

October 2021 – March 2022
Issue 12



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

out & about

Reading District



Maidenhead Bridge over the River Thames

Reading District (covering Reading, Maidenhead, Thatcham, Henley, Woodley, Pangbourne and Tilehurst)



Online



Music/
Concert



Travel



Games



Crafts



Walk/
Activities



Social



Food and Drink



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Continental Chocolates (Reading Abbey) - Tuesday 5 October 2021

Welcome to the Reading District of the Oddfellows. The Branches in the District have organised an exciting and varied programme of events for you all. This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in your area.

Everybody welcome

Unless indicated otherwise, everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any events that take your fancy - all are welcome and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time. Let us know you're coming and we'll look out for you and greet you at the door, hopefully after attending a few events you will see the benefits of joining our caring organisation.

Remember!

Put dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep this Events

Diary in a handy place - by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Want to get involved?

Looking for something to do? If so, there is plenty for you to get involved in with the Oddfellows. We are always looking for people to help with care support, social events or writing articles for the Branch Newsletter. If you are interested, please call your District Secretary, Debbie Jex today!

Is there an activity you want to do with friends we are not currently running? We encourage all our members to put on events for other members and friends to join them on, from cinema nights, to a pub social, walk in the country or anything else you can think of - if you are able to run a social activity for us please contact your local secretary (see right) for support, encouragement and to have your events listed in our social programme. Still not sure who to call? Contact the District Secretary Debbie Jex, to be pointed in the right direction.

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB

Branch and Event Contacts

For more information on our events, and for encouragement and support if attending an event for the first time, please contact your local Social Branch contact:

Reading District ●

District Secretary: Mrs Debbie Jex

Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.

Telephone: 0118 957 3354 **Email:** debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk

Reading District Social Secretary – Karen Dyke on 0118 959 4073

Reading Art and Craft Group: Debbie Jex on 0118 957 3354

Thames and Kennet Branch ●

Covering Reading, Woodley, Maidenhead and Thatcham:

Secretary: Mrs Karen Dyke, Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.

Telephone: 0118 9594073 **Email:** karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk

Britons' Pride (Thatcham) – Joyce Lewis on 07483 119404

Jubilee (Maidenhead) – Debbie Jex on 0118 957 3354

Reading Abbey (Reading) – Fiona Vince on 0118 954 8454

Woodley – Karen Dyke on 0118 9594073

Royal Berkshire Branch ●

Covering Reading and Pangbourne:

Secretary: Ms Lynn Harrison, 10 The Orchards, Longfield Road, Tring, Herts HP23 4DZ

Telephone: 01442 823195 **Email:** lynn.harrison@oddfellows.co.uk

Crown of England (Reading) – Russell Vince on 0118 954 8454

Pangbourne – Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Singing Together – Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Zumba Gold – Russell Vince on 0118 954 8454

Three Counties Branch ●

Covering Reading and Henley:

Secretary: Ms Lynda Edwards

Durlston Cottage, High Street, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 9BA

Telephone: 01491 871054 **Email:** lynda.edwards@oddfellows.co.uk

Good Samaritan (Henley) – Tony Bonnett on 0118 987 1488

Princess Alexandra and Reading Get Together Social – Christine Foyle on 0118 978 3919

Henley Get Together Social – Lynda Edwards on 01491 871054

Tilehurst Social Group – Mike Scott on 0118 907 1497 and 07792 959022

Find us at



Reading–Oddfellows



OddfellowsUk

Message to our members

During these difficult times, all of us at Reading District Oddfellows hope that you have managed to keep well and have not been too affected by the enforced change in lifestyle we have endured and the virus itself.

Hopefully, we are now nearing some sort of end to the worsed of the pandemic, it is not going to go away completely but it seems it is now under the sort of control that means we can live as near a normal life as possible. We all need to continue to take care however and hopefully booster jabs will be on offer soon to protect us furthermore.

Life at the Oddfellows is beginning to start again and you will see from the events enclosed in this diary that we have planned some lovely things for you to enjoy again. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can go ahead with them all. It has been great seeing members in person again,

Zoom was a very good way of keeping in touch for many, but it could not compete with being physically in each other's company. That said we are still keeping the odd Zoom event going so we can keep in touch with those who cannot get to our meetings for whatever reason.

You will see that all of our usual groups have planned events for you to attend so please try to come along if you can, even better bring a friend who may be interested in joining us also. We need your support now, more than ever.

All events will be carried out in line with government guidelines and may be subject to change if circumstances dictate.

We hope you stay safe and well and look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care, Debbie, Lynda, Lynn and Karen.

Calling All Arty Crafty People

10am on the first and third Wednesday each month.

Please come and join us for a morning of Art and Craft. Bring along your own project and materials and work alongside like minded people. You may even pick up some hints or tips or better still, pass some of your knowledge on, everyone is welcome.



Cost: £2 for members and £3 for guests. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for more information or email readingdistrict@oddfellows.co.uk

October 2021

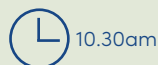
MON 04 What's in the bag? Tilehurst Social Group



We welcome you back to Cornerstones for our first meeting since the Covid lockdown, please join us for a fun afternoon. The meeting will be subject to Government guidelines and regulations. Cornerstones, Halcyon Terrace, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4XR. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

TUES 05 Singing Together

Regular Event



Join us at our fun and relaxed singing group, no experience necessary! The hall will be open at 10am for tea and coffee and chat beforehand and booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES 05 Continental Chocolates Reading Abbey



Delicious chocolates and other goodies make excellent Christmas presents, so come along and shop early to avoid the rush! You may also like to spoil yourself before the day itself - it's difficult to refuse with these. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

WED 06 Art and Craft Group

Regular Event



Please come along and join us at our friendly art and craft group. Bring your own project and materials along and enjoy some company and tea or coffee as you craft. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED 06 Pangbourne - No meeting this month



Sorry we are unable to hold the Pangbourne group this month as the venue is unable to accommodate us, see you all on 3 November.



October 2021

THURS
07

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Join us for some gentle exercise suitable for those from 50+, all exercises can be enjoyed seated if desired. The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea, coffee and chat. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS
07

No Strings Attached - Ukulele Group

Woodley Afternoon Group



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Don't Miss
Out! Come
along and
join us when
we welcome
back 'No



Strings Attached' for another fun afternoon filled with music, singing and dancing. I think we all need it! Please note: We have changed our meeting day to a Thursday at the moment due to the vaccination clinic using The Oakwood Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

MON
11

Indoor Treasure Hunt including District Officers Visit Princess Alexandra



7pm



Free



Join us for our annual District Officers
Visit along with a light hearted
Indoor Treasure Hunt compiled by
our Noble Grand Mike. Includes a
raffle and light refreshments. Non-
members welcome. Oddfellows Hall,
118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.
Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES
12

Singing Together



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES
12

Crown of England

L 2pm

£ Free



Please join us for our regular meeting, details of the full social programme will be available nearer the time. Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

WED
13

Zoom Quiz

L 3pm

£ Free



Following the success of our Zoom quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on for a while so we can still catch up with those who are unable to attend the events in our hall, this will be monthly for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is 854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for further information.



THURS
14

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

FRI
15

Papua New Guinea in the 1970's - Charity Event Talk

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Did you see the Zoom presentation by our Chairman Bob Young on Papua New Guinea in the 1970s? He and his family lived there for five years and he has an interesting story to tell. If you missed it, here is another chance to see it, Bob does a great presentation. Admission is free, but there will be a raffle for the PALS charity we are supporting this year and a representative from PALS will also be at the event to explain more about the wonderful work they do. An evening not to be missed. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



TUES
19

Singing Together

Regular Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

October 2021

TUES 19 The Oil Industry Talk by Mike Corker Get Together Henley

L 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for a talk given by Mike Corker on his many year's experience whilst working within the oil Industry. From crude oil extraction to plastic pollution and the effects of oil and it's by products on our world today. Includes a raffle and light refreshments. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



THURS 21 Inter District Pub Quiz - Reading vs Concord

L 7.30pm

£ £3



Come along and support our District when we take part in the second Inter District Fun Pub Quiz against the Concord District. All members are invited to this enjoyable evening, either as a participating team member or as a spectator. The cost is £3 per person to enter and teams representing Reading District will be created on the night. If you would like to eat on the evening, please ask us for a menu and confirm your food choices a week before (this is not included in the price). Book by Thursday 7 October 2021. The Ely Pub, London Road, Blackwater, Camberley GU17 9LJ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

WED 20 Art and Craft Group

L 10am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS 21 Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.



TUES 26 Singing Together

L 10.30am



£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



**TUES
26** **Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Jubilee**

 7.30pm  Free



Please come along and join us when we welcome Rosemary Edginton and her Hearing Dog Teaka, a miniature poodle. Learn all about their life together and the importance and benefits of having a hearing dog. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



**WED
27** **Life in 1970s Part 2 with Paul Robbins**

 7pm  Free



Please join us when we welcome back Paul Robbins, historian and author with part two of his nostalgic talk 'Looking back at the 1970s'. Re-visit the news, culture, entertainment and music from this period in British history. Zoom Meeting ID is 864 3559 8441. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

**THURS
28** **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class**

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

**THURS
28** **Get Together Reading**

 2pm  Free



Join for our regular monthly social meeting. Includes a raffle and light refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

**THURS
28** **Social Event Britons Pride**

 7.30pm  Free



Come along and join us at the Thatcham Memorial Hall, everyone is welcome for an evening of fun and friendship. Event to be arranged nearer the time and booking is essential. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

November

**MON
01** **Indoor Treasure Hunt Tilehurst Social Group**

 2pm  Members Free
Guests £2



Join us for an indoor treasure hunt. How good are your observational skills? The meeting will be subject to Government guidelines and regulations. Cornerstones, Halcyon Terrace, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4XR. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

November

TUES
02

Singing Together

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES
02

Royal British Legion Reading Abbey



2pm



Free



The Royal British Legion celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and the Vice Chairman of the Royal County of Berkshire Branch, Rosemary Edgington, has agreed to give us a talk on the history of the Women's Section which should prove very interesting and informative. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



WED
03

Art and Craft Group

Regular Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
03

Categorically Speaking Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for this fun game using categories, letters and your imagination to think of as many point scoring words you can before the time runs out. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

THURS
04

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

MON
08

Business Meeting followed by the History and Traditions of the Oddfellows Princess Alexandra



2pm



Free



Join us for a business meeting followed by a delve into the history and traditions of the Oddfellows Society. Includes raffle and light refreshments. Please note: New time as these meetings will move to the afternoon during the winter months only. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES 09 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows
Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES 09 **Crown of England**

 2pm  Free 

Please join us for our regular meeting,
details of the full social programme
will be available nearer the time.
Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall,
118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.
Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

WED 10 **Zoom Quiz**

 3pm  Free  

Following the success of our Zoom
quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on
for a while so we can still catch up with
those who are unable to attend the
events in our hall, this will be monthly
for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is
854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on
0118 957 3354 for further information.

THURS 11 **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and chat.
See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows
Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS 11 **Landscapes of Britain**
Woodley Afternoon Group

 2pm  Members Free
Guests £3 

Please come and join us when we
welcome back one of our members,
Bob Holland to hear all about the
earth forces which have formed and
shaped the famous landforms found
across the British Isles. Please note:
We have changed our meeting day to
a Thursday at the moment due to the
vaccination clinic using The Oakwood
Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood
Centre, Headley Road (Opposite
the Shopping Precinct), Woodley,
Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact
Karen on 0118 9594073.



TUES 16 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

November

TUES 16 Dining Out Get Together Henley

 12 noon

 As per menu



Join us for our final meeting of the year for lunch at a local venue in Henley. Further details to be confirmed. Book by Tuesday 9 November 2021. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



WED 17 Art and Craft Group

 10am

 Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS 18 Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS 18 Life in 1980s with Paul Robbins

 7pm

 Free



Please join us when we welcome back Paul Robbins, historian and author with another great talk, 'Looking back at the 1980s'. Re-visit the news, culture, entertainment and music from this period in British History. Zoom Meeting ID is 864 3559 8441. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.



TUES 23 Singing Together

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES 23 Christmas Party Jubilee

 7.30pm

 Free



Come along and start your Christmas celebrations with us, members will provide a buffet supper and drinks will be provided. Please bring along a wrapped unisex Christmas present to the value of £3 with you for a gift exchange. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS 25 **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS 25 **Slide Show and Quiz Presentation**
Get Together Reading

 2pm  Free 

We are pleased to welcome back Jean Sheppard for our final meeting of the year. Jean will host the afternoon with one of her interesting and proactive slide shows. Non-members very welcome. Includes raffle and refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

THURS 25 **Social Event**
Britons Pride

 7.30pm  Free 

Come along and join us at the Thatcham Memorial Hall for a fun social evening. Event to be arranged nearer the time and booking is essential. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



TUES 30 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

December

WED 01 **Art and Craft Group** Regular Event

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3 

You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



WED 01 **Christmas Cracker Quiz**
Pangbourne

 7.30pm  Members £2
Guests £3 

Join us for some festive fun with mulled wine and mince pies included. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

December

THURS
02

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

SAT
04

Children's Christmas Party



3.30pm



Free



Please come and join us for an afternoon of fun with professional entertainer Silly Scott at our Annual Children's Christmas Party. Party tea will be provided for the children and Father Christmas will be coming along to give them all a present. The party is open to all our young members and their friends, although there is a charge of £12 for non-members. Booking by Friday 26 November. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0119 9573354 for Young Oddfellow Membership information – only £10 per year (terms and conditions apply).



SUN
05

Shillingford Bridge Christmas Lunch



12.30pm



TBC



Join us for our annual, traditional Christmas lunch at the beautiful Shillingford Bridge Hotel, set on the banks of the River Thames. Non-members welcome. A charity raffle will be held on the day. Book by Wednesday 24 November 2021. The Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford Road, Nr Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ. Contact David on 01235 812 179.

MON
06

Name that Tune Tilehurst Social Group



2pm



Members Free
Guests £2



Hopefully, this will get your feet tapping as you try to recall the tunes on offer. The meeting will be subject to Government guidelines and regulations. Cornerstones, Halcyon Terrace, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4XR. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

TUES
07

Christmas Singing Together

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Everyone is welcome to come along and join the Singing Together Group for a Christmas sing along. The singers will meet at 10.30am (or 10am for a drink beforehand) as usual and guests are welcome to join them at 11.30am when mulled wine and mince pies will also be on offer. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Richard on 0118 9455831.

**TUES
07** **Heritage Too**
Reading Abbey

 2pm

 Free



This duo's love of music always comes across in their performances. Playing guitar, fiddle and mandolin, Kevin and Allan get the audience's feet stomping with a fun mix of country, folk and Irish music and you will be encouraged to sing along with them. Please come along and join us. As this is our Christmas meeting, please can you bring along a wrapped, unmarked gift (up to £3 in value) for the Secret Santa. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

**WED
08** **Zoom Quiz**

 3pm

 Free



Following the success of our Zoom quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on for a while so we can still catch up with those who are unable to attend the events in our hall, this will be monthly for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is 854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for further information.

**THURS
09** **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class**

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

**THURS
09** **Memoirs of a Guide
Dog Puppy Walker**
Woodley Afternoon Group

 2pm

 Members Free
Guests £3



Come along and join us to hear Monica Easton relate some of the stories from her book, 'Memoirs of a Guide Dog Puppy Walker'. Some will be happy, some sad, some funny and some unusual ones. This is an afternoon not to be missed if you are a dog lover and also admire the work of the Guide Dogs. Please note: We have changed our meeting day to a Thursday at the moment due to the vaccination clinic using The Oakwood Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

**MON
13** **Christmas Crackers
including Handbell Ringers
Princess Alexandra**

 2pm

 Free



Join us for our final meeting of the year for an afternoon of musical



entertainment by Handbell Ringers along with fun and games and seasonal refreshments. Includes raffle. Please note new start time as these meetings have moved to the afternoon during the winter months only. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

December

TUES
14

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES
14

Crown of England



2pm



Free



Please join us for our regular meeting,
details of the full social programme
will be available nearer the time.
Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall,
118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.
Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

WED
15

Art and Craft Group

Regular
Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a
morning of art and craft. See page
5 for full details. Booking is essential.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on
0118 957 3354.



THURS
16

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and
chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

THURS
16

Christmas Meal Britons Pride



7pm



TBC



Join us for a Christmas meal and enjoy
early Christmas celebrations amongst
friends, everyone is welcome. Booking
is essential and further details
will follow. Book by Wednesday 1
December 2021. West Grange Hotel,
Cox's Lane, Bath Road, Newbury RG7
5UP. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

FRI
17

Festive Film Night Reading District



7pm



Free



Please come along and join us for
a fun, festive film night. A Christmas
themed film will be shown and mince
pies and nibbles will be on offer. The
bar will be available and everyone
will be welcome. The evening is free
but donations to our charity 'PALS'
will be welcome. Oddfellows Hall,
118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.
Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

**TUES
21** **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

January 2022

**TUES
04** **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows
Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

**TUES
04** **New Year around
the World
Reading Abbey**

 2pm  Free 

Share your experience of special New
Year celebrations and learn how other
countries celebrate the day. We are
also offering a fun quiz, together with
the usual refreshments. All welcome.
Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road,
Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on
0118 954 8454.



January 2022

**WED
05** **Art and Craft
Group** Regular Event

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3 

You are welcome to join us for a
morning of art and craft. See page
5 for full details. Booking is essential.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on
0118 957 3354.

**THURS
06** **Zumba Gold and
Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

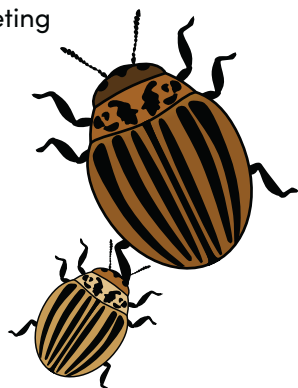
 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and
chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

**MON
10** **Beetle Drive
Tilehurst Social Group**

 2pm  Members Free
Guests £2 

Please join us for this fun,
favourite, the meeting
will be subject to
Government
guidelines and
regulations.
Cornerstones,
Halcyon Terrace,
Tilehurst, Reading
RG30 4XR.
Contact Mike on
0118 907 1497.



January 2022

MON
10

**Welcome to 2022
along with our
Installation of Officers
Princess Alexandra**

2pm

£ Free



Join us for our first meeting of the year when we install our new officers. This will be followed by a gentle social activity, raffle and light refreshments. Please note: New time as this meeting has moved to the afternoon during the winter months only. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES
11

Singing Together

Regular Event

10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
11

Crown of England

2pm

£ Free



Please join us for our regular meeting, details of the full social programme will be available nearer the time. Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

WED
12

Zoom Quiz

3pm

£ Free

Online



Following the success of our Zoom quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on for a while so we can still catch up with those who are unable to attend the events in our hall, this will be monthly for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is 854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for further information.

THURS
13

**Zumba Gold and
Seated Exercise Class**

Regular Event

10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.



THURS
13

Museum of Berkshire Aviation

Woodley Afternoon Group



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Come along and join us when we welcome Ken Fostekew from the Museum of Berkshire Aviation. Hear all about the history surrounding Bader Way and how Woodley was once the centre of a thriving aircraft industry. Please note: We have changed our meeting day to a Thursday at the moment due to the vaccination clinic using The Oakwood Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

TUES
18

Singing Together



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
18

Beetle Drive

Get Together Henley



2pm

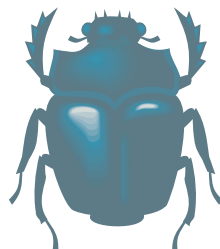


Free



Following the festive season come and join us for our first meeting of the New Year, when we will be holding a beetle drive.

Don't worry if you are not sure how it works, we will show you. Non-members welcome. Includes a raffle and light refreshments. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



WED
19

Art and Craft Group

Regular Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS
20

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

January 2022

TUES
25

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows
Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
25

New Year Fun Jubilee



7.30pm



Free



Let's somewhat belatedly welcome
the New Year in with a bit of fun, a
picture quiz will be arranged for your
enjoyment. Please come along and join
us. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road,
Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU.
Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS
27

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and
chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

THURS
27

Get Together Reading



2pm



Free



Join us for our first social meeting
of the year. Includes raffle and
light refreshments. Non-members
welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b
Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.
Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

February

TUES
01

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES
01

Ukulele Band Reading Abbey



2pm



Free



Members will be very
familiar with this band
as they play regularly
for the Woodley Group
and have now agreed
to entertain us. They
play an energetic and diverse mix
of music from the late 1920s to the
present day to get your feet tapping
and, maybe, your vocal chords too.
Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road,
Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on
0118 954 8454.



February

WED
02

Art and Craft Group

Regular Event

L 10am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
02

Classic Road Map Rally Pangbourne

L 7.30pm

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Please come along and join us and test your navigation skills, everyone is welcome. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



THURS
03

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

MON
07

Light Hearted Quiz Tilehurst Social Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



Please come along and put your little grey cells to the test for an afternoon of fun. The meeting will be subject to Government guidelines and regulations. Cornerstones, Halcyon Terrace, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4XR. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

TUES
08

Singing Together

Regular Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



TUES
08

Crown of England

L 2pm

£ Free



Please join us for our regular meeting, details of the full social programme will be available nearer the time. Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

February

WED
09

Zoom Quiz

L 3pm

£ Free



Following the success of our Zoom quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on for a while so we can still catch up with those who are unable to attend the events in our hall, this will be monthly for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is 854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for further information.

THURS
10

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS
10

Launch Pad Reading Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Please come along and join us when Katy tells us all about the Launchpad charity which helps some of Reading's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people to turn their lives around and fulfil their potential. The charity began as a soup kitchen back in 1979 and was known as Reading Single Homeless Project until 2011. This should be a very interesting talk. Please note: We have changed our meeting day to a Thursday at the moment due to the vaccination clinic using The Oakwood Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

MON
14

The Ernie Holt Dominoes Competition Princess Alexandra

L 7pm

£ Free



Join us for our annual dominoes competition for the Ernie Holt Trophy. If you are unsure how to play we can teach you. Includes raffle and light refreshments, everyone is welcome. Please note this meeting has now moved back to the evening at 7pm. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES
15

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows
Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
15

Get Together Henley



2pm



Free



Join us for a social afternoon, further
details to be confirmed. Raffle and light
refreshments provided. The Christ Church
United Reformed Church, Reading Road,
Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG.
Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

WED
16

Art and Craft Group

Regular
Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a
morning of art and craft. See page
5 for full details. Booking is essential.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on
0118 957 3354.

THURS
17

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and
chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

TUES
22

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES
22

Cheese and Wine Evening Jubilee



7.30pm



Free



Join us when we have a February
party to help wash away the winter
blues, everyone is welcome. St Peters
Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt,
Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact
Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS
24

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am
beforehand for tea and coffee and
chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

February

THURS
24

Get Together Reading

 2pm

 Free



Join us for a social afternoon and gentle activities. Includes raffle and light refreshments. Non-members welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

March

TUES
01

Singing Together

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

March

WED
02

Art and Craft Group

 10am

 Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
02

Words and Music Quiz Pangbourne

 7.30pm

 Members £2
Guests £3



Come along and have fun testing your little grey cells, everyone is welcome. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



TUES
01

Pancakes, Puzzles and Pot Luck Reading Abbey

 2pm

 Free



Shrove Tuesday is traditional for pancakes and we would like to share ours with you, together with a traditional quiz and strange and unusual traditions from countries around the world. Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



THURS 03 **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.



MON 07 **Fun Afternoon Tilehurst Social Group**

 2pm  Members Free
Guests £2 

An afternoon of fun will be arranged for your enjoyment so please come along and join us. The meeting will be subject to Government guidelines and regulations. Cornerstones, Halcyon Terrace, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4XR. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

TUES 08 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES 08 **Crown of England**

 2pm  Free 

Please join us for our regular meeting, details of the full social programme will be available nearer the time. Everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

WED 09 **Zoom Quiz**

 3pm  Free  

Following the success of our Zoom quiz, it has been agreed to carry it on for a while so we can still catch up with those who are unable to attend the events in our hall, this will be monthly for the time being. Zoom Meeting ID is 854 7692 3503. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354 for further information.



THURS 10 **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

March

THURS
10

British Red Cross - Basic First Aid Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Please come along and support Susan Stovell from the British Red Cross for a very important and maybe lifesaving afternoon. Learn the basic first aid skills needed in life. You will have the chance to practice CPR on a manikin or you can just sit and watch. Please note: We have changed our meeting day to a Thursday at the moment due to the vaccination clinic using The Oakwood Centre on a Friday! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

MON
14

Reading Accordion Group Princess Alexandra

L 7pm

£ Free



We are pleased to welcome the Reading Accordion Group, who will be entertaining us throughout the evening with their varied repertoire of music. Join us for an evening of music and singing. Includes raffle and light refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES
15

Singing Together

Regular
Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea and coffee and chat beforehand. See page 5 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
15

Get Together Henley

L 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for a relaxing social afternoon. Raffle and refreshments included. Non-members welcome. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

WED
16

Art and Craft Group

Regular
Event

L 10am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 5 for full details. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS
17

Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class

Regular
Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

TUES 22 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.

TUES 22 **Blood Bikers Talk Jubilee**

 7.30pm  Free 

Please come along and join us when we welcome Kamran from SERV OB - Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers - Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Northamptonshire. Hear how they provide an out of hours rapid response service to NHS hospitals delivering urgent blood, blood products, medical supplies and human donor milk etc. This during the times when other transport options to the NHS in our region may be limited, such as night times, weekends and public holidays. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS 24 **Zumba Gold and Seated Exercise Class** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on
0118 954 8454.

THURS 24 **Social Event Britons Pride**

 7.30pm  Free 

Come along and join us at the Thatcham Memorial Hall and catch up with everyone after our winter break, everyone is welcome. Event to be arranged nearer the time and booking is essential. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

TUES 29 **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea and coffee and chat beforehand.
See page 5 for full details.
Oddfellows Hall. Contact Richard on
0118 945 5831.



March

THURS
31

**Zumba Gold and
Seated Exercise Class**

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 6 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

THURS
31

**Get Together
Reading**



2pm



Free



Join us for a relaxing social afternoon. Raffle and light refreshments included. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a friendly society with Branches across the UK. Through friendship and social events, we help our members get more enjoyment out of life, and offer care, advice and support in times of need. Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all
to enjoy. Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit oddfellows.co.uk/events
and enter 'online' in the place name search box

OE/0521A6

Message from our Chairman

Hello to you all. Whilst we seem to have come through the worst of the Covid crisis, we are not safe yet. Life after Covid will probably be quite different. Many will work from home and no longer commute. Empty office space could well become the new homes many seek. People could move back into city and town centres. Meanwhile we should seek to retain all that we have achieved through Oddfellows as we negotiate this awkward period.

Thanks to past and present Social Secretaries, Brian Mundy and Karen Dyke, we have had an excellent Annual Bowls Contest at Wokingham Bowls Club. Mike Scott won with the Vice Chairman's team. The Chairman and manager of our charity, PALS, also played and enjoyed a

new experience. We raised £326 for the charity, a very pleasing result.

By the time you receive this we will also have had the Annual Dinner Dance and the Annual Church Service. This year's service had additional features including an organ recital of Beethoven's Ode to Joy. This was a form of thanksgiving for having survived the Covid threat. We have all visited cathedrals and churches both home and abroad and St Michael's, Tilehurst was a lovely place for our service.

With the re-introduction of normal Oddfellows activities our strangely quiet hall should soon return to its happier, busy life. I hope to meet many of you in this period of careful regeneration as we look forward to less stressful times.

Bob Young

Woodley Afternoon Group

Organiser Karen Dyke welcomed members back to the Woodley group in August after a successful picnic in July.

The group were entertained by speaker Pip Carr, author of children's book 'The Rabbits of Greystones'. Pip told them of her struggles growing up without knowing she was dyslexic until she was in her 40's and then being able to go on and become an author. She did really well to be heard over the fair that was taking place in Woodford Park at the time.



If you would like further details of the Woodley group please contact Karen on 0118 959 4073 or karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk.



On Thursday 19 August 2021, 36 players and eight guests enjoyed our annual Charity Bowls Match at Wokingham Bowls Club.

Teams representing the District Chairman and District Vice Chairman spent a pleasant evening bowling, even a short rain shower could not put them off. The Vice Chairman's team were the eventual winners but everyone had great fun. The evening is not at all serious and a mixture of experienced bowlers and enthusiastic amateurs take part.

A lovely tea was provided, this was somewhat restricted due to Covid measures and the Bowls Club kitchen being out of action but it was thoroughly enjoyed by all as were the drinks from the bar.

A wonderful evening was had by all and thanks must go to our Social Secretary



Karen Dyke assisted by Brian Mundy who organised the event. To top it all off, the magnificent sum of £326.20 was raised for our Chairman's charity of the year 'PALS' a West Berkshire based charity who work with physically disabled children and young adults providing after school and weekend activities.

Pictured above are our Chairman Bob Young presenting Vice Chairman Mike Scott with the trophy watched on by organiser Brian Mundy and photos of the bowlers before the start, in action and enjoying the tea. Thanks very much to Colin Lewis for the photographs.



Singing Together



It has been great to have our Singing Together group back in the hall again, the group meet every Tuesday morning in our hall on the Oxford Road in Reading at 10.30am to have fun in song together.

If you would like to join them please come along, Malcolm who leads the group says if you can talk you can sing so that does not rule anyone out. Enthusiasm rather than talent is all that is required and the bonus is that singing is very good for your overall health as well. Recently Malcolm has been assisted by Meyrick in taking charge of us and Meyrick is pictured left with his guitar gently encouraging us in song.

If you would like further details of the group then contact Richard as per page 3 in the diary.

District Dinner Dance

We were very pleased to be able to hold our Dinner Dance after a year's absence recently. The event took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Reading East on Saturday 4 September 2021.

The Dinner Dance was a much smaller affair than usual for obvious reasons, but also because it had to be hastily rearranged due to the fact the hotel it was booked at originally not reopening in time. Those who were in attendance had a lovely evening, it was so nice being able to wine,

dine and dance the night away again with friends we had not seen for a while. Another bonus was the fact that £162.00 was also raised for our Chairman Bob Young's chosen charity of the year 'PALS'. A very good night all in all.

Bob is seen on the left with our Vice Chairman Mike Scott, don't they scrub up well? Also pictured are diners enjoying the toasts after the meal. Thanks to all those involved in the arranging the event, to our Toast Master Brian Mundy and to Colin Lewis for taking photographs as well.



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 Debbie on **0118 9573354** or email **debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens 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

The Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC)

As much as we were all hoping for the opportunity to get together and host our 2021 AMC in person, the global pandemic had other plans and so we saw the conference held virtually over Zoom, and broadcast live via YouTube.

This is only the second time since 1944 that there hasn't been an in-person Annual Movable Conference. The AMC is usually a three-day conference which gives our network of 115 Branches a chance to have their say in the way the Society is run, celebrate its successes and developments over the past 12 months, and enjoy a catch-up with other Branches over dinner.

This year however, the Directors gathered in the Unity Office Boardroom whilst everyone else stayed at home and Deputies logged in via Zoom to listen in and make their contributions to conference.

Despite the distance between us all, the AMC was its usual hive of activity, and thanks go to all the Deputies who attended, debated and voted on the different clauses. We would also like to extend our thanks to the incredible IT team who worked tirelessly to ensure all Deputies were able to log in successfully, the conference was broadcast seamlessly, and everything ran as it should.

Welcoming our newest Grand Master, David Ogden

One of the key elements of AMC is the installation of the new Grand Master, or Chairman of the Society. This is the most prestigious and respected roles in the Society, and requires a considerable commitment. As Grand Masters, they need to have progressed through the ceremonial side of the Society and usually will have served for at least four years as a Director, before being nominated to be Grand Master.

Our Immediate Past Grand Master, David Randall, spent two years in the role, instead of the usual one, due to the coronavirus

pandemic, and has this year welcomed his successor, David Ogden. Despite there being no live audience, the ceremony featuring his installation as Grand Master was streamed on YouTube.



The Society would like to thank David Randall for his hard work during his time as Grand Master, and wish David Ogden all the best for his term. Keep an eye out for our interview with the new Grand Master in the next edition of Society News!

Congratulations to our Making a Difference Award winners!



Each year, we recognise and celebrate the efforts of members who have gone above and beyond for their local Branch, fellow members, and the Society as a whole. Without these individuals (and there are many!), the Oddfellows wouldn't be the warm and welcoming organisation it is today.

This year, faced with a global pandemic and numerous lockdowns which left many members isolated, the kindness and dedication of our Making a Difference Award nominees truly shone through. Our judges were blown away by the way Oddfellows communities rallied together to help each other through such a difficult year, and so choosing the winners was more difficult than ever. Without further ado, our 2021 Making a Difference Award winners are...

Wendy Atkins, from Ipswich Oddfellows, for Working in the spirit of mutuality

Wendy said: "It was a big surprise and I feel honoured to have won. I've done all sorts for the Ipswich Oddfellows over the years, but I enjoy my role as social organiser most of all. Since we've started running online events, I've had to think outside the box and see how our in-person events can translate onto Zoom, which has been a fun challenge."



Wendy, from Ipswich Oddfellows

I've extended the hand of friendship to other Branches to offer help and support with their online meetings."



Paul, from South London Oddfellows

Paul Fitton, from South London Oddfellows, for Enriching lives socially

Paul said: "It was a lovely surprise when I found out I'd won. Organising social events for my local group is more than just a job for me, it's fun and fulfilling. Helping people meet and make new friends in the area is wonderful."

Janice Tomlin, from Reading Oddfellows, for Giving a helping hand

Janice said: "I had no idea I'd even been nominated, so it was a shock when I was told I'd won the award, but I was incredibly pleased! I know how it feels to be on your own a lot, so being a listening ear for other members during such a difficult year has been a tonic for me as well, in many ways."



Janice, from Reading Oddfellows

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says: "Our members are at the heart of everything we do as a Society, and it's people like Paul, Wendy and Janice who keep the wheels turning."

"As much-loved members of their local Branches and the Society as a whole, these Awards are truly well-deserved."

Working together to Make a Difference for 2022

We are excited to introduce a new 'Achieving Together' category for our Making a Difference Awards.

Members nominated for the Achieving Together Award should be a team of two, and could be married, partners, family relations, or good friends who collaborate with, and support each other, to achieve more than they could alone.



Have your say!

If you know a Society star who goes above and beyond, or a duo whose combined efforts make your Branch a warm and welcoming place for all, download a Member Nomination form from www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference, or contact your Branch Secretary to have a form sent to you.

Face-to-face get-togethers are back, but online events are here to stay

Many members have been missing that wonderful feeling of seeing and socialising with friends in a group setting, and we're pleased to let you know that our Branches have restarted their face-to-face events, or are getting ready to restart them again very soon.

So whether you're feeling up to a walk in the great outdoors, or you're keen to get back to your local coffee morning, our Branches are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure their events are COVID-secure, and our members are safe.

Not feeling up to getting together yet? That's fine too. Lots of people will still feel anxious about mixing with groups indoors or outdoors, and we know it will take a while for things to feel "normal" again. But we don't want you to miss out, which is why our online events are here to stay.



From local guest talks streamed live from your Branch, to our weekly national coffee mornings, online events will continue for as long as our members would like them to.

Help is available to get you set up to access the online events, should you need it. Call our membership team on **0800 028 1810**, or email **events@oddfellows.co.uk** to receive a how-to guide for using Zoom video conferencing.

If you'd like to join in with one of our events, in-person or online, find out what's coming up by visiting our website: **www.oddfellows.co.uk/events** or speak to your local Branch Secretary to request a local events diary.

