

July - December 2025



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

out & about

North West Kent



Ightham Mote, photo by Katie Chan



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



To
book

To Book Events



Online



Annual Celebration Dinner Dance - Saturday 20 September
We hope you can join us!

Welcome to the latest edition of the news and events diary for North West Kent Branch

This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

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

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

Contact Details

Address:

42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA11YN

North West Kent District and Hope of Dartford Branch

Social Organiser: Sarah Robinson

Telephone: 07415 012615

Email:

sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

Newtown Branch

Social Organiser: Chris Jordan

Telephone: 01322 221129

Branch Secretary: Lesley Pimm

Telephone: 01322 292374

Email:

lesley.pimm@oddfellows.co.uk

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.

We would appreciate it when an event is being held at the Lodge, that you please arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start time. Many thanks

Please bring your friends to our events, so they can enjoy all that the Oddfellows is about. Unless otherwise stated please contact Sarah Robinson on **07415 012615** or email sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk to book or find out more information on any of our events.

Regular Events

Coffee Morning

(Newtown Branch)



11am



Free to all



Various
Wednesday

Come and join us for a coffee and a chat with friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

2 July

20 August

3 September

1 October

15 October

5 November

19 November

3 December



July 2025

SAT
12

**Coach Trip to Milestone
(Hope of Dartford Branch)**



9am



Members £10,
Guests £35



This event is now full. A trip down memory lane at Milestones Museum of Living History, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke RG22 6PG. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615 regarding a waiting list for this event.

WED
16

**Cream Tea with
Mocktails
(Newtown Branch)**



12 noon



Members Free,
Guests £5



Come and join us for a cream tea with mocktails and a lovely couple of hours with friends. Book by Tuesday 1 July. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

August

WED 06 Chinthaka Trust Update (Newtown Branch)

🕒 11am

£ Members Free, Guests £5



Mandy will present a final update on her work with the charity and once again will welcome any donations of children's clothing and school equipment. Light refreshments will be provided. 11am to 1pm. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED 17 Macmillan Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)

🕒 11am

£ Members Free, Guests £5



There will be refreshments and a raffle. (Raising money for Macmillan Nurses with a coffee morning). Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



FRIENDSHIP MONTH EVENT
Join the fun

September

SAT 20 Annual Celebration Dinner Dance

🕒 6.30pm

£ Members £10, Guests £35



Here it is again! Our annual celebration dinner dance. Come and join us for an evening of fun, food and entertainment. Dinner will be served at 6.30pm. Book by Friday 1 August. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615.

October

MON 20 Fish and Chips Supper (Hope of Dartford Branch)

🕒 6.30pm

£ Members £5, Guests £20



Come and join us at Time and Place in Dartford for a fish and chips supper the cost includes a drink. Book by Wednesday 1 October. Time and Place, 4 Spital Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 2DL. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615.



November

MON 17 Themed Quiz Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)




 7.30pm  Members Free,
Guests £5 

Come and join us for a themed quiz night. Crank up your brains for a fun evening with friends. Book by Saturday 1 November. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615.



December

SAT 06 Christmas Party

 6pm  Members £10,
Guests £35 

As such a success was had with this event last year, we have decided to do it again, to give everyone the chance to come and start the Christmas celebrations. Dinner will be served at 6.30pm.



Come and join us for an evening of fabulous food, dancing and entertainment with friends. A raffle will also take place, raising money for Arrow Riding Centre, Dartford for disabled children. Book by Saturday 1 November. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615.

WED 17 Christmas Buffet Lunch (Newtown Branch)

 12 noon  Members Free,
Guests £5 

Come and join us to celebrate Christmas with friends. Book by Wednesday 3 December. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



Further events are
being added, see:

www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

Forthcoming Event

January 2026

SUN
04

Pantomime - Aladdin



1pm



Members £15,
Guests £35



This panto is now at Orchard West.
'The Panto is Aladdin starring Linda Robson from Birds of a Feather and Loose Women. Come and join us for some fun with friends. Book by Monday 1 September. The Orchard Theatre, 20 Hythe Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1BX. Contact Sarah on 07415 012 615.



Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

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



To find out more, see contact details on page 2

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the Oddfellows
since 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

Bring friendship to your front room



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

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

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

Tuesday 15 July, 10am - Gardening the natural way with Adam Pasco
Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 892 3222 7539. Password: 778536.

Tuesday 19 August, 7pm - Art and the Working Class with Ann-Marie Michel
Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 882 8581 8734. Password: 299310.

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

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

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

Sarah Robinson

Changes To Convalescence And Care Benefits - From January 2025

Following an annual review of our discretionary membership benefits by the Fraternal Board, some changes have been made to the Convalescence Care Benefit, Carer's Respite Benefit and Convalescence Home Benefit. These changes have been made due to an increase in applications and are necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the benefits available.

These benefits are available after two years of membership and every two years from then on.

From 1 January 2025, when a successful and eligible convalescence/care application is made, the following will be covered:

The Convalescence Care Benefit

– Will cover a stay of up to one week in a convalescence facility agreed by the Society.

The Convalescence Home Benefit

– Will cover up to 15 hours of help at home or other services or equipment to help recovery (capped at a maximum of £500).

Carer's Respite Benefit

– Will cover a stay of up to one week in a convalescence facility agreed by the Society or replacement care of up to 15 hours (capped at a maximum of £500) to provide a break for a member who is a full-time carer for a family member.



These changes are applicable for new Convalescence, Carer's Respite and Home Care Benefit cases from 1 January 2025. Procedure 3.2 (10)(a) will be updated after this date.

A member's annual membership fee must be paid and up-to-date in order for them to make an application and access the benefit.

If a member requires more support than covered by the above benefits, other supplementary avenues to consider include external convalescence support including the Friendly Societies Convalescent Scheme (FSCS), FSCS 'We Can Help' Scheme and Circular Olive Woolf Holiday Trust Fund. You can find out more about these schemes in section 6.7 of the Branch Handbook and our Care and Welfare Department can provide more information. Branches should also consider whether financial support could be made available through their Benevolence Fund.

Should you have any questions about the amendments to these benefits, please contact John Aitken, Head of Care and Welfare –
John.Aitken@oddfellows.co.uk

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 Ann Yearsley on **01322 345587**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

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Make the most of your membership



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



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

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

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

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

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

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

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

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

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

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



Making a Difference Awards 2025

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

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

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

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

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

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



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

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

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



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

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

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

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



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

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

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

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

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

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



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

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

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



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

Incredible total raised for good causes



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

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

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

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

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

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

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



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

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

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

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

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

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

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Branch Meetings

We regularly hold Branch meetings and all members are welcome to attend. Visitors are generally welcome to attend and observe all meetings with permission granted by the secretary prior to the meeting. We share and discuss the business of the Branch includes social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Most evenings are rounded off with refreshments and a chance to socialise.

These meetings, which are open to all members, are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm and in the event of the Monday being a Bank Holiday, it will move to the Wednesday. Any other alterations to the dates will be notified. Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA11YN. The dates are:

Monday 7 July

Monday 6 October

Monday 5 January

Monday 4 August

Monday 3 November

Monday 1 September

Monday 1 December

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at **f** [northwestkentoddfellows](https://www.facebook.com/northwestkentoddfellows)

At a glance

July 2025

Wed 2	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 12	Coach Trip to Milestone (Hope of Dartford Branch)	9am
Wed 16	Cream Tea with Mocktails (Newtown Branch)	12 noon

August

Wed 6	Chinthaka Trust Update (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 20	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

September - Friendship Month

Wed 3	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 17	Macmillan Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 20	Annual Celebration Dinner Dance	6.30pm

October

Wed 1	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 15	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 20	Fish and Chips Supper (Hope of Dartford Branch)	6.30pm

November

Wed 5	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 17	Themed Quiz Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 19	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

December

Wed 3	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 6	Christmas Party	6pm
Wed 17	Christmas Buffet Lunch (Newtown Branch)	12 noon

A bit about us...

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

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
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