

November 2025 - April 2026



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

out & about

Maidstone Fernlea District



Shopping



Art/Crafts



Theatre/Culture



Dining Out



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Wellbeing



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Come and join us for our Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival

Welcome to the latest edition of the Maidstone Fernlea District of Oddfellows Events Diary and Newsletter.

We have organised an exciting and varied programme of events for you all. This diary is your handy guide so you know what is happening in your area. Put dates of interest in your diary. Alternatively, keep this diary in a handy place, by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Why not recommend a friend or family member for membership. Find out more by contacting Rose or Julie.

Everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member,

Contact Details

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 4 Tunbury Avenue,
Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent ME5 9EH

Telephone: 01634 868308

Email:
rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Julie Broomfield

Telephone: 07910 888607

Email:
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk

we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any events that take your fancy. We like to think we can guarantee you a good time.

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.

Regular Events

Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening



8pm



Free



Pride of the Village and Kent Branch social evening. Refreshments will be available. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Rose on 01634 868308.

25 November 2025

30 December 2025

27 January 2026

24 February 2026

31 March 2026

28 April 2026

Last Tuesday
of the month



Can you help by volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without wonderful volunteers. We need help to make sure we can keep our events as fun as they can be for all our members. There's lots of ways you can pitch in to help us, from one-off help to regular support. You can commit an hour a month, or more if you've got the time!

Volunteering could include meeting and greeting newcomers to make sure they feel welcome, or arranging activities, like quizzes or presentations, which we can help you run and promote.



If you can help by volunteering or want to find out more, contact Rose by phone on 01634 868308 or email rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

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Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival

Monday 10 November, 11am

*John Banks Hall, Marden
Memorial Hall, Goudhurst
Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX*

**Friday 7, Friday 14, Friday 21
and Friday 28 November 2025,
11am**

*Oddfellows Hall, 62 College
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ*

**Cost: Members £4
Guests £5**

We will be concentrating on crafting home-made Christmas tree decorations, in preparation for the Christmas Tree Festival held at St Michael and All Angels, Marden, Kent TN12 9DR. This will take place from Saturday 6 December 2025 to Sunday 14 December 2025. All are welcome to view this wonderful display and we will be representing Oddfellows Marden, as well as our talented group based in Maidstone.

Call Julie for more information
on **07910 888607** or email
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk



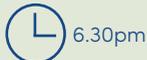
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November 2025 December

SAT
22

Maidstone Fernlea District Christmas Dinner



6.30pm



As per menu



You are cordially invited to the annual Christmas dinner on Saturday 22 November 2025. 6.30pm



arrival, to be seated at 7pm. Book by Friday 7 November 2025. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Please Rose on 01634 868308 or Julie on 07910 888607 if you are interested, and a menu and cost per head will be provided.

MON
24

Lunch and Shop at Brookside Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



Let's enjoy an afternoon of pottering around Brookside Garden Centre. Plenty of blooms and gifts, along with a fabulous tea room to relax after an afternoon of shopping and of course Christmas decorations and gifts! Car share may be available upon request. Book by Friday 21 November 2025. Brookside Garden Centre, Seven Mile Lane, East Peckham, Tonbridge TN12 5JG. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
05

Social Gathering - Tea and Chat



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Do you love life, enjoy a chat, or a game or two. Then come and join us for a monthly social. Tea, coffee is always on call with a hearty lunch and dessert. What more could you ask for? We will also be transporting our Christmas tree to Marden Church to decorate ready for the festival. Very exciting! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



MON
08

Christmas Celebrations!



11am



Members Free
Guests £5



As this is our last week at Marden before the Christmas celebrations begin, we will celebrate in style with some party food. All welcome. Merry Christmas everyone! John Banks Hall, Marden Memorial Hall, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



December

TUES
09

Trip to the Marden Christmas Tree Festival and Lunch



11am



Lunch as per menu



Join us to visit the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael and All Angels Church, Marden, Kent TN12 9DR, which is showcasing our first ever Christmas tree at this fabulous event. Lunch will be at Frankies Farmshop from 1pm. Car share will be available, so please advise accordingly if you would like to attend. Book by Friday 28 November 2025. Frankies Farmshop, Clapper Lane, Cross at Hand, Tonbridge TN12 0JT. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
12

Christmas Pictionary!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Lets get into the Christmas spirit and create some great pictionary moments - depicting what Christmas is all about. Lets hope the artist within you shines bright! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
19

Christmas Celebrations!



11am



Members Free
Guests £5



Celebrate with some drinks and nibbles and fun on our last gathering before the Christmas holidays. Merry Christmas everyone! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

January 2026

FRI
09

Crafting with Paper - Calla Lily



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



You can easily DIY these realistic 'Calla Lily' flowers using paper. Today, we will add a twist to the design by using old books. Stunning results all round! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.





Knitted Charlie Bear

**Monday 12 January 2026 and
Monday 9 February 2026, 11am**
*John Banks Hall, Marden
Memorial Hall, Goudhurst
Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX*

**Friday 16 January 2026 and
Friday 23 January 2026, 11am**
*Oddfellows Hall, 62 College
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ*

**Cost: Members £4
Guests £5
Craft £1**

Knitting a small bear is a delightful project. These little buddies are knitted all in one piece and then some clever sewing to give them shape. Because they don't have any small parts, they are perfect for babies. If you have any spare wool at home (if not, it can be provided at a small cost) and some additional knitting needles - please join us.

Call Julie for more information
on **07910 888607** or email
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk



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January 2026

FRI
30 **Social Gathering -
Tea and Chat**



Members £4
Guests £5



Do you love life, enjoy a chat, or play one or two games. Then come and join us for a monthly social. Tea, coffee is always on call with a hearty lunch and dessert. What more could you ask for? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



February

FRI
06 **Crafting with Paper -
The Daisy**



Members £4
Guests £5



We have almost completed a bouquet of loveliness. This week we will concentrate on the beautiful 'Daisy'. A firm favourite with everyone. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



February

FRI
13 **Crafting with Paper -
Delicate Gypsophila**



Members £4
Guests £5



Today we will learn the art of producing this delicate flower out of wire and tissue paper. This will enhance the paper bouquet we have been producing over the last few months, a perfect filler for any bunch of flowers. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
20 **Racing Game**



Members £4
Guests £5



We will be hosting our own horse racing game. Watch out for water jumps, hedges and foul play! Fancy a flutter? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
23 **Lunch Trip at The Fields
at Aylesford**



As per
menu



A warm welcome awaits you at the popular 'The Fields at Aylesford'. 12.45pm for 1pm lunch. Please advise if you would like to attend as car share may be available upon request. Book by Friday 20 February 2026. The Fields at Aylesford, St Laurence Avenue, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0ZP. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



Springtime Cross Stitch

**Monday 9 March 2026 and
Monday 13 April 2026, 11am**

*John Banks Hall, Marden
Memorial Hall, Goudhurst
Road, Marden, Kent TN12 9JX*

**Friday 6 March 2026 and
Friday 13 March 2026, 11am**

*Oddfellows Hall, 62 College
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ*

**Cost: Members £4
Guests £5
Craft 50p**

Cross stitch is known as one of the easiest hand embroidery techniques and many kits provide all necessary materials and instructions for creating a spring flower design. Simple and small patterns are particularly well-suited for beginners. Lets give this a try.

Call Julie for more information
on **07910 888607** or email
julie.broomfield@oddfellows.co.uk



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February

FRI
27 **Social Gathering -
Tea and Chat**



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Do you love life, enjoy a chat, or play one or two games. Then come and join us for a monthly social. Tea, coffee is always on call with a hearty lunch and dessert. What more could you ask for? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

March

FRI
20 **Racing Game**



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



We just love to get together for this board game. Lets see who is lucky and has the winning horse. Fancy a flutter? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
27 **Bingo!**



11am



Members £4
Guests £5
Three Games £2



Bingo can be fun because it's a simple game of chance. Prizes galore and fingers crossed your numbers come up! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

MON
30 **Millbrook Garden Centre**



11am



As per menu



Millbrooks has all you need to help you grow your garden plus a great range of giftware, home furnishings and clothing. After some retail therapy we will meet for lunch in the Green café. Car share may be available upon request. Millbrook Garden Centre, Staplehurst, Maidstone, Kent TN12 9BT. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



April

FRI
10

The Myth of the Dahlia



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



The myth of the dahlia comes from the Aztecs and has adorned gardens everywhere for centuries. Wondering how to make a paper 'Dahlia'? In this step-by-step tutorial, we'll walk you through how to make this beautiful flower. Each flower will be wired to complete our bouquet. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



FRI
17

Social Gathering - Tea and Chat



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Do you love life, enjoy a chat, or play one or two games. Then come and join us for a monthly social. Tea, coffee is always on call with a hearty lunch and dessert. What more could you ask for? Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

FRI
24

Pictionary!



11am



Members £4
Guests £5



Pictionary is not an infectious game in a medical sense, but it is known for being highly engaging and contagious in its ability to draw people into playing, often leading to shared laughter and energetic fun within groups. Come and join the fun! Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SJ. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.

PICTIONARY

MON
27

Lunch at The Friars Aylesford Priory



12.45pm



As per
menu



The Pilgrims' Hall is the oldest building in the Great Courtyard in the Friars, probably late 13th century and served as a shelter for pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. We have attended this lovely restaurant many times and it is always a pleasure. 12.45pm for 1pm lunch and will require to be booked in advance. The grounds are spectacular and viewing the artisan courtyard is a must. Car share may be available. Book by Friday 24 April 2026. The Friars Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7BX. Contact Julie on 07910 888607.



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 Rose on **01634 868308** or email rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows 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**

EDCWA50223

Unity Mutual: A brand-new website and exciting Oddies member benefits

Unity Mutual, the financial arm of the Oddfellows, is delighted to have launched a brand-new website.

The fresh design reflects its updated brand identity, but more importantly, it has been built with accessibility and inclusion at its heart – a continuation of the Oddfellows’ ethos.



Whether looking for information on savings, investments or life insurance, the new site is easier to use, clearer to navigate and designed so that everyone can get the most from it.

Unity Mutual has partnered with Recite Me to introduce a full suite of accessibility tools, allowing visitors to customise their browsing experience. These include a text-to-speech function, styling features and translation options, which ensure their online services are available to all –

including those who may face barriers due to disability, neurodivergence or limited English language ability.

James Gilliver, Chief of Operations at Unity Mutual, explained: “Accessibility is extremely important to us at Unity Mutual. Our new website reflects our promise to inclusivity, ensuring all customers can access information in the way that best meets their needs.”

“But it’s not just about accessibility. We’ve also worked hard to make our content clearer and more engaging, so you can feel confident in understanding your financial choices. Our aim is to empower you and your family to make informed decisions about saving for the future.”

An extra reason to take a look is that Oddfellows members can currently benefit from special Guaranteed Investment Bond rates, available exclusively through Unity Mutual.

To see the new website, its new accessibility features and for more information about its products and rates, go to www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows, and discover how Unity Mutual can help build a brighter financial future.

Thank you for saying ‘yes’ to friendship

This Friendship Month, we’ve been encouraging people to say ‘yes’ to trying new things, making new friends, and discovering all the brilliant things happening at our Branches throughout the nation.

It’s safe to say, September 2025 has been another fabulous celebration of friendship. The Oddfellows’ CEO, Jane Nelson, said: “Friendship Month 2025 has once again demonstrated what the Oddfellows is all about, and I’m thankful of every single

person up and down the country who had been a part of it.”

“Saying ‘yes’ to trying new things can be daunting, but you’ve all done an excellent job of showing how positive it is to be a part of friendship groups like ours. So, thank you for saying ‘yes’ to helping make your Friendship Month events a success, whether that’s organising events, serving cups of tea, or simply making people feel welcome and comfortable. It all adds up to another wonderful Friendship Month.”



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

Whether it's enhancing careers or highlighting fantastic people, the Oddfellows has a number of ways we can give our members a boost – but we can only do so if we hear about them.

Deadlines for applications to be submitted for two of our wonderful schemes are fast approaching – the Apprenticeship Educational Award and the Making a Difference Awards.

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



Each year, the Oddfellows grants up to three Apprenticeship Educational Awards, which consist of £250 per year for the duration of the apprenticeship.*

Eligible members must apply via their Branch. If you, or someone you know, has been an Oddfellows member for five or more years, which includes Young Oddfellows membership, and started or plan to start an apprenticeship in 2025, get in touch with your Branch Secretary.

The Branch's deadline for submitting applications for consideration is **Wednesday 31 December 2025**.

*Each case is reviewed on personal merit. For previous recipients' stories, details on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Making a Difference Awards



Want to shine a light on those special people at your Branch who go above and beyond? Every Branch has them, so make sure we hear about their brilliance.

Any member can nominate a fellow member, so if there are people at your Branch who make a difference, speak to your Branch Secretary to find out how you can nominate them.

The deadline for Branches to submit their shortlist is **Saturday 31 January 2026**, so get your nominations in as soon as possible so they can be considered.

To find out more about our Making a Difference Awards, the categories, nomination process and the prior winners, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference

If you've missed these deadlines this time don't worry, just make a note for next year!

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings



From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and home insurance – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login

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*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits.
Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.



Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for under register number 308448.

Branch Contacts and Meetings

District Business Meetings

District business meetings follow a conventional format covering the minutes, correspondence and accounts. In addition, there are three items particular to the Oddfellows which are covered. The first is a report of any members who are sick, distressed or in any other way may be in need of help. The second is matters pertaining to the local Branch, or Society. The third is membership recommendations. There is also a 'member's slot' for members to raise matters of personal interest. For further details feel free to contact the Secretary. Held first Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Oddfellows Hall, 62 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ. **Members Only. Secretary:** Rosaline Mills **Telephone:** 01634 868308 **Email:** rosaline.mills@oddfellows.co.uk

4 November 2025 6 January 2026 3 March 2026
2 December 2025 3 February 2026 7 April 2026

Social Branches Meetings and Contacts

Our Social Branch meetings are a great way to meet other members and to gain an understanding of what is happening in the Branch and the District. There is always a short minuted Branch meeting, which is also a nod to our history and traditions, before refreshments are served and the fun and games start. There is generally a game of bingo, as well as an ever popular raffle.

Hand of Friendship

Secretary: Rose Mills

Address: 4 Tunbury Avenue,
Walderslade, Chatham,
Kent ME5 9EH.

Telephone: 01634 868308

See diary for meeting dates, at 8pm.
At 62 College Road,
Maidstone ME15 6SJ.

Pride of Kent

Secretary: Roger Baker

Address: 103 Parkway, Coxheath,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 4EX.

Telephone: 01622 745264.

Meets alternative last Tuesday
of the month. At 62 College Road,
Maidstone ME15 6SJ, 8pm.
See diary for dates.

Pride of The Village

Meets alternative last Tuesday in
the month at 8pm at 62 College
Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ.
See diary for dates.

Providence Branch

Secretary: Jan Batchelor

Address: 20 Mallard Way, Lower
Stoke, Rochester, Kent ME3 9ST

Telephone: 01634 271319

See diary for meeting dates, 2pm.
At 62 College Road, ME15 6SJ.

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 3

November 2025

Tues 4	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 7	Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival	11am
Mon 10	Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival	11am
Fri 14	Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival	11am
Fri 21	Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival	11am
Sat 22	Maidstone Fernlea District Christmas Dinner	6.30pm
Mon 24	Lunch and Shop at Brookside Garden Centre	11am
Tues 25	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 28	Crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival	11am

December

Tues 2	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 5	Social Gathering - Tea and Chat!	11am
Mon 8	Christmas Celebrations!	11am
Tues 9	Trip to the Marden Christmas Tree Festival and Lunch	11am
Fri 12	Christmas Pictionary!	11am
Fri 19	Christmas Celebrations!	11am
Tues 30	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

January 2026

Tues 6	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 9	Crafting with Paper - Calla Lily	11am
Mon 12	Knitted Charlie Bear	11am
Fri 16	Knitted Charlie Bear	11am
Fri 23	Knitted Charlie Bear	11am
Tues 27	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 30	Social Gathering - Tea and Chat!	11am

February

Tues 3	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 6	Crafting with Paper - The Daisy	11am

Social Events At a glance

For regular events please see page 3

February

Mon 9	Knitted Charlie Bear	11am
Fri 13	Crafting with Paper - Delicate Gypsophila	11am
Fri 20	Racing Game	11am
Mon 23	Lunch Trip at The Fields at Aylesford	12.45pm
Tues 24	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm
Fri 27	Social Gathering - Tea and Chat!	11am

March

Tues 3	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 6	Springtime Cross Stitch	11am
Mon 9	Springtime Cross Stitch	11am
Fri 13	Springtime Cross Stitch	11am
Fri 20	Racing Game	11am
Fri 27	Bingo!	11am
Mon 30	Millbrook Garden Centre	11am
Tues 31	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm

April

Tues 7	Fernlea District Branch Meeting	8pm
Fri 10	The Myth of the Dahlia	11am
Mon 13	Springtime Cross Stitch	11am
Fri 17	Social Gathering - Tea and Chat!	11am
Fri 24	Pictionary!	11am
Mon 27	Lunch at The Friars Aylesford Priory	12.45pm
Tues 28	Pride of the Village and Kent Branch Social Evening	8pm