

April – September 2025



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

out & about

South Essex & Stepney Branch
With Branches in Hockley, Southend and Chelmsford



Theatre



Crafts



Travel



Dining Out



Quizzes



History



Social



Friendship



Talks



Games



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



We hope you can meet us for our social events!

Welcome to this edition of our combined Events Diary and Newsletter

Finally we have spring here, for a while we thought it would never happen. We have at the end of the 2025 opened the Chelmsford Branch of the District Branch, you will find details of this in the events section of this booklet. Unfortunately, we have had to close our Grays Thurrock Social Branch as they had to move from the property.

We are now looking at starting the branch up again but possibly in the Upminster area so we can cover a larger area. Hopefully we will be able to tell you more in September.

We hope that you will all enjoy this spring and summer this year and you will be able to come along to one of our events.

Contact Details

Secretary Stepney and

South Essex Branch:

Nicola O'Riordan Finley

Address: 43 Oak Walk, Hockley, Essex SS5 5AR

Telephone: 07802 678255

Email:

nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk

Southend Social Organiser:

Rachel Voller

Telephone: 07548 368761

Email:

rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk

Venues and Contacts

Chelmsford - Hope Branch:

Address: 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.

Contact: Rachel Voller

on 07548 368761.

Hockley - Greensward Branch:

Address: Hockley and Hawkswell Day Centre, in Car Park behind the Library, Rochford District Car Park Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ.

Contact: Nicola O'Riordan Finley on 07802 678255.

Southend Branch:

Address: The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1NR.

Contact: Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

April 2025

WED
23

&

THURS
24

Back in the Day Trivia - Fun Quizzes and Games



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A nostalgic meeting featuring some fun games and quizzes taking us 'Back in the Day!'. Refreshment provided and great company. Just bring your memories.



Wednesday 23 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop. Five minutes walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.

Thursday 24 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.

New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

SUN
27

Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Why not come along and join your friends with a Sunday lunch of bolognaise sauce and Fusilli pasta served with a side salad and garlic bread. Dessert will be a lemon tart and cream, there will also be tea or coffee available. Book by Wednesday 23 April. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

May

FRI
09

Monthly Lunch at 1935 Rooftop Restaurant at the Holiday Inn - Southend Branch

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Pre-meal selection required by Monday 5 May. Transport available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. 1935 Rooftop Restaurant at the Holiday Inn, Southend Airport, 77 Eastwoodbury Crescent, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6XG. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser for Southend to request transport and find out about menu choices on 07548 368761.

SAT
10

Greensward and Hockley Day Centre Joint Fundraiser VE Day Lunch

🕒 1pm

£ £12 per person



A joint fundraiser for the Day Centre and the Oddfellows.

Journey back in time to the first VE

Day after World War II, take part in a lunch of carrot soup with roll, Lord Woolton pie, cornbeef hash and spam fritters. Dessert is stewed fruit crumble crisp and custard. Profits will be split in two. Fruit juice, tea or coffee will be served, you can bring your own drink if you wish. There will be a raffle and a prize or two for the best dressed 1940s person. Book by Friday 2 May. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.



WED
14

Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles - Chelmsford Hope Branch

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. Our current lunch venue is the Brambles Restaurant located on the first floor of the Quadrant Department Store, Chelmsford High Street. Lunch will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm. Confirm attendance by calling or emailing Rachel or posting on the group WhatsApp is essential. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Lifts may be available from other members, please let Rachel know if you need help with transport. Book by Tuesday 13 May. Brambles Restaurant, Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LS. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.

WED
28

&

THURS
29

Catchphrase and Pictionary



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A fun meeting enjoying the popular games Catchphrase and Pictionary. Team fun, will your table be the winners?

Wednesday 28 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop. Five minutes walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 29 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

FRI
30

Greensward Branch Coffee Morning



10am



£2 to enter and whatever you buy as refreshments



Our first fundraising coffee morning of the year, why not come along to take part in our coffee morning, where there will be cakes, biscuits tea or coffee and maybe even a hot chocolate or two. Fundraising for The Samaritans. If anyone would like to sell some of their craft, then please get in touch with Nicola, a table will cost £5. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

June

SUN 01 Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Are you on your own or just don't fancy cooking. Why not come along and join us for, ham and chicken pie served with mash, broccoli and cauliflower cheese. Dessert will be black forest cake and cream. We are a friendly group and are a mixture of single, married or just a friendship group. Book by Monday 26 May. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.



WED 11 Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles - Chelmsford Hope Branch



12.30pm



As per
menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. See 14 May entry for full details. Book by Tuesday 10 June. Brambles Restaurant, Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LS. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.

THURS 12 Monthly Lunch at Anne Boleyn Pub - Southend Branch



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport may be available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Book by Wednesday 11 June. Anne Boleyn Pub, 93 Southend Road, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea SS4 1HU. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



SUN 15 Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Don't feel like cooking or just want some company. Chicken breast wrapped in bacon surrounded by wine sauce, croquette potatoes, carrots, green beans, broccoli, followed by apple sponge and custard. Book by Monday 9 June. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

WED
25

&

THURS
26

How Good is Your Guess?



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A fun meeting enjoying a range of quiz, teasers and audio clips, where you will have to be good at guessing!

Wednesday 25 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop.

Five minutes walk from train station.

Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 26 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.

New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

SUN
29

Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Why not bring your friends along and share in Sunday lunch of salmon steaks with hollandaise sauce, new potatoes, green beans and tenders of broccoli and carrots. Dessert will be banana cream pie and cream. Book by Monday 23 June. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

July

WED 09 Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles - Chelmsford Hope Branch

 12.30pm  As per menu 

Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. See 14 May entry for full details. Book by Tuesday 8 July. Brambles Restaurant, Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LS. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.

THURS 10 Monthly Lunch at The Meadowlark Pub/Restaurant - Southend Branch

 12.30pm  As per menu 

Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport may be available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Book by Wednesday 9 July. The Meadowlark (Pub Restaurant), Artillery Avenue, Shoeburyness SS3 8EE. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



SUN 13 Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch

 1pm  Members £6
Guests £8 

Feeling like you don't want to cook, why not come along and let us do the cooking for you. Menu: Pork loin chop, roast potatoes, cabbage, peas and stuffing. Dessert will be strawberry cake and cream. Book by Monday 7 July. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.



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.

WED
23

&

THURS
24

Beetle Drive



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



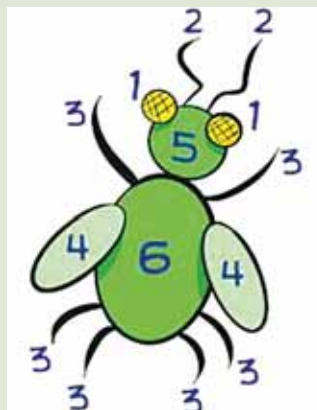
Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A fun beetle drive meeting. This classic game brings much enjoyment, a little competition and a chance to all mix and meet each other.

Wednesday 23 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop. Five minutes walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 24 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

SUN
27

Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch



1pm



Members £6
Guests £8



Why not come along and join in a gentle chilled summer lunch of pulled ham, mixed salad and new potatoes followed by jelly and fruit with cream. Book by Monday 21 July. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

August

SUN

10

Afternoon Tea - Greensward Branch



2.30pm



Members £8, Guests £10



This is a fundraising event, come along and join in afternoon tea of assorted mixed sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and an assortment of cakes. All profits will go towards the Samaritans, there will be a raffle. Book by Monday 4 August. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.



WED

13

Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles - Chelmsford Hope Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. See 14 May entry for full details. Book by Tuesday 12 August. Brambles Restaurant, Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LS. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



THURS

14

Monthly Lunch at The Castle Pub - Southend Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your own meal and drinks. Transport may be available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Book by Wednesday 13 August. The Castle Pub, High Street, Hadleigh, Southend SS7 2PB. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



August

WED
27

&

THURS
28

Music, Film and TV Trivia Across the Decades



Chelmsford Hope: 2.15pm
Southend: 1.30pm



Chelmsford Hope: Free
Southend: £2 cash payable on arrival.



A fun meeting enjoying trivia activities on music and TV across the decades.

Wednesday 27 - Chelmsford Hope Branch, 2.15pm to 4.15pm

Limited parking available on site. The nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop. Five minutes walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM1 1BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL.



Thursday 28 - Southend Branch, 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX.

Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance.
New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.

September

FRI
05

South Essex and Stepney Friendship Coffee Morning



10am



As per menu



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Join the fun

Join us at the start of our Friendship Month, there will be tea or coffee, even hot chocolate or fruit juice. Scones both sweet and savoury as well as an assortment of cakes for sale. There will be a raffle and the odd competition to take part in. September is the month we move forward with our drive to encourage membership of the Oddfellows. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

September

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



**WED
10** **Monthly Lunch Get
Together at Brambles -
Chelmsford Hope Branch**



Our monthly lunch is a chance to meet at a local venue to enjoy great food and company. See 14 May entry for full details. Book by Tuesday 9 September. Brambles Restaurant, Quadrant Department Store, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0LS. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.



**THURS
11** **Monthly Lunch at
Toby Carvery -
Southend Branch**



Join us for a friendly, informal get together over lunch. No charge to attend, pay for your



own meal and drinks. Transport may be available through lifts if required. 12.30pm to 3pm. Book by Wednesday 10 September. Toby Carvery (Halfway House) Thorpe Bay, 213 Eastern Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea SS1 3AD. Contact Rachel on 07548 368761.

**WED
24** **Friendship Month - Special Activity
Chelmsford Hope Branch**



To celebrate Oddfellows Friendship Month a special activity will be arranged. More details to follow. Refreshments and great company. Meeting is from 2.15pm to 4.15pm, limited parking available on site. The Age Concern Centre is located behind the cathedral off Legg Street. Nearest bus stop is Cathedral stop. Five minutes walk from train station. Parking also available in Waterloo Lane Car Park CM11BD. Age Concern Centre Chelmsford (off Legg Street, rear of Cathedral), 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.



**FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT**
Invite a friend

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
25

Friendship Month - Special Activity Southend Branch



1.30pm



TBC



To celebrate and contribute to the Oddfellows Friendship Month a special activity for the monthly meeting will be organised. More details to follow. Meeting is from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, limited parking available on site and in Leigh Road Baptist Church car park along Chalkwell Park Drive. The Stables Community Centre is located at the rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church behind the IT Help Desk Shop (Leigh Road/Chalkwell Park Drive). The Stables Community Centre, Rear of Leigh Road Baptist Church, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1LX. Please contact Rachel Voller, Social Organiser to confirm attendance. New members always welcome. Call or message on 07548 368761 or email rachel.voller@oddfellows.co.uk.



SUN
28

Friendship Month Lunch South Essex and Stepney



1pm



Members Free or £6, Guests £8



If you are a member why not bring a friend along to this lunch and have a free meal, for introducing a friend to us all. The friends meal will have to be paid for. Menu: Hand-made meatballs and Penne pasta in a tomato and vegetable sauce, garlic bread and grated parmesan cheese, followed by a traditional



Boston cream pie (vanilla cake with custard cream filling with a chocolate topping.). Tea or coffee, there will be a raffle at this event. Cost: Free to member who bring along a non-member, if no guest with member then £6. £8 for guests. Book by Monday 22 September. Hockley and Hawkwell Day Centre in car park behind Library, Rochford District Car Park, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4PZ. Contact Nicola on 01702 208746.

Join the fun in Friendship Month

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

All welcome



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

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow
and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do.
There are lots of ways you can get involved as a
volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members, guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Nicola by phone on
07282 678255 or email **nicola.oriordan@oddfellows.co.uk**

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 **The Oddfellows**
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Bring friendship to your front room



There are many reasons that might prevent you from being able to attend some of our events in person. A clash in the diary might mean something else takes priority, you might not be able to spare the cost this time, or perhaps you just want to stay close to home that day.

We want people to enjoy the benefits of friendship no matter what. That's why Branches all over the country host around 50 free online events each month, ranging from talks, arts and crafts and games, to exercise and meditation sessions.

These online events are a great opportunity to catch up with familiar faces and meet new and interesting people from all corners of the country from the comfort of home. You might even discover a new favourite hobby.

What's coming up online

We have lots of national online events that all our members can enjoy, the events below are just a flavour.

Tuesday 13 May, 10am – Busy Fingers Crafts and Chat

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 542 724 7603

Tuesday 10 June, 7pm – Food and Mood with Valentina Cartago (Registered Nutritionist)

Join us on Zoom, Meeting ID: 862 5077 7538. Password: 616704.

Anyone is able to attend an Oddfellows online event, no matter where they live so spread the word.

All our online events are hosted on Zoom. If you haven't tried Zoom video-conferencing before and would like help on how to use it, let us know. You can come to me, or email the Events team on events@oddfellows.co.uk, with any questions and we'll help you get logged on and ready to join in.

To find out about all upcoming in-person and online events, including online events hosted by other branches, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/events or ask me to send you a list by email.

Nicola O'Riordan-Finley

Southend Branch Editorial

Reaching the first anniversary milestone as Social Organiser for the Southend Branch in November 2024, provided an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on a year of welcoming new members and creating a friendly and active branch. It has been wonderful to watch the group grow, and friendships form, enjoying a variety of activities, day trips and some great lunches together over this time. The group are engaged and supportive of each other the Oddfellows society with some volunteering for roles at our meetings and two of members now on the Branch committee. We have also supported a local Parkinsons Support group, raising money at a fun race night. This has remained our chosen charity this year and we will continue to run activities to further support them.

Our activities have included bingo with a twist, music through the decades quiz, beetle drive and more along with a

Christmas party where the group were entertained by a lovely singer and a lovely Christmas dinner out together. The group has also benefited from presentations and a talk on the benefits of being a member and the history of Oddfellows which was very interesting and informative.

We must also thank Reg Wells, one of our members for a great local history talk on Prittlewell in Southend.

Day trips and evenings out are much appreciated and well attended by the group, we have had fun together at the



A day on the Canal – Papermill Lock/Heybridge Basin.



Christmas pantomime, a day at the seaside, a canal boat trip and a visit to St Albans market and Maldon. The Home Counties have much to offer on our doorstep helping to provide plenty of options going forward to venture out more.

This summer we are planning trips to Ely, Cambridgeshire, Papermill Lock, Chelmsford, Audley End, Hampton Court Flower Show and the Riverdance show in September at the Cliffs Pavillion. All of these trips will be available to view and book on the Events page of the Oddfellows website. Lunches are also listed here, venues now selected for the next six months. The lunches are very popular and a great social event for the group.

This year has also seen the relaunch of the Hope Branch in Chelmsford following a increased enquiries via national advertising. To date we have had three meetings and two lunches together. Those that

have attended to date have enjoyed the experience and pleased they have made that difficult first step to join. The branch is still in its infancy but continuing to grow each month providing a warm welcome to new members who are glad to have a local branch to attend. We have a wide range of activities and lunches planned for the next six months, all of which are now online and also included in this publication. Day trips will also be introduced, and all our South Essex and Stepney members are welcome to attend any of the activities/trips advertised across both branches.

We are looking forward to continuing to increase membership and enjoying fun times together whilst creating the opportunity for friendship and care for each other.

Sadly we lost Keith Andrews on Wednesday 22 January 2025. Keith was a long serving member of the Oddfellows both in Bexhill-on-Sea and Southend.



Christmas Pantomime – Jack and The Beanstalk – Cliffs Pavillion.



The sad passing of Keith Andrews, long serving member and Provincial Grand Master (Chairman) at Bexhill on Sea before moving to Southend.

Christmas party, best dancers - Well done Lynne and Graham plus Christmas party



Christmas dinner together, Anne Boleyn Southend.

Fun Lunches at some great venues in Southend



Chelmsford Branch



A very happy winner at our newly relaunched Chelmsford Branch!



Bingo with a Twist provided much entertainment and fun at one our Chelmsford Branch monthly meetings.

Music Quiz Fun



Some very sociable lunches out with the Chelmsford Branch.

VE Day

There are many events in May to observe the 80th anniversary of VE day and last year Tom and I got to go to Duxford twice with our grandchildren all of who are juveniles of the branch.

If you want to visit anywhere this year I suggest Duxford which is a part of the Imperial War Museum and includes the American Bomber section as well as our own country or maybe the Spitfire museum at Manstan in Kent on the road to Ramsgate both places have a considerable exhibition about WWII

Manstan was one of the airfields that had Spitfires and Hurricanes you can hear the airfields names in the Battle of Britain film. While Duxford is where they filmed the Battle of Britain film and it is also where Douglas Bader was based he is the famous pilot with metal legs.

If you are one of the lucky ones coming to our VE Day Lunch then there is a raffle and a competition for the most realistic 1940s costume. One for the ladies and one for the gentlemen prize is a bottle of spirit which will be one of the brands that was around at that time in Britain.



Our Special Friendship Month Afternoon Tea



Charity Donation

During the year 2024/25 we fund raised for the British Heart Foundation, by holding quiz nights and raffles by Christmas we had £800. Our Chairman Bill Stallwood from the Greensward Branch will be presenting the cheque to a local branch of the charity. Christmas Dinner was a great success (will send pictures of the room set up for Christmas with people on phone).

In 2025/26 we are fund raising for the Samaritans this was chosen by our New Chairman Sue Everett she and her husband go to the Southend Branch. Sue and her husband Brain use to help at their Southend Branch shop. Our first fund raising event will be the raffle at Easter a joint fund raising event with the Hockley and Hawkwell Day centre commemorating VE day's 80th Year since the end of the war.



Make the most of your membership



Your membership provides you with a great range of benefits...

Standard £25 a year membership* gives you access to...

- Local social events
- Care & Welfare Helpline
- Oddfellows Travel
- Oddfellows news by email
- Branch Care & Welfare Support
- Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line
- Money saving partner offers
- Benevolence Grants
- Emergency Financial Aid (Household)
- Convalescence & Carer Support (after 2 years' membership)
- Accidental Death Benefit
- Legal Aid Scheme
- Educational & Apprenticeship Awards
- 24/7 access to our historical online archive

£35 a year membership* provides you with additional benefits of...

- Optical benefit of up to £30 every second year of membership (after 1 year's membership)
- Dental benefit of up to £30 every membership year (after 1 year's membership)

For more information visit: www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits and services.

For full details, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions, or call us on 0800 028 1810.



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 Nicola on **07802678255** or email **nicola.oriordan@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**

Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith, Erewash Valley Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”



Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

Torsten Ellis, Derby Derwent Valley Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Dog's Tails (see back page)

Tom's cartoon is about our new arrival.

I was due to celebrate my 65th Birthday on Tuesday 3 December 2024 but unfortunately fate stepped in and even stopped me going to my family lunch on Sunday 1 December as our Labrador decided to have her puppies four days early. Thus I spent the day welcoming six very cute labradoodles. There is a reason why we had decided to breed Ruth and that was it was the only way to purchase a Cairn terrier. So for the next eight weeks we nurtured our babies, who grew so quickly and eat so much including the back of Toms chair. When we got our deposits, for their forever homes we went searching for a new baby for us.

Eventually we settled on a litter in Stone near Litchfield, Terry was going to come with me

but a family emergency came up and so I went on my own to this sheep farm where a registered breeder lived. When I walked in the room there she was a red/ strawberry blond baby with her ears up and her tail standing proud. It took all day to collect her we had decided before we got her that she would be called Merida or Merry.

Merida is the red head in the Disney's 'Brave' one of Izzy's favourite films. When I got home with her she immediately told the puppies who was boss and who was going to be staying here. The girls love her and most days will play with her now the puppies have gone. As for Tigger it's a love/hate relationship. He is glad though, that the six puppies that were getting bigger than him are gone. So my friends watch this space for our new adventure.

Branch Meetings and Contact

Hope Branch

Social meetings start at 2pm and are held once a month on a Tuesday. 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1NL. Contact Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

Greensward Branch

Two Friday mornings in the month, this meeting includes a light lunch and two Sunday Lunches a month at the Old Fire Station, 58 Southend Road, Hockley, Essex. The occasional month has been moved as we are unable to secure all dates, please check diary before coming. Contact Nicola O'Riordan Finley on 07802678255 for times and locations.

Southend Branch

Social meets are two Thursdays in a month, one at the Stables Community Centre, Chalkwell Park Drive Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 1XL, the second is going out in Essex. Contact Rachel Voller on 07548 368761.

At a glance

April 2025

Wed 23	Back in the Day Trivia – Fun Quizzes and Games Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 24	Back in the Day Trivia – Fun Quizzes and Games Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 27	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm

May

Fri 9	Monthly Lunch at 1935 Rooftop Restaurant at the Holiday Inn – Southend Branch	12.30pm
Sat 10	Greensward and Hockley Day Centre Joint Fundraiser VE Day Lunch	1pm
Wed 14	Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Wed 28	Catchphrase and Pictionary – Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 29	Catchphrase and Pictionary – Southend Branch	1.30pm
Fri 30	Greensward Branch Coffee Morning	10am

June

Sun 1	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 11	Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Thurs 12	Monthly Lunch at Anne Boleyn Pub – Southend Branch	12.30pm
Sun 15	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 25	How Good is Your Guess? – Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 26	How Good is your Guess? – Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 29	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm

July

Wed 9	Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Thurs 10	Monthly Lunch at The Meadowlark Pub/Restaurant Southend Branch	12.30pm

At a glance

July

Sun 13	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm
Wed 23	Beetle Drive - Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 24	Beetle Drive - Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 27	Greensward Branch Sunday Lunch	1pm

August

Sun 10	Afternoon Tea - Greensward Branch	2.30pm
Wed 13	Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Thurs 14	Monthly Lunch at The Castle Pub - Southend Branch	12.30pm
Wed 27	Music, Film and TV Trivia Across the Decades Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 28	Music, Film and TV Trivia Across the Decades Southend Branch	1.30pm

September - Friendship Month

Fri 5	South Essex and Stepney Friendship Coffee Morning	10am
Wed 10	Monthly Lunch Get Together at Brambles Chelmsford Hope Branch	12.30pm
Thurs 11	Monthly Lunch at Toby Carvery - Southend Branch	12.30pm
Wed 24	Friendship Month - Special Activity Chelmsford Hope Branch	2.15pm
Thurs 25	Friendship Month - Special Activity - Southend Branch	1.30pm
Sun 28	Friendship Month Lunch - South Essex and Stepney	1pm

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.

Find us at  [SouthEssexandStepneyOddfellows](#)

Dog's Tails

