

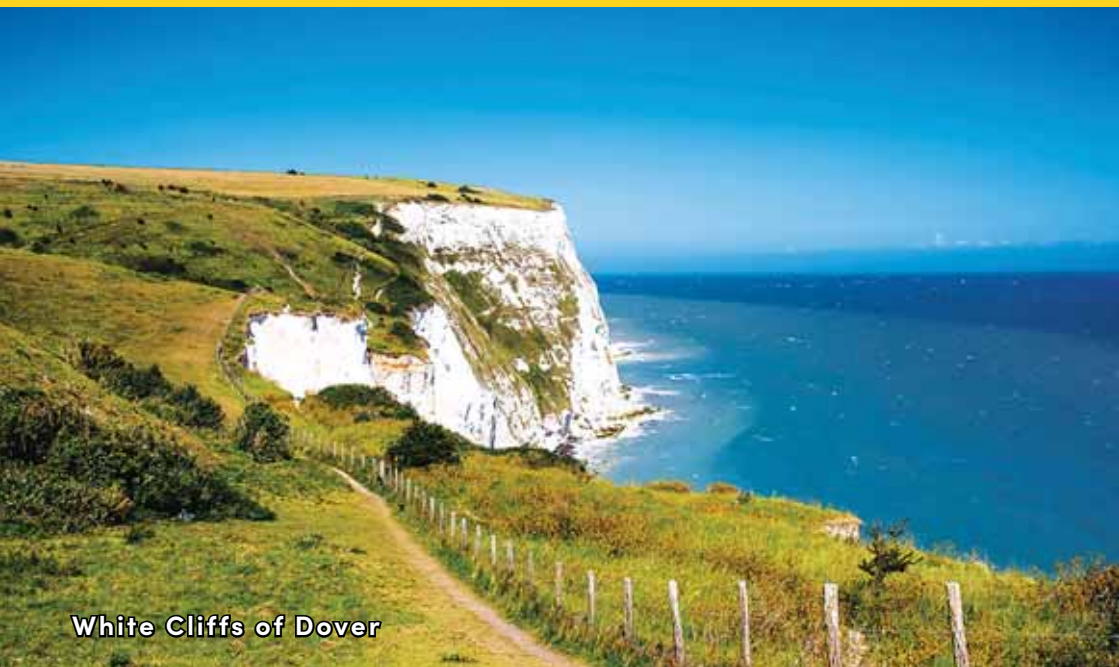
January - June 2026



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

out & *about*

North West Kent



White Cliffs of Dover



Games



Travel



Coffee/Tea



Dining
Out



Concerts



Talks



Social



Quiz



Theatre



Film



To
book

To Book Events



Online



Coin Heist Mystery – Saturday 27 June

Welcome to the latest edition of the news and events diary for North West Kent Branch

We would like to welcome all of our new members. This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in our area.

Remember to put the dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep the events diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy – we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Contact Details

Address:

42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA11YN

North West Kent District and Hope of Dartford Branch

Social Organiser: Sarah Robinson

Telephone: 07415 012615

Email:

sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk

Newtown Branch

Social Organiser: Chris Jordan

Telephone: 01322 221129

Branch Secretary: Lesley Pimm

Telephone: 01322 292374

Email:

lesley.pimm@oddfellows.co.uk

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or call **0800 028 1810** to speak to one of our team.

We would appreciate it when an event is being held at the Lodge, that you please arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start time, many thanks.

Please bring your friends to our events, so they can enjoy all that the Oddfellows is about. Unless otherwise stated please contact Sarah Robinson on **07415 012615** or email sarah.robinson@oddfellows.co.uk to book or find out more information on any of our events.

Regular Events

Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)



11am



Free to all

Come and join us for a coffee and a chat with friends. Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.

7 January

4 February

4 March

18 March

1 April

15 April

6 May



**Various
Wednesday**



January 2026

SUN
04

Pantomime - Aladdin



1pm



Members £15
Guests £35



This panto is Aladdin - now at Orchard West. Come and join us for some fun with friends! We still have

some tickets available. The Orchard Theatre, 20 Hythe Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1BX. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



MON
19

Film Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)



7pm



Members Free
Guests £5



It's film night - sit back, enjoy the film and eat the snacks. Film to be a surprise! The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN.

Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



January 2026

WED 21 **Soup and a Sandwich**
(Newtown Branch)

 12 noon  Members TBC
Guests £5 

Come and join us for lunch with soup and a sandwich, chat with friends and drink and eat. Book by Wednesday 7 January. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



February

MON 16 **Singo!**
(Hope of Dartford Branch)

 7.30pm  Members TBC
Guests £5 

Come and join us for a fun night of 'Singo Bingo', this is music bingo! Listen to the track and see if the name of it is on your bingo card. Book by Monday 2 February. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



March

SAT 28 **Rock 'n' Roll Night**
(North West Kent District)

 6.30pm  Members £10
Guests £25 

Come and join us for a fantastic rock 'n' roll evening, fun, food, dancing and drink with friends. Please bring a wrapped gift for the raffle along with you if you can. Thank you! Book by Monday 2 March. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



April

MON 20 **An Evening with**
'Donald Trump'
(Hope of Dartford Branch)

 7.30pm  Members Free
Guests £5 

Come and join us for an evening with 'Donald Trump' (aka Tony Harris) if you dare! The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



May

MON 11 Race Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)

⌚ 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £5



Come and have a brilliant time at our race night. We have limited spaces and this event is always very popular, so this will be a first come first served event. Remember to bring those 20 pences! Book by Monday 27 April. The Oddfellows Hall, 42 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YN. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



June

WED 17 Day Trip (Newtown Branch)

⌚ 9am

£ TBC



Come and join us on a day out by coach to a venue yet to be decided. Book by Wednesday 6 May. Location to be confirmed. Contact Chris on 01322 221129.



SUN 17 Coach Trip to Eastbourne - Oddfellows Brass Band

⌚ 9am

£ TBC



Come for a trip to Eastbourne to spend the day and see the Oddfellows Brass Band, a

fabulous day with friends. Book by Wednesday 1 April. Location to be confirmed. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



SAT 27 Coin Heist Mystery (Hope of Dartford Branch)

⌚ 9am

£ As per train fare



Meeting place to be confirmed. This is a walk through London, finding answers to the clues and working out the mystery of the coin heist. Note: There is a lot of walking. Book by Sunday 17 May. The City of London, to be confirmed. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



SUN
19

Coach Trip to Amberley Museum (Hope of Dartford Branch)



9am



TBC



We will Meet at the Oddfellows Hall and take the coach to Amberley Museum for their steam weekend. Please note, it would be a good idea for you to bring a packed lunch on this occasion. Book by Sunday 17 May. Amberley Museum, New Barn Road, Amberley, Arundel BN18 9LT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.



Forthcoming Event

September – Friendship Month

SAT
19

Annual Celebration Dinner Dance



6.30pm



Members £10
Guests £35



Time for our annual celebration dinner dance, a brilliant evening with friends, food, drink, entertainment and dancing. Entertainment with Andy 'Bad' Robinson. Bringing your ticket is essential. Book by Monday 24 August. Princes Park, Grassbanks, Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1RT. Contact Sarah on 07415 012615.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Bring friendship to your front room



We understand that life can get busy – a diary clash, travel costs, or simply the need for a quiet day at home can all make attending events in person a challenge. But no matter the reason, we believe everyone should be able to enjoy the warmth of friendship and community. That's why Branches across the country host around fifty free online events every month. From inspiring talks and creative arts and crafts sessions to fun games, gentle exercise and calming meditation – there's something for everyone.

These online gatherings are a wonderful way to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new friends from all over the UK – all from the comfort of your own home. Who knows? You might even discover a new passion along the way!

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 20 January 2026, 7pm – join us for “Staying Warm in Winter” with National Energy Action (NEA)

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/StayingWarmOddfellows>

Tuesday 3 February, 7pm – join us for “Being Cheerful with Nancy Radford”

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/BeingCheerfulOddfellows>

Tuesday 24 February, 7pm – join us for “Hedgehogs – In Need Of Your Help” and “Getting Connected” with Stephen Powles

Register in advance for this meeting at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events/
Or use this link to register directly on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/HedgehogsOddfellows>

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.

Sarah Robinson

Pride of Woolwich Branch Events

All are welcome to come along to our neighbouring branch's events:

New year quiz and social - Wednesday 28 January 2026, 2pm

Please join us for our New Year Quiz and Social hosted by our Social Secretary, Keith. Teams of three or four people will be arranged on the day. Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the quiz, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



Speaker, Nick Gibson: Zulu and Rorkes Drift - Wednesday 25 February 2026, 2pm

A return visit from Historian Nick Gibson, an ex Royal Engineer. Nick will give an overview of the Anglo Zulu wars and a critique of the 1954 film starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free

Speaker, Tony Harris: Secret London - Wednesday 25 March, 2pm

A return visit from Tony Harris, the very popular comedian and historical 'In Character' performer. Tony will be talking to us about 'Secret London' - things you never knew about the capital. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



Quiz, hosted by Theresa - Wednesday 29 April, 2pm

Theresa has very kindly offered to host our quiz, everyone is welcome so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available, free of charge. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free

Speaker, Tony Harris: The Origins of Language - Wednesday 27 May, 2pm

A return visit from Tony Harris, who will talk to us about the origins of words and phrases. Everyone is welcome so please bring your friends. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the talk. Drinks may also be purchased from the club bar. **Address:** 151 Club, 151 Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7EZ. **Cost:** Free



For further information and to book contact Nicola on 01322 348315 or email nicola.budds@oddfellows.co.uk.

Past events at North West Kent



Fish and Chips Supper.



Macmillan Coffee Evening with Fleet Generation Signing Choir.



Milestones Museum.



Hercule Poirot.



VE Day Evening Tea.



Annual Celebration Dinner Dance.

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 Ann Yearsley on **01322 345587**.

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

**Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for saying 'yes' to friendship

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

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

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

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



Birmingham Oddfellows



Bradford Oddfellows



Brighouse and Huddersfield Oddfellows



Albert Oddfellows



Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows



Cambridge Oddfellows



Heart of the West Oddfellows



Concord Oddfellows



Halifax Oddfellows



Sudbury Oddfellows

Application deadlines approach!

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

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

Apprenticeship Educational Awards



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

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

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

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

Making a Difference Awards



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

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

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

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

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

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy.
Give one a try.



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

OEW/1024SMALL

Branch Meetings

We regularly hold Branch meetings and all members are welcome to attend. Visitors are generally welcome to attend and observe all meetings with permission granted by the secretary prior to the meeting. We share and discuss the business of the Branch includes social events, finance, care, development and publicity and promotion. This is a fine opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Most evenings are rounded off with refreshments and a chance to socialise.

These meetings, which are open to all members, are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm and in the event of the Monday being a Bank Holiday, it will move to the Wednesday. Any other alterations to the dates will be notified. Meeting address: 42 The Brent, Dartford DA1 1YN. The dates are:

Monday 5 January

Wednesday 8 April

Monday 6 July

Monday 2 February

Wednesday 6 May

Monday 2 March

Monday 1 June

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 **f** [northwestkentoddfellows](https://www.facebook.com/northwestkentoddfellows)

At a glance

January 2026

Sun 4	Pantomime - Aladdin	1pm
Wed 7	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 19	Film Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7pm
Wed 21	Soup and a Sandwich (Newtown Branch)	12 noon

February

Wed 4	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 16	Singo! (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm

March

Wed 4	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 18	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Sat 28	Rock 'n' Roll Night (North West Kent District)	6.30pm

April

Wed 1	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Wed 15	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 20	An Evening with Donald Trump (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm

May

Wed 6	Coffee Morning (Newtown Branch)	11am
Mon 11	Race Night (Hope of Dartford Branch)	7.30pm
Sun 17	Coach Trip to Eastbourne - Oddfellows Brass Band	9am

June

Wed 17	Day Trip (Newtown Branch)	9am
Sat 27	Coin Heist Mystery (Hope of Dartford Branch)	9am