

May - July 2026



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

out & about

South London District



Music



Art/Crafts



Online



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Film



Tasting



Wellbeing



Welcome to the new edition of **Out & About**, incorporating **South Circular**, the Magazine of South London District

Coming out of Hibernation

It's that time of year – a favourite time for many people after the dark winter months – when we emerge and start to think of new and varied places to go. South London Oddfellows has just the answer for you with 94 opportunities for you to socialise in the next three months. Just look at the choices in the programme listings, mark your diary or calendar hanging up in the kitchen... and turn up on the day! With your help, the Oddfellows blazes on.

Out and About

You have plenty to read about in this 36 page edition. You can read pearls of wisdom from our regular columnists Linda Regan and Bob Sinfield and the clever words of our regular poet Jackie Ingleby-Douglass. You may also read our regular features, such as Didn't we have a Lovely Time, Oddfellows Memorabilia, Keep Young and Beautiful, Memory Lane, Around

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You are invited to send letters, contributions and photos for the magazine by the deadline of Friday 19 June to Paul Fitton.

the Branches, Society News as well as one-off articles, one of which tells the story about someone who has affected all of our lives greatly.

Retirement

Well, I retired from the role of District Event Organiser – and how lovely it is to look at my closed laptop every morning knowing that I don't have to

open it that day! I enjoyed the job and liaising with thousands of members – but life's much more relaxing now!

I must thank not just the members but colleagues, Committee members and District Trustees for their friendship and support in the past sixteen years. I'm continuing to edit Out & About and will continue to show how much more there is to Oddfellowship.

Paul Fitton
Editor

Front cover: At the Cinema. Members waiting for the curtain to raise to watch 'How to Make a Killing' on the big screen at Clapham Picturehouse. Photo by Jane Parkin

Paul Fitton's photo opposite shows Lord Byron Branch members in Forest Hill when entertainer Johnny Clamp came to town.

Regular Events - Lord Byron Branch

Stanstead Lodge, 260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 1DD (weekly)

Contact: Karen Lewis: 020 8699 0929 or karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

Coffee and a Chat



2pm



Members £2
Guests £3



Join us for afternoon refreshments in friendly company. You've no need to book, but if we know that you're coming, we can look out for you. You're welcome to bring a friend too. It's easy to find us and parking is available in surrounding roads. We'll be in the first room on the left as you enter the building through the main entrance.

Every Thursday, 2pm



Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

OE/1024A6

Regular Events - Pride of Clapham Branch

Regular events address: Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY.

Contact: Jane Parkin: 07791 942969 or jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk

Regular updates through WhatsApp and email

Knit, Natter and Craft Group



2.30pm



Free



Tuesdays - 2.30pm-5.30pm



Join us every Tuesday anytime between 2.30pm and 5.30pm for our knit, natter and craft group. Whatever you are into, it is more fun doing it with friends in our historic hall. Tea, coffee and encouragement provided free of charge. It's a lovely way to spend an afternoon with friends or making new ones. This is the members' group, so please share your ideas and enthusiasm. Oddfellows members free, non-members welcome to come along and try before you join. Just five minutes' walk from Clapham Common underground station.

Chair Exercise



5.30pm



Free



Tuesdays - 5.30pm-6.30pm



The exercises are aimed at improving core fitness, strength and mobility and to prevent falls. Do not worry if you have not done much exercise for a while as the exercises are gentle and easy to follow. The session lasts up to an hour.

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. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Regular Events - Pride of Clapham Branch

Yoga for all levels



Every Tuesday - 6.30pm-7.30pm



Join us for our weekly yoga session as our teacher, Margherita takes us through some moves to help improve mind and body. The class lasts an hour. The charge is £15 (£20 for guests) a calendar month, payable on the first class attended in that month. Non-members may have a taster session before joining. No need to book just come in loose fitting clothing. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

Cinema Club



Afternoons



£5



Various Thursdays, PM



We visit Clapham Cinema every fortnight to catch the latest films. Special price of £5 for afternoon showings. Clapham Picturehouse, 76 Venn Street, Clapham, London SW4 0AT. Times vary so please contact Jane via WhatsApp on 07791 942969.

Watercolour Therapy



3.30pm



Free



Various Thursdays, 3.30pm



Spend a relaxing hour painting in watercolours with a background of soothing fragrances and calming music with Rosana. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

Thursday Friends (Clapham)



8pm



Members Free
Guests £2



Every Thursday, 8pm



Enjoy a drink at our bar, or tea or coffee if you prefer. Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk, quiz, music evening and outing. We meet Thursdays and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

May 2026

TUES 05 Flower of Kent Branch Committee Meeting and Social

8pm

£ Free



Flower of Kent Branch is holding a Committee Meeting and a Branch meeting. These will be followed by a social evening. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

THURS 07 Coffee Morning at Beantown

10am

£ As per menu



Get away from the hustle and bustle at Beantown, said to be Rochester's best kept secret. Meet Social Organiser Amy and other members between 10am and 12 noon. Free limited parking outside and nearby. Book by Wednesday 6 May. Beantown, 126A Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3DT. Contact Amy on 07359 997795.



THURS 07 Quiz Night

8pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



Tonight's special event is a quiz night. You can also enjoy a drink at our bar, or tea or coffee if you prefer. Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk, quiz, music evening and outing. We meet Thursdays and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

MON 11 Business Meeting

8pm

£ Free



Business meeting and if we have time, it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

May 2026

TUES

19

Beer Tasting Evening



7pm



As per menu



Norman Warner has arranged a beer tasting event for members at The Bird & Barrel. With an ever changing choice of cask, keg, draught ciders, gins, wines, rum, whisky, bottled beers, low alcohol beer and soft drinks, there is something for everyone. It's also a dog friendly pub! Just a three minute walk from Barnehurst train station with the 89, 99 and 229 buses running close. Book by Monday 18 May. The Bird & Barrel, 100 Barnehurst Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6HG. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

FRI
22

Belgravia and Chelsea in Bloom



10am



Entry Free, Fare and food at own cost



This year's theme - 'Fairy Tales in Belgravia' will bring a sense of magic to the area, with displays inspired by nostalgia, imagination and other-worldly charm. Meet at Chatham train station at 10am and make use of the group save discount! Those wishing to join from further afield can meet us at Victoria station at 11am and it's a 10 minute walk to the start of the displays. We will stop for lunch at 2pm at Big Easy in the Kings Road in Chelsea, taking advantage of the £11 weekday set menu, which includes an alcoholic or soft drink with the price. Book by Thursday 21 May. Chatham Railway Station, Railway Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 6PN. Contact Amy on 07359 997795.

TUES

26

Art Unscrewed



4pm



Free



At the end of our one hour paintalong session with Dulcie, you'll have painted a Peacock. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267 for a direct Zoom link.



June

TUES
02

Children's Favourites with Uncle Paul!

8pm

£ Free



Spend an hour with Paul Fitton, who takes on the role of Uncle Mac with those Saturday morning songs that you listened to on Children's Favourites growing up. Music supplied by Mick Coleman. This follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



THURS
04

Lasting Power of Attorney and Will Writing

8pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



An occasional talk this evening on Lasting Power of Attorney and will writing. You can also enjoy a drink at our bar, or tea or coffee if you prefer. Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk, quiz, music evening and outing. We meet Thursdays and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.



FRI
05

We Will Rock You

7.30pm

£ £21



We Will Rock You is a high-octane, adrenaline-fuelled musical featuring more than 20 iconic Queen hits. Book by Wednesday 3 June. Chatham Central Theatre, 170 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4AS. Call the box office on 01634 338338 and quote 'Amy Oddfellows' to ensure you're sat with fellow members or call Amy on 07359 997795.



June

MON
08

Business Meeting



Business meeting and if we have time, it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

FRI
12

Coffee Morning with Avon Try and Buy



Come along to our regular coffee morning where there's always home-made cake, good company and conversation. We also have our lovely Oddfellows member Kathy offering a test and try of some Avon products. Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Gillingham ME7 3JZ. Contact Amy on 07359 997795.



TUES
16

Quiz Night at the Montrose



Show what you know and reveal how you feel to quiz master and quiz mistress Peter and Brenda! The quiz follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

TUES
23

Art Unscrewed



At the end of our one hour paintalong session with Dulcie, you'll have painted a Cow. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267 for a direct Zoom link.



THURS
25

Eat Out at The Robin Hood in Chatham



A charming 700 year old pub and restaurant nestled in the scenic Kent countryside, The Robin Hood in Chatham is a real hidden gem. Book by Friday 19 June. The Robin Hood, Common Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 9RJ. Contact Amy on 07359 997795 to join the booking.

June

TUES 30 Music Bingo Night at the Montrose

8pm

£ Free



Mick Coleman invites you to 'Music Bingo!' It's a popular activity that replaces traditional numbers with song clips. The social evening follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

July

THURS 02 Pig Racing

8pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



A new one for Clapham, come along and enjoy our very own pig racing. All will be revealed on the night.



No livestock involved! Enjoy a drink at our bar, or tea or coffee if you prefer. Our Thursday Friends group is a friendly mixed group that enjoys chat and games, as well as the occasional talk, quiz, music evening and outing. We meet Thursdays and all are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close, Clapham, London SW4 6AY. Contact Jane on 07791 942969.

FRI 10 Coffee Morning in Bredhurst

10am

£ Free



There's always home-made cake, good company and conversation at our regular coffee mornings in Bredhurst. If this is your first time, then Amy can tell you more. Bredhurst Village Hall, Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst, Gillingham ME7 3JZ. Contact Amy on 07359 997795.

MON 13 Business Meeting

8pm

£ Free



Business meeting and if we have time, it's followed by a social with either a game of darts, cards or a chat. Colfeian Sports Club, Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. Contact Karen on 020 8699 0929.

July

TUES
14 **Quiz Night at the Montrose**



Charlie Boswell is tonight's quiz inquizitor! The quiz follows the short business meeting. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.



TUES
28 **Art Unscrewed**



At the end of our one hour paintalong session with Dulcie, you'll have painted a Beach Umbrella. Contact Jackie on 07788 418267 for a direct Zoom link.



TUES
28 **Flower of Kent Branch Committee Meeting and Social**



Flower of Kent Branch is holding a Committee Meeting and a Branch meeting. These will be followed by a social evening. The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ. Contact Charlie on 020 8306 8846.

FRI
31 **Cambridge Day Trip**



Enjoy a day in the historic city of Cambridge, with time to explore its famous colleges, riverside views, shops and cafés at your own pace. Book by Thursday 30 July. Various pick-up points in the Medway area. With various pick-up points, contact Fairleigh Coaches on 01634 254000 to book and advise Amy on 07359 997795.

Annual District Meeting

Unique Elections

As Gill Mann vacated the seat of District Provisional Grand Master/Branch Chairman to her successor, Karen Lewis, Sue Calvett took on the role of Deputy. So, probably for the first time, the three elected Chairmen - Present, Immediate Past and Deputy - Provincial Grand Masters of South London District are all female.

Karen was proud to be presented with her chain of office by the Grand Master of the Order, John Mann, who is also a South London District member.

The Annual Meeting was held at Oddfellows Hall in Ruxley on 7 March. It is a key meeting, ensuring the continuation of Oddfellows business activities by filling essential roles within the District. There were other elections other than the three top posts. Gill Mason retired from her role as District Trustee

and was replaced by John Mann, who joins Paul Calvett and Peter Mann in the role.

All three Branches are represented on the District Committee of Management. Its members consist of Richard Davies, Lorraine Mann (both Lord Byron Branch) and Jane Parkin (Clapham), who have now been joined by Charlie Boswell (Flower of Kent) and Richard Bowles (Clapham).

The District has nominated Richard Davies for election to three national roles. Richard is already a member of the Benevolence Committee but he has also been proposed for the Investigation Committee and as a Special Arbitrator.

Our District nomination for membership of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Group Conference is Paul Calvett. Paul and Richard have also been nominated as Arbitrators and Richard as a Deputy to the Group.



District Officials: Back row left to right, Richard Bowles, John Mann, Clare Puddefoot and Peter Mann. Front row left to right, Sue Calvett, Karen Lewis and Gill Mann. Photo by Paul Fitton.

Retirement of Trustee

Gillian Mason has retired from the role of District Trustee, a position that she has held since 2011.

Gillian is proud of the fact that her family link to the Oddfellows goes back to 1862, when her great great grandfather Joseph Brewer was elected to the Oddfellows. Gillian herself has been an important part of South London District for nearly 60 years. She joined Frances Evelyn Lodge and became a very active juvenile member, attending many events.

Gillian was elected to the District Committee of Management in 2003, contributing wisely to discussions on the running of the District. The following year, Gill added to her Branch and District roles by joining the District's Women's Advisory Committee. She is currently their Chairperson.

Gillian was elected as Provincial Grand Master/District Chairman in 2014, a role that she regarded as both an honour and a privilege. While in office, Gill advocated that to understand the running of a District, members should undertake at least one twelve month period on the committee.

Charlie Boswell adds that, 'Gill was also a Branch Trustee for several years and was always committed in that role.'

Development

A presentation was made to Paul Fitton, who retired from the role of District Event Organiser, a position that he has held since 2009. He has been an asset to the District, working with Branch Secretaries to help organise and arrange events and hosting many events in and around London.

Paul has worked hard on his events but it was from March 2020 when he excelled. Covid had arrived and when the world came to a standstill, Paul successfully helped to pioneer online Zoom events for the Oddfellows. He also produced an entertaining 21 page E-magazine weekly for two years.

Although Paul has retired from hosting events, he is continuing as the Editor of South London's Out & About magazine.



District Chairman Karen Lewis presenting a retirement gift to Paul Fitton. Photo by Paul Calvett.

Grand Masters' Weekend

The Grand Master's Weekend in September featured in the Autumn edition. The celebrations honoured the election of South London District's John Mann as Grand Master of the Oddfellows nationally.

Overall, it was felt that this event 'raised the bar' for future Oddfellows Grand Masters. Former Provincial Grand Master Richard Bowles commented, 'A most enjoyable evening. It was good to see many newer members attending.'

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District Officers' Report

District Chairman Gill Mann said that she, 'has had an interesting time during her term of office as Provincial Grand Master this year. Along with my District Officers, visits were made to the Branches in South London District and we were all made very welcome at every visit. There was some great entertainment, including a music quiz, Hoy and a social evening. The hospitality shown to all of us was excellent at every Lodge and it was a pleasure to meet everyone. I hope to have another enjoyable year as Immediate Past Chairman and will endeavour to help out the Chairman if I am called to do so.

Report of the Juniors Advisory Committee

Unfortunately the Churchill Theatre didn't allow concessions in price for the weekend shows so we did not visit the pantomime last year. A change in the name of the committee to South London Young Oddfellows Committee was agreed.

Report of the Women's Advisory Committee

The WAC fundraises and receives donations to help specific projects annually. The Committee donated £1,000 to the Cinnamon Trust this year.

The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity in the UK dedicated to helping older people and those facing a terminal illness keep their beloved pets. The Trust provides a range of free, volunteer-led services across the UK to ensure no owner has to part with their pet due to age or illness.

The Trust has a national network of over 20,000 volunteers providing everyday support, including dog walking, cat grooming, cleaning bird cages, and transporting pets to the vet. The Trust does remarkable work, concentrating on short-term fostering during illness and life-long care for owners moving into residential care or who pass. The Trust assists over 156,000 people and 158,000 animals annually throughout the UK.

Our WAC committee members include Gillian Mason, Carole Hughes and Jacqui Worley.

Other Business

The other topics discussed were the District Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet, Investments, District and Lodge expenses, Distress Grants, the Metropolitan Group Conference and this year's Oddfellows Annual Moveable Conference in Scarborough and the District Dinner Dance.



Seven Past Chairmen wearing ceremonial regalia. Left to right: Peter Mann, Charlie Boswell, Paul Calvett, Clare Puddefoot, Sid Kearnes, Colin Worley and Richard Davies. Photo by Paul Fitton.

Didn't we have a Lovely Time

By Paul Fitton

Songs of Stage and Screen

Members stepped out of the busy streets of Covent Garden into the beautiful



Actor's Church – St Paul's - for a free lunchtime concert celebrating the magic of stage and screen. The music featured a mix of favourites from Les Mis, Prince of Egypt, Sound of Music, West Side Story, Wicked, Lord of the Rings, Gladiator, Sound of Music and more.

Vivienne Jones loved the concert. She said, 'Amazing performance. Tissues out. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming'.

London Silver Vaults

After organising about 1750 events as District Event Organiser, my final Inter-District trip was with 18 members to see the magnificent London Silver Vaults in Holborn.

The secure underground chamber has the largest collection of silverware for sale in the world. Visitors have a choice of purchasing thousands and thousands of items. How can this be safe? Originally a safe depository for London's wealthy aristocracy, the site now houses about 30 sellers in cell-like rooms of different sizes behind an incredible oval-shaped heavy metal door three feet thick and four feet

steel walls! Unsurprisingly, no burglary has ever taken place there.

Many familiar faces have passed through the huge steel vault doors: Mick Jagger, Princess Margaret, J K Rowling, Liberace, Anthony Hopkins, Diana Ross, Woody Allen and Gregory Peck, to mention a few. Royal families, including the British nobility shop in the underground arcades.

With so much to see, it wasn't surprising that some members bought some silver items. The visit was an incredible experience.

Our party lunched at The Cittie of Yorke in Holborn. One of London's most unusual pubs, it was rebuilt in 1923 in a medieval style, influenced by the Arts & Crafts Movement and styled to look like an Olde English baronial hall. It was a lovely way to sign-off and as usual, still see members from different areas of London meet and exchange contact details to see and enjoy each others' company at future Oddfellows events.



Photo by Can Pac Swire and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic licence.

Around the Branches

A variety of social events are available for members to enjoy either in person or online. Members can keep up to date with events via their Branch Secretaries (see page 34), on the South London District Facebook page, in Out and About magazine or at www.oddfellows.co.uk.

Lord Byron Branch Lee, Forest Hill and Medway Medway



Medway members enjoying lunch at The Three Mariners in Rainham.

Interested in making new friends? The newly formed Lord Byron Social branch around Gillingham is proving popular. There has been much interest from prospective members and seven members joined at the first meeting. Local social organiser Amy Thomas uses WhatsApp to inform members of the events being held.

Members meet regularly at Bredhurst village hall. Activities have included coffee and cake socials and craft events. Bredhurst itself is a small rural village containing more livestock than people!

To find out more about activities in the Medway area, such as theatre trips and meals out, call Amy on 07359 997795 or email amy.thomas@oddfellows.co.uk.

Forest Hill

The Branch holds weekly socials at Stanstead Lodge, a prominent building in Stanstead Road, SE23. It's a great place to make friends and chat over refreshments.

Buses 185 and 171 pass the door and others such as 122 pass nearby. The nearest London Overground station is Forest Hill and there are train stations at Catford and Forest Hill. There is plenty of parking in nearby roads. Northwood Road has no restrictions 80m away from the junction with Stanstead Road. The contact is Karen, who can tell you all about our events on 020 8699 0929 or at karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk.

Lee

Branch Secretary Karen can also advise you about Oddfellows membership benefits available and the monthly branch committee meetings held in Lee. Why not contact her, as above, about how to join committee meetings at Colfe's Sports club?

Pride of Clapham Branch

If ever you walk along Clapham High Street, away from Clapham Common tube station, you'll find Stonhouse Street. It's opposite Sainsbury's. Just a few minutes' walk down there, past the Stonhouse pub on the right and past Clapham Manor primary school on your left, you'll arrive at a large hall with red doors, again on your left.

Oddfellows Hall will be 175 years old next year. Originally built as a chapel for the Ebenezer Strict Baptists, the building and the adjoining manse were purchased by the Oddfellows Clapham Lodge in 1908.

Today, members meet on two days every week – and you are invited to join them! Tuesday's fun starts at 2.30pm, when Branch Secretary Jane Parkin opens the red door for chit and chatter, arts and crafts before the chair exercises commence at 5.30pm. For the more energetic, or is it the less energetic, yoga takes over at 6.30pm. Margarita's relaxing hour long session costs £15 a calendar month (£20 for non-members)!

Thursday afternoons' events alternate fortnightly. Jane organises a visit to Clapham Picturehouse nearby to see the latest films. At £5 a visit, that's a bargain! Every other week, Rosana holds a calming session involving watercolour painting accompanied by soft music and fragrances. The sessions are free and help everyone to relax. So, if you had always thought that these painting sessions were there to redecorate the walls, you have nothing to fear!

Continued on the next page...



*Watercolour therapist Rosana.
Photo by Jane Parkin.*

Continued from the previous page...

The Ploughman's lunches have proved very popular. The cost is just £5 for members and £7 for non-members.

Thursday night is games night. A general social evening where everyone can play various games, or chat over a drink, or

Flower of Kent Branch

Sidcup

Although the regular fortnightly social evenings are held at the Montrose Club in Sidcup, members come from as far as Abbey Wood, Dartford, Crayford, Bexley and Orpington to enjoy what's on offer.

Charlie Boswell arranges local socials which vary from quiz nights, to games such as curling, music nights and discos. Activities continue away from the Montrose Club too, for example,

two, or three. Hear Jim, Richard, Sid and Jane tell you about the Oddfellows.

You can speak to Jane in advance if you wish to attend for the first time. Her phone number is 07791 942969 and email address is jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk.

Norman Warner has organised an exclusive beer tasting at the Bird & Barrel in Bexleyheath on 19 May.

You can read about this and other local events in the listings in this magazine.

Why not contact Charlie, who will be pleased to tell you more about the branch's entertainment on 020 8306 8846 or at charlie.boswell@oddfellows.co.uk.



A whist drive at The Montrose Club.

Used Stamps

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



Oddfellows – a Benevolent Society

Branch Committees run the business of Oddfellowship – but what do they discuss?

The Oddfellows has long been associated with the care and welfare of members and have to respond to their needs. You may be interested to see these two responses to members to Branch benevolence. They show their feelings for the Oddfellows friends that they have made and summarises the care, support and thoughtfulness behind Oddfellows membership.

Member 1

‘My Branch sent me a cheque to help cover the cost of taxis. We have a local charity that has volunteer drivers who take you to medical appointments, wait for you and bring you home. The cost is a lot less than conventional taxis where you would have to book two journeys. I also applied to the Care Section of Oddfellows and they have contributed towards the cost of a new riser/recliner chair. My old chair had been my dad’s and rather old and not a riser. It has made a huge difference. Oddfellows have been so good to me.’

Member 2

‘If anything were to epitomise the meaning of Fellowship, it is the cheque in my hand right now. Its monetary value is of minor consequence, but well received nonetheless. Its intrinsic value is immeasurable and, that of its effect on our two adult children. They didn’t understand our need to attend ‘The Club’ and odd excursions to places of interest. They know now that it was the foundation of something that we are so privileged to

enjoy and be part of as Oddfellows, and friends of you all.

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

Don’t these sentiments show just what a caring and benevolent friendship group we have.

Distress Grants

One Branch made two Distress Grants of £150. The District Committee made a further emergency Distress Grant of £450 to the member and National Oddfellows’ Benevolent Committee made an additional contribution of £450.

A Time to Rest

By our Resident Poet
Jacqueline Ingleby-Douglass

The sun shines brightly over me.
Looking round I see a bee.
Flowers, trees and birds so sweet,
looking for some food to eat.

Branches swaying on the trees
whispering softly in the breeze.
I hear a dog bark quite close by.
A screaming child is passing by.

Home time now for those in school.
Some look sad. Some act the fool.
As I sit, I’ve time to think,
time to eat and time to drink.

There`s no hurry. All is well.
Being retired is - oh! so swell.
Worked many years, t’was all worthwhile.
Now it`s time to rest a while.

Bob Sinfield Salutes Maureen Lipman

I'll never forget my night with Maureen Lipman. Don't worry, it was all above board and in full view of seven million people, each of them glued to BBC1 for 'The Russell Harty Christmas Party'.



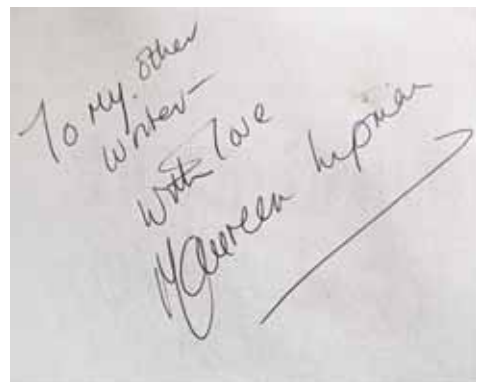
This annual event featured celebrity guests performing their party pieces. 1981's outing included Patrick Moore playing his xylophone with Deryck Guyler on the washboard and Raymond Baxter in full 1920s drag, singing "I Went to a Marvellous Party". For the finale, a choir of MPs (including David Steel) offered a medley of carols, led by Anita Harris. I am not making this up.

One notable absentee from the Parliamentary chorus was the then Prime Minister, Margaret Hilda Thatcher, so it fell to Ms Lipman to don a blonde wig, navy blue suit and court shoes for a scurrilous take-off of the Iron Lady. Until that point, very few people knew about Maureen's powers of mimicry, let alone her ability to caricature the Tory leader... but I was one of them.

The reason I remember all this so clearly is that Maureen had asked me to write her script. This was particularly generous of her as she already had a writer of her

own at home: her husband, the esteemed playwright Jack Rosenthal. As a fledgling scribbler, eager for work, I'd had the cheek to contact her in the hope that she might give me a leg-up, so to speak. Previously, I'd written sketches for topical radio shows like 'Week Ending' and 'The News Huddlines' but this was my maiden voyage on the choppy waters of television - live television at that! I couldn't believe my luck.

It was all going tremendously well until the break between the camera rehearsal in the afternoon and the evening transmission. There had been much appreciative laughter from the honourable members at the run-through but later it emerged that one of their number was most aggrieved and had raised a complaint with the producer. To our astonishment, the complainant was none other than David Steel, the last person we'd thought would take exception to a send-up of his main political opponent - but the nature of his objection made perfect sense when we heard it: he wanted us to include a joke about him. For a politician, anything's better than being ignored!



We had to think of something - and fast. I, the great writer, was totally stumped but quick-witted Maureen came up with a line about the Liberal leader and his SDP cohort Shirley Williams. So, one hour later, the viewing public and a rapturous studio audience heard her refer to them as Sapphire and Steel. It was funny that night, anyway.

To this day, I remain a huge fan of Maureen Lipman, not just for her considerable acting skills but also for her immense kindness and encouragement. Whenever we've run into each other since, she's taken one look at my bald head, dropped into her Thatcher voice and said, 'Well well, if it isn't my old friend Norman Tebbit!'

Update on RNLI Sheringham



You'll recall that we reported last year that all activity at Sheringham RNLI has been suspended after analysis of a structural survey of the lifeboat station building resulted in serious safety concerns. The Oddfellows has paid for three lifeboats, a number of refits and works in connection with the station and support for the volunteer crews at the lifeboat station for 64 years.

We are now pleased to advise you that:

- The RNLI are committed to reopening a refurbished station and engineering and planning has commenced

- The North Norfolk District Council has extended the lease on the land that the station sits, to 25 years
- The Oddfellows has an agreement with the RNLI for us to sponsor the next Lifeboat at Sheringham and this has been now been manufactured
- Current planning suggests that the station will be completed and open towards the end October 2026
- The existing crew continue to operate and train from Cromer and this will continue.

Your continued support and donations to the Oddfellows restricted fund for Sheringham Lifeboat and Station is valued. East Anglian Group Conference manages this support fund on behalf of the Oddfellows. Donation can be by cheque made out to The East Anglian Group Conference Lifeboat Fund. Please send your cheque to Clare Puddefoot (see page 2).

Linda Regan

What joy, it's spring. This is my favourite time of the year. I particularly love the month of May. Not only are a multitude of beautiful flowers and trees in full bloom, spreading their colours for promises of the sunny days to come, but also because the month of May gives us two free days: Bank Holidays.

Seems appropriate, as we Londoners are surrounded by beautiful listed houses and gardens, that many of us choose to visit these on, bank holiday days. The gardens, then, are in full bloom.

I have to admit to visiting Chartwell House, last year (The Manor home of Winston Churchill). It was full of history and beautiful flowers, but what brought a smile to my face was the very large 'NO SMOKING', sign displayed in the house. I wondered if the man himself was looking down, still with a cigar in the corner of his mouth, shaking his head and grinning at the thought of the many cigars he himself had smoked in there.

Bank holidays are a chance to take a day to ourselves to do what we like. Not everyone has a holiday though, as when I looked up why bank holidays came to be, it goes back years. Apparently, In the year 1871, they were declared as Bank Days as all the banks closed on these days, in order to count their money (It wouldn't take them a full day to count mine!).

Going even further back, as far back as Roman days, May Days, as they were named then, were given for prayer, to give thanks to the God of Flowers. I wonder if the God of Flowers is our influence still, and why many people choose to visit gardens or garden centres,

or even do their own gardening on the now Bank Holiday days.

And going even further back, the Gaelic communities had the two holiday days down to pray and ward off evil spirits. I have a clear memory of a weekend spent in Dublin, which I spent mostly in bed with only aspirin to keep me company, trying to ward off the effects of the spirit of pure brandy, given to me as a welcome to Dublin, and known to the Gaelic community as *fire water!*

In England, May Day marks the end of the first year of the Northern hemisphere, and was originally celebrated by maypole dancing, where people, wearing bells and flowers on their shoes, danced and weaved in circles, with each other, around flower decorated poles. Moving forward in, to post-war days, people danced in their streets on May Days in praise of having to do no work and there being no war. The women often danced using their brooms as their partner. Could this street dancing, perhaps, be the origins of the Notting Hill Carnival, I wondered, although now it takes place on August Bank Holiday.

Also, these days, pole dancing has taken on a whole new meaning. With many pole dancing clubs opening up around London and the suburbs, I wonder would our modern pole dancing dancers, perhaps, now, be better, danced on the days of a full moon!

Linda Regan is a film, television and stage actress, columnist, speaker and a successful novelist. Linda's husband Brian Murphy was an Oddfellow.



Keep Young and Beautiful - Part Five[©]

By Paul Fitton

Here is some more much-needed travel advice for the older teenagers among us.

Using public transport can be good, or bad after a certain age. I recall the first time that someone offered me their seat on a bus. Offended, I managed to politely decline, through gritted teeth. I was aged 62. Roll forward ten years and I stand on a crowded tube today, staring steely-eyed at the much younger pensioners sitting down on 'my' chair, hoping and praying that they'll smile and politely offer it to me.

These London Freedom passes are good, aren't they. Free travel on buses nationwide and free train and tube travel in London and its peripheries. If only we could use them to take taxis too. Well, I suppose that you could use them in a taxi – but then you'd have to be able to run away very quickly. That may not suit everybody.

That reminds me of the time when I was waiting at a bus stop and a jogger ran by. One old lady joked with her friend, "I can't remember when I was able to raise my legs that high!" I chortled.

My parents used to make use of their Freedom passes when not using their car. They told me of a conversation they had with a fellow bus passenger, who proudly declared, 'I'm 79 you know.' They smiled

at each other and politely carried on the conversation but without telling her that they were in their 90s and on their way to their regular dance!

Well, that's public transport done. You could always use your car, as long as you can remember where you parked it! A teacher at my school, noted for his forgetfulness, 'borrowed' the school minibus one weekend to help him with his part-time antiques business. After purchasing some items, he returned to the car park, only to find an empty space. No minibus! It had disappeared. He searched and searched, eventually giving up and calling the police. Well, he thought, at least he would have more time to build up his antiques business if he was sacked for using and losing the school minibus.

The local constabulary rang him later the following day. They had found the vehicle. He returned to the spot they said, in the car park. It was exactly where he had left it the day before! Memory plays some strange tricks!

Let's finish our travel-related feature for the older person with the fact that when we retire, our friends say that we all travel more. They don't say that it is to the doctors and hospital.

Until next time.

Lee in the 1930s

By Barbara Phipps

I suppose the times we live in now are as far removed from then as was the 1920s and 1930s from Victorian England. The time gap is wider, of course, but what I mean is the way in which things have changed.

Most of my earliest memories are of the three streets which bounded the neighbourhood, Ronver Road, Summerfield Street and Butterfield Street. Somehow to live in a 'street' was a step lower to than to live in a 'road'. It is true that there was very little difference in the type of property between the three streets, except that Ronver Road and Butterfield Street, later to be known as Wait Davis Road, there existed a certain amount of three-storied houses, that is a houses with semi-basements and second and first floors. I doubt whether any of the houses were owner occupied nor I imagine, was anyone really aware to whom they belonged. The rents were collected by an agent and I don't know whether the landlord came in the category of good, bad or indifferent, although I suspect it was the latter.

The three streets were all turnings that ran at right angles to Baring Road, Lee, always referred to as the main road. Fronting Baring Road and on both sides were the local shops and a pub.

On the corner of Ronver Road and Baring Road was Savin's the sweet shop. I remember Mr Savin as only having one arm. The walls of the shop were lined with glass sweet-jars on many shelves, it seemed to me then at a tremendous height. Anyway, it was necessary for Mr Savin to reach the upper shelves he had to use a ladder. I remember my father



telling me when he was a boy, of which I have no doubt he was the instigator, was to ask for two pennyworth of the sweets from a jar on the top shelf and then run off when the poor man had struggled incapacitated as he was with his one arm to manhandle the ladder into position, climb up, reach the required jar and bring it down to the counter.

I remember Mr Savin as a well-built man with grey hair, empty shirt sleeve tied to his side, the other rolled up and he always wore a waistcoat, I never remember that he wore a jacket. However, trips to Mr Savin's shop were few and far between for sweets of any kind were a rare luxury.

In later years other shops were built on the other side of Baring Road. I don't know what happened to Mr Savin. He had either retired or died. His shop was taken over by Shannons or perhaps it was the competition from Ducker's sweetshop and newsagents, on the other side, that caused him to shut-up shop.

I can remember being fascinated by Chinese paper water flowers, which I had seen somewhere or other. It was my heart's desire then to buy one for my very own, these mysterious objects which when immersed in water, would open to form brightly coloured minute flowers.

For the life of me I cannot remember where I ever saw them for the first time I knew I wouldn't be content until I was able to watch this awe-inspiring process take place before my very eyes.

One day I was in Ducker's shop, probably having been sent there on an errand when I spied what I was positive was the dreamed-of Chinese water flowers. I must have been possession of the 'd' reward for helping Granny on a Saturday, at the time, for I can remember pointing to a packet

on the shelf behind the counter and saying to the shopkeeper, 'That's what I want'. The shopkeeper seemed somewhat amused by my insistence on the purchase. I can't remember what I told him what I thought I was buying. I hurried home with my precious package, only to find that I had bought a packet of paper serviettes! I never saw the Chinese water flowers again, and having wasted my pocket money once in pursuit of them, gave up the quest.

Read part two in the next edition.

Oddfellows Memorabilia

Paul Fitton continues his look at past Oddfellows items

I have seen a jewel like this sell for £600. This one was 'Presented to PGP

John Williams by the Brothers of the Lord Palmerston Lodge as a mark of respect for past services 11 April 1876'. The Lodge was part of Dover District, in Kent.



The Shoop Shoop Show

By Paul Fitton

You can't beat a great night out – and 23 members certainly had one at The Shoop Shoop Show at the Aldwych Theatre in London's West End in April. The performance covered decades of Cher's career, including disco, pop-rock, and songs from the Dancing Queen album. It was my final event arranged as District Event Organiser.

All were able to enjoy The Shoop Shoop Show – The Cher Collection, starring ITV's Starstruck finalist Rachael Hawnt. The performer is widely praised as an 'amazing' and 'authentic' tribute, more than just a tribute act. Rachael's incredible powerhouse vocals, stunning costumes, and high energy kept the audience dancing to Cher's biggest hits.

The quality of Rachael's performance? Well, her vocal accuracy, mannerisms, and ability to command the stage were precise. The audience had to pinch themselves to check it wasn't really Cher! The show's band was world-class live and the impressive dancers and fast-paced, high-



energy and interactive atmosphere added to the truly memorable occasion.

To top it all, Oddfellows' early purchasers had seats for under half price!

To soak up the atmosphere, enjoy Carol Rowan's great photos and read some of the feedback from members.

"Cher Show was really good."

Charlie Boswell

"Sunday was an absolute HOOT brilliant fun good music and humour I loved it! Thank you again for arranging it."

Kate Alderson

"The show was fantastic and Rachael was brilliant. We really enjoyed it."

Carol Rowan

“ My daughter and I had a great time watching The Shoop Shoop Show. It was one of the best tribute acts that we have seen since Tina. Rachel Hawnt was brilliant as Cher and so was the band. A mixture of comedy and beautiful music so thank you Paul for a wonderful night out. ”

Barbara Fenner

“ The Cher tribute act was very nice and authentic. The singer, Rachael, was very professional and quite a few of her songs were very lively and good to dance to. The Oddfellows around me were good company. ”

I ndra Sikdar

“ Cher (Rachael) has a beautiful voice that carried easily around the auditorium. Her numerous costumes were magnificent, very bright and sparkly. This included various great wigs, black curls, redhead, and blonde - all looking fabulous. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening singing and dancing along. We were allowed as it was interactive. Rachel even congratulated people whose birthday it was on the night - coming into the audience several times to shake people's hands. Wonderful. ”

Loralne

“ Thank you for arranging the visit to the Cher Show. I thoroughly enjoyed it, so much fun and wonderful audience participation. Also enjoyed the company of the other members. ”

Barbara Brett-Brooks

“ Thanks Paul for booking the Shoop Shoop Show for us. Good seats and among a crowd of very active dancers and we all danced with Cher. The music was vibrant and the atmosphere was hot and lively. I'm glad I went although now I've toned down a lot from joining activities in the evening. The evening has enlightened my mental outlook that you are never too old to dance and never too old to enjoy. ”

Diana Wee



Medway Headway

‘What a wonderful night we had at Os Camacheiros Restaurant in Rochester. Traditional Portuguese food, dancing and a wonderful night of being together and enjoying each other’s company That’s what Oddfellows is all about.’ Writes local social organiser Amy Thomas. Here are Amy’s photographs to prove it.

‘Oddfellowship is about making new friends. That happens at all our events. A March riverside walk in Rainham was followed by lunch at The Three Mariners. Great company, great food and we were



looked after by the lovely Summer whilst there’, adds Amy.

If you’d like to join us, contact Amy on 07359 997795.



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.



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 Clare on **020 7735 2770** or email **clare.puddefoot@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**

Branch Contacts and Meetings

District Meetings

District Secretary: Clare Puddefoot

Address: South London District,
Oddfellows, 240 Clapham Road,
London SW9 0PZ

Telephone: 01322 665496

Email: clare.puddefoot@oddfellows.co.uk

District Committee Meetings
take place monthly. Bi-annual
District Meetings are held for
Branch Deputies.

Magazine Editor: Paul Fitton

Address: 15 Moat Close, Orpington,
Kent BR6 6ET

Telephone: 07851 910619

Email: paul.fitton@oddfellows.co.uk

Branch Meetings

All members are invited to attend
Branch business meetings. These start
at 8pm and are followed by social
events by 9pm with refreshments and
a chance to socialise. Non-members
may not attend.

Flower of Kent Branch

Secretary: Charlie Boswell

Correspondence Address: 12
Garden Avenue, Bexleyheath,
Kent DA7 4LF

Telephone: 020 8306 8846

Email:

charlie.boswell@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting/Social address:

The Montrose Club, 158 Hurst Road,
Sidcup, Kent DA15 9AJ.

Meeting dates:

Tuesdays 5 May, 2, 16 and 30 June,
14 and 28 July

Lord Byron Branch

**Secretary and Social and
Development Officer:** Karen Lewis
55 Kilmorie Road, Forest Hill,
London SE23 2SS

Telephone: 020 8699 0929

Email:

karen.lewis@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting address: Colfeian Sports
Club, Horn Park, Eltham Road,
London SE12 8UE

Meeting dates:

Mondays 11 May, 8 June and 13 July

Social address: Stanstead Lodge,
260 Stanstead Road, Forest Hill,
London SE23 1DD

Social and Development

Officer for Medway: Amy Thomas

Telephone: 07359 997795

Email: amy.thomas@oddfellows.co.uk

Social address: Bredhurst Hall,
Hurstwood Road, Bredhurst,
Gillingham, Kent ME7 3JZ

Pride of Clapham Branch

Secretary: Jane Parkin

Correspondence Address: 18
Glendale, Swanley, Kent BR8 8TB

Telephone: 07791 942969

Email: jane.parkin@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting/Social address:

Oddfellows Hall, 27 Belmont Close,
Clapham, London SW4 6AY

Meeting dates:

Thursdays 21 May, 18 June
and 16 July

At a glance

Weekly Events

Every Tuesday	Knit, Natter and Craft Group (Clapham)	2.30pm
Every Tuesday	Chair Exercise (Clapham)	5.30pm
Every Tuesday	Yoga for all levels (Clapham)	6.30pm
Every Thursday	Coffee and a Chat (Forest Hill)	2pm
Every Thursday	Thursday Friends (Clapham)	8pm

May 2026

Tues 5	Flower of Kent Branch Committee Meeting and Social	8pm
Thurs 7	Coffee Morning at Beantown	10am
Thurs 7	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Thurs 7	Quiz Night	8pm
Mon 11	Business Meeting	8pm
Thurs 14	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon
Tues 19	Beer Tasting Evening	7pm
Thurs 21	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Fri 22	Belgravia and Chelsea in Bloom	10am
Tues 26	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Thurs 28	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon

June

Tues 2	Children's Favourites with Uncle Paul!	8pm
Thurs 4	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Thurs 4	Lasting Power of Attorney and Will Writing	8pm
Fri 5	We Will Rock You	7.30pm
Mon 8	Business Meeting	8pm
Thurs 11	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon
Fri 12	Coffee Morning with Avon Try and Buy	10am

At a glance

June

Tues 16	Quiz Night at the Montrose	8pm
Thurs 18	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Tues 23	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Thurs 25	Eat Out at The Robin Hood in Chatham	1pm
Thurs 25	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon
Tues 30	Music Bingo Night at the Montrose	8pm

July

Thurs 2	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Thurs 2	Pig Racing	8pm
Thurs 9	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon
Fri 10	Coffee Morning in Bredhurst	10am
Mon 13	Business Meeting	8pm
Tues 14	Quiz Night at the Montrose	8pm
Thurs 16	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Thurs 23	Cinema Club, Clapham	Afternoon
Tues 28	Art Unscrewed	4pm
Tues 28	Flower of Kent Branch Committee Meeting and Social	8pm
Thurs 30	Watercolour Therapy with Rosana	3.30pm
Fri 31	Cambridge Day Trip	TBC

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.