

August - October 2025



the **ODDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

North London District



Members enjoying a meal in Enfield



History



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Welcome to the new edition of Out & About, incorporating Cultured Comments, the Magazine of North London District

Don't forget that the Oddfellows can help you when needed

These are difficult and testing times for everybody but isn't it good to know that Oddfellows has your back and you'll always have someone to turn to. We offer a wide range of care and welfare support to our members. From helpful advice through to financial aid, we provide help and support to make life a little easier. So, if you're facing difficult times, you won't have to face them alone.

Look at www.oddfellows.co.uk or contact one of the officials listed on page 3.

Out & About

Not just the name of a magazine but also a wealth of opportunities to make friends at events in London. You're spoilt for choice and with online social events, don't even have to leave the house. I look forward to seeing many of you at our gatherings this year.

As we have branches across the UK, it's likely you won't have to travel too far to regularly meet other friendly people. You can read this magazine to discover the 40 local events that we have for you in late Summer and Autumn, or check out events at www.oddfellows.co.uk.

Paul Fitton
Editor

Andrew Ridley Photography's photo on our front cover shows members enjoying themselves at The Crown and Horseshoes in Gentlemen's Row, Enfield. You can read about cover girl Viv Jones' story, featuring in national media publicising the Oddfellows this summer, on page 18 and 19.

The photo above shows several of the 20 or so members who attend our monthly food/drink events in our Warren Street hall

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**You are invited to send letters,
contributions and photos for the
magazine by the deadline of
Tuesday 30 September to Paul Fitton.**

Say *yes* to friendship in September

Make someone's day
and invite them along to
share the friendship fun.

All welcome



To see what's on and find out
more about Friendship Month
visit **www.friendshipmonth.com**

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



August 2025

WED
06

Meal at The County Arms



12 noon



£8.49/
£12.79
or £6.49



Comfort food plus drink and meal deals in a spacious, family-friendly neighbourhood Greene King pub. Cost: Pub classics from £8.49, steak dishes from £12.79, while deals include a seniors menu for just £6.49. Book by Tuesday 5 August. County Arms, 420 Hale End Road, Highams Park, London E4 9PB. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



FRI
08

Lands End to John O'Groats by Train



2pm



Free



Rhiannon Rees is a member who enjoys travelling. Hear about her summer's journey from the foot of England to the tip of Scotland by train. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

TUES
12

Meal at The Duck in the Pond



1pm



Main £10 to £20
Lunch Bite £9 to £10



The Duck in the Pond serves seasonal classic pub lunches. Cost: Main meals from £10 to £20, or opt for a Lunch Bite from £9 to £10. Book by Monday 11 August. The Duck in the Pond, Kenton Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA3 6A. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

THURS
14

Warren Street Get Together



6pm



Members £5
Guests £10



The drinks will be chilling in the fridge for our August get together! It would be lovely to see you, old friends and new, for drinks and light snacks. Book by Wednesday 6 August. Duchess House, 18-19 Warren Street, (Entrance first door on the left on Grafton Mews) W1T 5LR. Please let Jackie know on 07788 418267 if you would like to join us.

FRI
15

A Chance Encounter



2pm



Free



Ian Hutt relates the story of how he became aware of a hero in his family. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

August 2025

WED
20

Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal



11am



£1 Donations,
Meal as per
menu



120 members have already enjoyed our Tours of Trafalgar Square. Paul Fitton helps you to explore the history of the vicinity with some surprises in store, without having to leave the square! Travel back to King Henry VIII's time, learn about Nelson, discovering who was the real hero of Trafalgar and hear about the beautiful buildings surrounding the square. Follow this up with a meal. Meet at the foot of Nelson's Column facing Whitehall. Book by Tuesday 19 August. Trafalgar Square, Westminster, London WC2N 5DN. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



FRI
22

The Adventures of a 19th Century Englishman in India



2pm



Free



Paul Fitton tells of Henry Butters' life, which involved his role in the Relief of Chitral, his railway career, his father's adventures



as a Bombay policeman and take in the Second Boer War too. Oh yes... and what happened between Henry and his brother's wife! We weave a tiger attack into the story too! Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

Further events are being added, see: www.oddfellows.co.uk/events.

THURS
21

Ploughman's Lunch



2pm



Members £1
Guests £3



This week we're going to have a Ploughman's - cheese, ham, pickles and chunks of bread. Please let Jackie or Paul know if you would like to come along. Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, Enfield EN2 6TG. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267 or Paul (see page 3 for details).

August 2025

TUES
26 **Art Unscrewed**



Join regular instructor Dulcie Rowe as she guides us as we paint 'Ready to Sail' by Jennifer Lush. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

WED
27 **Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques**



Clapham has a high proportion of London's Blue Plaques marking the homes of famous people. Paul



Fitton reveals several stories, including a secret about one of the famous occupants, who is also one of his relatives on a guided tour. We'll finish with a light café meal. Clapham Common Station is on the Northern Line. Book by Tuesday 26 August. Clock Tower, Clapham Common Underground Station, The Pavement, Clapham, London SW4 7AJ. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
02 **Family History Help and Tutorial**



Our regular family history sessions help you to trace your ancestors.

A year after our first family history session. Paul Fitton gives you the top ten resources and tips for breaking down walls in your research. The questions and answers that follow will also stimulate interesting discussion to maintain interest. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.



WED
03 **Savour Turkish Flavours at Lydia Restaurant**



Nestled in the heart of Chingford, Lydia restaurant is a hidden culinary gem, where authentic Turkish flavours come to life. Meze, lamb, chicken, seafood and vegetarian options. Book by Tuesday 2 September. Lydia Turkish Restaurant, 85-87 Old Church Road, Chingford Mount, London E4 6ST. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
04

Winchmore Hill Historical Walk



A stroll of about a mile downhill along Hoppers Road, for centuries a country lane. Local historian Stuart Delvin will talk about the 'Now and Then' of the area as we walk. Our walk starts promptly. Book by Wednesday 3 September. The Kings Head, 1 The Green, Winchmore Hill, London N21 1BB. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

FRI
05

A History of Lesnes Abbey



A little known medieval abbey ruins in a public park, surrounded by ancient woodland. This gem set amid the busy urban landscape of south east London. Local historian Chris Hawkins invites



you to join us to learn something of the history of this fascinating place from the 12th century until today. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

MON
08

Adventure and Prizes Await in the London Treasure Hunt!



Embark on an adventure through the streets of London! Enjoy the thrill of the chase as you unravel mysteries to discover hidden treasures. Embrace the journey, embrace the treasure and win a great prize! Starting at Nelson's Column, your challenge is to solve the clues and move around London picking up your great bonus prizes on the way! Let the hunt begin! Book by Friday 5 September. Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
17

Pub Lunch in Highbury



FRI
19

Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace



Join other members for our regular meal at the White Swan by Highbury and Islington Station.



This Wetherspoons pub backs onto Swan Yard, the remaining part of a much larger yard, belonging to the Old White Swan. That pub was demolished in the 1960s and stood next to the post office, separated from Club Union House by the railway station. Cost: You can pay less than £10 for a meal and drink. Book by Friday 19 September. The White Swan, 255-256 Upper Street, London N1 1RY. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

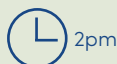
The Hyde Park building was moved to the high point of Sydenham on the outskirts of London.



Paxton devised a grand plan to rival the Palace of Versailles, terracing the steeply sloped site of 200 acres. A huge workforce erected an enlarged palace that dominated the landscape. The Crystal Palace had become a place of wonder and education. The second in a series of three presentations by Michael Gilbert. Visit www.zoom.us and add Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810 or email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk for a direct link.

THURS
18

Incredible 575 Wandsworth Road A National Trust Property



Paul Fitton explores the unique 575 Wandsworth Road in a presentation. The hand-carved fretwork interior of this modest, early 19th-century, terraced house is enthralling and inspiring. The house was acquired by the National Trust in 2010, because of the rich and striking interiors created by Khadambi Asalache (1935-2006), a Kenyan-born poet, novelist, philosopher of mathematics and British civil servant. He bought the house in 1981 while working at the Treasury and over a period of 20 years turned his home into a work of art. Free light refreshments. Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, Enfield EN2 6TG. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

Image Entrance to 575 Wandsworth Road - JRenocks. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED

24

Royal Albert Hall - Symphonic Queen



3pm



£5



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will perform a tribute to one of the world's most iconic rock bands: Queen. Accompanied by Symphonic Voices and conducted by Matthew Freeman. There are a limited number of tickets, so please book with Jackie by emailing her as soon as possible (contact details on page 3) and she will tell you how to pay to secure your booking. Meet in the main foyer (Door 12) at 2.45pm. Jackie will give you your ticket. Book by Tuesday 9 September. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267.



SAT
27

Hog Roast and Entertainment



2pm



Members £10
Guests £15



To celebrate Friendship Month, North London District invites you for a hog roast and live entertainment at the Lodge in Islington. One ticket will admit one member plus one guest and will include a drink each (wine or a soft drink) with your food. There will also be alternative food options (vegetarian) and the bar will also be open. Please register your interest in this event by Wednesday 27 August 2025 by emailing Jackie. Tickets for you and your guest will then be sent to you in the post. Highbury Crescent Rooms, 70 Ronalds Road, Highbury, London N5 1XA. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267 or Terry on 02072 261740.

TUES
30

Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



Our monthly paint along with Dulcie Rowe continues. On this occasion, we are painting 'Oysters'. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

October

WED 01 Thrill to a Meal at the Castle, Chingford

🕒 12 noon 🍷 As per menu 🍴🍴🍴

Miller and Carter pride themselves on their steakhouses yet also offer other dishes including other meats, fish, vegetarian and vegan options. The building is Grade II listed, dating from 1753 when it was named The Ship and Castle. Cost as per menu. Why not try a three course menu for just £17.75? Book by Tuesday 30 September. Miller and Carter - The Castle, 393-395 High Road, Woodford Green, London IG8 0XG. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

THURS 02 Fish on a Dish - Sea Pebbles in Hatch End

🕒 12 noon 🍷 £16.95 🍴🍴🍴

Sea Pebbles opened its doors in 1990 and the family-owned business has won numerous awards and is proud of its family tradition in serving food for the local community. Cost: You can choose a fish or vegetarian two course menu for just £16.95. Book by Wednesday 1 October. Sea Pebbles Fish Restaurant, 348-352 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4HR. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).



THURS 02 Art Tour with Roger Turner

🕒 2.30pm 🍷 Free 🚐

Back by popular demand, Roger will guide you through a selection of 20th century paintings at Tate Britain. Meet at 2pm inside the Manton



Foyer (this is the side entrance on Atterbury Street). Book by Wednesday 24 September. Tate Britain, Atterbury Street (Side entrance), London SW1P 4RG. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267.

FRI 03 Tragic Hollywood: The Story of Peg Entwistle

🕒 2pm 🍷 Free 📺 Online 🗨️🗨️

Paul Fitton's presentation tells of the sad story of Peg Entwistle, the Welsh actress who threw herself from the Hollywood sign. Visit www.zoom.us and add Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810 or email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk for a direct link.



October

TUES
07

Family History Help and Tutorial



2pm



Free



Online



The Oddfellows archives hold over 200 years of genealogical, social and organisational history and they're all yours to browse and research any time you like online. Paul Fitton advises you about this valuable resource in this month's family history presentation. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

THURS
09

Drinks and Nibbles at Warren Street



6pm



Members £5
Guests £10



Come along to our regular get together for some wine and nibbles with friends old and new. Please email Jackie at least three days before if you if you would like to attend. Book by Monday 1 September. Duchess House, 18-19 Warren Street, (Entrance first door on the left on Grafton Mews) W1T 5LR. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267.

FRI
10

Operation Pegasus: A Story of Extraordinary Bravery



2pm



Free



Online



Tony Sheldon has documented the experiences of Dutch civilians during and after the Battle of Arnhem. In particular, the help they were able to give British and Polish troops caught behind enemy lines. The Dutch Resistance combined with British officers to organise Operation Pegasus, the largest home run, or escape from behind enemy lines, of Allied troops in the Second World War. Their story is one of extraordinary bravery. Visit www.zoom.us and add Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810 or email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk for a direct link.

October

MON 13 Eat Out at The Moon and Sixpence in Harrow

L 12 noon

£ £10



The Moon and Sixpence was originally a Barclays Bank Branch built 100 years ago.



Today, it is a Wetherspoons continuing local traditions and featuring reminders of local celebrities, such as Barry Cryer on its walls. Cost: You can enjoy a meal and drink for under £10. Book by Friday 10 October. The Moon and Sixpence, 250 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Harrow HA5 4HS. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

THURS 16 London 1851 and the Great Exhibition

L 2pm

£ Free



The Great Exhibition of 1851 was probably the most successful, memorable and influential cultural event of the 19th century. With Prince Albert's energetic patronage and Joseph Paxton's gigantic pre-fabricated building of iron and glass, Hyde Park was from May to October 1851, filled with over six million visitors who were able to view over 100,000 exhibits. The first in a series of three presentations by Michael Gilbert. Free light refreshments. Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road, Enfield EN2 6TG. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

WED 15 Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch

L 11am and 1.30pm

£ Donation



Mattie Faint aka Mattie the Clown opens up the doors of The Clown archives exclusively to Oddfellows. See costumes worn by some of the world's most famous clowns, learn about 'The Clown Egg Register' and see many artefacts from the fascinating world of clowns. Two groups, morning and afternoon, meeting up for lunch between each visit. Visits 11am and 1.30pm. Please state choice, or both, when booking.

Limited numbers, so please book your place early. The two groups will meet up at Pret A Manger nearby between each visit. Eight minutes walk from Farringdon Station is served by the Circle, Hammersmith and City, Metropolitan and Elizabeth underground lines and the Thameslink overground line. Suggested donation £5 to £10. Book with Paul (see page 3) by Tuesday 14 October for full details. The Clowns' Museum, 37B Sekforde Street, Farringdon, London EC1R 0HA.

October

The History of Mystery - Part 3: Whatever happened to the Roanoke Colony?

FRI
17



2pm



Free



Online



The Roanoke Colony was an attempt by Sir Walter Raleigh to find the first permanent English settlement in North America. The colony was founded in 1585, but when it was visited by a ship in 1590, the colonists had inexplicably disappeared. It has come to be known as the Lost Colony and the fate of the 112 to 121 colonists remains unknown. In his presentation, Paul Fitton explains what might have attempted to the colony and adds some further mystery to the story. Visit www.zoom.us and add Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810 or email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk for a direct link.

FRI
24

Ten and More - Famous Belgians



2pm



Free



Online



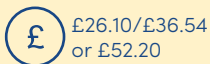
Melanie Gibson-Barton's Zoom talk will show that the people of the tiny country of Belgium, not given their independence until 1830, are famous for more than their chocolate, chips and beer. The wide-ranging talk will give the stories of men and women born through the centuries to modern times in the area covered by present-day Belgium; a country just 14% the size of the United Kingdom. Melanie sets out to prove that there are many reasons to be grateful to this tiny country, where she had a second home for many years. Zoom Meeting ID: 876 1449 6492. Contact Paul (see page 3) for a direct link.

THURS
23

The Mousetrap



3pm



£26.10/£36.54
or £52.20



Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* is the world's longest-running play. This thrilling West End production which has become as much of a London icon as Big Ben or Buckingham Palace is the genre-defining murder mystery from the best-selling novelist of all time and case closed! For almost 70 years, this whodunit has kept 10 million people on the edge of their seats until its twist ending, which the audience are traditionally asked not to reveal after leaving the theatre. Tickets are subject to availability and must be booked and paid for by the deadline. Cost: Tickets available for £26.10 and £36.54 (Upper Circle) or £52.20 (Dress Circle). Book by Friday 15 August. St Martin's Theatre, West Street, London WC2H 9NZ. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details).

October

TUES
28

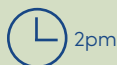
Art Unscrewed



At the end of our one hour session, you'll have painted Goldfish! Our regular guide Dulcie Rowe shows you how. Zoom Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020 and Passcode: 1810. Contact Paul (see page 3 for details) for a direct link.

FRI
31

Confessions of a Reluctant 14th Century Re-enactor



The story of one family who spent 12 summers living the 14th century life in encampment compounds. Come with us to experience camping in the grounds of medieval castles and ruined abbeys, to jousting events, medieval fairs, heritage celebrations and Wiccan festivals. See how the family survived the Black Death, famine, war, pillage and Portaloos! Visit www.zoom.us and add Meeting ID 910 7968 6020 and Passcode 1810 or email paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk for a direct link.



Young Jayney

By our Resident Poet
Jackie Ingleby-Douglass

*Young Jayney left the party late,
Waved to Angie at the gate.
Off she walked into the night.
Not another soul in sight.*

*She'd said she'd meet him in the park -
not a good choice after dark.
As she walked she looked around,
jumping at the slightest sound.*

*She'd told her mum she won't be home.
Staying at Angie's, wouldn't roam.
She felt the cold snow on her face,
so she quickened up her pace.*

*She reached the park all cold and wet.
No sign of him, no worries yet.
The church clock chimed the midnight hour,
high up in the big bell tower.*

*Five minutes passed, another ten,
then the snow came back again.
Where are you Tommy? Please come soon.
It seemed like daytime with the moon.*

*She huddled up against a wall
feeling oh so very small.
With hands like ice and feet like lead
she wished that she was home in bed.*

*How could he do this? Leave her there.
He said he loved her. That's not fair.
She didn't see the car go by.
All she could do was stand and cry.*

*The car had stopped. Her mum jumped out.
They hugged and hugged each other
Oh Jayney baby, never lie.
Especially to your mother.*

Chairman's Letter

Firstly, I wish to congratulate John Mann of neighbouring South London District. At our Annual Movable Conference (AMC) in May, John was introduced as the Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society for the next 12 months.

Congratulations too, to my North London colleague Nick Norman, who was re-elected to the Oddfellows National Investigation Committee for 2025/2026.



I now want to show you this letter from a member. It shows his feelings for the Oddfellows friends that he has made. It summarises the care, support and thoughtfulness behind Oddfellows membership. It reads:

'If anything were to epitomise the meaning of Fellowship, it is the cheque in my hand right now. Its monetary value is of minor consequence, but well received nonetheless. Its intrinsic value is immeasurable and, that

of its effect on our two adult children. They didn't understand our need to attend 'The Club' and odd excursions to places of interest. They know now that it was the foundation of something that we are so privileged to enjoy and be part of as Oddfellows, and friends of you all.



'The respect, friendship, support and love emanating from this small piece of paper, are a testament, that we made a life enhancing decision to join the Oddfellows. Thank you all.'

Doesn't that sentiment show just what a caring and benevolent friendship group we have.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Oddfellows, have a look at the article in this magazine.

I hope to see you at one of the many events that we have organised for you this year.

Lyndon Adolph
Chairman (Provincial Grand Master)

Used Stamps

Jane Parkin is collecting used stamps for Many Tears Animal Rescue Charity. She would love to receive your used stamps. Please either hand them to her or send to her at Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY.



Oddfellows Memorabilia

Paul Fitton continues his look at past Oddfellows items

This Oddfellows commemorative pearlware mug has green, red and black transferware. It was made probably in Staffordshire and could be a quite early piece, perhaps between 1820 and 1840. It weighs 276gms and is 10.5cms or 4¼" high and 9.5cms or 3¾" in diameter.

This first picture portrays Lady Justice balancing the scales. This dates back to the goddess Maat in ancient Egypt. She is holding a set of scales to measure the weight of evidence for and against. Since the 16th century, Lady Justice has been depicted wearing a blindfold. This represents impartiality.

The inscriptions read 'Independent Order of Odd Fellows' and the Latin Oddfellows motto 'Amicitia Amor et Veritas', meaning 'Friendship, Love and Truth' at the front. It bears a shield at the front containing Oddfellows symbols. The interior of the rim is also decorated with a beautiful floral border.

The figure of a woman worker values the female labourer at that time. Women had second-class status in industry. She was generally confined to less skilled and lower-paid work than men for performing the same work. This picture recognised the changing role of women at that time from domestic to economic.



Linda Regan

Who doesn't love this time of the year. It's the time we can jet off to sunshine. I have to admit to needing a holiday recently, and to be sure of sunshine, I jetted off to a tropical island.



Some of you know me as I am lucky enough to have got to know you at your meeting places. So, you may also know I am a strong animal supporter. Hence the smack on the wrist I gave myself for what I am about to tell you.

We had arrived on this sunny Island just the day before and were walking around admiring its beauty: flowers as big as large balloons, trees abundantly healthy and green from constant sunshine. It felt like paradise.

I leaned in to admire a large tree and lo and behold found two enormous black eyes staring at me.

At first it made me jump, and then when I looked again, I noticed it was a large crab. In a tree! We were a mere few feet from the sea, and as that's where crabs live, under the sand, or so I learned at geography or was it biology? I turned to my friend, 'There's a large crab stuck in this tree,' I told her. 'It's obviously lost and in distress.' 'It'll pinch you if you touch it,' she answered. 'Yes, but it may have run away from crab hunters and now is lost,' I told her.

I was getting worried by this time. 'It will be very stressed, poor thing, it's clearly lost.'

She fished into her beach bag and handed me a towel. 'Ok let's get him back to the beach,' she said, 'But be careful it really hurts if they pinch you.'

I took the towel and leaned in toward the creature. It stared at me with its large black appealing eyes. I then very carefully lifted, her or he, and hurried toward the beach. I spoke to her, or he, to assure them I was taking them home.

We reached the beach, and I carefully placed, he or she, down on the sand. There it stood, making no effort to dig a hole as crabs do. Then, after a few seconds, it turned sideways and started running like crazy back the way we came. As soon as it reached the tree, it crawled, sideways, back up to where I had found her, or he.

Next thing, a lovely native lady came up to me. 'Lovely creatures,' she said tilting her head toward the now settled crab.

'But it's lost I protested. It needs to be on sand. That's where they live.'

She threw her head back and chuckled. 'My dear, you can tell you're not from round here. On this Island there are two different types of crabs, sand crabs, and this little fella here, he's a tree crab. He lives in trees, not the beach. His house is here, in this tree.'

I have to admit I blushed. 'So sorry I said, immediately wishing I'd paid more attention at geography lessons, or was it biology?'

Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to...



Trailblazers: Women of Bloomsbury

What a beautiful day for our Bloomsbury walk learning about female trailblazers, writes Jackie Lancaster. Thank you to Chris our guide for another great walk... and lovely to meet some new faces. Bijon Dutta commented, 'Very interesting story regarding Noor Inayat Khan'. An amazing brave woman.



Photos by Jackie Lancaster

The Great Gatsby



Dave Slaughter writes, 'The show sparkled and shone right from the opening chorus. The costumes were amazing. You couldn't miss the performers on stage with their glitzy outfits. Spectacular Art Deco sets and scenery with some exceptional male singers who, unusually eclipsed the females by far. We thoroughly enjoyed the show and had some nice company. We have seen

quite a few West End shows and this was certainly one of the best shows we have ever seen. If you get a chance then you must go! Especially, if you can get some good priced tickets courtesy of the Oddfellows. [Our next theatre trip is to see The Mousetrap. See page 13. Ed]

Tutankhamun Immersive Experience

'Thank you for organising such a wonderful day out. I had a really good time, never having visited an 'immersive exhibition' - and it was well worth the money', reports Nadine Nylander. The experience allows visitors to explore Egyptian civilisation, with a fascinating mix of historical information, original and replica artefacts, and virtual reality experiences.

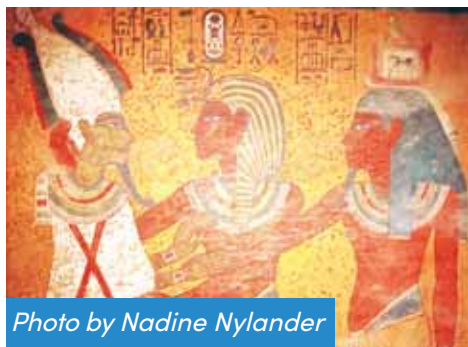


Photo by Nadine Nylander

Summer Meals

Members have enjoyed eating out at various venues, including our own rooms at Warren Street. Foodies from Ruislip, Enfield, Pinner, Highbury, Winchmore Hill, Hatch End, Muswell Hill and Kenton.



Four of a dozen happy members dining at The Mossey Well in Muswell Hill

We have arranged more opportunities for you to enjoy the company of other members in the next few months at Warren Street, Westminster, Stanmore, Enfield, Highbury, Hatch End and Farringdon, as well as spreading out in the east to Highams Park, Chingford and Woodford Green. Don't forget our Friendship Month Hog Roast in Islington too. Make sure that you book early for that!

Finding your Path through Retirement



When you've given decades to a career, your profession becomes a big part of who you are. And when retirement arrives, the switch to days without the standard routine and the effortless access to company can prove unsettling.

This was the case for 61-year-old, Vivienne Jones (pictured above right) from Enfield. In 2024, she retired from her 30-year career in the NHS and soon realised how important it was to explore purpose and factor in new friendships.

Missing work pals

Vivienne held a challenging role as a Clinical Practice Facilitator within the specialism of Haematology at the University College Hospital in London. Her last position was as a Lecturer at the Royal Marsden School, supporting the growing discipline of Advance Clinical Practitioners and helping nurses to achieve their specialist qualifications in haematology, including blood cancers.

'I retired earlier than expected and I missed the social interactions with my work pals,' explained Vivienne.

'I felt a bit lost and I knew I needed to connect with people. I searched online for activities I could do locally, and the Oddfellows' friendship groups came up on Google.

'I didn't know what type of people joined the Oddfellows. However, when I did my online research, I saw people looking like they didn't take life too seriously.

'I thought, 'I like the sound of them'. There was a virtual open day where you could find out more about the groups beforehand, which was a good introduction.

I met such lovely people there and I thought 'I like this'.

'After that, I went along to a local Oddfellows event, which was a trip to Westminster Cathedral.

The speaker was very knowledgeable. It was so interesting! I met such lovely people there and I thought 'I like this'.

'What was also nice was that a couple of the group's regulars asked if I wanted to join them for a drink afterwards, and it all just went from there," added Vivienne.

Now a member of North London Oddfellows for over a year, Vivienne says joining the friendship group has been one of the best things she's done since retiring.

Enjoyment and connection

The chance to explore a variety of interesting activities is one of the key reasons she decided to join, enjoying its group outings, talks on painting and art, and afternoon teas.

Explained Vivienne: 'I've had so many amazing experiences and meeting other people from all walks of life fills my soul. Chatting to other retirees, especially those who have been retired for a while, has really helped me to understand what I want from this stage of my life, too. It has also given me hope for the future.'

A significant part of working through the changes that come into your life in retirement, Vivienne shared, was to consider purpose.

She explained: 'A big thing that opened up after retirement was where to channel my need to care for people and nurture, having worked in the NHS for so long.

'I've just started volunteering with a local charity called Enact on their initiatives to bring young parents together within the community.'

No judgement

Vivienne also shared how it was the lack of judgement of other people in the group that made her instantly feel at home within the Oddfellows.

'It feels homely,' she added. 'There's no judgement of what you look like, what you've done as a job, or your age. It's relaxed and easy and you meet lots of people who have similar experiences of life that you can chat about. Socialising beyond friends and family is important.'

Paul Fitton, Event Organiser for North London Oddfellows, said: 'It's great to have Vivienne as a member. She brings a wonderful and lively new dynamic to our gang.

'As an event organiser, it gives me so much pleasure to see members meet for the first time and then talk about meeting up again at future Oddfellows get-togethers.'

Vivienne agreed that giving a new social group a try can be daunting at first, but recommends heading along to an activity that has a presentation, visit or tour, as there will always be something to talk about.

'Just give it a go', enthused Vivienne. 'The people you will meet are just ordinary people like you. I was looking for fun and to simply meet other people with similar interests. And I found just that!'

The Numbers Game

The Oddfellows is 215 years old this year. We arranged 40 events for you in the last three months. Our highest Zoom attendance this year has been 22 members.

Letters and Feedback

The Great Gatsby and more!

" We went to see the Great Gatsby musical in May and met and talked to fellow Oddfellows at the show. We met Dave and Sheila, and I was able to indulge in a bit of nostalgia as I discovered Sheila was born in the same hospital, The 'Lying-in Hospital', as me and like me spent most of her formative years in Bermondsey. I had seen Lying-in Hospital on my birth certificate but always assumed it was wrong as it seemed a very unlikely name until I looked it up. Apparently, it was common in those days to have a separate maternity hospital.



Sheila mentioned 'The Blue', a term I hadn't heard for many years but it referred to the local shopping area close to where we lived in Bermondsey. I recall that it seemed quite a distance away when I walked there as a child. Many years later I went back to find it was only just round the corner but I was a little smaller when I lived there and my legs a lot shorter! I still have the scar on my eyebrow from when I walked into a lamp post on my way to The Blue so I have a permanent reminder. "

Dave Slaughter

Lunches

" Just to say a big thank you for our visit to the Crown and Horseshoes at Enfield. Great pub, lovely food, great service and good company. Really enjoyed it. Thank you for organising the meal at The White Swan too. Really enjoyable afternoon, great group, great conversations.

" Vera Spencer



Bookings and Cancellations

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you will advise the organiser if you can – or cannot – attend events. Otherwise they'll have to eat all the cakes on the day!

Tutankhamun Immersive Experience



“ Really enjoyed the exhibition. Spent around 2½ hours. Not too crowded and only a bit of queueing towards the end. ”

Diane Coxon

Zoom Presentations

“ I felt Michael Gilbert’s presentation about The 1851 Hyde Park Exhibition was knowledgeable and interesting and well worth the 90 minutes of my time. ”

Wade Miller-Knight

“ I really enjoyed the talk on the Belgian royal family... quite fascinating and how it was told. I am curious about history, royalty stories etc. I am especially pleased that I clicked on the link and zoomed in, no problem! Keep me informed from now on. ”

Anon of Mallorca

Zap a Zoom

One of the easiest ways to meet new people is to join a Zoom social session.

The Oddfellows started to hold regular Zooms during the summer of 2020 with as many as 30 every week. They continue to this day, although only about 15 appear in our weekly programme. Our District hosts a social session via Zoom every Friday and monthly Art and Family History tuition opening with a ‘meet and greet’ welcome, this is followed by a short presentation by either an outside speaker or our regular presenter, Paul Fitton. The meet-up concludes with general chat and laughs and smiles before a look ahead to the following week.

Keep Young and Beautiful

(Part Two) by Paul Fitton ©

I've had a birthday since the last issue. Another year older, another year wider!



Needed a calculator to add the candles on the cake. Continuing the birthday theme, studies have shown that people who have more birthdays live longer than those that do not have as many.

How are you doing with your weight? I remember having an argument with an 'I Speak Your Weight' machine. I've always had a weight problem – I've never had enough if it... until now. I usually add 8lbs on every Christmas/New Year and lose it within a week. This year, it's stayed... and grown.

My weight has been edging up closer and closer to 14st until last weekend when it reached 13st 13lbs. Eight restaurant and cafe meals in the past 2 weeks haven't helped. But great news! I've suddenly found a magical way to lose those pounds. It's easy. Just switch the scales to kgs and you never know what you weigh. 88kgs and proud.



I was having a pint with some old pals in my local. One told me that he's now at the age where an 'all-nighter' just means that he doesn't need to get up out of bed to pee. Another mentioned his creaky knees and this led to a chorus of complaints about aches and pains. I've reached the age where it's considered rude to pull out a bottle of painkillers if I don't have enough for everyone else, so I bought a round of drinks instead.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, 'I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it'. So, you can trust me to tell me your secrets. I'll forget them straightaway anyway.

I was going to say something else. If I remember what it was, I'll add it to part three in the next edition.

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



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

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

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

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

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

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, 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.”

Socialising again after loss

It's only natural when grieving to retreat socially. Feeling ready to socialise again can take some people weeks, and others years. Take it one step at a time, and do what feels right for you.

As one of the UK's biggest and oldest friendly societies, we're no stranger to supporting people through difficult times. Our branches host regular social events, so if you feel ready to try out a new group or activity then we'd love to welcome you.

Feel free to

Ring ahead of any events so you know what to expect. We could arrange for someone to be there to welcome you, or you could bring a friend or family member along.

Give us a try first before becoming a member. You've nothing to lose. Try an activity that matches your interests and meet like-minded people. Join us at one of our monthly online open days.

Moving forward with loss

Anyone who has experienced grief knows it doesn't follow rules – you may feel hopeful one day and be overcome with emotion the next. According to Dr Jennifer Wild,



the key is moving forward with your grief and using it as your greatest strength.

Here for you when you're ready

We've branches across the country. Take the first step and find out what events are of interest.

Bookings and Cancellations

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you will advise the organiser if you can – or cannot – attend events. Otherwise they'll have to eat all the cakes on the day!



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 your Branch Secretary Terry Rowland on 020 7226 1740.

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**

At a glance

August 2025

Wed 6	Meal at The County Arms	12 noon
Fri 8	Lands End to John O'Groats by Train	2pm
Tues 12	Meal at The Duck in the Pond	1pm
Thurs 14	Warren Street Get Together	6pm
Fri 15	A Chance Encounter	2pm
Wed 20	Tour of Trafalgar Square and Meal	11am
Thurs 21	Ploughman's Lunch	2pm
Fri 22	The Adventures of a 19th Century Englishman in India	2pm
Tues 26	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Wed 27	Guided Tour of Clapham's Blue Plaques	11am

September - Friendship Month

Tues 2	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
Wed 3	Savour Turkish Flavours at Lydia Restaurant	12 noon
Thurs 4	Winchmore Hill Historical Walk	2pm
Fri 5	A History of Lesnes Abbey	2pm
Mon 8	Adventure and Prizes Await in the London Treasure Hunt!	11am
Wed 17	Pub Lunch in Highbury	12 noon
Thurs 18	Incredible 575 Wandsworth Road - A National Trust Property	2pm
Fri 19	Sydenham 1854 and the Crystal Palace	2pm
Wed 24	Royal Albert Hall - Symphonic Queen	3pm
Sat 27	Hog Roast and Entertainment	2pm
Tues 30	Art Unscrewed	4pm

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

At a glance

October

Wed 1	Thrill to a Meal at the Castle, Chingford	12 noon
Thurs 2	Fish on a Dish – Sea Pebbles in Hatch End	12 noon
Thurs 2	Art Tour with Roger Turner	2.30pm
Fri 3	Tragic Hollywood: The Story of Peg Entwistle	2pm
Tues 7	Family History Help and Tutorial	2pm
Thurs 9	Drinks and Nibbles at Warren Street	6pm
Fri 10	Operation Pegasus: A Story of Extraordinary Bravery	2pm
Mon 13	Eat Out at The Moon and Sixpence in Harrow	12 noon
Wed 15	Visit to The Clowns' Museum and Lunch	11am and 1.30pm
Thurs 16	London 1851 and the Great Exhibition	2pm
Fri 17	The History of Mystery – Part 3: Whatever happened to the Roanoke Colony?	2pm
Thurs 23	The Mousetrap	3pm
Fri 24	Ten and More – Famous Belgians	2pm
Tues 28	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Fri 31	Confessions of a Reluctant 14th Century Re-enactor	2pm

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.

**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/1024SMALL