

May - August 2026



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

out & about

Mulberry Branch



Covering Old Harlow, Barnet, Potters Bar, Watford, Hemel Hempstead, Hatfield, Cheshunt, Harrow and Bishop Stortford



Online



Sports



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Meetings



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Join us for any of our coffee morning events.

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary and Newsletter for Mulberry District

Hello from Mulberry

Spring... is that you? As I write this in early March it's still a little chilly, but the daffodils are starting to appear, which is always a welcome sign that brighter days are on the way.

Over the past four months we've enjoyed some fantastic social events. Alongside our regular coffee mornings, we've shared some lovely meals together, including a delicious Burns Supper. There's also been skittles, games, and a singing afternoon in Watford that quickly turned into a full-on karaoke session, with members happily joining in on all the classics! We also had a wonderful day at a wreath-making workshop, led by our very own Social Organiser, Catherine.

Looking ahead to the next four months, you'll see plenty of our usual local events, as well as some exciting

Contact Details

District Secretary: John S Jemison

Registered Office: Oddfellows Hall, Broadway Avenue, Old Harlow CM17 0AG

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Events Organiser: Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127

Email:
lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

outings. These include a visit to Herts & Essex Air Ambulance, a day trip to Southend, and our annual Boules tournament – let's bring home the win again, Team Oddfellows!

We look forward to seeing you at a social event in the coming months.

In friendship,

**The Mulberry District Social Team –
Lauren, Catherine and Louise**

If you haven't been along to one of our social events yet, give your most local social organiser a call, here's a reminder.

- **Lauren** looks after Hatfield, Barnet and Harrow areas.
- **Catherine** looks after Cheshunt, Potters Bar and Watford areas
- **Louise** looks after Old Harlow, Bishops Stortford and Hemel areas (along with our volunteer social organiser in Hemel, **Malcolm**).

Keys



Ware Branch
Old Harlow area



Cassio Branch
Watford area



Mulberry District



Chiltern Branch
Hemel Hempstead area



Wrotham Branch
Barnet area



Oakmere Branch
Potters Bar area



Salisbury Branch
Hatfield area



Cheshunt Branch
Cheshunt area



Bishops Stortford Branch
Bishops Stortford area



Harrow Branch
Harrow area

Weekly Event

Online Events Thursday Thinking

Join us on the last Thursday of every month at 4.30pm for one hour of online social activity. Sometimes a quiz, sometimes a chat, sometimes a talk. Always something to make you think! Zoom Meeting ID: 849 9983 6863. Passcode: 709336. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

28 May
25 June
30 July
27 August



Branches up and down the country are also still doing online events, if you would like to receive a list of all the online events on a monthly basis please let Lauren know at lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk.

A bit about us...

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

May 2026

FRI **01** Coffee Morning and Talk from the Fire Service (Hemel)

L 11am

£ Members £1
Guests £2



Everyone is welcome to join our friendly relaxed coffee morning. This time we'll also be welcoming a special visit from the local fire service, who will be popping in to share helpful advice on fire safety, answer questions and chat about the work they do in our community. Refreshments included. Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Louise on 07812 149873 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.



TUES **05** Coffee Morning and Brain Teasers (Hatfield)

L 10.30am

£ Members £1
Guests £2



Come and join us for a hot cuppa, delicious cake and a fun 30-minute brain teaser that will get everyone thinking! It's the perfect chance to relax, enjoy a treat and give your brain a little workout. Community Room, ASDA Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0LT. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



SAT **02** Canal Trip with Fish and Chips Lunch (District Event)

L 10.30am

£ Members £15, Guests £18



Please join us for a much loved day out cruising along the Grand Union Canal with tasty fish and chips onboard. Numbers are limited, so please book in advance. Transport is available for members who require it from within the District for an additional £10. Book by Sunday 12 April. Waterways Experience, Nash Mills Recreation Centre, Red Lion Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9TE. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.



May 2026

TUES 05 Coffee Morning - The Spring Challenge (Bishops Stortford)



Celebrate the season of blossoms and sunshine with a lively table-based challenge designed to spark conversation, laughter and a little friendly rivalry! Join us for our relaxed and friendly coffee (tea) morning in the South Mill Arts Café! This is the perfect spot to meet new people, enjoy a delicious coffee or tea and unwind in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The café is conveniently located with bus routes stopping right outside and there's free parking available too, right outside, on site. The only cost is for your tea or coffee, so come along, bring a friend or come solo and make new connections. We look forward to seeing you there! South Mill Arts, South Road, Bishops Stortford CM23 3JG. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

THURS 07 Friendly Meal (Cheshunt)



It would be great if you could come along and join us for an afternoon of food and drink at our very first friendly meal in the Cheshunt area. Cost will depend on the items you order. Book by Thursday 23 April. The Crocodile Pub - Cheshunt, College Road, Cheshunt EN8 9NQ. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

TUES 12 Coffee Morning Sing Along (Watford)



Please join us for a nostalgic coffee morning sing along, where familiar tunes and timeless classics bring back the best memories. Cost is £2 plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

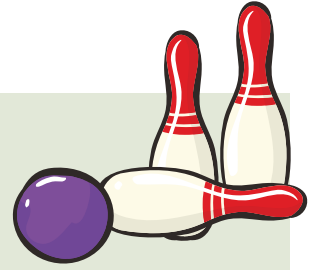


THURS 14 Coffee and Craft Morning (Cheshunt)



Join us for a relaxing morning of coffee and crafts! Enjoy a cosy atmosphere, friendly company and a chance to get creative. Cost from 50p for tea or coffee plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Beaumont Day Centre, Victoria Close, Cheshunt EN8 9EP. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

May 2026



SAT
16

Skittles with Fish and Chips (Hemel)



11am



Members £1, Guests £2



Skittles with fish and chips – a great fun afternoon! Come along and enjoy this classic British favourite with a (slightly competitive!) twist. Have a go at a game of skittles, share a few laughs, and enjoy some great company. Don't worry if you don't want to play – you're very welcome to come along just for the fun and social atmosphere. Please bring your own drinks (no alcohol please). Tea and coffee will be available. Price does not include the cost of food. For more information about the food, please contact Malcolm. We hope to see you there for a relaxed and laughter-filled afternoon! Book by Friday 8 May. Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Louise on 07812 149873 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.



TUES
19

Coffee Morning and The Blitz to The Beatles (Old Harlow)



10.30am



Members £1
Guests £2



A cappella vocal group 'The Courtyard Quartet' take you on a musical journey of popular songs from the 1940s to the 1960s. The group will be singing (mostly) their own arrangements of some familiar favourites from a golden age of music in a lighter style. Please join us for a casual friendly gathering to catch up, meet new faces, enjoy a hot drink and some nibbles! It's a great chance to relax, chat and share some time together in a welcoming space. Test your knowledge in a short fun quiz! Bring a donation for the raffle, tickets to take part are £1 and all donations go to our chosen charity. St Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, St Johns Street, Market Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AJ. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.



May 2026

THURS 21 Brew and Brain Teasers (Potters Bar)

 10.30am  £1.70



Join us for a serene morning of coffee, conversation and brain teasers. An opportunity to stimulate your mind, meet new friends and enjoy a gentle start to the day! Cost from £1.70. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

THURS 28 Coffee Morning (Harrow)

 10.30am  TBC



Join us for our newly launched coffee morning! It's a wonderful chance to relax with a cuppa and meet the friends you've yet to make. Cost will depend on what you choose from the coffee shop menu. Waitrose South Harrow, 140 Northolt Road, South Harrow HA2 0EG. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

TUES 26 Coffee Morning and Talk by Family Based Solutions (Barnet)

 10.30am  Members £1, Guests £2



Ayse Adil and Joe Lettieri from Family Based Solutions will be joining us for a light and uplifting talk on why our mental health matters, even when we say we are fine. With warmth and gentle humour, they will explore the everyday pressures many of us carry, from worrying about family to feeling responsible for everyone else and why our own wellbeing deserves attention too. This will be a reassuring and relatable conversation about resilience, boundaries, connection and the importance of laughter at every stage of life. St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



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.

June

MON
01
**Coffee Morning -
Seaside Memories
(Bishops Stortford)**

 10.30am  Free



Bring along your favourite seaside memories! Photos, holiday anecdotes, or maybe even postcards and souvenirs from trips long ago! We'll reminisce about iconic places like Blackpool, Brighton and Cornwall, share giggles over quirky seaside postcards and enjoy short trivia rounds about classic British seaside culture. Join us for our newest, relaxed and friendly coffee (tea) morning in the South Mill Arts Café! This is the perfect spot to meet new people, enjoy a delicious coffee or tea and unwind in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The café is conveniently located with bus routes stopping right outside and there's free parking available too. The only cost is for your tea or coffee, so come along, bring a friend or come solo and make new connections. We look forward to seeing you there! South Mill Arts, South Road, Bishops Stortford CM23 3JG. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.



TUES
02
**Coffee Morning and
Talk on 'The Benefits
of becoming an
Oddfellow' (Hatfield)**

 10.30am  Members £1
Guests £2



Come and join us for our usual coffee morning, but this time Lauren will be talking you through what the benefits are of being an Oddfellows member. From optical and dental to offers and discounts via the Oddfellows Extra like holidays to cinema tickets to insurance deals! Lauren can also help you sign up to the website to take advantage of these great benefits. Community Room, ASDA Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0LT. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

THURS
04
**Theatre Trip to see
Hi-De-Hi (Harlow)**

 7pm  £12



Harlow Ametuer Theatre Society presents a live stage adaptation of the beloved British TV comedy Hi-De-Hi! Set in the 1950s at Maplins Holiday Camp. Show starts at 7.45pm. Packed with nostalgia, larger-than-life characters and classic British humour, this is a feel-good comedy that will have you shouting "Hi-De-Hi, campers!" Book by Monday 4 May. Harlow Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Harlow, Essex CM20 1LS. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

June

FRI 05 Coffee Morning and Games (Hemel)

🕒 11am

£ Members £1
Guests £2



Everyone is warmly welcome to join our friendly coffee morning. This time we'll be adding games to the morning, so



whether you enjoy a lighthearted challenge, a laugh with friends, or simply watching the fun while enjoying a cuppa, there will be something for everyone. It's a great opportunity to meet new people, catch up with familiar faces and enjoy a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Louise on 07812 149873 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.

TUES 09 Coffee and Craft Morning (Watford)

🕒 10.30am

£ £2



Join us for a relaxing morning of coffee and crafts! Enjoy a cosy atmosphere, friendly company and a chance to get creative. Cost is £2 plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

THURS 11 Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Cheshunt)

🕒 10am

£ 50p



Join us for a delightful morning of 'Bingo Twist' and coffee! Sip on your favourite brew while enjoying a fresh twist on classic bingo! Cost from 50p plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Beaumont Day Centre, Victoria Close, Cheshunt EN8 9EP. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

TUES 16 Coffee Morning and Games (Old Harlow)

🕒 10.30am

£ Members £1
Guests £2



A relaxed and sociable games day, where good company and a little friendly competition are



the order of the day! Please join us for a casual friendly gathering to catch up, meet new faces and enjoy a hot drink and some nibbles! It's a great chance to relax, chat and share some time together in a welcoming space. Get ready to try your hand at our games day! Bring a donation for the raffle, tickets to take part are £1 and all donations go to our chosen charity. St Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, St Johns Street, Market Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AJ. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

June

THURS
18

Coffee Morning - Board Games (Potters Bar)



10.30am



£1.70



Join us for a cozy morning of coffee, conversation and classic board games! Enjoy a warm cuppa and a friendly chatter, we would love to see you. Cost from £1.70. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

FRI
19

Friendly Meal (Barnet)



12.30pm



TBC



End-of-week roast? Yes please! Join us for a delicious carvery - we enjoyed it so much last time that we're going back for another helping. Come along for great food and even better company! Cost depends on what you order from the menu. Book by Monday 8 June. Toby Carvery Oaklands, Studio Way, Borehamwood WD6 5JY. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



SAT
20

Minor Degree Lodge



2pm



Free



The 'ceremonial' side of Oddfellowship, keeping our traditions alive. Come and listen to be inspired. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Time is subject to change, please confirm timings with Kate on 07840 987861 or John on 07582 546160.

MON
22

Air Ambulance Visit with Afternoon Tea (District Event)



10.45am



£24.40



Join us for an exciting morning at the Essex and Herts Air



Ambulance Visitor Centre, followed by a delightful afternoon tea while enjoying spectacular views of the take-off and landing runway. EHAA are only able to accommodate up to 20 people, so please book in advance by Monday 1 June. Essex & Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Visitor Centre, Hanger 12, Merlin Way, Northweald Airfield, Northweald CM16 6HR. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

June

TUES
23

Friendly Meal with Skittles and a Sing Along (Watford)

11am



Members £8, Guests £10



Come along and join us for a hearty traditional meal in the restaurant, with a fun and interactive game of skittles, whilst playing some familiar melodies from the past. Book by Tuesday 9 June. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

THURS
25

Coffee Morning (Harrow)

10.30am

TBC



Come along to our coffee morning and enjoy a relaxed catch-up over a cuppa. It's a great opportunity to chat, unwind and meet some new friendly faces. The cost will depend on what you choose from the coffee shop menu. Waitrose South Harrow, 140 Northolt Road, South Harrow HA2 0EG. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

TUES
30

Coffee Morning with a talk on 'The Art of a Good Goodbye' by Louise Grace (Barnet)

10.30am

Members £1
Guests £2



We spend months planning weddings, holidays and birthdays, but almost no time planning our final send-off. Celebrant Louise Grace explores how pure cremation and a pre-planned ceremony can turn a goodbye into something beautiful, affordable and full of heart. Expect humour, honesty and ideas you'll remember long after the talk ends. St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

July

FRI
03

Coffee Morning and a Quiz (Hemel)

11am

Members £1
Guests £2



Join us for a relaxed and friendly coffee morning with a fun quiz. Enjoy a cuppa, test your knowledge and share a few laughs along the way. Whether you come for the quiz, the coffee, or simply the good company, you'll be sure of a warm welcome. No need to be a quiz expert - it's all about having fun! Refreshments included! Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Louise on 07812 149873 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.

July

MON
06
**Coffee Morning -
Wimbledon Themed
Quiz (Bishops Stortford)**



Summer wouldn't be complete without a nod to one of Britain's most celebrated sporting traditions... Wimbledon! Join us for a fun, fast-paced true or false quiz, filled with questions about Wimbledon history, traditions like strawberries and cream, famous champions and quirky facts about tennis lore. You don't have to be a tennis expert - just come ready to enjoy the banter, make a guess and perhaps learn something new about this iconic summer event. Our newest, relaxed and friendly coffee (tea) morning in the South Mill Arts Café! This is the perfect spot to meet new people, enjoy a delicious coffee or tea and unwind in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

The café is conveniently located with bus routes stopping right outside and there's free parking available too. The only cost is for your tea or coffee, so come along, bring a friend or come solo and make new connections. We look forward to seeing you there! South Mill Arts, South Road, Bishops Stortford CM23 3JG. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.



TUES
07
**Coffee Morning and
Talk by Communities
1st (Hatfield)**



Please join us for our usual coffee morning, but this time with a talk from Communities 1st who will be giving an overview of the services they offer in the local community, whether its day trips, volunteering opportunities or exercise classes! Community Room, ASDA Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0LT. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



WED
08
**Friendly Meal
(Potters Bar)**



Please join us for a friendly afternoon gathering at The Stafford. A cozy pub atmosphere with great company, plenty of laughter and a line-up of rich, comforting dishes! Cost will depend on the items you order. Book by Wednesday 24 June. The Stafford, Cranborne Parade, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 3BA. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

July

THURS
09

Brew and Brain Teasers (Cheshunt)



10am



50p



Join us for a serene morning of coffee, conversation and brain teasers. An opportunity to stimulate your mind, meet new friends and enjoy a gentle start to the day! Cost from 50p plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Beaumont Day Centre, Victoria Close, Cheshunt EN8 9EP. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.



TUES
14

Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Watford)



10.30am



£2



Join us for a delightful morning of 'Bingo Twist' and coffee! Sip on your favourite brew while enjoying a fresh twist on classic bingo! Cost is £2 plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

THURS
16

Coffee and Memories Morning (Potters Bar)



10.30am



£1.70



Please join us for an inviting morning of warm beverages and cherished moments! Feel free to bring along a framed photo or keepsake from a special moment and let's reconnect over stories and sips. Cost from £1.70. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

FRI
17

Annual Boules Tournament with BBQ (District Event)



5.30pm



Members £15
Guests £18



It's that time again - our favourite event of the summer! We were crowned winners last



year and can we do it again? Come along and be part of the fun, with a delicious BBQ included. Transport is available for members within the District who require it for an additional £10. Book by Wednesday 1 July. Langleybury Cricket Club, Langleybury Lane, Kings Langley WD4 8RJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

July

TUES
21

Coffee Morning and Painting with Sarah (Old Harlow)

 10.30am

 Members £1, Guests £2



Join us for a relaxed and creative session where you'll paint your own acrylic flower canvas to take home. All materials are provided, so you can simply come along and enjoy getting creative. You may like to bring an apron or wear an old shirt, as acrylic paint does not wash out of clothing.



Alongside the painting, enjoy a casual and friendly gathering with a hot drink and some nibbles. It's a lovely opportunity to catch up, meet new faces, and spend some time chatting in a welcoming space. If you can, please bring along a small donation for the raffle. Tickets are £1 each and all proceeds will go to our chosen charity. We look forward to a relaxed, creative and enjoyable time together! St Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, St Johns Street, Market Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AJ. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

THURS
23

Coffee Morning (Harrow)

 10.30am

 TBC



Please join us for a friendly coffee morning! Come along for a chat and enjoy a hot drink with friendly faces. Cost will depend on what you choose from the coffee shop menu. Waitrose South Harrow, 140 Northolt Road, South Harrow HA2 0EG. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

TUES
28

Bring and Share Morning with Skittles (Barnet)

 10.30am

 Members £1
Guests £2



Enjoy a morning full of friendship and fun with a bring-and-share, a hot cuppa and a friendly game of skittles. It's the perfect chance to relax, chat and share some laughs together. Please let Lauren know if you intend to come along with what food you will be bringing. St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

July

THURS
30

Karaoke Night (Old Harlow)



6pm



Members £6, Guests £8



Join us for a great, friendly evening with the Oddfellows! We're really looking forward to a fun-filled karaoke night. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and your best singing voice. There'll

be plenty of food, laughter and good company — the perfect way to spend the night! Come along and be part of the fun! Book by Monday 20 July. St Johns ARC, St Johns Street, Market Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 OAJ. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

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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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

August

SAT
01

Half Yearly Meeting



2.30pm



Free



Come along to have your say on everything related to the Mulberry District. Three course meal provided (please contact Lauren for menu choices). 2.30pm arrival for a prompt 3pm start. Transport for members whom require it is available from within the District for £10. Book by Monday 20 July. Northaw Village Hall, 5 Northaw Road West, Northaw, Potters Bar EN6 4NW. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

TUES
04

Coffee Morning and Sing Along (Hatfield)



10.30am



Members £1
Guests £2



Come and join us for a hot cuppa, tasty cakes and a lively sing along! It's the perfect chance to relax, enjoy some treats and raise your voice for a fun-filled sing song together. Community Room, ASDA Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0LT. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



MON
03

Coffee Morning - 'The Price Was Right' - 70s and 80s Edition (Bishops Stortford)



10.30am



Free



Step back in time and join us for a fun and nostalgic 'The Price Was Right' - 70s and 80s Edition! Put your guessing skills to the test as we take a look at the prices of everyday items from the 1970s and 1980s. Can you guess what things cost back then? Expect plenty of laughs, a bit of friendly competition and a trip down memory lane! Join us for our newest relaxed and friendly coffee (tea) morning in the South Mill Arts Café! This is the perfect spot to meet new people, enjoy a delicious coffee or tea and unwind in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The café is conveniently located with bus routes stopping right outside and there's free parking available too. The only cost is for your tea or coffee, so come along, bring a friend or come solo and make new connections. We look forward to seeing you there! South Mill Arts, South Road, Bishops Stortford CM23 3JG. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.



August

FRI **07** **Coffee Morning** **(Hemel)**



Join us for a relaxed and friendly coffee morning, the perfect chance to enjoy a cuppa, have a chat and spend time in good company. Whether you're a regular or coming along for the first time, you'll be sure of a warm welcome and plenty of conversation. Come along, meet new people, catch up with friends and enjoy a pleasant morning together. Refreshments included! Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden HP1 2HX. Contact Louise on 07812 149873 or Malcolm on 07942 735952.

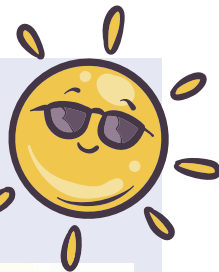
TUES **11** **Brew and Brain Teasers** **(Watford)**



Join us for a serene morning of coffee, conversation and brain teasers. An opportunity to stimulate your mind, meet new friends and enjoy a gentle start to the day! Cost is £2 plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.



MON **10** **Southend Day Trip** **(District Event)**



Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside! While the details are still being finalised, be sure to save the date for a fun day out in Southend.

We're planning a lovely stroll along the seafront followed by some delicious fish and chips by the beach. Whether you're driving yourself or need help with transport, we'll make sure you can join us. More details on time and cost coming soon. Book by Monday 29 June. Main Seafront, Southend Beach SS1 1EE. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



August

THURS
13

Coffee Morning Sing Along (Cheshunt)



10am



50p



Please join us for a nostalgic coffee morning sing along, where familiar tunes and timeless classics bring back the best memories.



Cost from 50p plus a 50p donation per raffle ticket. We kindly welcome raffle prizes. Beaumont Day Centre, Victoria Close, Cheshunt EN8 9EP. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.

SAT
15

Minor Degree Lodge



2pm



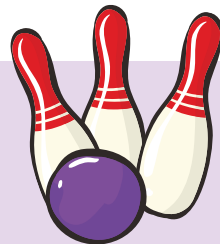
Free



The 'ceremonial' side of Oddfellowship, keeping our traditions alive. Come and listen to be inspired. Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS. Time is subject to change, please confirm timings with Kate on 07840 987861 or John on 07582 546160.

TUES
18

Coffee Morning and Skittles (Old Harlow)



10.30am



Members £1, Guests £2



Have a go at a game of skittles, share a few laughs, and enjoy some great company. Don't worry if you don't want to play, you're very welcome to come along just for the fun and social atmosphere.



Please join us for a casual friendly gathering to catch up, meet new faces, enjoy a hot drink and some nibbles! It's a great chance to relax, chat and share some time together in a welcoming space. Test your knowledge in a short fun quiz! Bring a donation for the raffle, tickets to take part are £1 and all donations go to our chosen charity. St Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, St Johns Street, Market Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0AJ. Contact Louise on 07812 149873.

August

THURS 20 **Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)**



Join us for a delightful morning of 'Bingo Twist' and coffee! Sip on your favourite brew while enjoying a fresh twist on classic bingo! Cost from £1.70. Wyllyotts Theatre & Cinema, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ. Contact Catherine on 07947 966148.



THURS 27 **Coffee Morning (Harrow)**



Come along and enjoy a welcoming coffee morning! It's the perfect chance to relax with a cuppa, have a good chat and meet some wonderful new friends along the way. Cost will depend on what you choose from the coffee shop menu. Waitrose South Harrow, 140 Northolt Road, South Harrow HA2 0EG. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.

TUES 25 **Coffee Morning and Talk from Communities 1st (Barnet)**



Come along for a hot cuppa, some delicious cake and a talk from Communities 1st who will be giving an overview of the services they offer in the local community, whether its day trips, volunteering opportunities or exercise classes! St Peter's Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley, Barnet EN5 3FJ. Contact Lauren on 07949 439127.



Minor Degree Lodge

For anyone who is interested in finding out more about the ceremonial side of Oddfellowship, and would like to work towards their own Purple Degree ceremony, we look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 20 June. The meetings have been changed to Saturdays

to allow those who are constrained by employment to attend, so this will take place on the third Saturday of every second month at 2.30pm. Starting in June 2026, then August and October, but not December and again for 2027 in February and April.

A message from Lauren Prountzou, our new Provincial Grand Master

Firstly, I would like to say thank you for electing me as the Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) for the next year. Those of you who know me will know how much of a nervous speaker I am in front of a room full of people so chairing meetings will be one of the many 'fears' I have to overcome over the next 12 months, although I know I will have Kate, our now IPPGM (Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master) and Philip, our new Provincial Deputy Grand Master, to help me along the way!

Our social calendar is getting busier and busier and I hope you like what's to come over the next four months. Louise and Catherine have already made such an impact with helping us increase our social activity with new coffee mornings starting in three different areas over the past year alone!

My chosen organisation for this year's donations is one that is very close to my heart: Forever Young People, a Hertfordshire-based company. They run programmes that help young people build resilience, confidence and life skills through mentoring, sports, workshops and personal development sessions. Sometimes all it takes is one positive relationship, one safe conversation, or one opportunity for a young person to realise their potential and believe in themselves again.

The funds raised will go directly towards delivering these programmes, supporting mentoring sessions, youth activities, educational resources and safe spaces where

young people can grow, learn and thrive. Every donation helps them reach more young people and create opportunities that can truly change the direction of a young person's life.

My own children have attended some of their holiday activity clubs and have always felt safe, comfortable and most importantly, listened to, which means everything to me as their mother. If you would like to hear more about how the funds raised will be used, please feel free to get in touch.

In Friendship,
Lauren

Traditional Terms

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM):
District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):
District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM):
Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

A message from Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Siblings,

As outgoing Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to write a few words to welcome you to this latest issue of Out and About. Given our increase in membership it is likely that a number of you have received it for the first time. With the hard work of our Social Organisers and the new events and areas which are in this issue, you should be able to find an something happening near you. We are always looking for new events to widen the appeal to members, so by all means contact Lauren, or speak to Catherine or Louise, if you have any ideas.

We continue to run District events, as well as local, and we are open to suggestions for small or larger events, for potential speakers or fun activities.

The final total for fundraising for Parkinson's was not available at the time of going to print, but my sincere thanks to all who helped to raise what is already a marvellous sum. Parkinson's has affected a number of our prominent members, including Past Secretary Alan Hillier of my home Lodge, who sadly moved to Higher Lodge in September. I am pleased that we are recognising him in this way. We fundraised for two local support groups, and also for Parkinson's UK to seek a cure. A large contribution was made by Jean Facer Past Provincial Grand Master (Past Chairman) with her jam and marmalade sales - which were her last contributions,

as it turned out, as we unexpectedly lost Jean in December, but I thank for their concerted effort.

My year of office ended at the Annual Summoned Meeting in March and I gladly and confidently handed over to Lauren as our new Provincial Grand Master (Chairman). I wish her all the best for her year and for Philip Waters as he begins his Chairman's journey, too.

Yours fraternally

Kate Collins

Congratulations to our junior member Jamie Allum who recently received his 1st dan junior black belt in kick boxing. Well done Jamie!



Photos of what's been happening



Wreath Making Workshop in March.



Cheshunt members enjoying a talk from Mike on The History of the Oddfellows.



Watford Coffee Morning talk from Sunnyside Trust.



Bishops Stortford Coffee Morning.



Skittles and Karaoke in Watford in February.



Barnet Coffee Morning in January.



Colin and Chris taking advantage of the bar at Bishops Stortford.



Pie and Mash Friendly Meal in March.



Harlow Coffee Morning.



Social Organiser Catherine and Barbara at Harlow Coffee Morning.



Burns Supper in January.



Performance from Young Voices from St Paul's RC School at Cheshunt Coffee Morning.



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 John S on **07582 546160** or email **johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk**.

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**

Thousands raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts by Oddfellows branches

The Oddfellows has 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.

Essential supplies

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.

Pam Casey, spokesperson for the Oddfellows, said: "When communities are devastated by disasters of this scale, the need for swift and compassionate support is critical. We are incredibly proud of our branches for coming together to raise these funds.

"Every contribution helps people to access shelter, food, and vital services as they begin the long process of rebuilding.



"Supporting this appeal reflects the very best of Oddfellowship – standing alongside others in times of greatest need."

The Oddfellows extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the appeal and helped make this support possible.

Find out more

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

You can also learn more about how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

To find out how you can get involved with fundraising initiatives Oddfellows branches are conducting locally, speak to your Branch Secretary.

Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards.

2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

Branch Meeting

Mulberry District Branch

District Secretary: John S Jemison

Telephone: 07582 546160 **Email:** johns.jemison@oddfellows.co.uk

District Development Officer: Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127 **Email:** lauren.prontzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Registered Office: Oddfellows Hall, Broadway Avenue, Old Harlow CM17 0AG.

Branch meetings: On the third Wednesday of every month starting at 1.30pm except March.

Meetings are held as a hybrid 'Room and Zoom' held at Oddfellows Hall, 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS and Oddfellows Hall, Broadway Avenue, Old Harlow CM17 0AG and via video link (Meeting ID: 880 2328 7070 please contact John or Lauren for the passcode).

Bishops Stortford

Admin and Events Organiser: Louise Munir

Telephone: 07812 149873 **Email:** louise.munir@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: Meet on the first Monday of every month at 10.30am at South Mill Arts, South Road, Bishops Stortford CM23 3JG.

Cassio Branch

Admin and Events Organiser: Catherine Bunyan

Telephone: 07947 966148 **Email:** catherine.bunyan@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am except December when a Christmas lunch is held. Meetings are held at 22 The Avenue, Watford WD17 4NS.

Cheshunt Branch

Admin and Events Organiser: Catherine Bunyan

Telephone: 07947 966148 **Email:** catherine.bunyan@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: Meet on the second Thursday of every month at 10am to 12 noon at The Beaumont Day Centre, 6 Rowlandsfields, Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Waltham Cross EN8 9BG.

Branch Meeting

Chiltern Branch

Admin: Louise Munir

Telephone: 07812 149873 **Email:** louise.munir@oddfellows.co.uk

Events Organiser: Malcolm Allum **Telephone:** 07942 735952

Branch meetings: On the first Friday of each month at 11am except December when a Christmas lunch is held. Meetings are held at Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2HX.

Oakmere Branch

Admin and Events Organiser: Catherine Bunyan

Telephone: 07947 966148 **Email:** catherine.bunyan@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the third Thursday of each month at 10.30am. Meetings are held at The Wyllyotts Theatre, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ.

Salisbury Branch

Admin and Events Organiser: Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127 **Email:** lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the first Tuesday of each month at 10.30am. Meetings are held at Community Room, ASDA Hatfield, 98 Town Centre, Hatfield AL10 0LT.

South Harrow

Admin and Events Organiser: Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127 **Email:** lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: Meet on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10.30 at Waitrose South Harrow, 140 Northolt Road, South Harrow HA2 0EG.

Ware Branch

Admin and Events Organiser: Louise Munir

Telephone: 07812 149873 **Email:** louise.munir@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the third Tuesday of each month at the St Johns ARC, St Johns Walk, Old Harlow CM17 0AJ.

Wrotham Branch

Admin and Event Organiser: Lauren Prountzou

Telephone: 07949 439127 **Email:** lauren.prountzou@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch meetings: On the last Tuesday of each month at 10.30am. Meetings are held at St Peters Church Hall, 113 Barnet Road, Arkley EN5 3JF.

At a glance

May 2026

Fri 1	Coffee Morning and Talk from the Fire Service (Hemel)	11am
Sat 2	Canal Trip with Fish and Chips Lunch (District Event)	10.30am
Tues 5	Coffee Morning and Brain Teasers (Hatfield)	10.30am
Tues 5	Coffee Morning - The Spring Challenge (Bishops Stortford)	10.30am
Thurs 7	Friendly Meal (Cheshunt)	12 noon
Tues 12	Coffee Morning Sing Along (Watford)	10.30am
Thurs 14	Coffee and Craft Morning (Cheshunt)	10am
Sat 16	Skittles with Fish and Chips (Hemel)	11am
Tues 19	Coffee Morning and The Blitz to The Beatles (Old Harlow)	10.30am
Wed 20	Business Meeting	12.30pm
Thurs 21	Brew and Brain Teasers (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Tues 26	Coffee Morning and Talk by Family Based Solutions (Barnet)	10.30am
Thurs 28	Coffee Morning (Harrow)	10.30am
Thurs 28	Thursday Thinking (Online)	4.30pm

June

Mon 1	Coffee Morning - Seaside Memories (Bishops Stortford)	10.30am
Tues 2	Coffee Morning and Talk on 'The Benefits of becoming an Oddfellow' (Hatfield)	10.30am
Thurs 4	Theatre Trip to see Hi-De-Hi (Harlow)	7pm
Fri 5	Coffee Morning and Games (Hemel)	11am
Tues 9	Coffee and Craft Morning (Watford)	10.30am
Thurs 11	Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Cheshunt)	10am
Tues 16	Coffee Morning and Games (Old Harlow)	10.30am
Wed 17	Business Meeting	12.30pm
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning - Board Games (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Fri 19	Friendly Meal (Barnet)	12.30pm
Sat 20	Minor Degree Lodge	2pm
Mon 22	Air Ambulance Visit with Afternoon Tea (District Event)	10.45am
Tues 23	Friendly Meal with Skittles and a Sing Along (Watford)	11am
Thurs 25	Coffee Morning (Harrow)	10.30am
Thurs 25	Thursday Thinking (Online)	4.30pm
Tues 30	Coffee Morning with a talk on 'The Art of a Good Goodbye' by Louise Grace (Barnet)	10.30am

At a glance

July

Fri 3	Coffee Morning and a Quiz (Hemel)	11am
Mon 6	Coffee Morning – Wimbledon Themed Quiz (Bishops Stortford)	10.30am
Tues 7	Coffee Morning and Talk by Communities 1st (Hatfield)	10.30am
Wed 8	Friendly Meal (Potters Bar)	12 noon
Thurs 9	Brew and Brain Teasers (Cheshunt)	10am
Tues 14	Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Watford)	10.30am
Wed 15	Business Meeting	12.30pm
Thurs 16	Coffee and Memories Morning (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Fri 17	Annual Boules Tournament with BBQ (District Event)	5.30pm
Tues 21	Coffee Morning and Painting with Sarah (Old Harlow)	10.30am
Thurs 23	Coffee Morning (Harrow)	10.30am
Tues 28	Bring and Share Morning with Skittles (Barnet)	10.30am
Thurs 30	Thursday Thinking (Online)	4.30pm
Thurs 30	Karaoke Night (Old Harlow)	6pm

August

Sat 1	Half Yearly Meeting	2.30pm
Mon 3	Coffee Morning – ‘The Price Was Right’ – 70s and 80s Edition (Bishops Stortford)	10.30am
Tues 4	Coffee Morning and Sing Along (Hatfield)	10.30am
Fri 7	Coffee Morning (Hemel)	11am
Mon 10	Southend Day Trip (District Event)	10am
Tues 11	Brew and Brain Teasers (Watford)	10.30am
Thurs 13	Coffee Morning Sing Along (Cheshunt)	10am
Sat 15	Minor Degree Lodge	2pm
Tues 18	Coffee Morning and Skittles (Old Harlow)	10.30am
Wed 19	Business Meeting	12.30pm
Thurs 20	Bingo Twist Coffee Morning (Potters Bar)	10.30am
Tues 25	Coffee Morning and Talk from Communities 1st (Barnet)	10.30am
Thurs 27	Coffee Morning (Harrow)	10.30am
Thurs 27	Thursday Thinking (Online)	4.30pm