



Gravesham
Friendly

People, Community, Environment

Newsletter – June 2026

INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP

We make no excuses for leading on increasing the membership as it is the most important part of the strategy and vital to the Society's future.

After a very successful Member Get Member campaign that commenced in December 2022, we have welcomed 75 new members to the Society. Of these, 48 have been from members referring family, friends and colleagues which is an amazing achievement and we thank you for your faith in the Society. Member Get Member has been the most successful route for increasing the membership as people are more likely to join when the recommendation is from people they know and trust.

In 2024 we introduced three new grants, two of which were aimed at attracting younger members: the Educational Award Grant and First Time Home Buyer Grant. The Home Energy Efficiency Grant was introduced to support members upgrading their homes which aligns with the strategy of improving the property portfolio and in 2025, we launched a partnership with Squiggle to offer free wills to members. In addition, the shopping discounts and many offers available from Gravesham Friendly Extra are also a great benefit. There have never been so many incentives to attract new members.

The £100 incentive for every new member you recommend, and who subsequently joins, is still applicable. This also applies to Group policies for businesses of up to 10

staff members and is payable per staff member. If you know of someone that owns a small business and who would be interested in providing benefits for their staff, please ask them to get in touch or send us their details and we will contact them. Presentations have been made to several local companies and we are happy to arrange this and explain in detail what the Society offers.

Thank you to every member that has made a recommendation and received the Member Get Member reward. Please continue to reach out to family, friends and colleagues. You are our best advocate and we look forward to being of service to you for many years.

Enjoying all the Benefits of Your Membership?

Then recommend us to your
Family and Friends to earn
£100 per new member.

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.

The Feelings Mutual, Share Something Special!

You Can Now Increase Sickness Level Cover



On 20 May 2026, members eligible to increase their level of sickness cover were emailed. For many members who joined prior to December 2022, their weekly sickness benefit will no longer meet their financial requirements if they become ill and this provides the opportunity to increase that level.

There was some interest to this and enquiries were received. The increase in policy price was a deterrent for many and we appreciate how tough times are and that people's budgets are tight. However, the increase in payments includes an increased level of weekly sickness payment and a discretionary death benefit of £2,500 and £5,000 for accidental death which is not included on all scale rates.

For members aged 16–30, the price of the £100 per week sickness policy equates to £0.49p per day, £3.43 a week, which would not buy you a cup of coffee. For the £250 per week sickness policy it equals £0.83p per day, £5.81 a week, which may buy you a coffee depending on your favourite coffee shop. Don't forget to check if discounts are offered for your favourite coffee shop on the Gravesham Friendly Extra app.

Of course the question is not whether you can give up a cup of coffee each week but whether you can afford not to have increased sickness protection. More and more employees are not offering this anymore or you may rely on the income from your sickness policy if you are self

employed and unable to work. There has never been a better time to become a member. Please check what your policy includes after logging into your account on the website.

For more information on the price points for the £100 and £250 per week sickness policies according to age brackets, please refer to the [Join Now](#) page on the website.

Please note this offer is not applicable to retired members and those on long term sickness.

REVISED DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS



As you will be aware from the 2026 AGM Newsletter and subsequent communication, the discretionary benefits for all members have been updated following member feedback. You said, we listened, we did. As a member led Society, feedback is always considered and our aim is to support as many members as possible in the fairest way.

From 1 July 2026, members are able to claim the traditional discretionary benefits of dental, optical and Miscellaneous Medical Expenditure after just 13 weeks and are not restricted by a

maximum level across the categories. This allows members to spend their discretionary benefit allowance on what is applicable to them. The timescale for claiming the additional annual grants of education, first-time home buyer and home energy efficiency improvements have been reduced to 12 months from 2 years. Invoices will be repaid at 75% of the total up to the members allowance which is relative to length of membership and the level of sickness policy. This applies to all new members and those who joined from December 2022.

The website has been updated to reflect the above and members are able to view their allowances when signing into their membership record on the website.

For members who joined prior to December 2022, changes to your overall discretionary benefit pot will come into effect from 1 January 2027. Your membership record will be updated at the end of the year to reflect the changes which can also be viewed on the AGM Newsletter or the communication distributed via email on 14 May.

If you have suggestions about how to improve areas for all members, you don't have to wait for a member survey. You can contact the office at any time or ask for the contact details of a member on the Member Forum. New members are always welcome – please see Member Forum paragraph below.

MEMBER FORUM



The Member Forum met on 1 June 2026 and received an operational update on property and recruiting new members. As part of the discussion on growing the membership and how to engage with members, the merit of continuing to offer Gravesham Friendly Extra,, which the Society has received free of charge for 6 months since January 202,, was discussed.

A discount had been offered for the remainder of 2026 and 2027 which represents very good value for money. After due consideration, it was agreed that the discounts offered are a bonus to engaging with prospective members and the contract should be resumed until the end of 2027, the end of the original 5 year contract.

If you can spare some time and become a member of the Member Forum, we would be delighted to hear from you. The time commitment is not onerous and your views will be greatly valued. Please contact the office for further details.

MEMBER DIRECTORY OF LOCAL TRADES



We were pleased to launch the Member Trades and Services Directory on 5 May 2026. As a reminder, it contains details of local firms used by the Society to manage and maintain the 116 residential properties, split into categories of services offered.

The directory is not a recommendation or endorsement and it is important to remember this. The Society has no financial interest in whether members use these firms, and members are not required to advise if they choose to use any of the listed providers.

We hope members have found this useful when sourcing tradespeople. If you have any feedback, please feel free to share it and help others. You can access the directory after logging into your account and scrolling to the Useful Documents section at the bottom of the page.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We have again been busy raising the Society's profile by attending community events.

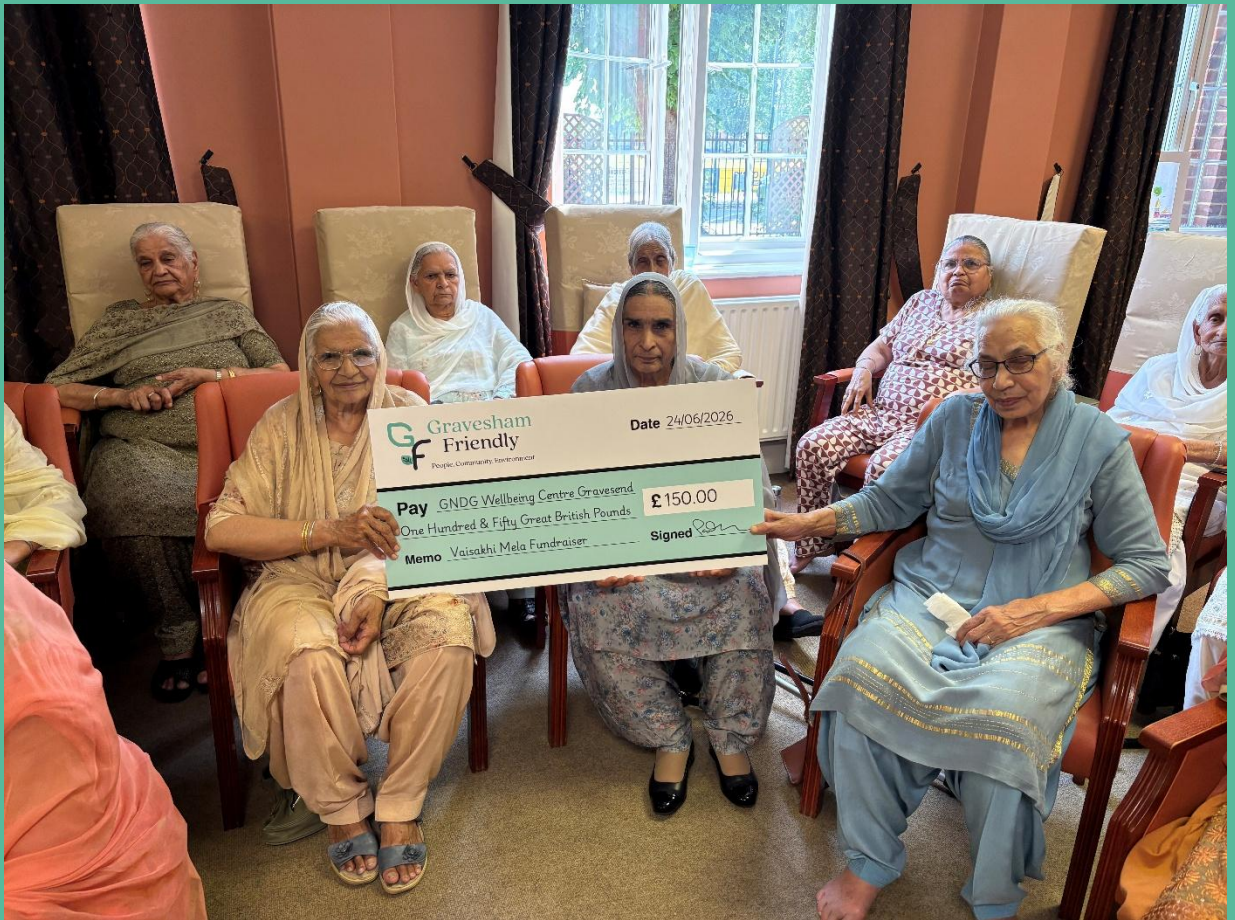
Cyclopark

On Friday 3 and Saturday 4 April, an Easter Egg Lucky Dip was hosted at Cyclopark. Visitors to Cyclopark for the Easter activities were able to take part in a Lucky Dip for chocolate eggs in exchange for their email details and consent for the Society to contact them with details of the Society's sickness product. There were many visitors over the 2 days, many email addresses were collected and follow-ups were made.



Vaisakhi

On Saturday 18 April, members of staff manned a stall at Vaisakhi, the annual Sikh festival attended by over 15,000 people. Visitors were asked to provide their email address and for every one collected, the equivalent would be donated to the GNDG Wellbeing Centre that was used as the venue for the 2025 Half Yearly meeting. The images below show the stall at Vaisakhi and a cheque for £150 being presented to the GNDG Wellbeing Centre.



FREE WILL WRITING FROM SQUIGGLE CONSULT



Have you taken advantage of the offer of a free will yet, saving you £250? The process is simple and stress free and allows you to:

- Book a face to face consultation (in your own home or at the Evegate office – TN25 6SX) by telephoning **01233 659796**
- Speak to a specialist via Zoom.

No confusing jargon, just straightforward support to help you plan ahead with confidence so book a free consultation today (available to members in England, Wales and Scotland).

- You can book a consultation at a time that suits you – [CLICK HERE](#)
- Remember to quote 'Gravesham Friendly' in the comment section or when calling

Member uptake will continue to be monitored to review if it is of benefit to members.

GOODBYE TO PARVINDER

We were sad to say goodbye to Parvinder who left us to work in his uncles business at the begining of April. We wish him well for the future.



WELCOME TO LEXI JUDGE

On 14th July, we will welcome Lexi Judge as a Business Administration Apprentice. Lexi will be trained on Business Administration by Ollie and Jo and on Social Media and Member Engagement by Kiran.

Lexi kindly helped out at the Easter event at Cyclopark on Good Friday and will be a great asset to the Society.

DONATION TO GRAVESHAM SANCTUARY

As in 2025, a donation has been made to Gravesham Sanctuary equal to the number of votes cast at the AGM. In 2026, 125 votes were cast which resulted in a donation of £125. This was gratefully received by Matthew Guest, General Manager. Gravesham Sanctuary is a local charity that does amazing work helping homeless people in Gravesham

Thank you to all members who voted and made this possible.

150th Anniversary

In 2027, Gravesham Friendly will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. This is a landmark that should be publicised and celebrated and we would like to hear from you with any suggestions of how you would like this to be commemorated.

Members are located throughout the country and abroad but any event is likely to be local to Gravesend. Ample notice will be given to allow people to travel and join the celebration. A small commemorative gift is also being considered and if you can think of anything you would find useful, please let us know and we will make the relative enquiries.

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 following methods:

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