



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2024

Welcome to the third Newsletter of 2024. We are proud to introduce the new logo, colours and font for Gravesham Friendly which we hope you love as much as we do.

HALF YEARLY MEETING

The Half Yearly Meeting will be held on Friday 1 November, 1pm, in the Gravesend Masonic Hall (Ruckland House) 25 Wrotham Road, Gravesend DA11 0PA

HALF YEARLY MEETING 2024

The Half Yearly meeting will take place on Friday 1 November at 1pm in accordance with Society Rule 26.2. The venue is the Masonic Lodge in Gravesend which is a central location with parking on site and a large public car park within walking distance.

The official notice is attached. This is your Society so please come along and have your say. We are here to work for you and member engagement is crucial to the longevity and success of the Society so please support us.

Attendance via zoom is also available if preferred. Please register your attendance in person or via zoom to dee@graveshamfriendly.co.uk.

REBRANDING



Gravesham
Friendly

People, Community, Environment

We are pleased to announce that the new rebranded website went live on Wednesday 9 October. The new logo, colours and fonts give the Society a fresh feel and aims to appeal to a younger demographic to sustain the Society. Additional pages have been added on community projects and climate and the latter lists the Society's seven climate commitments.

The new website has a green button at the top of every page that allows Members to login from wherever they are on the website. This is where you can submit online claims that mirrors the ASFS website.



[Join Now](#) [Member Benefits](#) [Community](#) [About us](#) [Q](#)

[Already a member? Login-in](#)

At this point we would like to make a plea to all members who submit claims via email to try the online portal. There have been many positive comments on how easy this is and it negates the need to complete an application form. Instructions on how to do this were attached to the June 2024 Newsletter or you can telephone the office and one of our friendly team will walk you through the process. Our aim is to include a step-by-step video on the website to show how easy it is to submit a sickness or discretionary claim online.

LAUNCH OF GRAVESHAM FRIENDLY

The publicity event to launch Gravesham Friendly to Gravesham Council, local businesses and media outlets will be held on Thursday 24 October at Shorne Woods. This is to ensure the Society's brand is known in the local community and will drive the campaign to recruit new members. An update will be provided in the December Newsletter.

SHORNE WOODS – GUIDED WALK

The Society's partnership with Shorne Woods commenced in April 2024.

On Tuesday 17 September, members, staff and Board members attended an informal guided walk in the sunshine for one hour. Michael, an expert from Shorne Woods, provided information on the veteran trees that the Society's sponsorship is helping to protect. As a wonderful coincidence, a very talented Society member was commissioned to provide the statues in the park and kindly gave a talk on his latest sculpture, the horse seen in the picture, which is located near the visitor centre.



MEMBER FORUM

The inaugural meeting of the Member Forum was held via zoom on 18 July. Many areas were discussed, ideas were suggested and the meeting was very informative. One suggestion was to hold a dog walk around Shorne Wood which will be progressed in 2025. If you have any suggestions for member events that could be held in the community, please let us know or contact a member of the Member Forum whose details are available upon request.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 October 2024 and an update will be provided to the Half Yearly Meeting on 1 November by one of the members.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To promote Gravesham Friendly to the community and recruit new members, a Business Development Officer, Antony (Ant) Uttley, was appointed for 6 months commencing in August.

Ant has been busy meeting members of the council and the local community and on Friday 20 September, undertook the 9.2km Sponsored Twilight Walk to raise funds for Ellenor Hospice in Gravesend. The target was to raise £75K to support Ellenor in the crucial role it provides in Gravesend.. The overall total raised to date is £90K and Ant personally raised £185. Well done Ant.



LAST DATE FOR CLAIMS IN 2024/OFFICE CLOSURE

As Christmas fast approaches, we would like to provide members with early notification of the last submission dates for discretionary claims to be received this year. The cut-off date for all discretionary claims, website, email and post, is Friday 20 December. All discretionary claims received after these dates will be taken from the 2025 allowance.

The office will be closed from mid-day on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025.

CONTACT US

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any help, or have any suggestions of what you would like to be included in future newsletters, using any of the methods listed below:

Post: The Old Rectory, Springhead Road, Northfleet, DA11 8HN
Telephone: 01474 567050
Email: info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk