

Clubs and Societies

Over the past year, OUs have enjoyed a busy calendar of sporting fixtures – the perfect chance to catch up with friends, pull on a pair of OU socks, and take part in some memorable matches.



Chris Watson (M 92), Alastair White (SH 18), Simon Osmond (WB 85), Ant Ringer (B 79), John Webster (C 70) and James Watson (L 88).

Uppingham Veterans Rifle Club

By Simon Osmond (WB 85)

Just before we gathered for our annual pilgrimage to Bisley, we learned of the passing of Nick Bomford (an honorary member of the club since the mid-1980s). In the 66-year history of Uppingham Veterans Rifle Club, Nick was the headmaster who provided the strongest support for shooting at Uppingham and beyond. He himself was an Oxford shooting blue and would regularly turn up to support the School team at the Ashburton and he followed the success of OU members of the Club long after they left school. The Club was fortunate to have him as such a staunch supporter.

This year's British Target Rifle Championships (The Imperial Meeting) at Bisley brought its fair share of challenges, triumphs, and some truly outstanding individual performances from Old Uppinghamians.

Unfortunately, for the first time in many years, the School was unable to field a team for the Schools' Meeting at the Imperial. This was particularly disappointing after last year's success in fielding a full VIII for the Ashburton.

We hope this is a temporary setback and look forward to renewed participation next year, although the competition format may change following the withdrawal of the cadet rifle by the MoD.

The Veterans' Match was a different story, with an impressive turnout of three full OU teams and a partial fourth. On a high-scoring day, results were mixed: A Team – 10th place, B Team – 5th place, C Team – 9th place. The combined aggregate placed the club 6th of 10 entrants. The highlight came from **Reg Curtis (F 76)**, who produced the top individual club score with a superb 50.9, converting a 5 for his first sighter.

The weather for this year's Imperial meeting in July was decidedly mixed. After a very hot start for the warm-up matches on the Friday, the weather broke with a wet but windless start to the Grand Aggregate on the Saturday, followed by a very British mix of sunshine and showers for the rest of the week. Wind was largely from the left, with occasional forays from the right and variable gusts across the week to keep competitors on their toes. The Corporation, shot at 1,000 yards, after a relatively benign morning, proved to be one of the most challenging for years, with those unlucky to shoot across the middle of the day particularly affected and many scores below 40 out of a possible 50. Threats of thunder and lightning were generally restricted to overnight, which meant that the full programme of events was completed.

In the Major competitions, two OUs made the final of the King's Prize with **Reg Curtis** finishing 59th and **Simon Osmond (WB 85)** finishing 85th. We also had two OUs in the final of the St Georges with **Chris Watson (M 92)** finishing 6th (one central "V" bull from the top spot) and **Ant Ringer (B 79)** coming 21st (a further point behind in a tightly contested final, with the top 31 just separated by one point. Chris also tie-shot for the first stage of the St. Georges coming 3rd. Four OUs made the top 100 of the Grand Aggregate, with **Ant Ringer** coming 11th, **Chris Watson** 19th, **James Watson (L 88)** 68th and **Simon Osmond** 73rd.



Reg Curtis (F 76)



Simon Osmond (WB 85)

The OUs collected a string of notable victories and top finishes: **James Watson** – Winner of the Conan Doyle (900 yards) with the only perfect 50.10V on the range, **Chris Watson** – Winner of the Century Range Aggregate, Lord Tedder Aggregate, and Sighters Aggregate, the **Watson Pair** – Winners of the Families Trophy (for the second consecutive year, and fourth time overall), and **Ant Ringer** – Winner of the Fulton Pairs (with a non-OU partner).

Top ten finishes were frequent across aggregates and stages, with **Chris Watson** in particular featuring in no fewer than 14 top-ten placings, including 2nd in the Aidan Reece, Berryman, Donaldson, and Gurkha Appeal Aggregates. Other highlights included: **Ant Ringer** – 6th in the Hobson Aggregate and several other top-ten placings, **Simon Osmond** – 3rd in the Saturday Aggregate, 5th in both the Howcroft Newspaper and Tucker Aggregates, **James Watson** – 2nd in the Volunteer Force and Loder, and **Simon Belither** – 7th in the Admiral Hutton.

OUs once again represented on the international stage with **Ant Ringer** who shot for England in their victorious National Match team and **Chris Watson** taking on roles as the Captain and Main Coach for Wales in both the National (2nd) and Mackinnon (3rd), and a shooting member of the winning GB team in the Kolapore Match.

Simon Osmond claimed the **UVRC Championship 2025** (for his first time). As we go to press, **Chris Watson** is just returning from a Great Britain team tour to Canada for which he was vice-captain, and **James Watson** has been selected for the GB team to Australia in October 2026 to the Australia Match.

This year's Imperial Meeting saw strong OU representation across every level of competition, with several standout victories and international honours. While the School's absence from the Ashburton was a disappointment, the achievements of our OUs ensured we continue to fly the flag for Uppingham in the shooting world.

See <http://uvrc.uk> for more details on UVRC events / activities and membership information.



Chris Watson (M 92)



James Watson (L 88)



OUs watching the final. L to R: Sarah Perceval (née Pattinson, Fd 86), James Watson (L 88), Simon Pattinson (WB 52), Ant Ringer (B 79), Jeannie Pattinson and Emma Cannings (L 95).

Uppingham Rovers Cricket Club

The 2025 season was marked by several 'firsts' for the Rovers, including entry into the Cricketer Cup preliminary round, the launch of an Over-50s side, and new fixtures against The Frogs and Sudbury CC. In all, 42 players represented the Club, reflecting both the strength and breadth of the Rovers teams.

Cricketer Cup

For the first time, the Rovers began in the **Preliminary Round**, away to Old Tonbridgians (finalists in 2024 and 2025). The hosts made 311 for 8, and though **Harry Funnell (Fgh 13)** (48) and **Liam Tew (WD 22)** (43) battled hard, the Rovers were dismissed for 229, losing by 82 runs.

Over-50s Cricketer Cup

The Club's debut in this competition was a highlight:

- **Quarter-final v Eton Ramblers** – Rovers 212 for 4 (**Ed Watson (M 88)** 74, **Ed Fowler (SH 85)** 88) beat Eton 149 all out (**Mark Worrall (F 86)** 4/31) by 63 runs.
- **Semi-final v Harrow Wanderers** – Harrow 126 all out (**Piers Robson (LH 85)** 3/45) lost to Rovers 129 for 1 (***Ed Watson 84**, **Peter Riley (M 69)** 33).
- **Final v Bradfield Waifs** – Rovers 68 all out lost by 9 wickets.

Reaching the final at the first attempt was a major achievement, with thanks to **James Beaumont (WD 88)** for leading the side.



Over 50s Cup Final Side

L to R front: Peter Riley (M 69), Andrew Cumming (WD 85), James Beaumont (WD 88), Ed Fowler (SH 85) and Tom Hamilton (WD 06). Back: Piers Robson (LH 85), Mark Worrall (F 86), John White (M 69), Andrew Lewin (F 80), Jamie Renison (F 85) and Rob Perkins (C 89).

Other Matches

- **The School (May 23, 50 overs)** – Rovers 214 (**Will Staveley (WB 16)** 52, **Ben Kennedy (B 09)** 51, **Alex Collins (B 01)** 32) lost to the School 215 for 9 by 1 wicket (**Sam Charlton (M 12)** 3/31).
- **Uppingham Camels (May 23, 20 overs)** – Rovers 145 for 4 (**Freddie Read (M 17)** 45, **Sebastian Wheeler (B 18)** 34*) lost by 6 wickets.

- **The Frogs (May 25, 50 overs)** – Frogs 280 for 6 (Rollo Morrissey (M 09) 3/41) lost to Rovers 281 for 8 (Hugo Rook (M 09) 68, Tom Kennedy (B 06) 63, Alex Macdonald (F 18) 61*) by 2 wickets.
- **Sudbury CC (Aug 31, 40 overs)** – Sudbury 269 for 4 beat Rovers 265 (Ollie Dring (LH 19) 100 ret, James Beaumont 52, Stu Peters (WB 00) 58) by 4 runs.

Season Review

The season brought both narrow defeats and memorable wins. The one-wicket loss to the School XI and the four-run defeat at Sudbury showed the competitive spirit of the side, while victory over The Frogs was a highlight. Participation in the Over-50s Cup added a new dimension, with strong performances from Watson, Fowler, Worrall, and Robson.

Looking Ahead

The Rovers continue to seek new fixtures and in 2026 will embark on only their second overseas tour, with matches in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With momentum from 2025 and a growing player base, the Club looks forward to building on this foundation in 2026.

Rovers on Tour:

From Uppingham to Argentina

In January 2026, the Uppingham Rovers will set off on a 10-day cricket tour to Argentina. Continuing a rich tradition of touring. The tour aims to celebrate the club's heritage, promote the game internationally, and support its growth in a non-traditional cricketing nation.

Cricket in Argentina has a proud history of its own. Introduced by British expatriates in the 19th century and first toured by the MCC in 1912. Today, it survives thanks to a passionate local and expatriate community, and the Rovers are eager to add their contribution.

The tour will be based in Buenos Aires and feature seven cricket matches against some of Argentina's most historic cricket clubs and schools including Belgrano, Hurlingham and St Albans. Away from the crease, players will have the chance to explore Argentina's capital with a city tour, enjoy a tango show, sample fine wines, and even take an optional trip across the River Plate to Uruguay.

We look forward to representing the school away from home and celebrate the game in a country where cricket has a proud history.

The Tourists:

Chris Bennett-Baggs (WB 02)
Tom Kennedy (B 06)
Freddie Read (M 07)
Archie Stroud (WD 07)
Otto Esse (WB 08)
Will Barrow (Hf 09)
Ben Kennedy (B 09)

Freddie Tucker (B 10)
Sam Charlton (M 12)
Will Harris (WD 17)
William Marriage (WD 17)
Sam Turberville Smith (B 15)
Alex Macdonald (F 18)
Ollie Dring (LH 19)



OU Rugby

The OU Rugby celebrations that took place in November 2024 proved to be an unforgettable occasion, bringing together generations of OUs in a day filled with competition, camaraderie, and shared memories.

The opening fixture saw the OUs face Stoneygate, who arrived determined to overturn their defeat from the previous year. Despite a strong performance from the OU side, Stoneygate ultimately claimed victory in a hard-fought but friendly contest that showcased the commitment and determination of both teams.

The sporting highlight of the day followed with the 1st XV's match against Rugby School, marking the 125th anniversary of the first meeting between the two sides. Backed by tremendous support from OUs, parents, pupils and staff on the sidelines, Uppingham delivered a sublime display of rugby to secure a comfortable and memorable win.

As the day's events drew to a close, anticipation built for the celebratory black-tie dinner in The Memorial Hall. The guest list read like a roll call of Uppingham rugby history, with former 1st XV players in attendance ranging from those at the School in the early 1950s through to recent leavers. Many had not seen one another since their school days, making the evening an especially poignant occasion. Stories were shared, friendships rekindled, and the spirit of OU Rugby resonated throughout the hall.

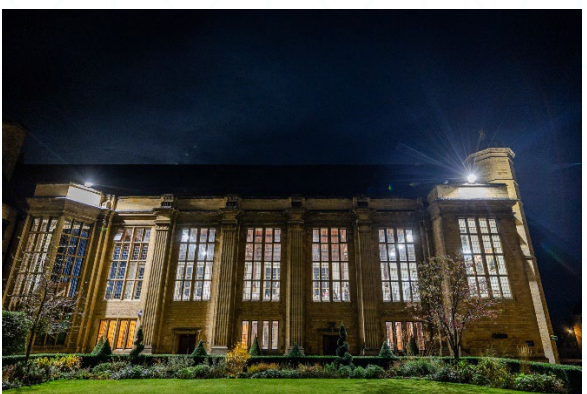
The Celebration of Rugby was a remarkable success, uniting the Uppingham community across generations. We are incredibly grateful to all who played, attended, and supported the day, especially to the OU team captain **David Heron (C 91)** who does so much to bring players together – ensuring that OU Rugby continues to thrive as both a sporting tradition and a cherished part of the school's heritage. Thanks also go to Ian 'Dosser' Smith, a rugby coach known to many OUs over the years.

The next OU Rugby celebration is set for Autumn 2026, and we look forward to keeping you updated as the occasion draws nearer.



Celebration of Rugby Dinner

November 2024



OU Fives

The annual OUs and Jesters v School match took place in Uppingham on Sunday, 17th November 2024. Games were played on the Constables Fives Courts and on the historic Brooklands' Courts – the oldest in the world, built in 1868. The day featured some closely contested matches, along with the usual fun and laughter.



L to R: Ashley Friedlein (C 85), Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76), Sam Basu (Repton), Stephen Kelly (City of London), Nic Walker (Charterhouse), Clive Smith (M 68) and James Dutta (WD 86).

Congratulations go to **Ashley Friedlein (C 85)** and Chiedo Nkwocho (Highgate) who won the Over 50s Competition for the Chris Cups at the Eton Fives Association Veterans Tournament 2025. The Chair of the Eton Fives Association is **Matthew Chinery (B 99)**.

If you'd like to play in future OU matches, please contact:

Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76): Adrian.Lewthwaite@btinternet.com

Ashley Friedlein (C 85): ashley.friedlein@gmail.com

Further information on where to play Fives in London can be found at www.wallballwestway.com
www.etonfives.com



OU Hockey

This year's Hockey Festival, held on Sunday 23rd March, was a fantastic celebration of teamwork and camaraderie. A brilliant turnout of OUs reunited on the pitches for some friendly competition against current pupils, creating a spirited atmosphere throughout the day. The event had a special family feel, with different generations coming together to share in the sport. A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success.





OU Golfing Society

*OUGS Centenary Dinner
held at Uppingham in July*

By Chris Gotla (H 68), Club President

The OU Golf Society has enjoyed a highly successful Centenary Year. The highlight was the Centenary Dinner, held in The Undercroft at Uppingham on Friday 11th July and attended by 120 members and guests. Over 80 members played golf at Luffenham Heath on the Friday and Saturday – two of the hottest days of the year. We are grateful to the School and the OU Association for their support. We were joined by several guests from the School, our closest Old Boys' Golf Societies, major events in which we participate, and Luffenham.

A welcome speech was given by **Chris Gotla (H 68)**, President of the OUGS, who also thanked the many contributors to the Centenary Weekend, including the Committee of **Tom Hayes (SH 74)**, **Tim Dickson (SH 67)**, **Simon Moffatt (H 74)**, **Peter Crocombe (B 03)**, **Mike Ingham (M 66)** and **Roderick Rhodes (Hf 68)**. After Dinner the Toast to the Society was proposed by OUGS Captain **Tim Dickson**, followed by a witty response from Guest Speaker Gordon MacSween.

Our inaugural Centenary event was a match against fellow centurions Harrow at Royal St Georges in early April which ended in a very friendly 8-8 draw. In September Royal Wimbledon Golf Club generously invited the OUGS Eagles (under 35s) to a Centenary Fixture, which was thoroughly enjoyed by 14 of our younger members, many who have just left school. The Centenary Captain's event will be held at Aldeburgh later in the year.



OU Eagles at Royal Wimbledon

Also in photo Chris Gotla (President) and Mike Ingham (Treasurer)

Many members generously contributed – both financially and in terms of time – to the Centenary programme, which included a publication on the history, foundations, personalities, and performances of the last 100 years.

A range of Centenary merchandise, including golf balls and tees, was also enthusiastically received.

The Society has enjoyed further success in the major Old School events. We now have an incredible array of talent available to represent us in the Halford Hewitt – the strongest golfing team Uppingham has ever produced. Of course, other schools are also becoming stronger, and competition is fierce. We beat a formidable Ampleforth team in the first round and Bishops Stortford comfortably in Round 2, before losing narrowly 3–2 to Berkhamstead, the last match being decided on the second extra hole. In the Queen Elizabeth Trophy in Scotland, we again lost in Round 3 to Glasgow Academy.



In The Senior Bernard Darwin Trophy (for over-65s) Uppingham reached the final before losing to Malvern. However, our Bernard Darwin Team (for over-55s) went one better, winning the Trophy for the second time in our history (previous winners in 2017). Some very tight matches and excellent performances saw wins against Repton, Winchester, Eton and Charterhouse.



*The Winning Bernard Darwin Team
L to R: Eddie Allingham (H 81), Nick Freeman (L 70), Tim Dickson (SH 67),
Mark Gravette (Captain Woking GC), Simon Moffatt (H 74), Stuart Lloyd (WD 74),
Andrew Lewin (F 80) and Chris Gotla (H 68).*

A youthful team also won the Schools' Putting Competition in June for the first time in our history, and we have enjoyed a number of other successes in regular fixtures, including the Birkdale Bucket.

The Society is in good health, and the Centenary Year has brought a number of less-regular attendees back into the fold, strengthening links across all age groups. The icing on the cake came in mid-summer with the announcement that **Dennis Watson (M 76)** was to be the new Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the highest honour in UK golf, and only the fourth Uppinghamian to hold this office.



Dennis Watson (M 76) with course caddy Taylor Haugh at St Andrews, after his official drive-in.

OU Sailing Association

By Lara Johnston (J 03)

The 2024 Arrow Trophy, held on the weekend of 5th and 6th October, was a mixed weekend for Uppingham. While the OU Sailing Team usually performs well, this time, we faced challenges with a noticeably slower boat (with full water tanks) and no onboard electrics, which affected our competitiveness.

Our race was marked by a couple of mishaps, including touching a mark and a protest received on the final start line from Tonbridge School. Despite these setbacks, the weather on Saturday was spectacular, with perfect sailing conditions that reminded us why we love this event.

Although the results weren't in our favour, the weekend was still a great opportunity to connect as a team and enjoy some fantastic sailing.

If there are any OU sailors – novice or expert – who would like to get involved in OUSA regattas, David Gavins (LH 73) would love to hear from you. Please contact david.gavins@btinternet.com to get involved.



L to R: Foreground: Tom Alston (SH 17), Kala Davies (Sa 17), Henry Arnold (F 01) and Lana Davies (Sa 15).

Back row: David Wells (H 80), George East (F 14), Emily 'Lara' Johnston (J 03), Thea Impey (née Crawshaw, L 08), Jo Cave (Fd 89) and Simon Ward (F 75).



OU Masonic Lodge

By Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)

The Uppingham Lodge was delighted to return to the School on 13th September for its annual Meeting and Dinner. During the evening, members presented the Headmaster with a cheque for £2,500 in support of fee-assisted places – continuing the proud tradition of giving back to the School community.

It was also a pleasure to welcome the Lodge's newest member, **James Wynne-Joyce (Fgh 22)**, who joined us for the first time. True to its reputation as the best fine wine Lodge among Public School Lodges, the evening was marked by excellent wines and convivial company. The annual event is open to all OUs and their partners, and we warmly encourage anyone interested to join future occasions. For details, please contact **Adrian Lewthwaite (M 76)** at Adrian.Lewthwaite@btinternet.com.

The Lodge also extends its congratulations to this year's recipients of the Speech Day award, *The OU Lodge Prize for Community Service Initiatives*. The £500 prize was donated to Alzheimer's Research UK.

To conclude, it is with great sadness, we record the passing of two of our members: **Nigel Heath (Fgh 64)** and **Tim Meeks (Fgh 90)**. Both were devoted OUs, popular Lodge members, and regular supporters of the annual dinner at the School. They will be greatly missed.

For more information about the Lodge's activities and membership, please visit: <https://oulodge4227.org>.



*Newest member:
James Wynne-Joyce (Fgh 22)*



Cross County

The OU Cross Country run took place on 11th January 2025, bringing together participants for a challenging and enjoyable event. There was particular support for **Brian Yates (WB 57)** and his guest Janice Nisbet, who successfully completed the route to cheers from pupils on the finish line.

Following the run, everyone gathered in the Kendall Room for a celebratory dinner. The evening fostered camaraderie, recognition of effort, and a warm community spirit after a successful day.

All are welcome to attend, whatever your running ability. Please email the OU team on ou@uppingham.co.uk if you would like to receive information on the next event.

Cross Country Run and Dinner
Saturday 10th January 2026
More details are available via the [OU website](#).



L to R: 2024 Routh winner Benji Maldonado (Hf 19), Angus Maloney (Hf 19), Nazar Efendiev (Hf 14) and Gareth Matthews (former staff).



OU SCHOOL FOR LIFE

School for Life is the careers and networking programme of the OU Association, offering unlimited support and connections through the OU community, wherever you are in your career journey.

"I felt lost after graduating and the programme proved invaluable. It has connected me with top professionals and helped me to uncover what I truly want to pursue."

"Through the extensive OU network, School for Life has introduced me to some incredible OUs and has opened endless doors of opportunity."

"The conversations have been instrumental in helping me to understand my goals and how to pursue them. The support has made a genuine difference to my confidence and direction."

"The programme has played a crucial role in helping me navigate the professional world by offering guidance, acting as a soundboard, and connecting me with thoughtful, experienced people."



For further information and to get in touch please visit the Careers & Networking section of the OU website or email schoolforlife@uppingham.co.uk.

The Importance of that Uppingham Connection

Events Calendar 2026

We hope you will be able to join us at the forthcoming events...

25th April



OU Dinner at Uppingham

In the Memorial Hall

Join us for a memorable evening in the School's historic Memorial Hall.

All OUs and their partners are warmly invited to attend a formal dinner that promises to be a truly special occasion.

Group bookings are welcome – please contact ou@uppingham.co.uk to reserve your table – and let us know if we can help to reconnect you with your Uppingham friends.



More details are available on the OU website via the QR code.



26th April

Classic Car Meet

Uppingham

We invite OUs to join the array of classic vehicles taking part in the 'Stilton Cheese Run' on national 'Drive it Day'.



8th May

Norfolk Dinner

The Hoste Arms, Burnham Market

Known for being one of the most fun OU events and not just for those in Norfolk – all OUs are welcome.

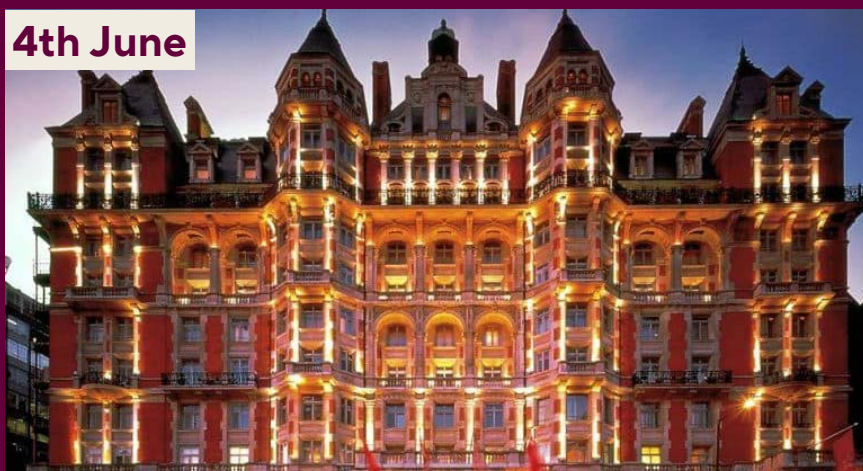
4th June

The London Dinner 'Big OU Summer Party'

The Mandarin Oriental, Knightsbridge

The most glamorous event in the OU calendar. Same place, sunnier vibes!

Save the date, reserve your tables, get your friends together – more details coming soon.





A Celebration of Girls' Houses at Uppingham

There are some special milestones to celebrate across Uppingham's girls' Houses over 2025 and 2026.

- 50th Anniversary of Fairfield - opened 1975
- 40th Anniversary of Johnson's - opened 1986
- 25th Anniversary of Samworths' - opened 2001
- 20th Anniversary of Girls at Constables - opened 2006
- 21st Anniversary of New House - opened 2004

To mark these wonderful occasions, we warmly invite you – and your families – to a reunion for all the Girls' Houses on Saturday 20th June at the School.

Enjoy a tour of the School and a relaxed lunch in the Memorial Hall catching up with friends, and visit your old House, where staff and pupils will be delighted to show you around.

More details will follow nearer the time, but for now, please save the date and encourage your friends to join the celebrations.

The event promises to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with contemporaries, and we look forward to providing a really memorable day for everyone.



OU SCHOOL FOR LIFE

Please keep us updated with your professional and contact details so we can ensure you receive invitations to relevant events. Email schoolforlife@uppingham.co.uk or scan the QR code to submit your event preferences.

We hold targeted, professional events for a range of industries, which offer perfect occasions to meet fellow OUs working in your sector or to access support from experienced contacts working in the same field.



Plans are also underway for regional events in Edinburgh and Yorkshire, as well as Property Drinks in March and various sporting occasions. More events will be added to the calendar over the next few months, both in the UK and overseas.

Visit the OU website for more information olduppinghamian.co.uk