

January - July 2025



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

out & about

North West Kent



Gravesend, Sikh Temple



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 DA1 1YN

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.

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



Members Free, Guests £3



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.

8 January

5 February

5 March

19 March

16 April

7 May

4 June



January 2025

MON
20

Film Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)



7.30pm



Members Free, Guests £5



Come and join us for a relaxing evening, with friends, popcorn etc. Film to be confirmed. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



January 2025

WED
22

Soup and a Sandwich (Newtown Branch)

L 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come and join us for soup and a sandwich and converse with friends. Book by Wednesday 8 January. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



February

MON
17

Bingo!

L 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £5



Who is up for a game of bingo! There will be a charge for the bingo books of £3. Book by Sunday 2 February. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

February

WED
19

Annual Swap Shop (Newtown Branch)

L 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Please bring along something you might like to swap or donate! Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

March

MON
17

Race Night

(Hope of Dartford Branch)

L 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £5



It's race night time again! Jockey's and horses at the ready! Don't forget those 20 pences. Book by Monday 3 March. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

April

WED
02

Fish and Chips Lunch (Newtown Branch)

L 11am

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come and enjoy a fish and chips lunch with friends. Book by Sunday 2 March. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



SAT
05

Country Music Night

L 7pm

£ TBC



Come and join us for something a little different. A country music night with buffet and entertainment. Brush off your hats and boots and come along. Book by Sunday 23 February. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

May

MON
12

80th Anniversary VE Day Evening Tea (Hope of Dartford Branch)

L 7pm

£ Members Free
Guests £5



80 years since VE Day, so to celebrate we are holding an evening tea. Come along and join us. Book by Sunday 20 April. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

June

MON
16

Hercule Poirot by Tony Harris (Hope of Dartford Branch)

L 7.30pm



£ Members Free, Guests £5



Come and join us for another fantastic evening with Tony Harris as Hercule Poirot. Always a pleasurable evening and great fun. Book by Wednesday 30 April. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

Photo by user: Peeperman

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.

WED
18

Day Trip (Newtown Branch)

L TBC

£ TBC



Not sure where we are going yet, but it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible. Book by Thursday 1 May. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



July

SAT
12

Coach Trip to Milestone (Hope of Dartford Branch)

L 9am

£ TBC



Come and join us for a trip down memory lane. Book by Sunday 2 March. Milestones Museum of Living History, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke RG22 6PG. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



Forthcoming Event

September – Friendship Month

SAT
20

Annual Celebration Dinner Dance



6.30pm



TBC



ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Here it is again! Our annual Celebration Dinner Dance. Come and join us for an evening of fun, food and entertainment. Book by Thursday 1 May. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



REFER A FRIEND

Share the love and make someone smile



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

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

Ref 1644

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 21 January, 7pm - Eating Healthy on a Budget

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 831 3197 2367. Passcode: 068189.

Friday 7 February, 2pm - The North Shields Fishermen's Heritage Project or Never Retire

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 910 7968 6020. Passcode: 1810.

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
Social Organiser

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**

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.

Harnessing the warmth of friendship

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

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

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

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

Spreading friendship

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

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



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

2025's positive foundations

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

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

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

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

Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

Oddfellows Travel 2025

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

Whales, Waterfalls and Geysers of Iceland

17 to 29 July (12 nights)



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

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

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

Scarborough

1 to 5 October (4 nights)



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

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

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



A recent Oddfellows Travel 'Mystery Cruise' trip

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

Measuring and offsetting our carbon footprint

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

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



Our carbon footprint

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

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

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

Reducing and offsetting

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

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

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

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

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

At a glance

January 2025

Mon 6	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 8	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 20	Film Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 22	Soup and a Sandwich (Newtown Branch)	11am

February

Mon 3	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 5	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 17	Bingo!	7.30pm
Wed 19	Annual Swap Shop (Newtown Branch)	11am

March

Mon 3	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 5	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 17	Race Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 19	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

April

Wed 2	Fish and Chips Lunch (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 5	Country Music Night	7pm
Mon 7	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 16	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

May

Wed 7	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 7	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Mon 12	80th Anniversary VE Day Evening Tea (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7pm

June

Mon 2	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Wed 4	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

At a glance

June

Mon 16	Hercule Poirot by Tony Harris (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 18	Day Trip (Newtown Branch)	TBC

July

Mon 7	Branch Meeting	7.30pm
Sat 12	Coach Trip to Milestone (Hope of Dartford Branch)	9am

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.

District 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 in the monthly newsletter. Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA1 1YN. The dates are:

Monday 6 January	Monday 7 April	Monday 7 July
Monday 3 February	Wednesday 7 May	
Monday 3 March	Monday 2 June	

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  [northwestkentoddfellows](#)

 [OddfellowsUK](#)

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