

August - October 2026



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

out & about

St Mary Cray and Dartford District



Winner of the members photography competition. This stunning image was captured at Well Hall Pleasance by Lyn Trevillion.



Music



Art/Crafts



Tasting



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Online



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Strictly Dance Afternoon – Thursday 20 August

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

Inside you'll find local and national Oddfellows news, information about our events, and plenty of useful information about your membership – so do have a read and keep it somewhere handy.

We have lots of great events coming up and we'd love to see you at one soon. All our events are open to everyone, so feel free to bring a friend or family member along.

Branches across the country also host a wide range of free online events, giving you the chance to enjoy

friendship from the comfort of your own home. You can check out the latest online events on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/

Remember, you can always find details of Branch events, member benefits and the latest Oddfellows news on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk.

Join the conversation @ OddfellowsUK

Find us at

f StMaryCrayDartfordOddfellows

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.



Contact Details

District Secretary:

Eliza Puddefoot

Address: 58 Mitchell Avenue,
Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AX

Telephone: 07391 986653

Email:

eliza.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk

Magazine Editor and District

Event Organiser: Carly Hampshire

Address: 2 Willow Close
Bexley

DA5 1QY

Telephone: 07776 482515

Email:

carly.hampshire@oddfellows.co.uk

You are invited to send letters contributions and photos for the magazines by the deadline of Monday 31 August

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

August 2026

TUES 04 Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

TUES 11 Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

WED 05 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.



WED 12 Good Intent



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.

August 2026

WED 12 Talking News



2pm



Free



Talking News.
Deliver local news
and information
around the
area. Orpington
Methodist Church,
Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road,
Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact
Carly on 07776 482515.



WED 12 Social Evening



7.30pm



Free



Come along to our monthly social
evening where you can enjoy a catch
up with friends over a few drinks
and a few games of pool if you wish.
Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road,
Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact
Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS 13 Coffee and Chat



2pm



Free



Come along and enjoy a coffee, tea,
cake and chat. Whether you come
along on your own or with a friend
you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome.
Greys Tea and Coffee House, 34 High
Street, Bexley DA5 1AH. Contact Carly
on 07776 482515.

FRI 14 Breakfast in a Cup - A Fun Online Zoom Cooking Demonstration!



10am



Free



Start your day with a simple
delicious and creative breakfast idea
you can make from the comfort of
your own home! Join us for a relaxed
Zoom cooking demonstration,
where we'll create a tasty 'Breakfast
in a Cup' using simple ingredients
like crunchy granola and sweet
honey. It's quick, easy and perfect
for a fresh morning treat. Book by
Wednesday 12 August. To receive
the list of ingredients needed and
Zoom link please contact Carly on
07776 482515.

FRI 14 Business Meeting



2pm



Free



Join us for our monthly business
meeting followed by a catch up. Christ
Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest
Road, Orpington BR5 1RD. Contact
Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on
01689 852868.

August 2026

MON
17

Join us for the Lake Loop Walk at Danson Park



10.30am



Free



Image Stacey Harris, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4280829>

Take a refreshing stroll around the scenic Danson Park, where nature's beauty meets tranquillity. Enjoy a gentle walk along the Lake Loop perfect for all fitness levels. Book by Thursday 13 August. Danson Park, Welling DA6 8HL. Contact Carly on 07776 482515 for meeting point details.

MON
17

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.

TUES
18

Oddfellows Cinema Club



11am



£5.50



A relaxed morning at the movies. Join us for a friendly and welcoming cinema club, where you can enjoy a great film in good company. Sit back, relax, enjoy a warm drink and a biscuit, while watching a carefully selected film in a comfortable, social setting. What's included: For just £5.50, your ticket includes entry to the film. A hot drink (tea or coffee), a biscuit and relaxed friendly atmosphere. Book by Tuesday 11 August. Castle Sidcup, Storyteller Building, 106 High Street, Sidcup DA14 6DS. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



TUES
18

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

August 2026

THURS
20

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 17 August. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



TUES
25

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



THURS
27

Coffee and Chat



2pm



Free



Come along and enjoy a coffee, tea, cake and chat. Whether you come along on your own or with a friend you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome. Greys Tea and Coffee House, 34 High Street, Bexley DA5 1AH. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.

THURS
27

Garden of England



8pm



Free



Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, then followed maybe by 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.

August 2026

FRI **28** **Talk from Barclays on Fraud and Scam Awareness**



2pm



Free



Beth from Barclays will be having a talk on 'Fraud and Scam Awareness'. Beth will give us some hints on fraud and scams and ways to help prevent this from happening to you. She will also be available for any questions you may have, so please come along and join us for an informative afternoon. Refreshments will also be provided. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

September

TUES **01** **Games Night**



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm.

Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



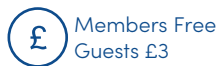
ODDFELLOWS **FRIENDSHIP MONTH** 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED **02** **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.

September

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

THURS
03

Creating Friendship Bracelet



2pm



Free



Join us for a relaxed and creative afternoon dedicated to friendship and connection. Spend time making your own friendship bracelets - a fun and meaningful way to celebrate the people who matter the most.

For those who prefer something different, there will also be an alternative activity:

wooden coaster decorating, perfect for

getting creative in a more rustic style. All materials will be provided, so

just bring yourself (and maybe a friend or two!). Come along, unwind,

create something special and celebrate friendship in a warm and

welcoming atmosphere. Book by Tuesday 1 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a

Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



SAT
05

Quiz Night



7pm



Members £4
Guests £6



Join us for our annual quiz night hosted by quiz master Travis Whitehead.

Teams of up to six people.

Friends and family welcome. The bar will be open for refreshments and feel free to bring your own nibbles.

Book by Friday 28 August. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



MON
07

Social Walk - Scadbury Park, Chislehurst



10am



Free



Fresh air, friendship and gentle exercise. Join us for a relaxed and friendly walk through the beautiful surroundings of Scadbury Park in the heart of Chislehurst. This sociable stroll is a great opportunity to enjoy nature, get some gentle exercise and spend time with fellow Oddfellows members, family and friends in a welcoming group. Book by Monday 31 August. Scadbury Park, Old Perry Street, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6PT. Contact Carly on 07776 482515 for meeting point.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES 08 Games Night



£ Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

WED 09 Good Intent



£ 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 09 Social Evening



£ Free



Come along to our monthly social evening where you can enjoy a catch up with friends over a few drinks and a few games of pool if you wish. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS 10 Coffee and Chat



£ Free



Come along and enjoy a coffee, tea, cake and chat. Whether you come along on your own or with a friend you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome. Greys Tea and Coffee House, 34 High Street, Bexley DA5 1AH. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



WED 09 Special Guest Presentation - Melanie Gibson-Barton



£ Free



We are delighted to welcome Melanie Gibson-Barton to this event. Full details of her presentation are currently being finalised and attendees can look forward to a special session that promises to be both engaging and insightful. Orpington Methodist Church, Hulbert Hall, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JH. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER


FRI
11

Around the World Trivia



10am



Free



Join our online Zoom quiz and explore the world through trivia. Who will be our ultimate globe trotter? Book by Thursday 10 September. Please contact Carly to receive your Zoom login details on 07776 482515.



FRI
11

Business Meeting



2pm



Free



Join us for our monthly business meeting followed by a catch up. Christ Lutheran Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



SAT
12

Scadbury Moated Manor Open Day



2pm



Donations



Following our walk in April to the site, we are returning on an annual open day to see the archaeological excavations and Tudor foundations at Scadbury Moated Manor. We can follow a self-guided trail around

the moated manor site with experts to answer questions. We will see the archaeological excavations and the foundations of the Tudor kitchens and great hall, showing how these would have been used when the house was owned by the Walsingham family.

Visitors can also see World War II defences and a restored shepherd's hut. Meet at the corner entrance to the park at Perry Street and Old Perry Street, opposite Beaverwood Road. The manor house is a mile walk away. Orpington Archaeological Society (OAS) volunteers will direct you. Buses 160, 269 and 463 stop nearby. No parking at site but street parking available. You may wish to donate to OAS via their collection boxes at the site. Book by Friday 11 September. Scadbury Moated Manor, Scadbury Park, Road, Chislehurst BR7 6PT. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



Image by Ethan Doyle White - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=98896257>

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER

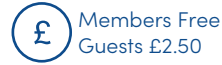


TUES 15 Oddfellows Cinema Club



A relaxed morning at the movies. Join us for a friendly and welcoming cinema club, where you can enjoy a great film in good company. Sit back, relax, enjoy a warm drink and a biscuit, while watching a carefully selected film in a comfortable, social setting. What's included: For just £5.50, your ticket includes entry to the film. A hot drink (tea or coffee), a biscuit and relaxed friendly atmosphere. Book by Thursday 10 September. Castle Sidcup, Storyteller Building, 106 High Street, Sidcup DA14 6DS. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.

TUES 15 Games Night



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

WED 16 Afternoon Tea



Join us in celebrating Friendship Month by bringing a friend along to our afternoon tea. Enjoy plenty of tea, sandwiches, cakes and a good catch up with friends. This will be followed by a cake auction with all proceeds going to the Chairman's chosen charity. Book by Wednesday 9 September. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



September



THURS
17

Celebrate Friendship Month with Jo McGetrick - Sing Along Afternoon!



2pm



Free



Join us for a fun and uplifting afternoon of music, laughter and community as we celebrate Friendship Month together. Enjoy a live sing along session with singer Jo McGetrick, featuring well-loved favourites that everyone can join in with. Whether you love to sing or simply enjoy great music in good company, this is a relaxed and welcoming event for all. Come along, bring a friend and enjoy a feel-good afternoon full of connection and song. A fun afternoon awaits! Everyone is welcome. Book by Monday 14 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



MON
21

Friendship Social Get Together



2pm



Free



Friendship Month. Bring along a friend and introduce them to our lovely members. There will be refreshments and the opportunity to learn more about the Oddfellows and the benefits of being a member. Holy Trinity Church, North Room, Church Lane, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent BR2 8LB. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.



TUES
22

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes are provided and a licensed bar for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1-30 SEPTEMBER



WED
23

Business Meeting



Join us for our monthly business meeting followed by a catch up and maybe even a few games of pool. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Gill on 07840 546852 or Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS
24

Coffee and Chat



Come along and enjoy a coffee, tea, cake and chat. Whether you come along on your own or with a friend you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome. Greys Tea and Coffee House, 34 High Street, Bexley DA5 1AH. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



THURS
24

Garden of England



Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, then followed maybe by 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
25

Friendship Games Afternoon



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.

SAT
26

Oddfellows District Family Indoor Sports Day



Celebrating Friendship Month and join us for a fun-filled traditional family indoor sports day.



Bringing together members of the Oddfellows, their families and friends for a day of laughter, friendly competition and community spirit! This special District event is all about celebrating Friendship Month and enjoying quality time together in a warm, welcoming indoor setting perfect for all ages and abilities. Book by Monday 21 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.

September

TUES
29

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



WED
30

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.



October

THURS
01

Special Talk: The Dog Trust



2pm



Free



Join us for an informative and engaging session with a speaker from The Dog Trust. Learn more about the important work they do to support dogs in need, including rescue, rehoming and responsible pet ownership.

This is a great opportunity to hear real insights, ask questions and find out how you can help make a difference. Whether you're a dog lover or simply curious about their work, this promises to be an interesting and inspiring talk for all. Everyone is welcome - we hope to see you there! Book by Monday 28 September. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



October

MON 05 Social Walk - Foots Cray Meadows

 10am

 Free



Riverside walking, fresh air and friendly company. Join us for a relaxed and sociable walk through the beautiful green space of Foots Cray Meadows in Bexley. This gentle walk follows scenic riverside paths and open meadows, offering a peaceful setting to enjoy nature, conversation and good company. Book by Thursday 1 October. Foots Cray Meadows, North Cray Road, Sidcup DA14 5AG. Contact Carly on 07776 482515 for meeting point.



WED 07 Social Evening

 7.30pm

 Free



Come along to our monthly social evening where you can enjoy a catch up with friends over a few drinks and a few games of pool if you wish. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

THURS 08 Coffee and Chat

 2pm

 Free



Come along and enjoy a coffee, tea, cake and chat. Whether you come along on your own or with a friend you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome. Greys Tea and Coffee House, 34 High Street, Bexley DA5 1AH. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.

TUES 06 Games Night

 5pm

 Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

FRI 09 Join Our Virtual Show and Tell!

 10am

 Free



Do you have something exciting, creative or unique to share? Bring it to our online show and tell. Connect with others from the comfort of your home! Book by Wednesday 7 October. Please contact Carly to receive your Zoom login details on 07776 482515.

October

FRI **09** **Committee of Management Meeting**



Committee of Management Meeting. Committee Members only Christ Lutheran



Church Hall, 227 Poverest Road, Orpington BR5 1RD. Contact Anna on 07704 271845 or Sue on 01689 852868.

TUES **13** **Games Night**



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.

TUES **13** **Faversham Market Day and Macknade Food Hall**



A fantastic day out of shopping, food and friendly company. Join us for a wonderful day visiting the historic market town of Faversham, home to a vibrant market, independent shops and plenty of character.

We will also be stopping at the popular Macknade Food Hall, a well-known destination for delicious local produce, gifts and artisan foods. This relaxed social trip is a great chance to enjoy good food, browse unique stalls and spend time with friends in a welcoming group atmosphere. Pick-up point: Spur Road Bus Stop N (BR6 0QN). Book by Monday 31 August. Faversham Market Day & Macknade Food Hall ME13 8XF. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



October

WED 14 Good Intent

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.

MON 19 Social Get Together

L 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.

THURS 15 Name The Gadget

L 2pm

£ Free



Everybody's favourite daytime TV game comes to Oddfellows, some gadgets are useful, some perhaps not! But definitely fun and challenging to figure out what they are. Book by Monday 12 October. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Nottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



TUES 20 Oddfellows Cinema Club

L 11am

£ £5.50



A relaxed morning at the movies. Join us for a friendly and welcoming cinema club, where you can enjoy a great film in good company. Sit back, relax, enjoy a warm drink and a biscuit, while watching a carefully selected film in a comfortable, social setting. What's included: For just £5.50, your ticket includes entry to the film. A hot drink (tea or coffee), a biscuit and relaxed friendly atmosphere. Book by Thursday 15 October. Castle Sidcup, Storyteller Building, 106 High Street, Sidcup DA14 6DS. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.

October

TUES
20

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



WED
21

Business Meeting



7.30pm



Free



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THURS
22

Coffee and Chat



2pm



Free



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THURS
22

Garden of England



8pm



Free



Social evening with a short meeting letting the members know what is going on, then followed maybe by 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
23

Social Get Together



2pm



Free



Come and join us for some fun and 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.

October

TUES
27

Games Night



5pm



Members Free
Guests £2.50



Join us at our weekly games night held every Tuesday from 5pm to 10pm. Whether you are into pool, darts, dominoes or cards, there is a seat at the table for you. Complimentary tea, coffee and cakes provided or a licensed bar is also available for those who prefer something stronger. We look forward to welcoming you. Oddfellows Hall, 118 Maidstone Road, Footscray, Kent DA14 5HS. Contact Bonny on 07584 045254.



WED
28

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
29

Autumnal Arts and Crafts



2pm



Free



As the temperature starts to drop and the leaves and nature around us start to change colour, what an amazing opportunity to catch these amazing colours in an afternoon of autumnal arts and crafts at Oddfellows, Mottingham. Book by Monday 26 October. Oddfellows Hall, 6a Beaconsfield Road, Mottingham SE9 4DJ. Contact Carly on 07776 482515.



A message from our Chairman

It has been a busy start to my term in office. As Provincial Grand Master I automatically have a role on all the Sub Committees. A new Subcommittee was created following the agreement at the District Meeting to merge the South London District into our District. This merge can only bring positive benefits to us all as Oddfellows. We meet each month to discuss progress and recommend the next steps to help ensure a smooth and efficient transition for both Districts.

We are also preparing for the Half Yearly District Meeting. Having served on the District Committee of Management I can see the amount of work that goes on to make the District run as well as it does. At these meetings we discuss a wide range of items, including property management, accounts, care & welfare and event organising. Our members are important to us and the majority of the work is how we make your membership of the Oddfellows better.

Our District Committee of Management is solely run by elected members of the St Mary Cray and Dartford District, these members are like you, they don't necessarily have a background in any of the subjects that are discussed but they do all bring something to each meeting and each member is fully supported by the District Secretary and the Trustees. If this sounds like something that you would like to be involved in then please speak with one of your Branch Secretaries who can point you in the right direction.

I would like to finish off by congratulating Carly, our new District Social Organiser, she has been working very hard in taking over the magazine publishing and putting on new events including walks, an evening of mediumship and much more. There is an incredible number of events going on over the summer and it would be great to see you at one very soon.

Darren Puddefoot

A warm welcome to Jill Carroll

We are delighted to welcome Jill Carroll to the team as our new Social Organiser for the Pride Kent Branch, starting on Monday 22 June.

Jill will be joining us to help create and organise a wonderful programme of social activities, events and opportunities for members to get together, make new

connections and enjoy everything our branch has to offer.

We are sure you will join us in giving Jill a very warm welcome and we look forward to the new ideas, enthusiasm and energy she will bring to the branch.

Welcome aboard, Jill - we're so pleased to have you with us!

Around the Branches

We've had a wonderful range of activities recently! Here are some photos from Singo Bingo, a fascinating talk by Nicola Fisherman from Bromley Well, Coffee and Chat, our lake walk, an RNLI presentation,

Talent Afternoon, Mediumship Night, cupcake decorating, indoor golf, indoor planting, and celebrations marking special birthdays. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these events so enjoyable.







Bob Sinfield Remembers Spike Milligan

You might be wondering what on earth I'm doing in this picture, sitting scantily clad on a park bench, apparently chatting to a statue. I will explain. Firstly, it was a scorcher of a day so not much leg attire required and secondly, this statue (to be found in St Stephen's Park, Finchley) is of my comedy hero, Terence Alan Patrick Sean Milligan, known to us all as Spike.



Bob Sinfield (right!) with Spike.

Never meet your heroes. Isn't that what they say? As a lad, mine were the Goons and in later years I did meet one of them. Peter Sellers died when I was young, Harry Secombe and Michael Bentine both lived near me though our paths didn't cross... but in the 1990s, I was to encounter and spend an hour with my favourite member of the troupe. And I have the tape to prove it.

Back then, I was hosting an in-flight audio show for Cathay Pacific when I got a call from the producer asking me if I'd like to interview the great man. I was in two minds, given his reputation with interviewers he didn't like. One of them, the splendid Lynsey de Paul on Capital Radio, had asked him what was his most embarrassing moment and he said, 'This is it!' Even so, I couldn't really refuse, so come the day, I greeted this frail and elderly figure who regarded me with deep suspicion before announcing, 'I'm not a cretin, you know!' Oh dear, bad start.

It took him a while to settle into the studio and things began to improve when he realised I'd done my homework. I encouraged him to talk about his Anglo-Indian roots and the culture shock of swapping Poona for Lewisham in the '30s.

His war years had been well documented but he seemed happy to discuss the experiences which reputedly 'drove him mad'. Of course, he wasn't mad, far from it, but his manic depressive (now known as bipolar) condition drove him on to achieve comic brilliance, first with the Goons, then as a solo performer.

The word 'unique' is among the most overused in the language (second only to 'genius') so I won't resort to either. I'll just say he was a pioneer of modern surrealist comedy and he was the best at what he did. 'But then,' as he said, 'so was Hitler.'

Towards the end of our time together, I surprised Spike by playing one of his records which he hadn't heard since the day he made it. *Girl on a Pony* wasn't even a funny piece, more like a sentimental ghost story. 'I haven't even got a copy of this. Can you get me one?' I assured him that we could and the session ended on a high.

One of the toughest things to get right in comedy is the exit line, but Spike was more than equal to the task. When I thanked him for coming in, he simply held out his hand and said, 'That'll be a pound.'

Linda Regan

It was only when I starting doing talks for the wonderful Oddfellows Branches, that I found out that my late husband (Actor Brian Murphy), and his father, had both been members of the establishment.

In their honour I am going to dedicate this column, and even the next few, to some fun stories about Brian. Many of you will remember him as his character George, in the smash hit sitcom George and Mildred.

Brian and I met in a play called Wife Begins at Forty. The play is centred around a young fortyish woman married to an older husband. She gets bored and decides to leave him. She goes off and has French lessons and flamenco dancing classes and leaves him sitting at home watching television.

Toward the end of the play, she realises she is still in love with him and comes back. The last twenty minutes of the play is hilarious, high comedy, as they finally get back together.

At the start of the last scene, I had to come down a staircase backwards, wearing an appealing negligee, while he is downstairs in shirt and boxer shorts looking for romantic music. On one particular performance, after a very sunny day, things didn't quite go as normal.

What I didn't know was, as that day had been full of high sunshine, Brian had been out and had sunbathed under a very large tree. Consequently, he hadn't managed to get an even colour, due to the tree's branches shadowing some of him. Also, he doesn't tan, but like me, with his pale



white skin, he goes a bright strawberry pink in colour.

As I, in my sexy negligee, was coming down the stairs backwards, I obviously couldn't see him. I normally got a few whoops from the audience when I appear, but on this occasion all I could hear was laughter from the audience. He had obviously removed his trousers and was down to his boxer shorts, so his legs were in full view.

In the play, I get to the bottom of the stairs and have to turn round as his character says to my character: 'You look lovely,' and I am supposed to reply, 'So do you.'

As I turned around, I came face to face with Brian's legs. They were striped red and white from the shade of the tree he had sunbathed under. He said the line, 'You look lovely.' I was now fighting giggles, I just couldn't say my line, 'So do you.' So, I turned to the audience and said, 'His legs look like a tube of Signal toothpaste.' That got a massive laugh, and Brian and I spent the whole scene on the sofa, giggling, and with me trying to avoid touching his striped and burnt legs.

Friendship – The Heart of Oddfellows

Friendship is at the centre of everything we do at Oddfellows. To mark Friendship month this September, we share two lovely member contributions – a creative acrostic poem inspired by Oddfellows and a personal story about the lasting friendship and companionship discovered through our society.

With thanks to our anonymous member for sharing her thoughts and celebrating the friendship found through Oddfellows.

O n a whim I went along
D ancing on the agenda
D ecided to just try
F riendly smiles greeted me
E ncouraging me to join in
L aughing and drinking tea
L ight-hearted conversation left worries behind
O ngoing activities and antics every visit
W hy stay indoors?
S o now I've been a member for 3 years

My husband and I had been looking for some time for a social group of some kind to get us out of the house. Then we saw an advertisement for Oddfellows. We went to a meeting at Pride of Kent to see if it was something we would be interested in. The whole group was so very friendly and welcoming we joined then and there. We go to meetings where we play games, go for walks and have meals and just chat.

We found that when we go to events at other Branches everybody is just as friendly. Shortly after we joined a lovely couple also joined and we became good friends meeting up for meals and events outside of the group. We have been joined for a year now and have found that the group has certainly made a difference to our social life and also our mental wellbeing.

Caroline Shine





Children's Friendship Drawing Competition

To celebrate September being Friendship Month at the Oddfellows, we are inviting children to take part in a special drawing competition all about friendship!

We want to see your creativity shine — you can draw anything that shows what friendship means to you. It could be you and your best friend playing together, helping someone, sharing, or anything else that shows kindness, fun, and friendship.

How to enter:

Simply create your drawing and email your entry to carly.hampshire@oddfellows.co.uk before the closing date.

The winning entry will receive a fantastic Art Set!

All entries must be received by Monday 31 August.

We can't wait to see your amazing artwork celebrating friendship!

Terms and conditions apply

- To be eligible, drawings must be drawn and sent to us by Monday 31 August. Don't forget to give them a caption and include your name and age.
- Entries must be sent via email to carly.hampshire@oddfellows.co.uk anytime before the closing date by midnight on Monday 31 August. One drawing per email is preferred.
- Entry to the competition is automatic on submission of the drawing. We will not share your details with any other party and your data will not be used for any other purpose.
- Only one entry per person allowed. No cash alternative is available.
- The competition is open to residents of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man only.
- The drawing competition is managed and fulfilled by St Mary Cray and Dartford (The Promoter). Employees and contractors (and their respective families) of The Promoter are not eligible to enter.
- The name and county of the winner will be printed in the next edition of the St Mary Cray and Dartford Out and About.
- The Promoter, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, will provide details of the winning entry, and has the right to publicly disclose the name of the winner.
- The decision of The Promoter on any matter relating to these rules shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this summer!

Throughout June and July, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and Saga, and in upcoming print editions of People's Friend, Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about
our Making a Difference Awards,
including previous years'
winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/
makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.

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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Lord Holmesdale Branch

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Social Organiser: Jill Carroll

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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

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Email:
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At a glance

August 2026

Tues 4	Games Night	5pm
Wed 5	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Tues 11	Games Night	5pm
Wed 12	Good Intent	1.30pm
Wed 12	Talking News	2pm
Wed 12	Social Evening	7.30pm
Thurs 13	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Fri 14	Breakfast in a Cup - A Fun Online Zoom Cooking Demonstration!	10am
Fri 14	Business Meeting	2pm
Mon 17	Join us for the Lake Loop Walk at Danson Park	10.30am
Mon 17	Social Get Together	2pm
Tues 18	Oddfellows Cinema Club	11am
Tues 18	Games Night	5pm
Thurs 20	Strictly Dance Afternoon	2pm
Tues 25	Games Night	5pm
Thurs 27	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Thurs 27	Garden of England	8pm
Fri 28	Talk from Barclays on Fraud and Scam Awareness	2pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 1	Games Night	5pm
Wed 2	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Thurs 3	Creating Friendship Bracelet	2pm
Sat 5	Quiz Night	7pm
Mon 7	Social Walk - Scadbury Park, Chislehurst	10am
Tues 8	Games Night	5pm
Wed 9	Good Intent	1.30pm
Wed 9	Special Guest Presentation - Melanie Gibson-Barton	2pm
Wed 9	Social Evening	7.30pm
Thurs 10	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Fri 11	Around the World Trivia	10am
Fri 11	Business Meeting	2pm
Sat 12	Scadbury Moated Manor Open Day	2pm
Tues 15	Oddfellows Cinema Club	11am
Tues 15	Games Night	5pm
Wed 16	Afternoon Tea	1pm
Thurs 17	Celebrate Friendship Month with Jo McGetrick - Sing Along Afternoon!	2pm

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Mon 21	Friendship Social Get Together	2pm
Tues 22	Games Night	5pm
Wed 23	Business Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 24	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Thurs 24	Garden of England	8pm
Fri 25	Friendship Games Afternoon	2pm
Sat 26	Oddfellows District Family Indoor Sports Day	2pm
Tues 29	Games Night	5pm
Wed 30	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm

October

Thurs 1	Special Talk: The Dog Trust	2pm
Mon 5	Social Walk - Foots Cray Meadows	10am
Tues 6	Games Night	5pm
Wed 7	Social Evening	7.30pm
Thurs 8	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Fri 9	Join Our Virtual Show and Tell!	10am

October

Fri 9	Committee of Management Meeting	2pm
Tues 13	Faversham Market Day and Macknade Food Hall	9am
Tues 13	Games Night	5pm
Wed 14	Good Intent	1.30pm
Thurs 15	Name The Gadget	2pm
Mon 19	Social Get Together	2pm
Tues 20	Oddfellows Cinema Club	11am
Tues 20	Games Night	5pm
Wed 21	Business Meeting	7.30pm
Thurs 22	Coffee and Chat	2pm
Thurs 22	Garden of England	8pm
Fri 23	Social Get Together	2pm
Tues 27	Games Night	5pm
Wed 28	The Inbetweeners	1.30pm
Thurs 29	Autumnal Arts and Crafts	2pm