

April - December 2024



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

out & about

Richmond (Surrey) Branch



Music



Family



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Friendship



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Online



*Health and Wellbeing Walk
Monday 23 September*

Welcome to the April to September 2024 issue of our social Events Diary.

Hello Reader,

I hope you've had a good start to the year and are looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring.

I hope you'll find this edition of our Branch events diary even more exciting than the last! There's a wide range of events; to suit lots of different interests and different budgets. Some events take place during the week, others at weekends; and at various times of the day. There really is something for everyone!

I'm always thrilled to add extra events to our programme and to promote more events, which are recommended by our Branch members – then we enjoy a little spontaneity along the way! So take a leap of faith! Come along to an event or two! Get to meet our members, friends and other enquirers. Socialise with us and see how you like it! I'm certain you'll always receive a warm welcome!

Also know that Branch (or Society) membership also brings a huge range

Contact Details

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
15 Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG

Branch Secretary:

Samantha Edwards

Telephone: 020 8940 2760

Mobile: 07757 010604

Email:

samantha.edwards@oddfellows.co.uk

Alternative email:

richmond@oddfellows.co.uk

Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday – 10am to 3pm.

Please make an appointment with Samantha, for a personal visit. Other appointments can be made outside of the normal office hours. Please leave a message on the office answer phone, or on Samantha's mobile phone. Messages are picked up on a daily basis. We will endeavour to respond to voice messages within two business days.

of other fantastic benefits, including opportunities to volunteer and to support our Branch progress! You can learn more about these benefits from me, the Branch Committee Members and from staff at Unity Office.

We look forward to seeing lots of new faces – and familiar faces – at our events!

Best wishes,

*Samantha
Editor*

April 2024

MON 08 Fish and Chips Lunch



12 noon



See below



Enjoy a delicious fish and chips meal at this popular and lively restaurant. Cost: £6.50 for members and £7 for guests, or your choice from the menu. Quality Fish Restaurant, 11 King Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ND. It would be helpful to let Sam know on Monday 8 April before 10am, if you can attend.



THURS 18 Drinks or Lunch at The Bishop in Kingston



12.30pm



As per menu



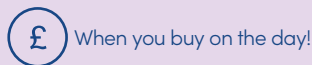
Join us for drinks or lunch, at this super venue by the river, in Kingston. A perfect opportunity to socialise with other members (and new enquirers) who live nearer to this town! The Bishop, 2 Bishop's Hall off Thames Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1PY. Please let Sam know if you'd like to attend by Monday 15 April.



SUN 21 St George's Day Parade and Festival of Fun



11am



When you buy on the day!



Join members for a day of entertainment and family fun. The day starts at 11am and finishes at 6pm. There'll be a huge parade with schools, youth groups, marching bands, dancers, classic cars, military vehicles, Harleys and Scooters and much more. 119 High Street Whitton, Whitton, Twickenham, Surrey TW2 7LN (or alternative postcode TW2 7LG). If you'd like to go with a group of members, please let Sam know by 6pm, Thursday 18 April.



April 2024

MON 22 Branch Annual General Meeting



11.30am



Free



An important business meeting, to which all Branch members are invited. An opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process for the Branch, to offer suggestions for development and improvement and to volunteer your practical support. Doors will open from 11am. Light refreshments will be served. Meet and socialise with other Branch members. Book by Thursday 18 April. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Sam.

TUES 30 Drinks or Lunch at the Coach and Horses Pub in Kew Green



1pm



As per menu



Enjoy a leisurely lunch or drinks with members and guests, at this delightful pub. A long-time favourite with Kew residents and visitors, the Coach and Horses Pub is a modernised old Georgian coaching inn; which is also dog-friendly. The Coach and Horses Pub, 8 Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3BH. Let Sam know by Thursday 25 April, if you're attending.

May

SAT 04 Theatre Visit to see the play 'Consent'



1.45pm



£16 plus £1 booking fee



Friends Ed and Tim take opposing briefs in a sexual assault case. Nina Raine's funny, perceptive and gut-wrenching play sifts the evidence from every side and puts justice herself in the dock.

Meet up with Branch members, to enjoy a light lunch around 12.30pm followed by the play performance starting at 2pm. Or meet afterwards for an early dinner. Tickets to be bought directly from the theatre as soon as possible! Hampton Hill Theatre, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill, Surrey TW12 1NZ. Please let Sam know if you'd like to join a group to attend this performance. Book as early as you can and preferably by Thursday 18 April.

May

SAT
11

A Presentation by Silvertime Legal



11am



Members Free
Guests £3



An interesting presentation about estate planning, inheritance tax and long-term care considerations. An excellent opportunity to gain invaluable information and to socialise with other members! Light refreshments will be served – if you're not in a hurry to go along to the Richmond Green Fair! Book by Friday 19 April. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.



THURS
16

The Stony Stratford Kidnapping



11am



Members Free
Guests £3



Join us for an entertaining talk and presentation by Simon Waterfield. A 30 minutes-story told in costume!



A medieval Innkeeper enjoying a quiet comfortable time is swept into national politics, when he witnesses the kidnapping of a king in his inn. Light refreshments will be served. Book by Friday 10 May. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.

SAT
11

Richmond Green May Fair



12.30pm



Whatever you choose to spend!



Richmond's May Festival is a hugely popular annual event, showcasing entertainment and hundreds of stalls. Join other Branch members in making the most of this lively and fun, family-friendly event. For more information, see <https://www.richmondmayfair.co.uk>. Richmond Green, Off/near Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Sam.



May

SUN
19

Richmond Hill Open Gardens



11am



Your choice at
the church or
local 'eateries'



If you love gorgeous gardens, this is an ideal opportunity to enjoy a sensational show of 12 separate gardens, which will be open to the general public. For more information about this event, see the website: <http://www.richmondhillpengardens.org>. Tickets can be purchased in advance or on the day. Refreshments are served at the central point, which is St Matthias Church, in Richmond. St Matthias Church (the central point), Church Road, Richmond Hill, Surrey TW10 6LS. Let Sam know if you'd like to meet up with other Branch members. Book by Sunday 19 May.

FRI
24

Mind, Body and Spirit Show at Olympia (24 to 27 May)



11am



See below



An amazing show about wellness taking place at an iconic venue. Bringing together inspirational, motivational speakers, musicians, artists and performers from across the globe. See the website: <https://www.mindbodyspirit.co.uk>. Cost: Standard: £18 plus £1.69 booking fee; or concessions: £15 plus £1.50 booking fee. Tickets are best bought in advance, though some might be available on your chosen day. A group discount is possible. Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, Hammersmith, London W14 8UX. Let Sam know if you're keen!

TUES
21

A Tour of the Bank of England Museum



2pm



Entry free plus
cost of lunch
and travel



A splendid one-hour, guided tour of the Bank of England Museum. We'll have lunch before, somewhere local to the museum. Cost: Free entry plus your choice of lunch or refreshments and travel fare. It's essential to book your place on the tour as soon as possible by Friday 12 April. Bank of England Museum, Bartholomew Lane, City of London, London EC2R 8AH.

MON
03

A Visit to The Magic Circle in London



10.45am



See below



Join us on an visit to the Magic Circle, where the history of magic comes to life! There will be an exciting demonstration and a talk; as well as artefacts on display in the museum.

A group discount is available, so please book your place as early as possible! Drinks, lunch and socialising to follow nearby! Cost: £21 per person (with concessions or a group discount) plus travel fare and refreshments. The Magic Circle, 12 Stephenson Way, Euston, London NW1 2HD. Tickets can be bought directly from the venue or ask Sam to organise your purchase. Book by Friday 26 April.



THURS
06

A Presentation by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Join us for a fascinating presentation by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution; the charity who save lives out at sea; through search and rescue by lifeboats; talented lifeguards and education programmes. Also a perfect opportunity to socialise with other Branch members. Please book your place early and by Thursday 23 May! Light refreshments will be served. Doors open from 1.30pm. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.



June

THURS
20

Day Trip to Margate in Kent



10am



See below



***Change of previous date, now to Thursday.**

Join us for a day trip to this timeless English seaside holiday town. Three hours from London by coach from Victoria Station; or if our group is large enough, we'll take a private mini-bus.

It's essential to express your interest early! A private mini-bus would leave from Richmond Train and Tube Station at 10am. Cost: Travel: At least £20.90 per person, with group discount. Book by Thursday 23 May. Victoria Train & Coach Station or Richmond Train Station.

July

THURS
04

A Presentation: Tales of a Groundhopper



11am



Branch Members £1
Society Members £2
Guests £3



Doors open at 11am, for this fascinating insight into visiting football grounds. Presented by our Oddfellows member, Barry; who will share tales of his experiences up and down the country. A one-hour talk with a 'Q & A' session at the end. An ideal opportunity for socialising! Book by Friday 28 June. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Sam.

SAT
06

Parsons Green Fair



11am



Your choice!



A fantastic, annual, hugely popular fair; perfect for family-friendly entertainment and for a special day out with a small group of friends! Meet at an agreed venue at certain, agreed times! (For example, at our social hall in Richmond, or the local train station, Parsons Green). Parsons Green, Parsons Green Lane, Parsons Green in Fulham, London SW6. Let Sam know if you'd like to join a members group for the day. Book by Thursday 4 July.

July

MON
15

Lunch at Sebastian's Italian Restaurant



12.30pm



As per menu



Enjoy a traditional, delicious Italian meal at this popular restaurant. Relax in the company of other members. Please book your place by Tuesday 9 July. Sebastian's Italian, 12-13 King Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ND.



WED
24

Drinks or Lunch at Sun Inn Pub



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for long, cool drinks or a spot of lunch, in this delightful garden, at the Sun Inn Pub. Book by Wednesday 17 July. Sun Inn Pub - Beer Garden, 17 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Sam.

MON
29

Going to the Cinema



12.30pm



See below



There's always interesting films showing at the cinema. Odeon Silvers, offer special screenings for the over 60s. We'll choose the film closer to the date (perhaps in September). Best to book your ticket early. Lunch can be enjoyed with other Branch members before the start of the film; and afterwards some leisurely drinks! Cost: Tickets are from £3.50, includes tea, coffee and biscuits, served before the film. Book by Friday 19 July. Odeon Richmond Studio, 6 Red Lion Street, Richmond TW9 6RE. Contact Sam.

August

THURS
08

Visiting the Museum of Docklands



11am



Free entry plus
your refreshments



There's always fascinating items on display and inspirational videos at this museum; located in the centre of



London, just a few minutes walk from West India Quay Station. Enjoy the exhibition and a hearty lunch at the museum café. We'll set off from Richmond Train and Tube Station at 10am or meet at the venue at 11am. Book by Tuesday 6 August. Museum of London Docklands, No 1, West India Quay, Hertsmeare Road, London E14 4AL.

SUN
18

Sunday Lunch at the Sun Inn Pub



1.45pm



As per
menu



A traditional Sunday roast is a firm favourite at the Sun Inn Pub. You'll certainly enjoy great company and good food! Sun Inn Pub, 17 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Please let Sam know by Monday 12 August if you would like to attend.

SAT
24

The Egham Royal Show



11am



Free entry plus
your refreshments



This weekend event brings together a diverse range of horticultural and agricultural themes. Visitors can enjoy livestock and vintage vehicle parades, as well as action-packed displays, like scurry driving and stunt bikes. The show also features a livestock marquee displaying sheep, pigs and cattle, along with a horticulture marquee, showcasing homegrown produce, flowers, handmade crafts and baked goods.

Meet up with and enjoy a day out with Branch members. The Egham Royal Show, 47A High Street, Egham, Surrey TW20 9NF. Let Sam know if you'd like to join the group.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
05

Cheese and Wine Afternoon

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun



4pm



Members £2
Guests £4



Join us for an afternoon of socialising, as we enjoy samples of delicious cheese and fine wine. A perfect opportunity to meet other Branch members, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Booking is absolutely essential, to ensure sufficient catering! This event will finish at 7pm. Admittance is only by advance notification. Book by Wednesday 28 August. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Sam.



TUES
10

Coffee Club at the Royal Albert Hall in London



1.30pm



£5 including tea or
coffee and cake



Located in the intimate surroundings of the Elgar Room, this is a series of relaxed live music performances ranging from smooth jazz to classical. Aimed at an older audience, you can enjoy moving about, dancing and singing; or simply sitting, listening, relaxing and socialising! Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London SW7 2AP. Early booking of your ticket with either Sam or the venue is essential. Book by Friday 10 May.



Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun.

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



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



MON
16

Day Trip to a Birds of Prey Centre - Herrings Green Activity Farm or Hobbledown



10.30am



See below



A fascinating opportunity to learn more about birds of prey. We'll decide whether to visit Hobbledown at Epsom in Surrey, or the Herrings Green Farm in Bedfordshire. Both of these places are equally exciting!



We'll travel either by train or by private mini-bus. Cost: From £12 to £15 per person. Book by Monday 2 September. Please let Sam know by Friday 16 August if you're interested and which venue you prefer.

SAT
21

The Great River Race in Richmond



10am



Your choice on food and entertainment



The Great River Race is London's River Marathon. It's a spectacular boat race covering 21.6 miles from Millwall in the East to Richmond in the West, travelling under London's famous bridges. It appeals to every level of competitor, from dedicated athletes who come every year to beat their records to those who simply enjoy laughter, fancy dress and making money for their charity. It's a great fun day out for both competitors and spectators. See the website: <https://greatriverrace.org.uk/observation-points>. Richmond by the River Thames, Richmond Town Centre, Richmond, Surrey TW10. Branch members could meet up and enjoy this day together - just let Sam know if you're interested.

September

MON
23

Health and Wellbeing Walk



10.45am



Walk free plus cost of refreshments



Join our members and other groups; for a short social walk across Richmond. Setting off at 11am from Richmond Train and Tube Station and finishing, just 30 minutes later, at the Tide Tables Café, Richmond Riverside TW9 1TH.



This event is suitable for people who have not walked much before, or for those with limiting health conditions. Members and guests can then socialise at the café, or choose another local venue. Richmond Train & Tube Station, The Concourse (Richmond Train & Tube Station), Richmond, Surrey TW9 1EZ. For more information, visit the Richmond Council website on Ramblers. Let Sam know, if you're attending.

THURS
26

Trip to Denbies Wine Estate in Surrey



10am



See below



Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking, is one of England's largest single estate vineyards. With splendid scenery, it's a interesting place to visit, relax and learn about wines. Just one hour away from Richmond, our group could take the train there, or travel by private minibus. Cost: £14.50 per person (group of 10) plus travel fare (to be confirmed). Denbies Wine Estate, London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA. Please let Sam know if you're interested by Thursday 5 September.

Some of the Forthcoming Events – October

THURS 10 Quiz and Games Afternoon



Wind down to the weekend by joining in with the fun! Test your quick minds in our quiz. Show off your skills at board and card games! Light refreshments will be served. This event will finish at 3.30pm. Cost: £1 for members and £3 for guests (to be donated to charity). Booking is essential by Tuesday 8 October. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.



THURS 31 Drinks or Lunch at The Bishop in Kingston



Join us for drinks or lunch, at this super venue by the river, in Kingston.

A perfect opportunity to socialise with other members (and new enquirers) who live nearer to this town! Book by Thursday 24 October. The Bishop, 2 Bishop's Hall off Thames Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1PY.



FRI 25 Visit to the Supreme Court, Central London



The Supreme Court offers one-hour guided tours of its beautiful courtrooms. These events are free. Always a Friday event starting at 2pm. We could meet for lunch or snacks or drinks at a venue very close by, at 12.30pm, then go on to the Supreme Court. This is our first choice for the event date. It might need to be changed according to the general public demand for the tickets. Cost: £10 plus your choice of refreshments and travel fare. Early booking is advisable by Monday 2 September. The Supreme Court, Parliament Square, Central London, London SW1P 3BD.



Some of the Forthcoming Events – November

THURS 21 Quiz and Games Afternoon



Members £1
Guests £3

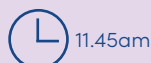


A fun start to the weekend! Test your quick minds in our quiz. Show off your skills at board and card games! Light refreshments will be served. This event will finish at 3.30pm. Cost: £1 for members and

£3 for guests (to be donated to charity). Booking is essential by Tuesday 19 November. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.

December

MON 09 Christmas Lunch



As per menu



A happy occasion, this is always a firm favourite on our events calendar. Join us for an afternoon of cheer and merriment; as well as the festive fayre! The restaurant venue is to be decided, by the first week in September. Initially, our social hall in Richmond can be the location



to meet. Please save this date! Booking is absolutely essential by Friday 29 November. Oddfellows Hall, 15 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG.

Some of the Forthcoming Events – December

SAT 14 **Pantomime performance at Richmond Theatre**



1.30pm



See below



We haven't decided on the chosen pantomime production yet! But, please put this date in your diary! We'll enjoy drinks prior; then a sensational pantomime, followed by an early evening meal at a local place in Richmond. Early booking of the theatre tickets is absolutely essential by Monday 4 November. We'll decide on the show by the beginning of October. Cost of the panto tickets, plus the ticket booking fee, plus your choice of refreshments. Richmond Theatre, Little Green, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1QJ.



SUN 15

Carols at the Royal Albert Hall



11am



From £18.50



An alternative date for this wonderful event would be Sunday 22 December. Join fellow Branch members in experiencing a magnificent performance of popular Christmas carols. Booking your ticket early is absolutely essential by Monday 3 June. A group discount is possible. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London SW7 2AP.



Interested in volunteering?

We couldn't run all our events without our wonderful volunteers. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members
- Guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare teas/coffees
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social events committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or Befriender

Want to deliver a new activity?

We encourage all our members to arrange events for other members and friends. If you'd like help to run a new event, for example a book club, singing group, a one-off walk in the country or coffee morning, then get in touch and we'll support you every step of the way.

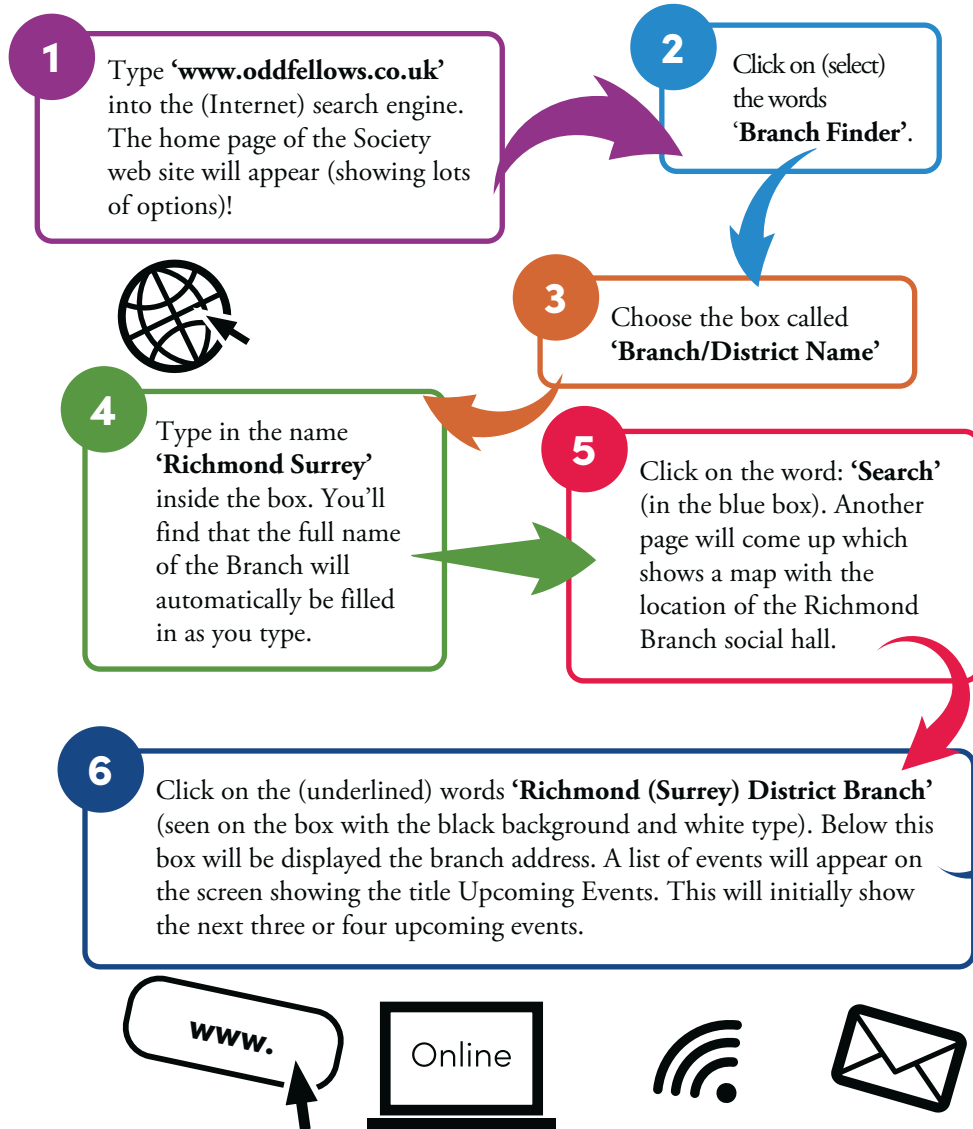
If you're interested in finding out more about helping us as a volunteer, contact Samantha by phone on 020 8940 2760, or email at samantha.edwards@oddfellows.co.uk

"Supporting events as a volunteer makes me feel more committed to the Oddfellows and what I do. I enjoy meeting up with other members/friends, any outings that take place, the lunches and some of the talks are especially interesting".

Cynthia, Volunteer

How to view our events on the Oddfellows website

Here how to view the Branch events on the Society website. If you want to find information on the events, by searching the web pages, this is what you need to do:



This method of seeing our events works for all devices!

Keeping in Touch Those All- Important Updates

The Society sends out regular emails to Branch members; to let you know about additional social opportunities, event changes and membership benefits. Don't miss out on this information!

Let us know if:

- you change your home address
- you get a new email address
- you have a new mobile phone number



Comments , Compliments and Complaints

Constructive criticism helps our Branch and our services to improve. Also, if you've any ideas for social events or fundraising for worthy

causes; please don't hesitate to share them with us – either directly with Sam, or with another member of the Branch Management Committee.

Ordering food at The Sun Inn Pub

If you want to place an order for a meal at The Sun Inn Pub in Richmond, it's always best (and much quicker) to place your order directly in person, at the bar.

A Film Group or a Theatre Group

Do you enjoy films? Are you excited about new musicals or plays showing at the theatre? If so, you could join our group of Oddfellows members, who regularly go to the cinema or the theatre. Why not watch those interesting, heart-warming or thought-provoking films and productions, in the good coming of like-minded members? If this interests you, please let Sam know as soon as possible. We'll



add regular trips to the theatre or the cinema, to our existing events programme.

A Museum, Art and Culture Group

Do you fancy frequenting London's superb museums? There's a wealth of awesome art, exceptional artefacts and inspiring ideas, all on display in our city's museums. Would you like to be a member of



a group, that takes regular trips to these fascinating places? Perhaps once per month during Autumn and Winter; then every fortnight during Spring and Summer? If this appeals to you, please contact Sam as soon as possible. More information about all the museums we could visit, is available from Sam.

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

Let's Get Artistic and Crafty!



We know that some of our members have superb artistic skills; or really love doing Art and Craft. Did you know that art and craft activities are tremendously therapeutic? Also, that the focus required for such hobbies is most beneficial for keeping the mind healthy. If these activities interest you, please let Sam know, so we can organise a regular art and craft group – to meet several times a year at Oddfellows Hall.

Share your memories with us

Do you have amazing or very interesting photographs of places and events not visited by our Branch? Perhaps taken recently or in the distant past? If so, please send your fantastic photos to Sam (via email or royal mail); so they can be printed in our Branch newsletter, for all the members to enjoy.



Booking Your Place at Our Events

Booking your place in advance for a meal is generally so we can inform the venue how many to expect. It's also helpful, just in case there's an emergency; and we need to change the venue location, day or time. You may leave a voice message, email or a text message when booking your place - whichever method suits you.

Please note that not all of our social events are listed in this diary. Updated lists of our events can be seen on our Society website:
[https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/search/?Branch=Richmond+\(Surrey\)+District+Branch](https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/search/?Branch=Richmond+(Surrey)+District+Branch)

Feel free to suggest and recommend other events, at any time!



JAL International Toastmasters

Experts shared valuable knowledge on communication and presentation skills, good story-telling tips and techniques.

Location of meetings: Oddfellows Hall, Ground Floor. 15 Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RG.
Contact: purcell@jasperalliancelondon.com

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Socialising Closer to Home

You may have moved further away from Richmond, but would like to continue to meet up and socialise with other Society members. If that's the

case, please don't hesitate to contact Sam (your Branch Secretary) so she can put you in touch with the Branch located nearest to your home address.

Society-funded cancer research on track

The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student."



Nur updating AMC last year

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."



Dr Tim Fenton

HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

Our fantastic four

Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.

George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

Jamie Messett

Loyal Lord Byron
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards



learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

Charlotte Stevenson,

Pride of Woolwich
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.



The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Striving for a greener future

The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO₂e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



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

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

Investing in futures

Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

*T&Cs apply.

At a glance

April 2024

Mon 8	Fish and Chips Lunch	12 noon
Thurs 18	Drinks or Lunch at The Bishop in Kingston	12.30pm
Sun 21	St George's Day Parade and Festival of Fun	11am
Mon 22	Branch Annual General Meeting	11.30am
Tues 30	Drinks or Lunch at the Coach and Horses Pub in Kew Green	1pm

May

Sat 4	Theatre Visit to see the play 'Consent'	1.45pm
Sat 11	A Presentation by Silvertime Legal	11am
Sat 11	Richmond Green May Fair	12.30pm
Thurs 16	The Stony Stratford Kidnapping	11am
Sun 19	Richmond Hill Open Gardens	11am
Tues 21	A Tour of the Bank of England Museum	2pm
Fri 24	Mind, Body and Spirit Show at Olympia (24 to 27 May)	11am

June

Mon 3	A Visit to The Magic Circle in London	10.45am
Thurs 6	A Presentation by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution	2pm
Thurs 20	Day Trip to Margate in Kent	10am

July

Thurs 4	A Presentation: Tales of a Groundhopper	11am
Sat 6	Parsons Green Fair	11am
Mon 15	Lunch at Sebastian's Italian Restaurant	12.30pm
Wed 24	Drinks or Lunch at Sun Inn Pub	12.30pm
Mon 29	Going to the Cinema at the Odeon Richmond Studio	12.30pm

August

Thurs 8	Visiting the Museum of Docklands	11am
Sun 18	Sunday Lunch at the Sun Inn Pub	1.45pm
Sat 24	The Egham Royal Show	11am

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Thurs 5	Cheese and Wine Afternoon	4pm
Tues 10	Coffee Club at the Royal Albert Hall in London	1.30pm
Mon 16	Day Trip to a Birds of Prey Centre - Herrings Green Activity Farm or Hobbledown	10.30am
Sat 21	The Great River Race in Richmond	10am
Mon 23	Health and Wellbeing Walk	10.45am
Thurs 26	Trip to Denbies Wine Estate in Surrey	10am

Some of the Forthcoming Events - October

Thurs 10	Quiz and Games Afternoon	1pm
Fri 25	Visit to the Supreme Court, Central London	12.30pm
Thurs 31	Drinks or Lunch at The Bishop in Kingston	12.30pm

November

Thurs 21	Quiz and Games Afternoon	1pm
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December

Mon 9	Christmas Lunch	11.45am
Sat 14	Pantomime performance at Richmond Theatre	1.30pm
Sun 15	Carols at the Royal Albert Hall	11am

**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 oddfellows.co.uk/events and enter
'Ayr' in the place name search box

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