called the Oddfellows, we like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when they need them. See us like a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising and helping people.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to

Key Colours

Canterbury

Thanet/
Sandwich

Folkestone

Faversham/
Ashford

Other Events

Contact Details

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sammie.rayson@oddfellows.co.uk

f [OddfellowsCanterbury](#)

you and your friend/family to attend any of our events that takes your fancy – if you like what we have to offer, you'll be made very welcome.

Meet the team



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**Join the conversation @
OddfellowsUK**

Find us at **f** [OddfellowsCanterbury](#)

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January 2025



MON
06

Canterbury Catch Up



12 noon



Free



Happy New Year! Cheers! Your first drink is on us as we invite you to join us for our first event of 2025! The Canterbury Umbrella Centre is a new venue for us and it offers a warm welcome from all of its team, varied activities and has its own kitchen that offers a delicious range of hot/cold food and drinks. This venue will be a regular meeting place for us when we are in Canterbury, as our Orange Street office is now up for sale. You can look forward to guest speakers, games, quizzes and much more. Limited parking space is available. We hope to see you there. Don't forget to let us know that you are coming so we can look out for you. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
10

Lunch at The Old Weavers Restaurant



12 noon



As per
menu



Situated on the junction of the River Stour and King's Bridge, the 'Old Weavers' is the name given to no's 1, 2 and 3 St Peter's Street and was originally all one building. It was built during a significant period in the late 16th century when Canterbury's main trades were weaving and retains lots of historical and original features. The restaurant is no exception and once inside we are sure you will feel warm and cosy with real fires and a varied and reasonable priced menu that is sure to cater for all tastes. Booking is essential so that we can all be seated together by Wednesday 8 January. The Old Weavers Restaurant, 1-3 St Peter's Street, Canterbury CT1 2AT. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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 (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

January 2025

SAT
11

Margate's Collectors Fair



10.30am



Free



Do you have a collection and/or perhaps want to add something to complete an existing one? We will be attending Margate's very own Collectors Fair! If you are interested make sure to let us know you are coming so we can look out for you. Perhaps we will grab some lunch nearby afterwards. Meet us at the venue. Union Church, Union Cres, Margate CT9 1NR. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON
13

Lunch at The Old Mill in Ashford



12.30pm



As per menu



If you find yourself 'milling about' (pun intended) Ashford this month, then don't let this opportunity pass you by. We will be having lunch at this amazing early 19th century pub known as The Old Mill. They are known for their generous portions of locally sourced freshly cooked food and award winning local ales. Please don't forget to book your place to avoid any disappointment by Wednesday 8 January. The Old Mill, Mill Lane, Kennington, Ashford TN25 4DZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

TUES
14

Fun, Games and Quiz at The Canterbury Umbrella Centre



11am



Members £2, Guests £2.50



Who likes fun and games? Because we certainly do! Whether it is board, puzzle, strategy or card games, we are sure there will be something for everyone, to partake in. Please feel free to bring some of your own favourites and put your thinking caps on as we will also be hosting a fun quiz - win, lose or draw it is all about taking part that matters.

Don't forget to let us know you are coming, so we can look out for you. Food and Drink is available at the centre. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



January 2025

MON
20

Whitstable Catch Up with David Wardle



2.30pm



Free



Save this date!
We know times
can be tough. If
you, or someone
you know are
struggling, then
please don't



suffer alone. In this safe space, we
offer an opportunity for all to come
and join us where our trusted guest
speaker, Dave Wardle, from Natwest
Bank (some of you may remember
him from our popular talk we had
last year on Scam Awareness) will be
discussing tips on how to cope with
the cost of living crisis and will try and
answer any questions you may have.
Cold/hot drinks and light refreshments
will be provided. Additional donations
are given to the centre. Whitstable
Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo
Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP.
Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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of early booking for all events
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cancellation due to lack of support.
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events will require a 50% deposit to
help book transport, tickets etc...).

TUES
21

The Hidden Tea Rooms in Chilham



11am



As per
menu



Psst... Do you fancy a treat? If the
answer is yes, then why not treat
yourself the best afternoon tea in
Chilham! At The Hidden Tea Room
you will be impressed by its quaint
atmosphere, along with their fresh
homemade goods and lovely staff.
This venue is hidden within another
delightful secret... a charming
antique shop that we highly
encourage you to check out whilst
you are waiting for your order or
after you have finished.

Please Note: There is ample parking
spaces but the tearoom is fairly
small, so make sure to book soon
to avoid any disappointment. Book
by Tuesday 14 January. Hidden Tea
Rooms, Bagham Barn, Canterbury
Road, Chilham CT4 8DU. Contact
Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on
07377 390037.

January 2025

SAT
25

Old School Jumble Sale and Walk Along the River Stour



10am



Free



Looking for a bargain? Then look no further than the January Jumble event with items like clothing, household



goods, collectibles and much more! Best of all, money made from this will be going towards Canterbury's Pilgrim Hospice. After we are done here, perhaps consider joining us on a short walk along the River Stour. A day of adventure awaits. Contact us in advance if you are coming, so we can keep an eye out for you. St Dunstan's Church Hall, 80 London Road, Canterbury CT2 8LS. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
30

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club



11am



£12 for main course
(cash only for food)



We are back at The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club for the first time this year! Some may know these Bowls Club events are one of our monthly treats! The food and drinks are always nice and better yet they are very affordable. Whether you just come for a chat, drink or stay for lunch, we welcome you all. No booking required – but please get in touch in advance so we can all be seated together. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

TUES
28

Trip to The WonderWorks in Margate



1pm



Tickets from £2.50



WonderWorks is an immersive experience designed with the whole family in mind.

Inspired by some of the UK's best known

hobby brands – Hornby, Scalextric, Airfix, Corgi and Pocher. Whether you're an enthusiast, car fanatic or just curious, you'll find certainly find joy here. They also have their own café Get in touch for further details.

The WonderWorks, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate CT9 4JX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



January 2025

THURS
30

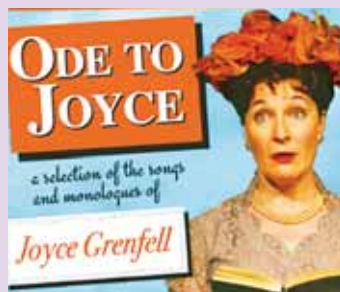
An Ode to Joyce Grenfell



7pm



Members £16, Guests £18



Loved the world over for her hilarious and beautifully observed monologues and songs, Joyce Grenfell was one of the greatest female entertainers of the twentieth century. In a little gem of nostalgia, this show and for one night only, this show absolutely captures her spirit and legacy influencing such geniuses such as Victoria Wood and Miranda Hart to name just two. Woven between the well-known songs and monologues are some of her more delicate and poignant pieces, as well as some rare and exclusive material. Be sure to book so as not to miss out on this delightful opportunity. We will be meeting at the venue for drinks first. The performance starts 7.30pm. Book by Monday 20 January. The Astor Theatre, Stanhope Road, Deal CT14 6AB. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

FRI
31

Fleur De Lis Museum and Heritage Centre



12 noon



Free



Do not let the small front of this museum fool you – there is plenty to see and learn about Faversham! Step back in time to trace Faversham's growth from early settlement to the height of its prosperity. This museum shows information and related artefacts and images on all Faversham's major industries as well as a huge archive on all the neighbouring countryside villages and best of all it's free! Fleur de Lis Museum, 12-13 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

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February

TUES
04

Lunch at The Layham Garden Centre



11.30am



As per menu



Be sure to come on down to the lovely Layham Garden Centre for a drink and/or lunch in the Rose Garden Café. Their food is catered by top chef, Martin Spicer, who trained at London's Savoy. He uses locally sourced produce wherever possible and delights many with his tasty cuisine. After this, we be taking in the atmosphere of the Garden Centre which offers a wide range of roses, shrubs, bedding, sundries and even furniture. Layham Garden Centre, Lower Road, Staple, Canterbury CT3 1LH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

THURS
13

Secret Garden at Quex Park



11am



Members £2.50
Guests £3



Fancy exploring the exquisite Secret Gardens at Quex Park? Spanning an amazing 10 acres of woodland and gardens with fine specimen trees, spring bulbs, wisteria, shrub borders, old figs and mulberries, many being rare to find in Kent plus top tips to be had from Head Gardener Sue and her trusted colleagues. Booking not required. But please reach out soon so we know to look out for you. The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Birchington CT7 0BH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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THURS
06

Fawlty Towers - The Play at London's Apollo Theatre



2.30pm



Members £65-£70, Guests £75-£80



It's nearly been 50 years since Fawlty Towers first hit TV screens. Described as the 'greatest British sitcom of all time' it is now a brand-new stage play, adapted by comedy legend John Cleese and directed by Caroline Jay Ranger. This performance will be featuring some of your favourite scenes from the sitcom's unforgettable twelve episodes. So you can't afford [sic] to miss out on this brilliant performance! Compende? So say Si to booking your place as soon as possible. Working with Farleigh Coaches on a first come first served basis. Price includes tickets and travel to and from the theatre. Pick-ups and drop-off to be confirmed. Book by Wednesday 15 January. Alexandra Place, Apollo Theatre, London W1D 7ES. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

February

FRI
14

Pub Lunch at The Parrot



12.30pm



As per
menu



Mark your calendar, mark your calendar! Bring your pieces of eight as we embark on another event. Delve into local history as we go to Canterbury's oldest pub! All furnished with oak beams and real fires to make you feel comfortable in this 14th-century hostelry with modern pub-style food and real ales to be served. Psst... there will also be a little surprise all for those who turn up at this event. Please say 'Aye' and let us know in advance that you are coming. The Parrot, 1-9 Church Lane, St Radigunds Street, Canterbury CT1 2AG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SAT
15

Alan Bennett's Talking Heads at Folkestone's Tower Theatre



2.30pm



Members £16, Guests £18



Talking Heads was originally written in 1988 by Alan Bennett for a BBC TV series which starred amongst others Dame Maggie Smith and Dame Julie Walters, with Bennett himself taking on roles on occasion. FHODS are delighted to present three darkly comic, tragically poignant and wonderfully



uplifting episodes in their own unique way. Please book early to not miss out on this fantastic production by Saturday 1 February. The Tower Theatre, North Road, Folkestone CT20 3HL. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

Booking and cancellations

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February

MON
17

Whitstable presents... Simon Postgate

🕒 2.30pm

£ Members £7
Guests £9



We are absolutely delighted to welcome Simon Postgate, son of the late Oliver Postgate and co-creator of many children's television classics such as *Noggin the Nog*, *The Clangers*, *Ivor the Engine*, *The Pogles*, *The Pingwings* and *Bagpuss* to our regular and ever popular Whitstable venue. His talks are full of entertaining anecdotes, photos, drawings and film clips, bringing everything to life in a unique and personal way. Opportunities for Q&A after the talk and light refreshments are provided. Book by Monday 3 February. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



THURS
20

Lunch at Gloria's Café

🕒 12 noon

£ As per menu



Best not to miss out on this lunch at Margate's highly praised cafe. We are certain you will have glori(a)ous time, as they have something for everyone on their delicious menu. Set as an American 1950s style with every variety of coffee you could dream of, home-baked patisseries and cakes all made by one of London's top dessert chefs, Ben, we can't think of any reason why not to go there. Can you? Booking essential so we can all be seated together by Wednesday 12 February. Gloria's Café, 259 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2PN. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SAT
22

The Simon and Garfunkel Story at The Granville Theatre

🕒 7.30pm

£ Tickets £30



Following sold-out performances in London's West End, a worldwide tour and standing ovations at every performance attended, The Simon & Garfunkel

Story continues to stun audiences across the globe, making it a must-see international sensation. Whether you are a lifelong fan or just discovering their magic, join us on this chance to experience the enduring legacy of this amazing duo, like never before. Book as soon as possible to save yourself any disappointment by Friday 7 February. The Granville Theatre, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8DG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



February

TUES
25

Dover Castle and Bronze Age Boat Gallery Museum



12 noon



See below



This is a double event where you can choose from two venues. Dover Castle: This medieval castle was built in the 11th century by Henry II and has been described as the 'Key to England' and is probably the most well-known castle in the country. Due to its steep and uneven terrain, this may not be suitable for those with mobility issues as there is a fair amount of walking and stair climbing involved. There is also an optional chance to visit its tunnels that Winston Churchill frequented during his time as Prime Minister.



Alternatively a visit to Dover's Museum offers another unique take on the town's rich history with many interesting artefacts dating back to prehistoric times, with four galleries over three floors behind the building's original Victorian facade.



Please contact with which venue you wish to attend, so we can organise accordingly. Cost: Entry to the castle is free for English Heritage Members or tickets from £20. Museum entry free. Book by Friday 14 February. Dover Castle, Castle Hill Road, Dover CT16 1HU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

Booking and cancellations

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Dover Castle by Christopher Hilton and Dover Museum by Chris Whippet
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February

THURS
27

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club



£12 for main course
(cash only for food)



We are back at The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club. This popular venue offers fantastic value for money. Whether you want to pop in for a quick chat and drink or even stay for lunch, we welcome you come along and join our fun social group. No booking required – but if you are interested in attending please get in touch in advance. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

March

SUN
02

Swan Lake at The Carlton Cinema



Members £11, Guests £12



A prince stumbles upon a flock of swans while out hunting. When one of the swans turns into a beautiful woman, Odette, he becomes enraptured. Under a spell that holds her captive, Odette is only allowed to regain her human form at night. The prince is tricked into declaring his love for the identical Odile and thus breaking his vow to Odette. Doomed to remain a swan forever, Odette has but one way to break the sorcerer's spell. Performed and streamed live from The London Royal School of Ballet. Come with us as we watch this most memorable and captivating of Tchaikovsky's plays. Be sure to book quickly before these tickets fly away! Book by Friday 21 February. Carlton Cinema, 29 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RE. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.



March

MON
03

Canterbury Catch Up

L 12 noon

£ Free



The Canterbury Umbrella Centre offers you a warm welcome from us and all of its team. You can expect guest speakers, games, quizzes and much more here. Limited parking is available. We hope to see you there. Don't forget to let us know you are coming so we can look out for you. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
06

Lunch at The Walpole Bay Hotel and Visit to The Turner Contemporary

L 12.30pm

£ See below



We welcome you to join us for lunch at the famous Walpole Bay Hotel known for its quirky interior and its cream teas. Afterwards, we will be taking a short walk to The Turner Contemporary, as 2025 celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Turner who is possibly one of the most widely admired and influential British artist of all time. Booking is necessary for the lunch/cream teas and be warned the scones are enormous! Entry to the museum is free - be there and be anything but square! Book by Monday 24 February. The Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Margate CT9 2JJ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

Booking and cancellations

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FRI
07

Lunch at The Victoria Hotel

L 2.30pm

£ As per menu



We invite you to come and join us for lunch at Canterbury's charming Victoria Hotel. This restaurant is situated just outside the city centre but offers good value for money that features traditional pub classics and you might even get to meet some of our committee. Booking is not essential for this event, so feel free to just turn up! The Victoria Hotel, 59 London Road, Canterbury CT2 8JY. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



March

TUES
11

Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham



11am



From £12



Image by N Chadwick and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Fancy visiting Kent's largest military museum to discover the story of the Royal Engineers and how they have helped the British Army live, move and fight for over 300 years? Then march right up to this event and meet us at this incredible display of history for all to see. There is plenty of free car parking and has a café located at the heart of the museum. Open from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Some help with transport may be available - please get in touch for further details. Book by 3 December 2024. Royal Engineers Museum, Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham ME7 1UR. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

SAT
15

Steel Magnolias at The Tower Theatre (Folkestone)



2.30pm



Members £16, Guests £17



FHODS are back at The Tower Theatre this time with their production of Robert Harling's play *Steel Magnolias*. The plot covers three years in the lives of a group of women coming together for a heart-warming story of life, love and loss in a small Louisiana parish. At the centre of the group is Shelby, newly married and joyfully pregnant, despite the fact that her diabetes could make childbirth life-threatening. Terrified and angry at the possibility of losing her only daughter, M'Lynn looks to her four closest friends for strength and laughter as she confronts the deepest fear of death in order to join Shelby in celebrating the miracle of new life. Book by Friday 7 March. The Tower Theatre, North Road, Folkestone CT20 3HL. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Rose on 07377 390037.

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March

SUN
16

The Secret Life of Enid Blyton

L 4pm

£ £18



Everybody of a certain age has read an Enid Blyton book. She was loved by children but vilified by the BBC, teachers, critics and librarians. Nevertheless, she sold 600 million books. Her love-life was interesting! She died of Alzheimer's in 1968 aged 71, mourned by millions of readers. Liz Grand plays this remarkable and controversial woman and brings you her story. Book now to avoid disappointment by Friday 7 March. Sarah Thorne Theatre, Fordoun Road, Broadstairs CT10 2BN. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025.

MON
17

Whitstable Catch Up

L 2.30pm

£ Members £2
Guests £3



We welcome you to come and join us at the Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre this centre has over 60 years of history! This venue has local artwork, bric-a-brac items for sale and a lovely community to chatter with. So come on down and reward yourself a visit to this wonderful place. Hot/cold drinks and light refreshments available. Additional donations are given to the centre. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
20

Day Trip to Eltham Palace with Bayliss Travel Coaches

L 8am

£ Members £45, Guests £50





Experience 700 years of history at the romantic double-moated 13th century castle that once was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and Mother of Elizabeth I. Eltham is a unique marriage between a Medieval and Tudor palace and a 1930's millionaire's mansion. From the 14th to 16th century it was an important royal palace. So much to see and uncover at the magnificent award-winning gardens with a jaw-dropping 125 acres of glorious grounds to explore. Working with Bayliss Travel on some of our prior events, our members commented on how delighted they were with the smooth journey and professional service. For more details like pick-up points please get in touch straight away! - Price includes travel and entry to the palace. Book by Thursday 6 March. Eltham Palace, Court Road, London SE9 5NP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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March




THURS **27** Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club

 11am  £12 for main course
(cash only for food) 

We are back at The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club. This popular venue offers fantastic value for money. Whether you want to pop in for a quick chat and drink or even stay for lunch, we welcome you come along and join our fun social group. No booking required – but if you are interested in attending please get in touch in advance. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



FRI **28** The Counterfeit Sixties at The Alexander Centre

 8pm  Members £21, Guests £23 

Are you a fan of the sixties? If so come and join this fantastic event... Relive this unique decade with their tribute to over twenty five bands of that era. The show encompasses everything from that period, from the clothes that were worn, to flashbacks from television history, including: TV programmes, adverts and even clips from the original bands. Featuring fantastic music of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Dave Clark Five, The Kinks and The Monkees – to name but a few. Make sure to book as soon as possible, so you don't miss out on the fun! Book by Friday 14 March! The Alexander Centre, 15-17 Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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March

SUN
30

Billy Elliot: The Musical Live (20th Anniversary) at The Carlton Cinema



2pm



Members £11
Guests £12



The brilliant story of Billy Elliot turns 25 years old this year! Dance yourself down to the Carlton Cinema and watch the coming-of-age stage musical based on the 2000 film of the same name. This performance is bound to electrify you even in the back seats. So, if you like to boogie?! Be sure to book to secure yourself a seat at this event by Friday 14 March. Carlton Cinema, 29 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

April

SAT
05

Day Trip to The Houses of Parliament



8.30am



Members £65, Guests £70



Order Order! Here Here! Pay attention to this. Working with Bayliss, we are delighted to offer you the opportunity to explore the Palace of Westminster. At your own pace, navigate through the iconic rooms on the estate and learn about the history and heritage of UK Parliament. Some of the tour highlights include Westminster Hall, Central Lobby, The House of Commons Chamber and The



House of Lords Chamber. Please be advised the UK Parliament is a working building and tours may be cancelled at short notice due to parliamentary business and access restrictions. Various pick up points can be arranged at extra cost - price stated is to and from an agreed fixed point and entry into the Palace. Places often sell out fast so be sure to get in early so as not to miss out! Book by Friday 21 March. The Houses of Parliament, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 0AA. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

April

MON
07

Lunch at The Pullman



1pm



As per
menu



Pull up a chair! The Pullman best known for its rustic interior, roaring fires, comforting pub classics showcasing the best of Folkestone food market and staff that are kind and attentive to their customers. We are sure we will have good time at this fine establishment set in heart of Folkestone's Old Town. Booking is essential - we look forward to seeing you. Book by Monday 31 March. The Pullman Pub, 7-9 Church Street, Folkestone CT20 1SE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

TUES
08

Day Trip to The V&A Museum in London



8.30am



Members £24, Guests £26



The V&A in London is the world's largest museum of applied arts, decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 2.8 million objects. Founded in 1852 and named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and has over 145 galleries. Spanning 5,000 years of art, from ancient history to the present day, from the cultures of Europe, North America, Asia and North Africa. The holdings of ceramics, glass, textiles, costumes, silver, ironwork, jewellery, furniture, medieval objects, sculpture, prints and printmaking, drawings and photographs are among the largest and most comprehensive in the world. Although the entry to the museum is free, the price charged is for the coach there and back. Pick up points to be agreed. These events sell out fast so be sure to book your seat soon by Monday 24 March. The V&A Museum, Kensington, London, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



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April

THURS
10

River Runner's Coast Trip



11am



Members £25, Guests £30



In 2023, 2024 and now in 2025 we return to the River Runner following on from our hugely popular and successful sold out previous events with this company. This is definitely an opportunity that you can't afford to miss out on and this journey sees us hopefully go on last year's intend route. Departing from Ramsgate Harbour, we will travel around the Kent coastline – Ramsgate, Dumpton, Broadstairs all the way to Joss Bay and North Foreland Lighthouse. The perfect opportunity to see the Isle of Thanet from a different angle. **Please note:** The time and meeting point might change from what is listed because of the unpredictable nature of the tides. So please keep in touch for updates and to secure your booking by Thursday 3 April. Royal Victoria Pavilion – JD Wetherspoon, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8LS. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
11

Visit to The Kent Museum of The Moving Image



12 noon



Members £6
Guests £7



Lights, Camera, Action! Follow us as we visit this unique not-for-profit museum that explores the deep history of the moving image – from the days of candle-lit magic lantern performances and hand-painted slides, through Victorian visual experimentation, to the advent and heyday of the cinema. Hosting three permanent exhibitions the museum tells its stories through posters: clips; stills, fan photos, programmes, pressbooks, and business correspondence, illustrated magazines, postcards and stereocards, lantern slides, authentic WWI memorabilia including aviation stuntman's golden helmets and a Moy & Bastie camera used to film battles on the Western Front. Booking is required, so we can all be together by Friday 4 April. Kent Museum of the Moving Image, Stanhope Road, Deal CT14 6AD. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

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April

SUN
13

Open Cockpit Day at Manston Museum



10am



Tickets from £5



Fly on over to this event and enjoy this rare opportunity at the Manston RAF Museum. This event allows you to sit in the cockpit of some their most popular planes such as the Nimrod and English Electric Lightning from the pilot's seat. The itinerary after is that we have finished for us to have an optional lunch at their café. Please get in touch for further details. Book by Friday 4 April. RAF Manston History Museum, 821 Manston Road, Ramsgate CT12 5DF. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

THURS
17

Easter Crafts Fun in Canterbury



10am



Members £5, Guests £7



From bunnies and chicks, to bright florals, painting eggs, bonnet making and decorating beautiful spring wreaths. Get ready to join with our Easter Craft Day. Where we will be trying our hands at making fantastic Easter projects to enjoy, as well as stylish ways to spruce up your home. All ages and abilities welcome. Donations for materials always appreciated. Free Hot Cross bun and drink included. Venue to be decided – get in touch for details. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



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 (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

April

THURS
17

Lunch at The Pearsons Arms in Whitstable



1pm



As per menu



After years as a battered old seaside boozer, the Pearson's Arms is now leading a new life as one of Whitstable's more stylish destinations – with its cheerful mix of wooden floors, sturdy tables, old-school chairs, leather sofas and a spacious, light-filled dining area with amazing sea views. The menu is a mix of European ideas. Chalked up on the board might be lobster and prawn cocktail or shellfish bisque, with mains of wild boar and apple sausages, cod and chips or slow-roast belly pork. Make sure to book your place by Thursday 3 April. The Pearson's Arms, Horsebridge Road, Whitstable CT5 1BT. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

THURS
24

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club



11am



£11 for main course (cash only for food)



We are back at The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club. This popular venue offers fantastic value for money. Whether you want to pop in for a quick chat and drink or even stay for lunch, we welcome you come along and join our fun social group. No booking required – but if you are interested in attending please get in touch in advance. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



MON
21

Easter Trail at Mountain Ephraim



11am



TBC



Mount Ephraim is the beautiful family home of the Dawes family since 1695! Come and join us in fun day out for all as we take on the Mount Ephraim Gardens' Easter Trail! Make sure to keep an eye out for their ten hand-painted giant eggs hidden around their ten acres of glorious gardens. Alternatively if you want to just put your feet up and relax their West Wing Tea Room will be serving cream teas and light lunches. Hop on now to secure your place by Monday 14 April. Mount Ephraim Gardens, Staplestreet Road, Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9TX. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

April

FRI **25** **Event Planning - Review Meeting**



11am



Free



Welcome to our first event at our newly renovated office, where we will be openly discussing the future events for our Branch. We hope to gain insight into what you think has worked well, as well as the events that perhaps haven't. We always appreciate supportive feedback, and use these meetings to gain a more collective understanding of what you would like to see in our future editions of the Out and About. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided. Alternatively, if you want to send across your feedback, please feel free to email or phone us or write to us at the new address - 14 Delf Street, Sandwich CT13 9BZ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



May

THURS **01** **Maunsell Sea Forts**



1pm



Members £30
Guests £35



Just off the coast of Whitstable, at the mouth Thames Estuary, these striking sea forts were



constructed during WW II to help defend the protect the area from aerial and naval attacks. The forts were decommissioned during the late 1950s and later used for other activities including a pirate radio station that remains active to this day. Taking a boat out to these historic structures will require booking as soon as possible. This event is not for the faint hearted as the boat ride can be choppy due to uncertain nature of the waves. Get in touch for further details. Book by Monday 21 April. The Maunsell Forts, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable CT5 1AB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

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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 (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

May

SAT
03

Make Your Own Myth at The Gulbenkian

L 2pm

£ Members £6
Guests £8



Senior history professors (and rather silly men) Lee Hithersay and Robert Rhys Bond, forge three new myths from the unhinged minds of YOU the audience in this epic interactive experience. Young and old will enjoy this high-octane adventure featuring clowning, storytelling, live music and more. You'd be mad to myth it! So get in touch so we can book your tickets. Gulbenkian Theatre, University of Kent, Tyler Hill, Canterbury CT2 7NB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
09

Trip to Southend with Crosskeys Coaches

L 8.30am

£ Members £30
Guests £35



Ooo I do like a day by the seaside – do you? Then come and join us on our day trip out to sunny (well hopefully) Southend. Designed to rival Margate and said to have longest pleasure pier in the world (even having its own railway), impressive beaches, restaurants and shops – you will be spoilt for choice in what to see or do first. The first ice cream is on us! Crosskeys is proving to be a popular choice for helping us get to events and various pick-up are available – get in touch for more details. Booking required by Friday 25 April. Southend-on-Sea, Pier Hill, Southend SS1 1EE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

TUES
06

Painshill Park and Cream Tea with Crosskeys Coaches

L 8.30am

£ Members £45, Guests £50



Painshill Park was created in the 18th century by Charles Hamilton as a living painting. It is often regarded as one of the finest examples of English landscapes. Surrounded by dramatic follies, calming waters and stunning views! So be sure to indulge yourself to a visit of this masterpiece of scenery. Please book with us as soon as possible. Your booking will include your coach ride to and from this venue, as well your entry to Painshill Park and a cream tea. Book by Monday 21 April. Painshill Park, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1JE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



WED

14

A Visit to Dover's Roman Painted House



11am



Members £5, Guests £7



Described as the finest Roman house on show in Britain, with unique painted plaster walls and elaborate underfloor heating. Part of a significant set of archaeological remains in the centre of Dover that was built in around 200 AD and discovered in the 1970s. Now deemed Heritage at risk, so grab this opportunity to uncover what there is to see before it possibly closes for good. Booking is necessary for this visit, so please contact us in advance by Wednesday 7 May. Dover's Romans Painted House, 25 New Street, Dover CT17 9AJ. Contact Rose on 07377 390037.



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MON

19

Canterbury Catch Up



12 noon



Free



The Canterbury Umbrella Centre welcomes us back for somewhere to relax and unwind as head into Summer. We may go onto another venue or for a short walk – it's up to you but we hope to see you there. Don't forget to let us know you are coming so we can look out for you. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.



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 (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

TUES
20

Port Lympe Safari Park



11am



£21 (some concessions
may be available)



By popular demand, Port Lympe was voted by our members as must do for 2025. Set in 600 acres, and housing over 650 rare and endangered animals, Port Lympe offers a treat for everyone. The estate was purchased in 1973 by John Aspinall and since 1984 the animal parks have been owned by a foundation (kept in his name) ever since. Its encouragement of close personal relationships between staff and animals, and for their breeding of rare and endangered species has gained worldwide recognition. The park now includes tigers, lions, leopards, gorillas, bears, giraffes and the UK's largest herd of black rhinos. Which is your favourite? Don't monkey around - book your trip with us today! With the kind help of some of our members some help with transport may be available. Book by Tuesday 29 April. Port Lympe Safari Park, Aldington Road, Lympe CT21 4LR. Contact Rose on 07377 390037.

FRI
23

Hog and Bean and Visit to Walmer Castle



10.30am



Lunch as per
menu, see below
for the castle cost



Meeting at the popular Hog and Bean in Deal's Victoria Road, we will have a light bite before heading off to explore of the beautiful Walmer Castle, with its award winning gardens in the grounds of Tudor Fortress turned country house. With plenty to learn and enjoy for all those who wish to attend. Booking is required for both of these events, entry to Walmer Castle is free for English Heritage Members - otherwise tickets are £12.50. Book by Thursday 8 May. Hog and Bean, 4 Victoria Road, Deal CT14 7AP. Contact Rose on 07377 390037.

MON
26

Afternoon Tea at The Waterloo Community Centre



2.30pm



Members £5
Guests £7



Fancy an afternoon treat? If is the answer is yes then we would like to invite you for an afternoon tea at the heart of Whitstable's community. We are of course talking about the Waterloo Community Centre. This place promises a warm welcome to all that attend. So come on down and reward yourself a visit to this wonderful place. Members pay £5 and guests pay £7 - all payments must be made in advance. Additional donations are given to the centre. Book by Monday 19 May. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

May

THURS
29

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club



11am



£11 for main course
(cash only for food)



We are back at the Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club! Some may know these bowls club events are one of our monthly treats! The food and drinks are nice and better yet, they are both very affordable as well as that the Bowls Club staff are always accommodating, so it is no wonder why we come back here each month. No booking required – but if you are interested please get in touch in advance. Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

FRI
30

Visit to Arundel Castle with Bayliss Travel



9am



Members £60, Guests £70



Working with Bayliss Travel we are visiting Arundel – one of West Sussex's greatest attractions. Steeped in history, the skyline is dominated by the Gothic cathedral and majestic castle. Attractions aplenty, from a wide range of eateries and shops, to a museum and a Lido. There is something to explore for everyone. Sure to sell out fast, so don't delay, get in touch today. Price

includes entry to the castle and gardens and the return travel from various pick-up points – so please get in touch to find out more. Book by Friday 9 May. Arundel Castle, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9AB. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.



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Booking and cancellations

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TUES
03

The Seaside Museum in Herne Bay



1pm



£3



The Seaside Museum established in 1932, is notable for being a quirky seaside tourist attraction that features many interesting items from town's history. You can expect to see anything from fossils to a bouncing bomb of Dambusters fame and has its very own gift shop. No booking required – just let us know if you want to come along. Perhaps we will grab some fish and chips and/or an ice-cream afterwards. The Seaside Museum, 12 William Street, Herne Bay CT6 5EJ. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

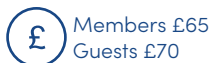


SAT
07

Day Trip to Le Touquet with Bayliss Travel



8.30am



Members £65
Guests £70



Back by popular demand and for those who unfortunately missed out last time, we return to Le Touquet in France. Known for its incredible, beautiful, soft, sandy beach, boutiques and restaurants for you to explore and enjoy. This event sold out really fast last time, so be quick to secure your booking with us on this exciting trip abroad. This trip will mean an early start. Make sure your Passport is valid and have some Euros available. We will confirm the time and the location of pick-up a week before date of this event. Book by Friday 16 May. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

MON
09

Canterbury Catch Up



12 noon



Free



The Canterbury Umbrella Centre offers you a warm welcome from all of its team, it is known to host varied activities and has its own kitchen, that offers a delicious range of hot and cold food and drink. Please get in touch to find out more about what we will be doing on this day. We hope to see you there. Don't forget to let us know you are coming so we can look out for you. Canterbury Umbrella, 22 St Peter's Place, Canterbury CT1 2DB. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

June

THURS
12

Ashford Museum and Lunch at The Conningbrook



12 noon



Free



Image by Dave Skinner and licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Licence.

Would you like to visit Ashford's Museum? Housed in 17th century Grade II listed building, this museum holds two floors of exhibits about the town's varied and interesting past which includes archaeological finds, railway memorabilia and new exhibition on Ashford's Victorian police force, including a real prison cell – perfectly sized for our misbehaving members! No booking required – just contact us to let us know that you are coming. Lunch venue suggested but open to change. Ashford Museum, Churchyard Yard, Ashford TN23 1QG. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.

SAT
14

Trip to Boulogne with Crosskeys Coaches



8am



Members £68, Guests £73



We invite you to sit back and relax on board the ferry, as Crosskeys Coaches take us on a leisurely journey across the Channel to France. Boulogne-sur-Mer is only approximately 20 miles from Calais and the town centre is perfectly located midway between the old town and the port. Mostly pedestrianised, it's a delightful town with cobbled streets, superb seafood restaurants, patisseries, and bistros. With several lovely beaches that are perfect for swimming, sunbathing or just taking a leisurely stroll. The main beach is located just a short walk from the harbour and offers stunning views of the coastline. Book now to save disappointment – pick-up location and time to be confirmed closer to the date. Book by Friday 23 May. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.

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Booking and cancellations

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WED
18

Ramsgate Tunnels



11am



From £6 for standard entry



Before the tour there is the option to have a light lunch at their café and after this, we will be treated to a short film shown in a 150 year old Victorian railway tunnel, heading further into the Air Raid Tunnels. You will hear about the local Council's ambitious plans to provide shelter up to 60,000 people! Indeed in 1939 this actually happened to the many people of Thanet who made the tunnels their temporary home. Unfortunately, this event isn't unsuitable for those with mobility issues or problems with confined spaces. Parking is close by. Book with us to secure place on these informative tours by Wednesday 11 June. Ramsgate Tunnels, Marina Esplanade, Ramsgate CT11 8FH. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498 or Rose on 07377 390037.



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FRI
20

Visit to Terlingham Vineyard



3pm



Members From £30
Guests From £35



Terlingham Vineyard wants to share their beautiful vineyard and delicious, award-winning wines with you. This includes a walk in the vineyard with its gorgeous views over the Channel, tasting a selection of their wines, accompanied by a cheeseboard, bread selection, tea/coffee and cake. We can't wait to share this tantalising experience with you! Book as soon as possible to secure yourself this exquisite event by Friday 6 June. Terlingham Vineyard, Terlingham Lane, Hawkinge CT18 7AE. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
23

Whitstable Catch Up and Summer Quiz



2.30pm



Members £5
Guests £7



We welcome you to come and join us at Whitstable's Waterloo Community Centre. This centre has over 60 years of history! This venue has local artwork, items for sale and a lovely community to chatter with. So come on down and reward yourself a visit to this wonderful place and this time, there will be an added bonus of a summer quiz. Cold/hot drinks and light refreshments available. Donations are welcomed. Whitstable Waterloo Community Centre, Waterloo Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1BP. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

June

THURS
26

Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club



11am



£11 for main course
(cash only for food)



We are back at The Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club! Come and join us at our friendly and popular venue for a drink and some lunch. No booking required – if you are interested please get in touch in advance, so we can expect you Folkestone Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5JU. Contact Oliver on 07762 180498.

MON
30

Summer Party in Sandwich!



12 noon



Free



Our summer party is finally here! So we cordially invite you to join us in Sandwich, for a spectacular array of different activities, as we reflect upon the past six months. Come soak up the weather, enjoy delicious food and fun music and make happy memories. No need to book this event, just turn up – everyone is welcome to attend. So let's get ready to party! Sandwich Cricket Club, Strand Street, Sandwich CT13 9HZ. Contact Sammie on 07885 436025 or Oliver on 07762 180498.



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 (larger events will require a 50% deposit to help book transport, tickets etc...).

Harnessing the warmth of friendship

I hope this message finds you well. Where has 2024 gone?

As we move into a new year, it's a perfect time to reflect on 2024 and prepare ourselves for fresh opportunities and challenges.

The best changes bring happiness to our lives, and better still, the lives of those around us.

Last September, during Friendship Month, we introduced the nation to 'frenergy' – the positive energy exchanged between friends. True friendships are more than just companionship, they thrive on mutual support and uplifting one another – something that, I'm proud to say, is evident throughout our Society. We all have those special people who are there for us in the good times but are equally importantly when life throws us challenges.

Spreading friendship

Let's continue to create that warm, positive feeling everywhere we go this year. Offer encouragement, make a new face at an Oddfellows event feel welcome, or simply make sure to really listen to each other.

A kind word or a helping hand can be transformative for ourselves and those around us, and create ripples of positivity that extend beyond our personal circles.



Frenergy can even be transferred through an unexpected smile or a nod at a stranger in the street. I know it makes my day when it happens and you'd be surprised how often they smile back – confirmation that it has lifted their spirits too.

2025's positive foundations

We welcomed more new members to the Society in 2024 than we have for many years, which is a credit to the atmosphere created within our Branches.

This is a positive foundation to build on, but more can always be done. There will always be people who could benefit from our friendship and support, so let's keep spreading the word.

In this season of reflection and renewal, I hope we all have the drive to pursue our goals while providing and receiving friendship's invigorating energy. One thing is for sure – whether tackling adversity or celebrating success, we are stronger together.

Wishing you and all those close to you a very happy and healthy 2025.

Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

Oddfellows Travel 2025

With Oddfellows Travel, not only will you have a wealth of unforgettable experiences, but you'll holiday with confidence and in good company.

All our group holidays are hosted by an Oddfellows member, and we only work with experienced travel partners that we trust.

Whether you want to break up your diary with a short UK getaway, or you have your sights on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise, take a look at our upcoming holidays. We'd love to have you along.

Our holidays are exclusively for our members and accompanying family and friends.

South Devon Delights 31 March to 4 April (4 nights)



Enjoy the resort of Torquay, affectionately known as the 'English Riviera', with its sandy beaches, public gardens, promenades and hustle and bustle of evening entertainment.

Staying at the Metropole Hotel, Torquay. From £295 per person. Half board. Includes coach pick up and drop off from certain locations, or a self-arrival option.

Join us as we head to the south Devon coast on this Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows Summer Holiday in Somerset 7 to 11 July (4 nights)



Our annual Oddfellows Summer Holiday, hosted by the incoming Grand Master (Chairman), is open to all members and their guests. It's a chance to enjoy some quality time out in wonderful and welcoming company.

We'll be staying at Warner Hotels' Cricket St. Thomas Hotel, Somerset. Half board from £350 per person, based on two people sharing a double or twin room. A limited number of solo occupancy rooms are available at a reduced rate of £450. Come and holiday among friends in this charming retreat.

Whales, Waterfalls and Geysers of Iceland

17 to 29 July (12 nights)



Witness the incredible energy of Iceland's geysers, thundering waterfalls and fascinating wildlife with us, as we set sail on this Oddfellows-escorted group cruise.

From £1,799 per person. Full board.
Departing from Dover on Fred.
Olsen's Borealis.

Take in Iceland's spectacular natural wonders on this thrilling Oddfellows group cruise.

Scarborough

1 to 5 October (4 nights)



You'll be staying in the Cumberland Hotel in the charming seaside town of Scarborough. With its castle, beaches, theatres, parks and cafes, you'll be spoilt for things to do.

From £325 per person. Half board.
Includes coach pick up and drop off from certain locations, or a self-arrival option.

Join us as we head to North Yorkshire on this Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.



A recent Oddfellows Travel 'Mystery Cruise' trip

For Oddfellows Travel questions and bookings, please contact Emma Gorst **0161 214 4634** or email **travel@oddfellows.co.uk**
More information can be found at **www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel**

Measuring and offsetting our carbon footprint

We're a Carbon Neutral Plus Organisation and have been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Such measurements have resulted in a number of changes to how we operate, with the focus being on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



Our carbon footprint

Our carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases generated by our actions and measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, 77.78 tonnes of CO₂e was identified as being produced through the operations of the Oddfellows' Manchester and former Liverpool offices, and its associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

The amounts include fuel consumption, company-owned vehicles, staff business travel and homeworking. And, for the first time, emissions as a result of employee commuting have been included in the 2023/2024 assessment.

Reducing and offsetting

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."

To offset our market-based carbon footprint for 2023-24, the Society has funded a range of carbon dioxide-saving initiatives around the world, including in Ghana, Zambia, Thailand, Turkey and India.

Jane added: "We aim to become Net Zero as a Society. This is where we reduce our carbon emissions to the lowest amount possible and offset as a last resort.

"While we are on that journey, our promise is to always offset our carbon footprint."

Find out more at
www.oddfellows.co.uk/climate-change

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 Sammie on **01227 452517** or email **sammie.rayson@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

Paid Care and Welfare Co-ordinator

(including regulated activities)

Part-time 15-20 hours – Flexible to suit at £14 per hour (to start)
(All out of pocket expenses reimbursed – i.e mileage to and from members' homes etc)

Main Purpose of Role

To be the main point of contact for members regarding care and welfare matters

- Comply with confidentiality, data protection and other relevant policies.

Key Tasks

- Participate in recruitment of volunteers and ensure they access inductions and appropriate training as needed as well as helping to co-ordinate and supervise their work, allocating referrals and giving guidance and support as needed.
- Respond to member queries and make and maintain regular contact with those who may require care and welfare support e.g. people with disabilities or who are isolated or members who also are carers themselves.
- Use active listening skills to support members and help them identify options to resolve problems and improve member's health and wellbeing.
- Provide information and support to access help through Oddfellows services and benefits or through external agencies (liaising with and accessing support from the Care Department).
- Using own transport – assisting members with appointments and general support.

Support the Committee of Management to:

- Promote the care & welfare service – ensuring members are aware of the support available.
- Ensure the Branch is compliant with all Oddfellows legal requirements and policies.
- Develop/maintain a high quality care and welfare service, which best meets members' needs.

Person Specification

- Understanding of the issues facing older or vulnerable people and ability to deal sensitively, patiently and non-judgmentally with member queries.
- Willingness to learn more about Oddfellows systems and the support it offers to members.
- A kind and compassionate person centred approach to helping clients solve problems.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and internet and email applications.
- Strong organisational skills with ability to work as a team but also independently.

Any of the following would be an advantage

- A relevant professional qualification e.g. in nursing or social work.
- Experience of working in a health, social care or advice setting.
- Experience of supporting, working alongside or being a volunteer.

Drivers will also need to check with their car insurer that they are covered for this work and provide relevant documents.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The role is subject to an Enhanced with Barred List Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check as it includes regulated activities.

For more information or to apply (CV with covering letter) please contact: Sammie Rayson (Branch Secretary) on 07885 436025 or email sammie.rayson@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch and District Business Meetings

We regularly hold meetings in your area and all members and prospective members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meetings is to 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. Following the business meeting, time permitting, most evenings are rounded off with a drink, biscuit and chance to socialise. Our meetings are generally quite informal round the table discussions and we invite all members to come and find out more.

Canterbury District

Secretary: Sammie Rayson

Telephone: 01227 452517

Email: sammie.rayson@oddfellows.co.uk

These meetings are for representatives of the Branches of the District.

All meetings starts at 11.30am or midday. We hold 10 meetings per year, please contact Sammie for more details.

Meeting address to be confirmed nearer the time.

Social Events at a glance

January 2025

Mon 6	Canterbury Catch Up	12 noon
Fri 10	Lunch at The Old Weavers Restaurant	12 noon
Sat 11	Margate's Collectors Fair	10.30am
Mon 13	Lunch at The Old Mill in Ashford	12.30pm
Tues 14	Fun, Games and Quiz at The Canterbury Umbrella Centre	11am
Mon 20	Whitstable Catch Up with David Wardle	2.30pm
Tues 21	The Hidden Tea Rooms in Chilham	11am
Sat 25	Old School Jumble Sale and Walk Along the River Stour	10am
Tues 28	Trip to The WonderWorks in Margate	1pm
Thurs 30	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am
Thurs 30	An Ode to Joyce Grenfell	7pm
Fri 31	Fleur De Lis Museum and Heritage Centre	12 noon

February

Tues 4	Lunch at The Layham Garden Centre	11.30am
Thurs 6	Fawlty Towers - The Play at London's Apollo Theatre	2.30pm
Thurs 13	Secret Garden at Quex Park	11am
Fri 14	Pub Lunch at The Parrot	12.30pm
Sat 15	Alan Bennett's Talking Heads at Folkestone's Tower Theatre	2.30pm
Mon 17	Whitstable presents... Simon Postgate	2.30pm
Thurs 20	Lunch at Gloria's Café	12 noon
Sat 22	The Simon and Garfunkel Story at The Granville Theatre	7.30pm
Tues 25	Dover Castle and Bronze Age Boat Gallery Museum	12 noon
Thurs 27	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am

March

Sun 2	Swan Lake at The Carlton Cinema	2pm
Mon 3	Canterbury Catch Up	12 noon
Thurs 6	Lunch at The Walpole Bay Hotel and Visit to The Turner Contemporary	12.30pm
Fri 7	Lunch at The Victoria Hotel	2.30pm

Social Events at a glance

March

Tues 11	Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham	11am
Sat 15	Steel Magnolias at The Tower Theatre (Folkestone)	2.30pm
Sun 16	The Secret Life of Enid Blyton	4pm
Mon 17	Whitstable Catch Up	2.30pm
Thurs 20	Day Trip to Eltham Palace with Bayliss Travel Coaches	8am
Thurs 27	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am
Fri 28	The Counterfeit Sixties at The Alexander Centre	8pm
Sun 30	Billy Elliot: The Musical Live (20th Anniversary) at The Carlton Cinema	2pm

April

Sat 5	Day Trip to The Houses of Parliament	8.30am
Mon 7	Lunch at The Pullman	1pm
Tues 8	Day Trip to The V&A Museum in London	8.30am
Thurs 10	River Runner's Coast Trip	11am
Fri 11	Visit to The Kent Museum of The Moving Image	12 noon
Sun 13	Open Cockpit Day at Manston Museum	10am
Thurs 17	Easter Crafts Fun in Canterbury	10am
Thurs 17	Lunch at The Pearsons Arms in Whitstable	1pm
Mon 21	Easter Trail at Mountain Ephraim	11am
Thurs 24	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am
Fri 25	Event Planning - Review Meeting	11am

May

Thurs 1	Maunsell Sea Forts	1pm
Sat 3	Make Your Own Myth at The Gulbenkian	2pm
Tues 6	Painshill Park and Cream Tea with Crosskeys Coaches	8.30am
Fri 9	Trip to Southend with Crosskeys Coaches	8.30am
Wed 14	A Visit to Dover's Roman Painted House	11am
Mon 19	Canterbury Catch Up	12 noon

Social Events at a glance

May

Tues 20	Port Lympne Safari Park	11am
Fri 23	Hog and Bean & Visit to Walmer Castle	10.30am
Mon 26	Afternoon Tea at The Waterloo Community Centre	2.30pm
Thurs 29	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am
Fri 30	Visit to Arundel Castle with Bayliss Travel	9am

June

Tues 3	The Seaside Museum in Herne Bay	1pm
Sat 7	Day Trip to Le Touquet with Bayliss Travel	8.30am
Mon 9	Canterbury Catch Up	12 noon
Thurs 12	Ashford Museum and Lunch at The Conningbrook	12 noon
Sat 14	Trip to Boulogne with Crosskeys Coaches	8am
Wed 18	Ramsgate Tunnels	11am
Fri 20	Visit to Terlingham Vineyard	3pm
Mon 23	Whitstable Catch Up and Summer Quiz	2.30pm
Thurs 26	Folkestone Coffee Morning and Lunch Club	11am
Mon 30	Summer Party in Sandwich!	12 noon

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.

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