

July - December 2026



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

out & about

North West Kent



Eastbourne



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



To
book

To Book Events



Online



Amberley Museum Steam Weekend – Sunday 19 July

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

We would like to welcome all of our new members. 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



Various
Wednesday

Come and join us at Newtown Branch for a catch up and a coffee at our coffee morning. It is a chance to see and meet up with friends and make new ones. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

1 July

5 August

19 August

21 October

18 November

2 December



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, contact Sarah by phone on **07415 012615** or email sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

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

www.oddfellows.co.uk

July 2026

WED
15 **Cream Tea**
(Newtown Branch)

 12 noon  Members Free
Guests £5 

Come and join us for afternoon cream tea. Please let us know of any allergies if you wish to come. Book by Monday 15 June. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

SUN
19 **Coach Trip to**
Amberley Museum
(Hope of Dartford Branch)

 9am  Members £10
Guests £35 



Meeting opposite Holy Trinity Church, Dartford. Parking in Acacia Hall is free on Sundays and taking the coach to Amberley Museum on their Steam Weekend. Please note, it will be best for you to bring a lunch on this occasion. Book by Friday 10 July. Amberley Museum, New Barn Road, Amberley, Arundel BN18 9LT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



WED
02 **Coffee Morning with**
Chair Yoga
(Newtown Branch)

 11am  Free 

Come along and have a go at chair yoga whilst enjoying refreshment afterwards as a reward. All abilities welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

WED
16 **Macmillan Musical**
Afternoon
(Newtown Branch)

 12 noon  Members Free
Guests £5 



Come and join us as we raise money for Macmillan. You will receive refreshments and live entertainment. Booking is essential! Book by Wednesday 19 August. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

September

SAT
19

Annual Celebration Dinner Dance (North West Kent District)



6.30pm



Members £10, Guests £35



Time for our annual celebration dinner dance, a brilliant evening with friends, food, drink, entertainment and dancing. Entertainment with Andy 'Bad' Robinson. Bringing your ticket is essential. Book by Monday 24 August. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

Circle
September for
new friendships

Who can you invite
along to join in the
friendship and fun?

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



All welcome

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

October

WED
07

Coffee Morning with Chair Yoga (Newtown Branch)



11am



Free



Come along and have a go at chair yoga whilst enjoying refreshment afterwards as a reward. All abilities

welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



MON
19

Bingo (Traditional) (Hope of Dartford Branch)



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £5
Bingo £3



Come and join us for a traditional game of bingo or housey housey as it used to be known. This is a free event, however, there will be a £3 charge for the bingo card. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

November

WED
04 **Coffee Morning with
Chair Yoga**
(Newtown Branch)



Come along and have a go at chair yoga whilst enjoying refreshment afterwards as a reward. All abilities welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



MON
16 **Quiz Night**
(Hope of Dartford Branch)



Come and test your brains with us at our quiz. It is a lot of fun with friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

December

SAT
12 **Christmas Party**
(North West Kent District)



Another great Christmas party, lots of fun with friends, dancing, entertainment from Abbey Rogues and a lovely three course Christmas dinner. There will be a raffle, raising money for The SAM Fund. Book by Sunday 8 November. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

WED
16 **Christmas Buffet**
(Newtown Branch)



Merry Christmas! Time to celebrate with friends at our Christmas buffet. Booking is essential by Wednesday 2 December! Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

Forthcoming Event – January 2027

SUN
03

Pantomime (North West Kent District)



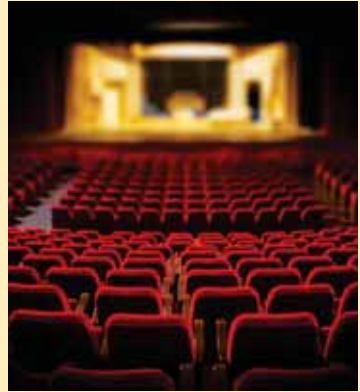
1pm



Members £15, Guests £50



Time for the panto again! Oh no it's not! This year's panto is Cinderella with Joe Pasquale as Buttons. If you wish to join us, please let us know as soon as possible. Book by Tuesday 1 September 2026. The Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1ED. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



Bookings and Cancellations



We kindly encourage early booking for all events to avoid disappointment. Please note that, where charges apply, full payment must be made in advance. A place at an event will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

Outdoor Events

All outdoor events are subject to weather conditions. It is essential that you book in advance for all events and provide up-to-date contact details, enabling us to notify you promptly of any changes or cancellations.



Life members, Widow members, Associate and Extra Benefit members

Don't forget, if you have opted for the benefits package you are entitled to make a claim following a visit to the dentist or optician.



Past events at North West Kent

Rock and Roll Night in March



Donald Trump came to visit aka Tony Harris in April



Race Night in May



Coach Trip to Eastbourne in May



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**

Oddies autumn getaway to Llandudno

Join us as we take a trip to Llandudno, North Wales, on an Oddfellows-hosted group holiday with Alfa Travel.

Oddfellows members and guests will take in some breathtaking scenery during a four-night stay at the Hydro Hotel from Saturday 26 September to Wednesday 30 September 2026.

From £369 per person, half board, the price includes coach pick up and drop off from locations across the South East via Reading, or a self-arrival option.



Outstanding natural beauty

Two optional day trips are included in the price of the holiday.

On day two, you'll head by coach to the Isle of Anglesey, where the entire coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You'll call at the seaside town of Beaumaris with its mix of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

On day four, the second day trip will head to Caernarfon, home to Wales' most famous castle and a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. Afterwards, you'll venture into the Snowdonia National Park, calling at Llanberis, situated at the foot of Mount Snowdon, and Porthmadog.

Relax in great company

We'll be organising some group drinks and times to dine together during the stay, and enjoying the hotel's evening entertainment, but your days will be largely free to plan as you please.

The hotel has a large entertainment suite with a dance floor and entertainment most evenings, and there are sun lounges and a games room with a snooker table.

You'll also find spectacular views over the bay or over the town to the Snowdonia mountain range from many of the hotel's bedrooms and from its Looking Glass Bar.

Interested in joining us?

This group holiday is open to any members and their guests and will be hosted by our Oddfellows Travel coordinator and South East Lancashire Branch member, Emma Gorst.

For any enquiries, and to find out how to book, get in touch with Emma by calling **0161 214 4634**, or email travel@oddfellows.co.uk.

Please read and understand Alfa Travel's terms and conditions before booking at www.alfaholidays.co.uk/booking-conditions.

Support with fundraising and donations

Donating to good causes is a cornerstone of Oddfellowship, and symbolises what it is all about – helping to improve lives through friendship and support.

It's a thread that runs right through every Branch of the Society. Whether it's members dropping some spare change into a collection at a coffee morning, or the HA Andrews Memorial Fund supporting cutting-edge medical research projects, it all adds up and contributes to that ethos.

Branch donations add up to huge 2025 total



Reading Oddfellows donated £4,300 to Camp Mohawk

Oddfellows branches and members are avid fundraisers. In 2025, more than £148,000 was handed over to a huge range of wonderful causes throughout the country.

Beneficiaries included schools, charities for people with special needs, animal sanctuaries, causes to improve health conditions, lifeboat and air ambulance

charities, and one branch provided the funds required to buy state-of-the-art medical equipment.

As well as handing over funds, many members bought and collected for foodbanks, including tinned goods and other long-life foods, toiletries and further everyday items.

To find out how you can get involved with Branch fundraising initiatives, speak to your Branch Secretary.

£10,000 raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts

The Oddfellows recently donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.



Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa.

HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipient announced

In October 2025, representatives of the Oddfellows visited the impressive facilities at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to present a cheque for £67,068 to Prevent Breast Cancer, courtesy of our HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

The money will fund an innovative breast cancer prevention research project for two years.

Carried out by University of Manchester PhD student Anthony Wilby and Dr Hannah Harrison, the project is aiming to discover alternative preventative breast cancer therapies for pre-menopausal women.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund, which was set up in 1971 to back UK-based medical research projects and organisations, has donated over £1.1m

since its launch. Head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the Fund, including previous recipients.

The very best of Oddfellowship

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey (pictured below at MCRC), said: "The work the Oddfellows does for charities and good causes always astounds me. It reflects the very best of Oddfellowship and it makes me incredibly proud.

"Donating to good causes, no matter how big or small, or how much we can contribute, can make a huge difference. Our efforts might well have saved a life, put some food on a young family's table, or simply have made someone's day a little brighter.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. You're all a huge credit to yourselves and the Society."



For more on how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Spring clean your finances for the new tax year

The start of the new tax year on Monday 6 April might sound like an event reserved for accountants, but at Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's a time everyone can make the most of.

Here are some simple ways to spring clean your finances and get on top of your money for the tax year ahead.

Make the most of your ISA

Every adult receives a fresh £20,000 ISA allowance at the beginning of each tax year, so if your savings are lying dormant, why not move them somewhere your interest is protected from tax?



For those comfortable with investment risk, the Unity Mutual Stocks and Shares Flexible ISA* offers potentially higher growth than traditional Cash ISAs (capital is at risk).

Guaranteed returns, less hassle

If you have a lump sum sitting idle or an investment coming to maturity, a Unity

Mutual Fixed Rate Bond* provides a predictable, low-effort option. Simply deposit your money for a set term to secure a guaranteed return.

Even better, Oddfellows members benefit from preferential rates on our 2, 3, and 5-year Bonds.

Make savings work harder

With many banks still offering low rates, a quick comparison is essential to ensure your money is working for you. Even moving savings to a higher-interest account with your current provider can significantly boost your balance over the year.

Find out more

Unity Mutual has over 200 years of experience managing Oddfellows members' funds, and our friendly team is on hand to help you navigate the year ahead. Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

**Terms and conditions apply to all products. With stocks and shares, your investment can go down as well as up meaning your capital is at risk.*

New tax year, new scams

Stay vigilant against common scams such as fake HMRC tax rebates or urgent payment requests for 'unpaid tax'. While these communications can look genuine, always verify them by going directly to the official government website.

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 and 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 6 July

Monday 5 October

Monday 3 August

Monday 2 November

Monday 7 September

Monday 7 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  [northwestkentoddfellows](https://www.facebook.com/northwestkentoddfellows)

At a glance

July 2026

Wed 1	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 15	Cream Tea (Newtown Branch)	12 noon
Sun 19	Coach Trip to Amberley Museum (Hope of Dartford Branch)	9am

August

Wed 5	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 19	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

September - Friendship Month

Wed 2	Coffee Morning with Chair Yoga (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 16	Macmillan Musical Afternoon (Newtown Branch)	12 noon
Sat 19	Annual Celebration Dinner Dance (North West Kent District)	6.30pm

October

Wed 7	Coffee Morning with Chair Yoga (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 19	Bingo (Traditional) (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 21	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

November

Wed 4	Coffee Morning with Chair Yoga (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 16	Quiz Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Wed 18	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am

December

Wed 2	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 12	Christmas Party (North West Kent District)	6.30pm
Wed 16	Christmas Buffet (Newtown Branch)	12 noon

Forthcoming Event - January 2027

Sun 3	Pantomime (North West Kent District)	1pm
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