

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025

### HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2025. As usual it has been a very busy year and the quarterly Newsletters have been packed with information which we hope you have enjoyed reading

### REMEMBRANCE DAY – SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

On Remembrance Sunday, Keith White, former Board member, laid the commemorative wreath for the Society at Gravesend Memorial. The Board would like to place on record its thanks to Keith for representing the Society at this important event.



## MEMBER GET MEMBER

Enjoying all the Benefits  
of Your Membership?

Then recommend Us to Your  
Family and Friends to earn  
£100 by the end of 2025.



If there are members of your family, friendship group or work colleagues that you think would benefit from becoming a member of Gravesham Friendly, introduce them today and, once they have taken out a Sickness and Benefit Plan, we will send you £100. Thank you!

Receive

**£100**

for every new member  
you recommend by  
31/12/2025.

**The Feelings Mutual, Share Something Special!**

A final call in 2025 to recommend family and friends to become members of the Society by 31 December 2025 and earn £100 after the member has been with us for 3 months. There is only a short timescale left to claim the enhanced rate but as the process is quick and simple, it will only take 5 minutes of your time.

Thank you to members who have already made recommendations, their family and friends are now enjoying peace of mind that they are covered if they become sick. In addition, they can take advantage of the discretionary benefits, after a qualifying period, and have access to savings from Gravesham Friendly Extra from day 1.

The Member Get Member reward also applies to the Group Scheme offering. If you are part of a small business of up to 10 employees, or know of one, and a Group Sickness scheme is taken out, you will receive the reward. Several leads for this have been received and are being progressed.

Details of an offer to give the gift of membership was also circulated earlier this week. This is an opportunity to buy a membership of 3, 6 or 12 months and is an ideal gift. After your gifted period has expired, the member will pay the premiums, Details of the offer can be viewed by following this link <https://mailchi.mp/695241ebbf93/its-nearly-christmas>

We have lots of ideas and are working hard to achieve our number one priority of growing the membership. With your help we can achieve this.



## SQUIGGLE

### New Free Will-Writing Service for Members

We are pleased to introduce a new free Will-writing service, exclusively for Gravesham Friendly members, delivered in partnership with Squiggle Consult, a service normally worth £250. This service is an additional member benefit and will not impact your discretionary benefit annual allowance or access to Gravesham Friendly Extra.



Whether you are making your first Will or updating an existing one, this straightforward, stress-free service gives you the support you need to plan ahead with confidence.

You can choose to:

- ✓ Book a face-to-face consultation (in your own home or at their Evegate office, TN25 6SX), 01233 659 7976 or via this link <https://calendly.com/d/3g9-fsy-jhw> or
- ✓ Speak to a specialist via Zoom

There's no confusing legal jargon, just clear, expert guidance tailored to you.

Members can book a free consultation today with Squiggle Consult.

Available to Gravesham Friendly members living in England, Wales, and Scotland.

## MEMBER SURVEY



A Member Survey was circulated on 14 October 2025 with a request to complete this by 31 December 2025. It is the same survey that was issued last year and the purpose is to determine if we have improved in areas where members raised queries. Enhancements made to the website that show a member's annual discretionary benefit allowance, the remaining balance and any other discretionary benefits such as a death benefit, have been updated

following the results of the previous survey. Of course, you do not have to wait for a survey to suggest improvements to our working or areas that would help and provide additional visibility as we appreciate all feedback at any time.

## COMMUNITY – HALLOWEEN AT CYCLOPARK

On Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 October, we were delighted to support Cyclopark - a local charity we proudly champion and sponsor to help them continue their fantastic work in the community. Cyclopark was hosting a Halloween event for children and families, and we felt it was a great opportunity to be part of the experience by hosting a spooky photo booth.

Our team took Halloween-themed photographs of attendees and shared these with families in exchange for their contact details. Being present at community events like this is an important part of our marketing activity, allowing us to raise awareness of Gravesham Friendly, collect data responsibly and contribute to a good cause at the same time.

Most importantly, it gives people the chance to see the people behind the brand. Working alongside our partners at Cyclopark was a brilliant way to connect with the local community and support an event that brought so much enjoyment to families.



## COMMUNITY – SHORNE WOODS MEMBER WALK



On Thursday 6 November, a Member Walk round Shorne Woods was held for members, family and friends (including four legged friends). The event was well attended, the weather was good and Michael Shulver gave an informative talk about how the Society's money is used for their veteran tree programme. This is the second Member Walk held around Shorne Woods and the intention is for it to become an annual or even twice annual event. You can see more photographs from the walk on the website under Community Projects page and selecting Shorne Woods or by following this link: <https://www.graveshamfriendly.co.uk/community-projects/shorne-woods/>



## COMMUNITY – GURU NANAK GURDWARA



A tour of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara was held at the end of the Half Yearly meeting on Friday 7 November and several members took the opportunity to learn more about the venue from Mr Virdee, General Secretary. If you have never visited the Guru Nanak Gurdwara, you will receive a very warm welcome and please remember to wear a head scarf and remove your shoes. Our thanks go to Mr Virdee for his time and knowledge.

## COMMUNITY - THE REPAIR CAFÉ

Thank you to members who have supported the Repair Café throughout 2025. Philip Davies has provided an update on what the Repair Café has achieved this year, its aim and focus which is available to read on the Community page of the website. Please read Philip's message of thanks: <https://www.graveshamfriendly.co.uk/community-projects/gravesham-repair-cafe/>



## PARLIAMENT HILL

Please accept our apologies that the app has not been downloaded in time for Christmas. It will be rolled out imminently, direct from Parliament Hill, with instructions on how to download and use it to obtain savings on shopping, gym membership, hotel bookings, insurance and many more items. Please look out for the email and be assured that only member's names and email addresses have been provided to Parliament Hill.

## HALF YEARLY MEETING 2025

The Half Yearly Meeting was held at 1pm on Friday 7 November at the Wellbeing Centre, Gravesend - part of the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara. The Newsletter detailing information provided at the meeting is available to read on the website: <https://www.graveshamfriendly.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/NEWSLETTER-Half-Yearly-Meeting-November-2025.pdf>. Please ensure you read the contents and keep up to date with events in your Society. Thank you to the members that attended in person and via zoom.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Kiran has been working hard and posting some incredible videos and images across our social media channels. If you are on Social Media, please like, share and follow the Society to help us spread the word.



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GraveshamFriendly>



**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/graveshamfriendly>



**TikTok:** <https://www.tiktok.com/@graveshamfriendly>



**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/graveshamfriendly>

**Your support really helps increase our visibility in the local community**

## LAST DATE FOR DISCRETIONARY CLAIMS IN 2025/OFFICE CLOSURE

A reminder that the last date for submitting discretionary claims is Friday 19 December. Postal claims must be received in the office by this date. All discretionary claims received after this date will be taken from the 2026 allowance.

The office will be closed from mid-day on Wednesday 24 December 2025 and reopen on Friday 2 January 2026. Please note staff will be working from home on Wednesday 24 December and Friday 2 January therefore the office will not be manned on these dates.





A very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to all our members from the Board and staff. As always, we thank you for your loyal support over the past year and look forward to being of service to you in 2026. We have continued to work hard behind the scenes, have achieved a lot this year and moved forward many areas as well as laid the foundations for new and exciting things in 2026.

#### 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](mailto:info@graveshamfriendly.co.uk)