

November 2022 – April 2023



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

out & about

Maidstone Fernlea District



Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent and the River Medway



Shopping



Art/Crafts



Theatre/Culture



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Wellbeing



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Decoupage Flower Pots at Marden Memorial Hall – Monday 9 January 2023

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

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

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

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

Contact Details

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 139 Robin Hood Lane,
Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent ME5 9NI

Telephone: 01634 868308

Email:
rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Julie Broomfield

Telephone: 07910 888607

Email:
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk

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

A bit about us...

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

November 2022

MON 14 Poinsettia Paper Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Paper crafting, explore the use of paper and see how versatile it can be. Paper flowers are hardy and can be kept forever. Today we will concentrate on the petal form of Poinsettia. We will create some festive flowers that can adorn any card, gift box or Christmas decoration. For those who crafted at Maidstone on the Poinsettia, you can try other forms of flowers. Are you a crafty person? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards craftware. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 18 Eat One, You Eat Them All! Chocolate Truffles



11am



Members £3, Guests £4



One bite is just not enough... When it comes to home-made decadence with minimum effort, you cannot beat home-made chocolate truffles.

Chocolate truffles are made easy by melting cream and butter, chill, roll and coat. Perfect for after dinner surprises for those attending the annual Christmas dinner at Maidstone the following evening. Bonus prize – the best truffles wins the honour of licking the bowl! Refreshments and light lunch included... if you can find the room! Fancy learning to make these fancy sweets? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution if you are taking your chocolates home. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



November 2022

MON
21

Trip to Millbrook Garden Centre, Staplehurst



11am



As per own cost



I'm going plant shopping...My family know me too well for me to say otherwise! Millbrook Garden Centre Christmas is getting nearer, the goose is almost fat. Let's visit this lovely garden centre for more inspiration. The popular Greenacre Coffee Shop is the perfect place to enjoy a hot drink, snack or brunch! Car sharing may be available, but not guaranteed. Fancy meeting up with us for this visit? Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
25

Social Gathering



11am



£3



A friend listens to you when you need it most, not just when it is important. A chatty day relaxing with friends is good for you. It helps to boost our creativity, energy, productivity, and overall cognition. Those who wish to play games are welcome, the craft table is always open. Would you like to gain new friends and have a full diary? Cost: £3 for refreshments and a light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
28

Old Book Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Do you have a shelf of old books that you love, but rarely touch? Well why not give them a new lease of life and use them to create beautiful projects. You will discover ways to make some unusual designs and saving a well-read book from being discarded. The simple way to add elegance to the season that can be used over and over again. *Old books that have ceased to be of service should not more be abandoned, than should old friends, who have ceased to give pleasure.* Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

December

FRI
02

Let's Go Crackers with Book Art at Oddfellows Centre



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



For those of you who love the written word and want it to be part of your aesthetic too, this post is for you. Pick up an old book and get to work on a creative use. *There are three things that grow more precious with age, old wood to burn, old books to read,*

and old friends to enjoy. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
09

Christmas Crafting at Oddfellows Centre



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



That's too many Christmas decorations... Says no one ever! It's not a Christmas tree; it's a beacon for Santa! Home-made tree decorations can be a real splendour and fun to make. Most people enjoy gifting or giving home-made ornaments, especially tree baubles.

Let's get glittering! Fancy a dabble in crafting? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
12

Christmas Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Christmas is a box of free ornaments that have become part of the family.

Decorations are simply an anchor or pathway to those old childhood magical emotions of excitement.

Make a simple christmas hanging decoration - lets get cracking! Come and join us? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



December

FRI 16 Christmas Gathering at Aylesford

L 12 noon

£ Donations



Its time to celebrate the end of 2022 and what better way than a festive gathering in Aylesford. Cost: Charity donation welcome on the day. Meet at Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607 for details.

January 2023

FRI 06 The New Year Stands Before Us

L 11am

£ Members £3
Guests £4



The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.

After a busy festive season, it's time to relax and enjoy a natter and discuss all our forthcoming arts, crafts and trips. How exciting... Lets count how many sock gift we received. If you have been thinking of joining, make a New Year's Resolution now...Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



January 2023

MON 09 Decoupage Flower Pots at Marden Memorial Hall

L 12 noon

£ Members £3
Guests £4



Looking for fun and an easy project to spruce up your home decor? Take a throwaway plastic pot, keep plastic out of landfill and decorate with decoupage, to light up a dark corner of your home. Decoupage is the art of decorating an object by gluing coloured paper cut-outs, in combination with special paint effects, type of paper, gold leaf and other decorative elements. Why don't you consider joining. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

January 2023

FRI 13 Decoupage Flower Pots at Oddfellows Centre



Brighten up your Garden - Decoupage Flower Pots. Friday 13th - Unlucky for some, but not for us. Decoupage is the word and the craft. Let's make some lovely flower pots... ready for the Spring. It's very additive! Thinking of joining? Cost: £3 for refreshments/light lunch. Cost on day for any craftware purchased. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 20 Chinese New Year Celebration - Crafting



We will be celebrating Chinese New Year - the Year of the Rabbit, creating lanterns to adorn the room. Perhaps we may be able to share a fortune cookie or two! Do you like to make friends and crafting? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON 23 Slàinte Mhaith - Good Health at Marden Memorial Hall



What better way to celebrate the forthcoming Burns Night, with a taste of the Scottish Islands. Join us for a quiz, testing your knowledge on Scotland... Followed by a light lunch and the sumptuous Scottish traditional dessert Cranachan - if you dare! Love to share time with friends... come and join us. Cost: £3.50 for refreshments/light lunch dessert. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 27 Míle Fáilte! - A Thousand Welcomes



If you missed out on the Marden date, we are still celebrating Burns Night, with a taste of the Scottish Highlands. Test your knowledge on Scotland with a quiz, followed by a light lunch and the sumptuous Scottish traditional dessert Cranachan... now you have the taste for it! New quiz, so there is no head start if you were able to attend the Marden group! Tempted to join? Cost: £3.50 for refreshments/light lunch and dessert. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

February

FRI
03

Coffee Morning and Crafting



11am



Members £3, Guests £4



Life's too short for bad coffee! Crafting optional. Research shows that people who gossip are often happier than those who don't. Chatting is good for you. Join us for a relaxing cuppa, light lunch and perhaps some cake? You may wish to play a game, or perhaps continue with your inspirations on the craft table. Gentle exercise will also be available. Sometimes I wish that I was the weather, you'd bring me up in conversation forever. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
06

Let's Get Quilling Craft at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Quilling is an innovative art form with colourful paper strips. You roll the strips of paper and glue them together, to form a unique art form. It is one of the most beautiful ways to decorate cards and is less messy. Despite the fact there are mind-boggling number of quilling accessories, all you truly need are paper strips, craft glue and a rolling tool. Today we will be looking at the art form 'The Heart' leading up to Valentine's Day. There is no rules for

quilling, you have to create your own. Just flow over the paper! Fancy joining us for this perfect craft? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards craftware. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



February

FRI 10 Paper Quilling at Oddfellows Centre

L 11am

£ £3



Paper Quilling is not an Art of Quilling Paper Strip... But an Art of Quilling Your Ideas. We will continue our journey of Quilling with the art form of 'The Heart', creating a fabulous card. For those who have already mastered this technique at the Maidstone session, you can create another card to add to your achievements. To be creative means to be in love with life. Thinking of joining? Cost: £3 includes refreshments/light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON 20 Old Book Flower Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall

L 11am

£ Members £3
Guests £4



Never judge a book by its cover... Craft at Marden Memorial Hall. Today we will be looking at the art form of using old books to create some stunning flowers. If you have shelves of old books hanging around your home, don't throw them away. Repurpose them into something fantastic. Book paper craft gives you a unique way to refurbish old books and turn them into beautiful items. Today we will be creating some stunning roses. Lets get creating - come and join us. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, for refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution for craftware would be appreciated. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 17 Crafting your Curiosity or Gentle Exercise?

L 11am

£ £3



Members can today reflect on the past craft work we have achieved and choose what they would like to do. We will be offering some gentle exercise to get those creative juices flowing... Those who prefer a lazier day are welcome to relax on the 'Chatty Table'. Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength. Cost: £3 for refreshments/light lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



February

FRI

24

Old Book Flower Crafting at Oddfellows Centre



11am



Members £3

Guests £4



True Friendship is like a rose, we don't realise its beauty until it fades. For

those who missed the Marden Group, we will continue our crafting journey with old books to create stunning roses, which will lighten any room. Members who were able to learn this craft on

Monday, may wish to move on to more creative items... the book pages are your oyster. Do you love meeting people? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Cost on day for any craftware purchased. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

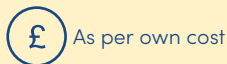
MON

27

Visit to Rochester Cathedral - Peace Doves



10.30am



As per own cost



The Peace Doves artwork has been created from thousands of individually made paper doves. Together they collectively form a beautiful piece of artwork, which as a whole reflects joining together in unity, peace and hope moving forward. Member can take a check in at a local coffee shop for lunch/brunch, or visit the Romanesque

architecture of Rochester Castle, Guildhall Museum, Eastgate House or the Swiss Chalet, where the great author Charles Dickens worked on some of his best novels. There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour - Charles Dickens - 'A Christmas Carol'. Do you love trips? Meeting at Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. We will head to Rochester together. Booking essential, contact Julie on 07910 888607.

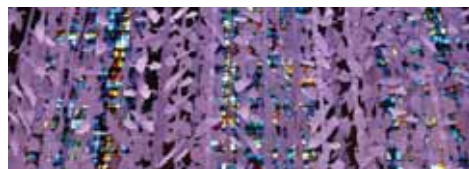


March

FRI 03 Love is the Dove of Peace at Oddfellows Centre



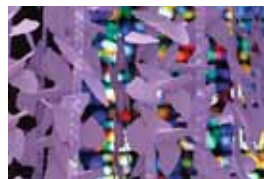
Love is the Dove of Peace, The Spirit of Brotherhood - Crafting. Inspired by the stunning Peace Dove Exhibition at Rochester Cathedral, today we will be creating our own Peace Dove collection for our own meeting room. Expand thy wings, celestial dove... Fancy learning some craft, with like-minded people? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON 06 Peace Dove Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall



The Fountain of Love is the Rose and the Lilly, the Sun and the Dove - Crafting.

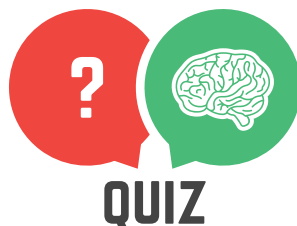


Inspiration is still flowing today and we will be creating Peace Doves, to join the art collection we have produced at the Maidstone Branch. Would you like to see our creative artwork in person... Come along and see what we have achieved. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards craftware. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 10 Five or More! Brain Buzzing Game!



Five or More! Brain Buzzing Game! Light exercise - a healthy body is a healthy you. Join us for a fun game to test your knowledge. How many will you know? This will be followed by some light exercise. Love this type of fun gathering? Why don't you come along and find out what Oddfellows is all about. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



March

MON
13

A Visit to Coblands Garden Centre, Sevenoaks



11am



As per own cost



Spring is in the air... Coblands Garden Centre, in Sundridge, Sevenoaks is set in an old tree nursery surrounded by the beautiful Kent countryside. Great time to view plants for the Spring/ Summer months. Their rustic themed café is housed on an old potting up glasshouse and has views of the beautiful Kents hills. You can choose



to sit in the café glasshouse amongst the plants, or outside on the picnic benches. Car sharing may be available. Coblands Garden Centre, Dryhill Lane, Sevenoaks TN14 6AA. Plenty of parking and fully accessible. 'Who ever said money can't buy you happiness has clearly never been to a Garden Centre!' Love a Garden Centre? Like to join us? Meeting at Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. To book contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
17

Pictionary - St Patricks Day Style at Oddfellows Centre



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



The Leprechauns made me do it! Pictionary - St Patricks Day Style. Pen in hand, we will be holding a fun Pictionary game, testing our art skills to the limit. 'How old do you have to be to make a bad drawing? Fancy joining us? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/ lunch. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
20

Pictionary - St Patrick Day's Style at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



In celebration of St Patrick's Day, we will be testing our knowledge and art skills with a game of Pictionary. A good friend is like a four leaf clover - hard to find - lucky to have! Love the idea of this meeting? Come along and find out more. Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

March

FRI 24 You, Me and a Cup of Tea!



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Chatty catch up with light exercise. After using our brains over the last two sessions, we will have a relaxing day playing games of choice. Light exercise will be available if you are feeling energetic. Love this type of meeting? Come along and see what we are all about. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 31 Happiness Comes in Chocolate!



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



There is nothing more satisfying than blending chocolate with cream, to create a thick ganache. Today, in celebration of Easter, we will treat ourselves to creating our own truffles. You can just spoil yourself, or treat a friend to a personal gift. This is not just chocolate, but Oddfellows chocolate. Are you a chocoholic? Come along, you know you want to... Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards chocolate and packaging. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

April

MON 03 One Chocolate at a Time at Marden Memorial Hall



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



Bringing People Together, One Chocolate at a Time. Still want to be a chocoholic... we will be creating our own truffles. Great gift option, or just indulge in secret! What would your option be? 'There is nothing like good friends, followed by chocolate'. Love to join us? Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Contribution to cost of ingredients and packaging. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 14 Chomping at the Bit! Creating our own Grand National



11am



Members £3
Guests £4



'Across the Board', you will have to ensure you are not suffering from



'Charley Horse' and the 'Dark Horse' to win the Oddfellows Grand National. You may even win a trophy. There will be a bit of 'Give or Take' and make sure you are 'Hands Down' for the 'Home Stretch'. Fancy a Flutter? Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

April

MON 17 Birthday Card Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall



In memory of our late Queen Elizabeth's birthday, we will be reminiscing about her service to our country and creating a special birthday card which can be gifted to a family member, or dear friends. 'Cards keep us connected' Love crafting? Perhaps this is the place for you. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards craftware. John Banks Hall Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI 21 Birthday Card Crafting at Oddfellows Centre



Still celebrating and reminiscing about our late Queen Elizabeth. Will continue our crafting journey in creating some lovely birthday cards for friends or family. 'A card is a physical display of affection'. Make your Spring and Summer months more interesting by joining us. Cost: £3 for members and £4 for guests, including refreshments/light lunch. Small contribution towards craftware. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI 28 Gentle Exercise Day



You may not be there yet, but you are closer than you was yesterday!
Gentle exercise is the key today... After all that chocolate recently you may need to learn to shift some extra weight, or just tone your body to allow more... Tempted to join us? 'I only work out because I really, really like doughnuts!' Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

Regular Events

Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening



8pm



Free



**Last Tuesday
of the month**

For a fun social evening as well as a short meeting and feedback on what is happening in the Branch and any future social events. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

29 November 2022

27 December 2022

31 January 2023

28 February 2023

28 March 2023

25 April 2023

Pride of Kent Social Evening



8pm



Free



**Alternative last
Tuesday of the
month**

Fun and games with the ever popular raffle are features of our regular social evening, come and join friends as we catch up with a cuppa. Oddfellows Centre, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Roger 01622 745264.

29 November 2022

31 January 2023

28 March 2023

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

OE/0122A6

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



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

Local Care and Welfare Support

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

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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**

Don't just take our word for it...

Oddfellows Travel is a brilliant way to explore with a group of friendly, like-minded people. There's always an Oddfellows host on hand to make introductions, or assist with any questions you might have.

Check out these fabulous member reviews from two of our recent Oddfellows Travel holidays!

Doreen Swain and Maureen Burgoyne, Derby Oddfellows

"We visited Nidd Hall in Harrogate with Oddfellows Travel, and from the very start we were made to feel most welcome. The pre-dinner drinks reception was such a good idea, we met other Oddfellows members from across the UK – and the welcome gift of a backpack was a lovely surprise!

Our Oddfellows group was always sat together for meals, which were of a high standard. The hotel facilities were fantastic, and there was a variety of games and events put on by Warner's. The tour of the grounds from the head gardener was such a treat, too.



*Doreen Swain and
Maureen Burgoyne*

Home-time came far too quickly and we had to say goodbye to friends old and new. We look forward to reconnecting with our Oddfellows friends soon. Whether you come on your own or in a group, you will find a friend on the Oddfellows summer holiday."

Wendy Atkins, Ipswich Oddfellows

"Our recent cruise of the Norwegian Fjords with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines was spectacular. Food on board was second to none, with five-course à la carte dinners, breakfast and lunch buffets and even late night snacks.



Wendy Atkins

We were a diverse group. Some of us have been going on cruises for years, whereas for some it was their first time. For one passenger it was her first time on holiday as a widow which can be so tough, but having the rest of the group for company made it a little less daunting for her."

For further information, check out our upcoming holidays at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk

Friendship Month 2022: A warm welcome to all!

Another September, another wonderful Friendship Month celebration.

This year, our Branches went above and beyond to extend the hand of friendship to their local communities. From afternoon teas and coffee mornings, through to friendship walks and museum

tours – there certainly was something for everyone. Thank you to everybody who attended, hosted, or volunteered at our Branches' Friendship Month events, from the pictures we've been sent, and seen shared across Facebook, it looks like you all had an absolute ball!





Music to our ears



Ben Smith accepted the position of Oddfellows Brass Musical Director earlier this year, and has been welcomed with open arms as he introduces

a lively new programme to audiences across the UK.

Having graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with a First-Class Honours in 2021, Ben is already seeing huge success with Oddfellows Brass, as he's guided them to a 2nd and 4th place result in their first two contests together.

If you would like to see Oddfellows Brass performing near you, please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back/oddfellows-brass/ or email mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk for a copy of their upcoming tour dates.

Oddfellows Travel 2023

It's never too soon to start planning your next holiday. So if you're keen to discover somewhere new, take a look at our upcoming holidays with Oddfellows Travel!

Sat 11–Thurs 23 February In Search of the Northern Lights

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £1,399 per person

Sat 29 April–Wed 3 May Beautiful Bournemouth

Daish's Holidays
From £269 per person
(coach pick-up option available)

Mon 3–Fri 7 July Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Warner's Thoresby Hall
Nottinghamshire
From £351 per person

Sat 1–Sat 15 July Lapland and Scandinavia

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £2,099 per person

Mon 7–Sun 13 August Isles of Scotland and the Faroes

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines
From £999 per person

Mon 4–Fri 8 September South Downs Discovery Tour

HF Holidays
From £659 per person



For further information and to book contact Mike Hall 0161 832 9361 (ext 2224) or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk



Here for Each and Every Little Milestone

Unity Mutual Children's Accounts – Preparing them for the big wide world

Putting away some savings, big or small, for your child, grandchild, niece or nephew could give them a head start into adulthood that will mean the world.



Find out more about our child savings at

unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows



0161 214 4628

Unity Mutual is a trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, Incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, registration No. 109995

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.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at:  OddfellowsUK

Introduce the Oddfellows to someone you know

Refer a friend today



Why not make someone's day by telling them about the Oddfellows?

You might be surprised who would appreciate getting involved – membership brings lots of benefits and so much more*.

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

*Terms and conditions apply to the Refer a Friend offer. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other member offer. For full terms and conditions and for details of the rewards visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.

Ref 1644

Branch Contacts and Meetings

District Business Meetings

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

6 December 2022, 3 January, 7 February, 7 March and 4 April 2023

Social Branches Meetings and Contacts

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

Flower of Kent Branch

Secretary: Freda Russell

Address: 334 Upper Fant Road,
Maidstone, Kent ME16 8DD.

Telephone: 01622 728089

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

Hand of Friendship

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 139 Robin Hood Lane,
Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 9NI.

Telephone: 01634 868308

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

Pride of The Village

Secretary: Norman Hickmott,

Address: Lynden Lower Road,
East Farleigh, Maidstone,
Kent ME15 0HD.

Telephone: 01622 726031

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

Pride of Kent

Secretary: Roger Baker

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

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

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 15

November 2022

Mon 14	Poinsettia Paper Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 18	Eat One, You Eat Them All! Chocolate Truffles	11am
Mon 21	Trip to Millbrook Garden Centre, Staplehurst	11am
Fri 25	Social Gathering	11am
Mon 28	Old Book Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Tues 29	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

December

Fri 2	Let's Go Crackers with Book Art at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Tues 6	Fernlea District Branch Financial Meeting	8pm
Fri 9	Christmas Crafting at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Mon 12	Christmas Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 16	Christmas Gathering at Aylesford	12 noon
Tues 27	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

January 2023

Tues 3	Fernlea District Branch Financial Meeting	8pm
Fri 6	The New Year stands before us	11am
Mon 9	Decoupage Flower Pots at Marden Memorial Hall	12 noon
Fri 13	Decoupage Flower Pots at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Fri 20	Chinese New Year Celebration - Crafting	11am
Mon 23	Slàinte Mhaith - Good Health at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 27	Míle Fáilte! - A Thousand Welcomes	11am
Tues 31	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

February

Fri 3	Coffee Morning and Crafting	11am
Mon 6	Let's Get Quilling Craft at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Tues 7	Fernlea District Branch Financial Meeting	8pm
Fri 10	Paper Quilling at Oddfellows Centre	11am

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 15

February

Fri 17	Crafting your Curiosity or Gentle Exercise?	11am
Mon 20	Old Book Flower Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 24	Old Book Flower Crafting at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Mon 27	Visit to Rochester Cathedral – Peace Doves	10.30am
Tues 28	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

March

Fri 3	Love is the Dove of Peace at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Mon 6	Peace Dove Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Tues 7	Fernlea District Branch Financial Meeting	8pm
Fri 10	Five or More! Brain Buzzing Game!	11am
Mon 13	A Visit to Coblands Garden Centre, Sevenoaks	11am
Fri 17	Pictionary – St Patricks Day Style at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Mon 20	Pictionary – St Patrick Day's Style at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 24	You, Me and a Cup of Tea!	11am
Tues 28	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 31	Happiness Comes in Chocolate!	11am

April

Mon 3	One Chocolate at a Time at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Tues 4	Fernlea District Branch Financial Meeting	8pm
Fri 14	Chomping at the Bit! Creating our own Grand National	11am
Mon 17	Birthday Card Crafting at Marden Memorial Hall	11am
Fri 21	Birthday Card Crafting at Oddfellows Centre	11am
Tues 25	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 28	Gentle Exercise Day	11am

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