

March – August 2019
Spring/Summer Issue



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

out & about

Mid-Surrey District



Oddfellows Arms in Pulborough



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Oddfellows Hall Dorking

Welcome to the latest edition of the news and events diary for Mid-Surrey District

As a local district of a national organisation called Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and to enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when they need them.

We are basically a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making new friends and helping people. This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in the area. Please call or email the office for more information on any of these events.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to

Contact Details

Secretary: Maeve Stott
maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
270 High Street, Dorking
Surrey, RH4 1QT

Telephone: 01306 877792

Email:
mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Roxane Butterworth
roxane.butterworth@oddfellows.co.uk

Membership: Jenny Vincent
jenny.vincent@oddfellows.co.uk

Dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm your attendance.

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.

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.

Food with Friends

Tuesday 7 May, 12.15pm

The Plough, Leigh

Wednesday 3 July, 12.15pm

The Beefeater, Tattenham Corner

Wednesday 14 August, 12.15pm

Oddfellows Arms, Pulborough

We have set up a Lunch Club, dining at pubs in the Mid-Surrey area – we would love you to join us and also provide recommendations for future venues. Booking essential, just pay for your own meal on the day, please contact Jenny on **01306 877792**.



Afternoon Tea and local history talk

Tuesday 5 March, 2pm – 4pm

Jazz Talk with Mike Forbes

Tuesday 25 June, 2pm – 4pm

Talk by Brigitte Trust

Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead

All welcome to these informal talks and stylish afternoon tea in the Oddfellows Hall, Leatherhead. Enjoy Brenda's popular selection of home baked cakes, afternoon teas, finger sandwiches and freshly brewed tea. Bring a friend to these afternoons of interesting talks and relaxed conversation, and delicious afternoon tea.

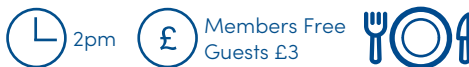
For more details and to book, please contact Brenda or the office on **01306 877792**.



If you have any ideas for events, talks or articles please contact Cynthia, Brenda or Roxane via the office 01306 877792 or mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk.

March 2019

TUES **05** **Jazz Talk by Mike Forbes** **with Afternoon Tea**



In this informal talk Mike will chart the development of jazz by means of recorded examples, including in the UK with the 'Trad' boom of the 1950s and 1960s, the adoption of the 'Modern' jazz, and the current re-emergence of jazz in popular culture. Mike Forbes is an experienced public speaker, with a lifelong interest in jazz, including playing the banjo in traditional bands and researching and writing on jazz history. Followed by Brenda's homemade afternoon tea, delicious cakes and sandwiches. All welcome to this relaxed and interesting afternoon. Oddfellows Hall Leatherhead, 45 - 47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Please book via the office on 01306 877792.



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MON **11** **Brooklands, Birthplace of** **British Motor Sport and** **Aviation a talk by Mike Forbes**



Experienced public speaker Mike Forbes, who has a life long interest in cars and planes, will give an illustrative talk on the history of Brooklands. The Brooklands Motor Racing Circuit near Weybridge was opened in 1907 and was the first purpose-built motor racing circuit in the world and was the mecca of British motor sport until 1939. The grass area within the track was ideal for aircraft and the first British aeroplane piloted by a Briton was reputed to have taken place there. Aircraft manufacture became established. Brooklands Museum took over the site and many classic cars, motorcycles and cycles are still on display as well as a dozen large aircraft. All welcome to Mike's fascinating talk on the history of Brooklands followed by tea and coffee. Please contact the Mid-Surrey office for more details. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Cynthia or the office to book on 01306 877792.



For details on all events unless alternative contact given please contact the office on 01306 877792 or via email mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

March 2019

April

MON
18

Mid-Surrey Annual General Meeting



10.30am



Free



Mid-Surrey District meeting. These meetings are open to members only, however all members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to share and discuss the business of the branch, subjects include finance, social planning, care development, publicity and promotion.

If you have not attended before please do call the Secretary beforehand so we can look out for you and make sure you are welcomed to the business meeting. Often members meet for lunch locally after the meeting.

Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Maeve on 01306 877792.

SAT
06

Mid-Surrey 175th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Dance



6.30pm



£25 per
ticket



The Mid-Surrey District would like to welcome you to their 175th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the historic Oddfellows Hall in Dorking Surrey. We hope to see as many members and friends there as possible for this one off special celebration evening. There will be a delicious three course meal by well known local caterer Balsamic Fig, a DJ providing 50-60s music for dancing, charity raffle and speakers.

Members and their guests are welcome to enjoy this great evening! Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Please contact the office to order tickets and for more details on 01306 877792.

April

MON

08

Quiz with Fish and Chips



7.30pm



Pay for your own



Come and test your general knowledge at a relaxed quiz evening for members followed by fish and chip supper from the local fish and chip restaurant in Dorking (**members only**). There will also be a simple welcoming for recent new members. All orders for fish and chips are placed and paid for on arrival at the event. Soft drinks will be served but you are welcome to bring your own beer or wine. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Cynthia or the office if you can join us on 01306 877792.

May

TUES

07

Lunch Club at The Plough, Leigh



12.15pm



Pay for own meal and drinks



Join the Mid-Surrey Oddfellows for a relaxed informal lunch. This month's lunch club is at The Plough in Leigh. This welcoming country village pub set on the village green in Leigh, has a low beamed bar lounge leading to the cosy restaurant. The Plough is a warm and friendly pub serving unfussy pub classics. Contact Jenny at the Mid-Surrey office to book. All welcome. Book by Friday 3 May. The Plough, Church Road, Leigh, Surrey RH2 8NJ. Contact Jenny on 01306 877792.

APRIL

TUES

30

Care and Cuppa with Dementia Friends



11am



Free



All are welcome to pop in to the lounge for a cup of tea, light refreshments and a friendly chat. With a short informal presentation by a Dementia Friends Champion. This Dementia Friends Information Session is run by a volunteer who has been trained and supported by the Alzheimer's Society. You will learn more about dementia and how as a community we can help to create a dementia friendly society. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact the office if you would like to join us on 01306 877792.



May

MON
13

Theatre Talk by Pete Allen - A Personal History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Mr Garrick's Fireside; A Personal History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane has provided entertainment for every monarch since Charles II. In this talk, Pete Allen takes you on a personal journey through the history of one of the most famous theatres in the world, revealing its secrets along with tales of being the body double for the man who wrote 'My Fair Lady'. His first embarrassing encounter with Catherine Zeta-Jones, almost being shot by the Queen Mother's security because of Ken Dodd, and of one man's attempt to 'upstage' the greatest theatre manager Drury Lane has ever known. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Cynthia or the office to book on 01306 877792.

June

MON
10

Cards and Board Games



7.30pm



Free



A relaxed members evening playing board and card games with tea and coffee. Please bring a game to share. Members will also be suggesting events for the September to February newsletter. Members only. If you have ideas for events and can't make the meeting please let Cynthia or the office know. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Cynthia or the office for more information if you would like to join us on 01306 877792.

TUES
25

Care and Cuppa - Brigitte Trust Talk followed by Afternoon tea



2pm



Donation



All welcome to a short informal talk by local charity The Brigitte Trust founded in Dorking over 30 years ago, now covering the whole of Surrey. The Trust offers a free volunteer service of emotional support and practical help at home. Followed by Brenda's delicious full afternoon tea and relaxed conversation. Oddfellows Hall Leatherhead, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Contact Brenda or the office to let us know if you can join us on 01306 877792.

July

WED
03

Lunch Club at The Beefeater Tattenham Corner



12.15pm



Pay for
own meals



All welcome to this month's Lunch Club at The Beefeater, Tattenham Corner. This pub style chain serves up a menu of grilled meats and international favourites. Please book with Jenny at the Mid-Surrey office and pay for your own meal and drinks on the day. Book by Tuesday 2 July. The Beefeater Tattenham Corner, Epsom Downs, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5NY.

MON
08

Flower Arranging with Karen Fox



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £4



Karen Fox will be returning again to host this popular evening. Karen from Bride and Bloom floristry will talk through some of her latest projects and trends in floral design, then guide members and visitors through creating their own small table centre to take away. All flowers and materials will be provided. Members and visitors are welcome to bring their own cups or saucers to place their arrangement in or welcome to use those provided. Followed by tea and coffee. Booking required please book by Tuesday 2 July. Oddfellows Lounge (Oddfellows Hall), 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Cynthia or the office to book on 01306 877792.

August

WED
14

Lunch Club at Oddfellows Arms-Lunch Club



12.15pm



Pay for
own meals



The Mid-Surrey Oddfellows are making a trip to the Oddfellows Arms in Pulborough. This historic building is a traditional country pub in the heart of the village. Offering real ales, draught lagers and more with a menu to suit everyone. Smaller portions are also available for those who do not have a big appetite. Please book in advance and then pay for your own food and drinks on the day. Book by Friday 9 August. Oddfellows Arms, Pulborough, 99 Lower Street, West Sussex RH20 2BP. Contact Jenny on 01306 877792.



If you have any ideas or contacts for future events and can't make the meeting please contact the office.



Oddfellows Summer Holiday

**Discover the best of
Hampshire's Coastline with
Oddfellows members and
friends at the Sinah Warren
Coastal Hotel.**

Situated on Hayling
Island, Sinah Warren is a
large, comfortable hotel
surrounded by elegant
gardens and spectacular
view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course
evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from only
£280 per person**

With evening entertainment,
activities and use of leisure facilities.

**Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel,
Ferry Road, Hayling Island,
Hampshire, PO11 0BZ**

To book call Warner's on 0330 1009 772

(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS



Care and a cuppa

The Mid-Surrey district has just started regular care and welfare talks, “care and a cuppa” on a mid-week morning or afternoon in both Dorking and Leatherhead where there will be an informal talk from a health and wellbeing organisation or local charity and chance to enjoy a cup of tea and relaxed chat with other members and visitors. These are free events open to all.

Tuesday 30 April at 11am, all are welcome to pop in to the lounge (Oddfellows Hall, Dorking) for a cup of tea, light refreshments and friendly chat. There will be a short informal presentation by a Dementia Friends Champion. This Dementia Friends Information Session is run by volunteer who has been trained and supported by the Alzheimer’s Society.

You will learn more about dementia and how you we as a community can help create a dementia friendly society.

On Tuesday 25 June at 2pm

Oddfellows Hall Leatherhead. All are welcome to a short informal talk by local charity The Brigitte Trust. The Brigitte Trust was founded in Dorking over 30 years ago is now covering the whole of Surrey. Followed by Brenda’s delicious afternoon tea. Please call the office for more information. Please let Roxane know at the office know if there is a charity or organisation you would be interested to feature in future care and cuppa events.



Care and Welfare Visitors



Pat Christmas



David Day

David and Pat are available to visit any members with any health or welfare concerns. Please contact Jenny or Maeve in the office who can also put you in touch with the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department.



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 Maeve on **01306 877792** or email **maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@manchestercab.org



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**



Want to get involved?

**Looking for something to do?
And meet new friends? If so,
there is plenty for you to get
involved in with at the Oddfellows.
Mid-Surrey are always looking for
volunteers to help with social events
and care support. This can just be
as a one off or regular help such
as friendly face to welcome at the
evening or afternoon events, help
preparing teas/coffees, welcoming
speakers, deciding events and
suggesting ideas for events.**

Is there is an activity you want to do with friends we are not currently running? We encourage all members to put on events for other members and friends to join them on. Would you like to help run a new event like a book club, singing group, dancing or cinema group or a one off walk in the country or coffee morning?

After all Oddfellows is run by members for members-so you can help decide what events you would like to be running in Mid-Surrey. Of course you will get the support and encouragement of the other members and office staff for any of these events.

Did you also know that all members are welcome to attend business meetings and become more involved with the running of the branch? You could also become a volunteer welfare visitor keeping on touch with members with health and welfare concerns.

If you are interested in any of the above or just would like more information on getting more involved, please call Maeve or Roxane at the office on **01306 877792** or email **mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk**, or pop in to the office on a Friday morning.

Lounge Area Available to Hire

Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QT. Ideal for small regular groups – comfortably seating 30 people Contact Maeve Stott on 01306 877792 or Email: maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk.

- Kitchen Facilities
- Available for hire during the day and evening
- Carpeted throughout
- Use of digital projector and screen



Did you know the Oddfellows Hall in Bridge Street, Leatherhead is also available for hire? Wooden floored 1132 sq.ft hall with a separate entrance area (357 sq.ft) which can also be used for meetings both have access to kitchen, toilets and disabled toilet. **Please contact Roxane or the office on 0130 6877792.**

Share the friendship – enjoy the rewards!

Refer a Friend

Did you know that the Society runs a Refer a Friend scheme?

When the first friend you've recommended has joined, we'll send you a £10 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you. There are different reward levels, so you'd receive your next reward – £60 in Love2Shop vouchers – after recruiting five friends in total.*



www.oddfellows.co.uk

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at www.oddfellows.co.uk or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

Terms and conditions apply* The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers.



Mid-Surrey District
175th Anniversary

Celebration Dinner Dance

Saturday 6 April 2019

Doors open 6.30pm

Dinner 7.15pm

*Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QT.*

Cost: £25

Tickets available via the office **01306 877792**

mid.surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

3 Course meal, followed by charity raffle, speeches and dancing.

Oddfellows events last year...

Friendship Month

The Oddfellows celebrated Friendship Month with a very popular quiz night on Monday 10 September writes Cynthia Oliver. Members and visitors all enjoyed this relaxed, friendly evening which included fish and chips from a nearby fish and chip shop. A team of visitors won prizes for achieving the highest points from the accumulated quizzes.

The Friendship Month continued with an entertaining local history talk by Brian Hennegan followed by a cream tea at the Oddfellows Hall, Leatherhead on Friday 28 September. A generous donation was raised for the Macmillan appeal at both these events.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Flower Arranging with Karen Fox

June 2018

Mid-Surrey Oddfellow members and visitors were all treated to the artistic world of flower arranging when Karen Fox from Bride and Bloom flowers presented a very interesting evening reports Cynthia Oliver.

After a short demonstration of how to make a flower arrangement, Karen then provided everyone with the oasis, different types of cups,

jugs and saucers as well as lots of greenery and several types of flowers, so that they could create their own arrangement. Everybody immensely enjoyed the evening and took home a very professional flower arrangement. Karen supported Oddfellows with a demonstration of button holes last year and we look forward to welcoming her back on Monday 8 July.





Lunch Club

Mid-Surrey Oddfellows enjoying an excellent Christmas lunch at the Red Bar Dorking.

Did you know the Oddfellows meet regularly for lunch clubs in the Mid-Surrey area? The next few are at The Plough Leigh on Tuesday 7 May, then Wednesday 3 July at the Beefeater, Tattenham

Corner and finally The Oddfellows Arms, Pulborough on Wednesday 14 August.

All are welcome for these relaxed lunches, just call Jenny in the office to book and chose and pay for your own meal and drinks on the day. Recommendations of new venues are always welcome-just let the office know.



Oddfellows' Summer/Autumn Outing

By Jenny Vincent



By chance, we had picked one of the hottest days in October for our Oddfellows' outing on the Wey and Arun Canal. We had planned this event for August, but due to the heatwave and extremely low water levels, it had to be postponed.

24 Oddfellows' members plus friends had an enjoyable two hour scenic canal trip, at a leisurely speed of two or three mph on a 50 feet converted narrowboat by the name of 'Zachariah Keppel'. The crew served us with tea and coffee and negotiated Brewhurst and Baldwin's Knob Locks as we headed towards Drungewick near Billingshurst. Other boats available for trips at The Wey and Arun Canal are the 'Wiggonholt, which accommodates

up to 54 passengers and for parties of up to nine, 'Josias Jessop' is suitable for a tranquil glide down the canal. The tree colours were probably better on this October morning than those we would have experienced if our August trip had gone ahead.

Our canal trip was followed by a lovely pub lunch at 'The Onslow Arms' at Loxwood, which was conveniently situated by the canal at our meeting point.

This year Mid-Surrey are organising a trip to Oddfellows Arms in Pulborough on Wednesday 14 August, and hope to plan a local Steam Engine trip in the Autumn. Do let the office know if you have any ideas for local days out or would like to help coordinate a day out.





Make a difference - lend a hand

Want to get involved

Days out and visits

- do you love to get out and about visiting National Trust properties, galleries, museums, the cinema, interesting tea rooms and garden centres? Would you like friends to join you? We are currently looking for people who would be able to help us by organising walks, afternoon tea or days out in or easily accessible from our Dorking and Leatherhead bases. Could it be you?

For more information

Contact Roxane on **01306 877792**
mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk



the
Oddfellows
SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

 Mid Surrey Oddfellows
www.oddfellows.co.uk



This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

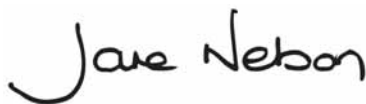
It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.



Jane Nelson, CEO

Members of Distinction

Whether through the old Portraits Scheme, or the recently launched Making a Difference Award – we love to recognise and celebrate members who go over-and-above in their support of the Society and its work.

So thank you to three of Portraits 2018's final winners Gerald, Miriam and Adrian for everything you do for the Oddfellows. We appreciate it.



*Gerald Gordon Baxter
Nene and Welland District*

Meet Gerald, member of the Nene and Welland District, who was singled out for his long-standing support to the Society at many different levels – from local Branch through to International Conference.

Some of Gerald's notable positions held over his seven decades as an Oddfellow include Noble Grand and Vice Grand

for his Branch, Provincial Grand Master for his District, 28 years' service as a District and Branch Trustee, as well as Past President (1988-1989) at East Anglia Group Conference.

Reflecting on his 71-year relationship with the Oddfellows, Gerald shared: "I liked the idea of what Oddfellowship stood for – Friendship, Love and Truth.

"We all need friends that we can turn to when we need them. There are times when we all need support and the Oddfellows has been there for me and my family."



*Miriam Witcomb
Heart of England District*

The Oddfellows is very fortunate to have people such as Miriam in its membership. She embodies the Society's humanitarian spirit through her commitment to helping others.

Since joining in her 40s, Miriam has served as Noble Grand for Leigh and Knightly Branch, as well as Heart of England District Oddfellows Club President and Trustee.

However, what sets Miriam apart is her devotion to fundraising and volunteering. Year-round, she knits items to sell and organises regular tombolas to raise money for her Provincial Grand Master's chosen charities.

For over 20 years, she has provided fellow members with care and support in their times of need as Branch Welfare Officer.

In the words of her District Committee of Management, Miriam is 'a much loved member'. And as a Society, we couldn't agree more!

Introduced to the Oddfellows by his father at age 16, Adrian's constant energy has kept him incredibly busy and active in his District and regional group conference.

Since 2006, he has been a member of Beds and Bucks District Committee of Management, in which he serves as Trustee and second-time Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was during his tenure as Provincial Grand Master in 2009 that his career reached new heights – as he undertook a charity indoor skydive for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Other appreciated contributions include his time as Past Worthy Master of the Provincial Lodge of Past Grands, Midland Group



*Adrian Taylor
Beds and Bucks District*

Conference President and, while studying at university in Birmingham, attendance at monthly Branch meetings and District annual meetings.

Speaking about his time with the Oddfellows, he explained: "It provides excellent opportunities to be able to meet people at home and overseas. An example of this is when I travelled around Australia and New Zealand and visited Lodges in Brisbane and Wellington."

Well done and thank you to all our members who've featured as portraits over the years. We can't wait to continue celebrating members who go the extra mile in supporting our Society through a Making A Difference Award.



On your marks, get set, parkrun

There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website www.parkrun.org.uk and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events

District Business Meetings

We regularly hold business meetings in your area and all members are welcome to attend. These meetings are open to members only, however all members are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to share and discuss the business of the branch, subjects include finance, social planning, care development, publicity and promotion. If you have not attended before please do call the Secretary beforehand so we can look out for you and make sure you are welcomed to the business meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to know other members and committee members, as well as make new friends. Often members meet for lunch locally after the meeting, the District meetings alternate between Dorking and Leatherhead Halls, meeting at 10.30am on the third Monday of each month. For further information please contact Maeve Stott or Jenny Vincent on 01306 877792.

Monday 18 March	Dorking (Annual General Meeting)
Monday 15 April	Leatherhead
Monday 20 May	Dorking
Monday 17 June	Leatherhead
Monday 15 July	Dorking
Monday 19 August	Leatherhead

These meetings are open to members only, however members from any Oddfellows Branch would be made most welcome to attend.

If you have not experienced this style of meeting before, please do come along and experience traditional Oddfellowship. A call to the Secretary beforehand will ensure you are fully welcomed into our Branch meeting. Please contact Jenny on 01306 877 792 or email jenny.vincent@oddfellows.co.uk if you would like to join us.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

Share your news, start a conversation or simply stay up-to-date! If you're on Facebook or Twitter, make sure you've liked and followed our Oddfellows social media pages.



OddfellowsUK



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At a glance

March 2019

Tues 5	Jazz Talk by Mike Forbes with Afternoon Tea.	2pm
Mon 11	Brooklands, Birthplace of British Motor Sport and Aviation a talk by Mike Forbes	7.30pm
Mon 18	Mid-Surrey Business AGM (Dorking)	10.30am

April

Sat 6	Mid-Surrey 175th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Dance	6.30pm
Mon 8	Quiz with Fish and Chips (Members only)	7.30pm
Mon 15	Mid-Surrey Business Meeting (Leatherhead)	10.30am
Tues 30	Care and Cuppa -with Dementia Friends	11am

May

Tues 7	Lunch Club at The Plough, Leigh	12.15pm
Mon 13	Theatre Talk by Pete Allen- A Personal History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	7.30pm
Mon 20	Mid-Surrey Business Meeting (Dorking)	10.30am

June

Mon 10	Cards and Board Games (Members only)	7.30pm
Mon 17	Mid-Surrey Business Meeting (Leatherhead)	10.30am
Tues 25	Care and Cuppa - Brigitte Trust Talk followed by Afternoon Tea (Leatherhead)	2pm

July

Wed 3	Lunch Club at The Beefeater Tattenham Corner	12.15pm
Mon 8	Flower Arranging with Karen Fox	7.30pm
Mon 15	Mid-Surrey Business Meeting (Dorking)	10.30am

August

Wed 14	Lunch Club at Oddfellows Arms - Lunch Club	12.15pm
Mon 19	Mid-Surrey Business Meeting (Leatherhead)	10.30am