

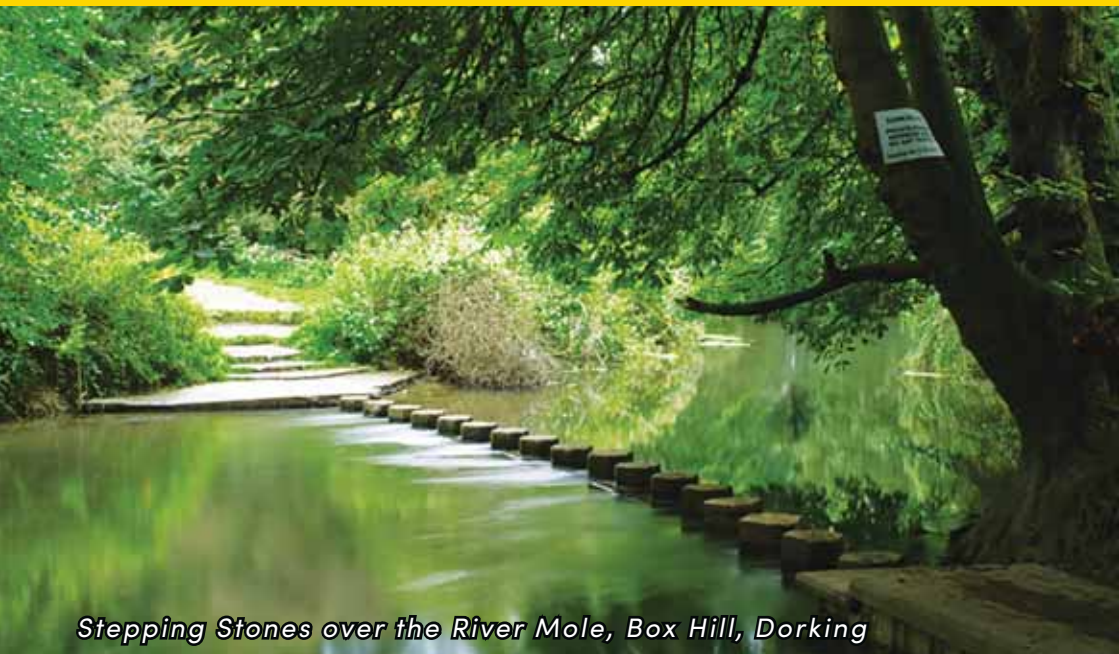
September 2026 - February 2027
Autumn/Winter Issue



O^{the} **DD**fello**WS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & *about*

Mid-Surrey Branch



Stepping Stones over the River Mole, Box Hill, Dorking



Sports



Art/Crafts



Wellbeing



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Friendship



Meetings



Music



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Remembrance Morning with Lizzie France - Wednesday 11 November.

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2026/27 edition of the Mid-Surrey news and events diary.

It has been lovely to see so many of you at events recently, and a warm welcome to our many new members. We look forward to seeing more of you at events.

There is more to Oddfellows than just our social events. Oddfellows membership includes Care and Welfare, Oddfellows Extra for money saving offers, Oddfellows Travel and Unity Mutual for family friendly finance options*. Do take time to explore and make the most of your membership. Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows.

If you are not a member or have friends that would like to join an event please remember all events are open to you and your friends to enjoy, have a good time and find out more about Oddfellows.

Contact Details

Secretary and Membership:

Maeve Stott

maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
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Surrey RH4 1QT

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Email:

mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Carly Farrer

carly.farrer@oddfellows.co.uk

Property Administrator: June Wright

june.wright@oddfellows.co.uk

Please check website for latest events listings and call or email to confirm attendance. The Mid-Surrey office is open on a Friday morning or leave a phone message or email us.

*Terms and conditions apply to all member benefits. Please visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/terms-conditions to read these in full.**

A Message from Your Social Organiser

What a busy few months we've had! It's been wonderful to see so many of you joining us at our events, and even more exciting to welcome an increasing number of members from our Richmond Branch, along with members from neighbouring branches too. It's always lovely to see familiar faces, but meeting new people and making new friendships is exactly what Oddfellows is all about.

There's plenty happening behind the scenes too. The work to replace the windows at our Dorking Hall is well underway and it's already looking fantastic. We can't wait to see the finished result in September – it will make such a difference to the hall for years to come.

September also means **Friendship Month**, one of my favourite times of the year. We've got a fantastic programme of events planned, with something for everyone, so I hope you'll come along and join in. Whether you come on your own or bring a friend, you'll always receive a warm welcome.

As our programme of events continues to grow, I'd also like to let you know that, from now on, we'll be asking for a non-refundable **£10 deposit** when booking ticketed events. This will help us secure bookings with venues and suppliers, as many now require confirmation and payment well in advance. The deposit will, of course, be deducted from the overall cost of your event, and we appreciate your understanding and support.

I'd also like to make a little plea! If you've ever thought about helping out by hosting an event, I'd love to have a chat with you. Being an event host doesn't mean organising everything yourself – it's simply about being a friendly face, welcoming members and helping the event run smoothly. Having a small team of volunteer hosts would make such a difference, especially when I dare to take a holiday or when we have two events taking place at the same time. Many hands really do make light work!

Finally, I'd love to see more members at our Business Meetings. We really do need you! These meetings are an important part of how your branch operates, giving you the chance to hear what's happening behind the scenes, share your ideas and help shape the future of our branch. Please don't worry – coming along doesn't mean you'll suddenly be given a mountain of work to do! We'd simply love to have more members involved and hear your thoughts.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months. As always, if you have any ideas for events or activities, or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to come and have a chat with me.

See you soon!

Carly

Front cover by Johan J. Ingles-Le Nobel and is hosted on Wikimedia Commons under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic (CC BY 2.0) license.

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

Regular Events

Badminton



10am



Donation for equipment



Tuesdays

Any member can come along and enjoy Mid-Surrey's friendly badminton group. Nothing serious just a chance to dust off your racket and have some fun, catch up with friends and also have a cup of tea together. Every Tuesday at 10am to 12 noon. All we require is a small donation for equipment. Do join us. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Pickleball



1pm



Donations welcome



Thursdays

Come along and join us for the start of Pickleball, this is new to everyone, it's fun and it's something new to learn. Everyone welcome, donations please.

Chance to meet new friends, have fun and learn the new up and coming sport that is big in America and China. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Regular Events

Zumba Gold



10.30am



Members £5
Guests £8



Join us for this low impact Zumba Gold with Jo on Fridays from 10.30am, followed by a chance for tea and a chat. All welcome, just pop along and try this low impact, low intensity, go at your own pace exercise for older adults. Please see there is a special discounted price for members. Pay as you go. Every Friday in school term time only. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Please call office on 01306 877792 for more information or contact Jo via www.lowimpactandseatedfitness.com.

Every Friday

Term times only, please
see at a glance for dates



Tai Chi Qi Gong

with Tea and Coffee



11.45am



Members £5
Guests £8



Qi Gong (pronounces chee-gong) is an ancient Chinese exercise and healing technique that involves meditation, controlled breathing and movement exercises, under the umbrella of Tai Chi. All welcome to this low impact, gentle exercise and meditation with Jo. Please note the special price for members. Welcome to arrive 11.40am and share a cup of tea or coffee and chat. Pay as you go. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Please contact the office on 01306 877792 or Jo at www.lowimpactandseatedfitness.com for more information.

Every Wednesday

Term times only, please
see at a glance for dates



Regular Events

Friday Badminton



8pm



Donation for
equipment



A friendly badminton group set up for Mid-Surrey Oddfellows. Nothing serious, just a chance to dust off your racket and have some fun, catch up with friends and also have a cup of tea together. Every Friday from 8pm. This is a self-running group with small donation for equipment. Do join us. Everyone welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.

Fridays



Interested in volunteering?

Helping others is at the heart of being an Oddfellow and that's exactly what our wonderful volunteers do. There are lots of ways you can get involved as a volunteer, from one-off help to regular support.

You can help us by:

- Welcoming members guests and speakers at events
- Helping prepare refreshments
- Being the volunteer host at external events
- Organising events as part of a social committee
- Joining the Committee of Management
- Becoming a Volunteer Welfare Visitor or befriender.



To find out more, contact Maeve on **01306 877792**
mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

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the Oddfellows
since 1810
making friends, helping people

www.oddfellows.co.uk

September 2026

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
11

Start Friendship Month with a Lovely Pub Lunch! - Sun Inn Pub



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us at the Sun Inn Pub as we celebrate the start of Friendship Month, with great food, good company and plenty of laughter. Your first drink is on us! Bring a friend along and show them just how warm, welcoming and supportive our community is. It's the perfect opportunity to meet new people, catch up with familiar faces and experience what makes our friendly society so special. We'd love to see you there - everyone is welcome! Come for the lunch, stay for the friendship. Book by Wednesday 9 September 2026. Sun Inn Pub, 17 Parkshot, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2RG. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



MON
14

Friendship Bingo and Coffee Morning



11am



Free



Celebrate Friendship Month with us at a fun-filled morning of bingo, refreshments and great company! Enjoy a relaxed coffee morning with tea, coffee and delicious refreshments while taking part in a few friendly games of bingo. This is a free event! Why not bring a friend and introduce them to our wonderful friendly society? It's a great opportunity to meet new people, enjoy a laugh together, and discover what makes our community, so welcoming and supportive. Everyone is welcome - we can't wait to see you there! Book by Friday 11 September 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Image by Abbie Fyre from Pixabay

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
18

Macmillan Coffee Morning



10.30am



Donations



Join us for a relaxed and friendly morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that is especially close to our hearts. Sadly, several of our members have been affected by cancer, so this is our opportunity to come together, show our support and give something back. Your hosts, Candis and Helen will be serving up plenty of tea, coffee and delicious cake, along with a fun quiz and some fantastic prizes! Whether you'd like to test your knowledge, catch up with friends, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake in good company, we'd love to see you there. Please come along and support this wonderful cause. Book by Wednesday 16 September 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. To help us with catering, please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us. Together, we can make a difference - one cup of coffee and one slice of cake at a time.

WED
30

A Day at the Races



12 noon



Free



Friendship Month at the races! Friendship Month is here and we're celebrating in style with an afternoon at the races! Join us for a free afternoon of fun, laughter and friendship. Dress up if you fancy - whether it's your favourite hat, a smart outfit, or simply something that makes you feel fabulous! Then settle in for all the excitement of race day, plenty of friendly competition and a delicious afternoon tea. It's the perfect chance to meet new friends, catch up with familiar faces and enjoy an afternoon full of good company, conversation and community spirit. Will you pick the winning horse? Everyone is welcome, so why not bring a friend and show them what makes our friendly society such a warm and welcoming place. Great company, delicious treats, race-day excitement and wonderful friendships - all for free! We can't wait to see you there! Book by Friday 25 September 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.

October

WED
07

Glass Fusing Workshop - Lantern Making

L 10am

£ Members £30
Guests £40



By popular demand, we're delighted to bring back our glass fusing workshop with Mark from Hazelhouse Jewellery! Get creative and make your own beautiful fused glass lantern with

Mark's expert guidance. Whether you choose a Christmas, Halloween, or summer theme, you'll create a unique lantern to take home and treasure.

Morning session: 9.30am to 12.30pm; why not stay for a lovely lunch?

Afternoon session: 1.30pm to 4.30pm; or come beforehand for lunch. No experience is necessary and all materials are provided - just bring your imagination! Mark will guide you through every step, making this a fun, relaxing and rewarding workshop for everyone. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill, spend time with friends and create something truly special to brighten your home or give as a handmade gift. Spaces are limited, so booking is essential. Book by Thursday 1 October 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Please contact Carly on 01306 877792 to reserve your place.

FRI
09

Lunch Out at The Windmill Café

L 12.30pm

£ As per
menu



Why not treat yourself to a relaxing lunch in beautiful surroundings and great company? Join us for a delicious meal at 12.30pm. We'll enjoy great food, plenty of conversation and the chance to make new friends while catching up with familiar faces. Whether you're coming along for the first time or you're a regular at our events, you'll receive a warm welcome. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy a leisurely lunch, share a few laughs, experience the friendship and community that our friendly society is all about. Everyone is welcome - we'd love to see you there! Book by Friday 2 October 2026. The Windmill Café, Windmill Road, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 5NR. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.

October

MON 12 Quiz Morning With Candis and Helen



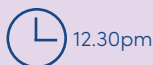
Put your thinking caps on and join Candis and Helen for a fun and friendly quiz morning! Enjoy a relaxed morning of quiz questions, laughter and great conversation in the company of friends – old and new. Whether you're a quiz enthusiast or simply looking for a friendly morning out, everyone is welcome. Come along, enjoy a cuppa, put your knowledge to the test and experience the warm, welcoming atmosphere of our friendly society. Why not bring a friend and join in the fun? We look forward to seeing you there! Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.

MON 19 Half Yearly Summomed Meeting and Business Meeting



All members are welcome to come and take part in the business meeting, to help or just see what is involved in the running of the Mid-Surrey Branch. This covers social planning, finance, care, development, property, publicity and promotion. Tea, coffee and refreshments are served. We encourage members to join us as a one-off or regularly. The meetings alternate between Dorking and Leatherhead. Oddfellows Hall, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Please contact the office on 01306 877792 if you would like to attend.

WED 21 Pub Lunch at Tattenham Corner



Join us for a lovely pub lunch with great company and a friendly atmosphere. Enjoy delicious food, a relaxed afternoon and the chance to catch up with friends old and new. Tattenham Corner Pub, Tattenham Crescent, Epsom Downs, Surrey KT18 5NY. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us so we can book a table by Wednesday 14 October 2026.



November

FRI
06

Coppa Club Lunch Out



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a relaxed lunch at the stylish Coppa Club, where good food and great company are always on the menu! Whether you're looking to catch up with familiar faces, make new friends, or simply enjoy a delicious meal in a welcoming setting, we'd love you to join us. Our lunches are the perfect opportunity to relax, share stories, and enjoy the friendship that makes our friendly society so special. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of great conversation, laughter and tasty food - we look forward to seeing you there! Book by Wednesday 4 November 2026. Coppa Club, 29 Brewhouse Lane, London SW15 2JX. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.

MON
09

Neil Sands Christmas Memories - Epsom Playhouse



2.30pm



£18.50



Ready to get into the Christmas spirit? Join us for a magical afternoon at the Epsom Playhouse to see Neil Sands' Christmas Memories - a festive treat filled with song, sparkle and nostalgia. Described as 'Like a sparkly Christmas card come to life', this is the perfect way to start the festive season - sing along or just sit back and soak up the joy! Book by Friday 30 October 2026. Epsom Playhouse, 42 Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5AL. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Photo by Tima Miroshnichenko

MON
09

1926 - The Year of the Queen: 100 Years On



11am



Members £5
Guests £10



Join us for a fascinating and entertaining talk with Michelle, who will take us back to 1926 to explore the events, people and stories from the year that shaped a generation and marked the beginning of an extraordinary royal chapter. Following the talk, stay and enjoy coffee and cake, while chatting with friends and fellow members. Whether you have an interest in history, the Royal Family, or simply enjoy an engaging morning out, this promises to be an enjoyable event in great company. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH14 1QT. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

November

WED
11

Remembrance Morning with Lizzie France



10.45am



Members £5
Guests £10



Join us for a heartfelt Remembrance morning as we welcome back the wonderful Lizzie France, for a moving performance to honour those who gave so much. Following Lizzie's performance, stay and enjoy a relaxing morning with coffee, tea and refreshments, while spending time with friends in our warm and welcoming community. This promises to be a thoughtful and memorable occasion, bringing us together to remember, reflect and enjoy each other's company. Book by Monday 9 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH14 1QT. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to attend. We look forward to sharing this special morning with you.



Photo by Елена Климович

WED
25

Festive Garland Making Workshop



10am



Approximately
£60



Get into the Christmas spirit and join us for a wonderful festive garland making workshop, with florist Elouise Elouise. Under Elouise's expert guidance, you'll create your very own beautiful festive garland to take home and enjoy throughout the Christmas season. The workshop costs approximately £60 per person, which includes all materials, so all you need to bring is your creativity! We'll also be treating everyone to a delicious mince pie to make the morning even more festive. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or trying something new, this promises to be a relaxed, enjoyable morning filled with creativity, laughter and great company. Spaces will be limited, with further details and booking information to follow. Book by Wednesday 18 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH14 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



December

WED

02

Leatherhead Trinity Choir Christmas Cheer and Carols



11am



£3



We're delighted to welcome back the wonderful Leatherhead Trinity School Choir, for a heartwarming morning of Christmas music and festive cheer. Their beautiful voices are sure to get us all into the spirit of the season! After the performance, stay and enjoy a friendly catch-up over mince pies with tea or coffee. A lovely way to kick off December - everyone is welcome! Book by Thursday 26 November 2026. Oddfellows Hall, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Image by Frauke Riether from Pixabay

FRI

04

Christmas Lunch at The Express Tavern



12.30pm



As per
menu



The festive season is here and this year we're delighted to be hosting two Christmas lunches, giving even more members the opportunity to celebrate together. Join us for a delicious festive meal, wonderful company and plenty of Christmas cheer. It's the perfect opportunity to celebrate the season, catch up with friends, make new ones and enjoy everything that makes our friendly society so special. Whether you're a regular at our events or joining us for the first time, you'll receive a warm welcome. Menu choices and costs will be confirmed nearer the time. The Express Tavern, 56 Kew Bridge Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0EW. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to attend, so your place can be reserved by Friday 20 November 2026.



December

MON 07 Christmas Coffee Morning at Chessington Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



Get into the festive spirit and join us for a relaxing Christmas coffee morning at Chessington Garden Centre. We'll meet in the restaurant for coffee, cake, or even a spot of lunch – the choice is yours! After catching up over refreshments, you're free to browse the beautiful Christmas displays, seasonal decorations and gift ideas at your own leisure. It's the perfect opportunity to enjoy a festive outing, spend time with friends and soak up the Christmas atmosphere together. Whether you're looking for Christmas inspiration or simply fancy a friendly chat over a cuppa, we'd love you to join us. Chessington Garden Centre, Leatherhead Road, Chessington KT9 2NG. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to come along by Wednesday 2 December 2026.



Photo by Anna Spoljar on Unsplash

MON 14 Mid-Surrey Oddfellows Invite You to a Festive Christmas Lunch



12.30pm



As per
menu



Whether you're looking to catch up with old friends or make some new ones, this is the perfect chance to share in the festive spirit, enjoy a delicious meal and connect with a welcoming community. Everyone is welcome – familiar faces and new faces alike! Let's celebrate the season together with laughter, warmth and good company. We'd love to see you there! Book by Friday 4 December 2026. The Pheasant, Reigate Road, Buckland RH3 7BG. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



January 2027

WED
06

New Year Catch-Up Lunch at The Running Horse



TBC



As per
menu



Start the New Year with great food, wonderful company and plenty of conversation as we get together for our New Year catch-up lunch. Join us for a delicious lunch and the chance to catch up with friends, make new connections and share stories from the festive season. Getting there couldn't be easier, with a bus stop just yards away, Leatherhead railway station within walking distance and plenty of nearby parking for those travelling by car. While we're together, we'd love to hear your ideas for future events and trips. Your suggestions help shape our programme, so come along and share your thoughts! Book by Monday 4 January 2027. The Running Horse, 38 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BZ. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us so we can reserve your place. We look forward to welcoming you!



MON
11

Fish, Chips and a Fun Quiz!



11am



Cost as per
refreshments



Start the New Year with plenty of laughter as Candis and Helen return to host another of their popular and entertaining quizzes! Gather your friends, put your thinking caps on and enjoy a relaxed morning of quiz questions, friendly competition and lots of laughs. After the quiz, we'll sit down together to enjoy a delicious fish and chips lunch – the perfect way to round off a great morning. Whether you're a quiz champion or simply fancy a fun day out with friendly faces, everyone is welcome. Come along, meet new people, catch up with old friends and enjoy the wonderful community spirit of our friendly society. Book by Friday 8 January 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH14 1QT. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



Photo by Meelan Bawjee on Unsplash

January 2027

WED
20

Oddfellows Lunch Out - January Gathering



12.30pm



As per
menu



Join us for our January lunch at The Prince of Wales, which has recently been refurbished and offers a lovely new menu. As always, you're guaranteed a warm welcome, good company and a delicious meal. We look forward to seeing you there! Book by Monday 18 January 2027. The Prince of Wales, 48 West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8LA. Contact Carly on 01306 877792.



WED
27

Coffee, Chat and Puzzle Swap



11am



Cost as per
refreshments



Whether you're a jigsaw enthusiast or simply fancy a friendly morning out, come along and join us for our coffee, chat and puzzle swap! Enjoy a relaxing morning with tea, coffee and great conversation, while sharing your love of jigsaw puzzles. Bring along a puzzle you've already completed and swap it for a new challenge!



Photo by Hans Peter Gauster on Unsplash

Our ever-growing puzzle library is packed with puzzles of all shapes, sizes and difficulty levels, so there's sure to be something to tempt you. No puzzle to swap? No problem! You're still very welcome to browse our collection, enjoy a cuppa and spend time with friends old and new. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, catch up with familiar faces, discover your next jigsaw and enjoy the warm, welcoming atmosphere of our friendly society. Oddfellows Hall, 45-47 Bridge Street, Leatherhead KT22 8BN. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us. We'd love to see you there!

February

WED
03

New Year, New Venue Lunch at The White Swan



12.30pm



As per
menu



A New Year is the perfect time to discover somewhere new, so why not join us for lunch at The White Swan? Come along and enjoy a delicious lunch in a beautiful riverside setting, while catching up with friends and making new ones. Whether you're joining us for the food, the company, or simply to try a new venue, you'll receive a warm welcome. Relax, unwind and enjoy a leisurely afternoon, filled with great conversation and plenty of laughter. The White Swan, Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DN. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us, so we can reserve your place by Friday 29 January 2027.



MON
08

Love Singo Bingo and Cosy Picnic Lunch



11am



Cost as per
refreshments



Our last 'Singo Bingo' was such a hit that it's back and this time it's all about love! Get ready to sing along to a fantastic mix of classic love songs, modern favourites and timeless romantic hits, as we enjoy another fun-filled game of singo bingo. Whether you know every word, or just love the music, there's something for everyone! After the games, we'll enjoy a relaxed bring-your-own cosy picnic lunch. Simply bring along a shop-bought dish to share and together we'll create a delicious buffet for everyone to enjoy. Please ask Carly for a list of suggested items, so we can make sure we have a lovely selection of savoury treats and sweet delights. It's the perfect way to spend a February morning - great music, plenty of laughter, delicious food and wonderful company. Love, friendship, music and memories are all on the menu! Book by Friday 5 February 2027. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH14 1QT. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us.



February

WED
24

Coffee Morning at Squires Garden Centre



11am



As per menu



A wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy the company of fellow members from across our Oddfellows family! Join us for a relaxed coffee morning at Squires Garden Centre, where we'll be meeting up with members from the Mitcham, Reigate and Crawley Branches. Come along, enjoy a cuppa, a chat and the chance to connect with members from another Branch. It's a lovely way to make new friends, share stories and see how much we all have in common. Whether you're a regular at our events or coming along for the first time, you'll receive a warm welcome. Let's come together, make new connections and enjoy the friendship that makes Oddfellows so special. Squires Garden Centre, Buckland (A25), Reigate, Surrey RH2 9RE. Please let Carly know on 01306 877792 if you'd like to join us by Wednesday 17 February 2027.



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 www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

OEW/1024SMALL

Alan Cole



You've all heard a little bit about Alan and the Oddfellows, I would like to put a little bit more meat on those bones.

Alan Richard Cole was initiated into the Prince of Wales Branch in the old Dorking District in December 1956. He had, as many had before him, come up from the juvenile Branch and apart from a three-year gap while he attended university, he actively took part in the proceedings of the Branch.

His involvement in the Branch was not surprising as his father was then Branch Secretary, and his mother was Branch Sick Visitor so it was truly a family affair.

Once his education was completed, he rapidly became involved with two of the Branches in the District, initially taking office at Branch level, and then moving on to become Provincial Grand Master in 1969.

During this time, he even found the time to get married and start a family. However, with his usual dour sense of humour, he was heard saying this at a meeting shortly after his first daughter was born, "It is a slow but satisfying method of making new members but at least you know their background".

In 1963 Alan was asked to help out at another local Branch, and in 1964 he subsequently became Branch Secretary of the Duke of Connaught Branch. When, in 1971, his father was taken ill with a major heart attack, Alan took over his duties at District Office while his father recovered. Unfortunately, later in that year a further heart attack left the District without a Secretary, so Alan was the logical choice to temporarily hold the post while training someone else to do the job.

In 1974 he handed over the post to the new secretary, which allowed him to take a step back and concentrate on his family and career as he considered both needed more of his time.

Although his job sometimes sent him abroad at very short notice, he did his best to remain fully involved at Branch and District level.

In 1990 the Dorking and Kingston upon Thames Districts merged to form the Mid-Surrey District and Alan became its first Provincial Grand Master, and in 1996 he was asked to take over as its Secretary.

During his time, Alan also served on the Board of Directors of the Oddfellows, becoming Deputy Grand Master of the Order (Chairman of the Society) at the 2009 conference in Eastbourne, Grand Master in 2010, trustee of the Order in 2012, and gaining Past Grand Master status (Past Chairman) in 2013 in Llandudno.

It was during this time, I got to know Alan personally through his partner, Jean Spencer, because not only did she support Alan by being his consort, he also supported her work within the South London District by being her consort while she was on the District Committee of Management, and subsequently when she was Provincial Grand Master. Alan perhaps would have called it a symbiotic relationship in that respect!!

Alan regularly attended South London District meetings, never taking part of

course, but sitting at the back of the hall enjoying a cup of tea and some cake, waiting for Jean, and taking it all in.

Latterly though, since Jean's passing, the only time that I managed to catch up with Alan was either at our Annual Conference or at a function. As a matter of fact, the last time I saw Alan, was at the Mitcham, Reigate and Crawley District Branch Dinner, where he made me extremely jealous by not only turning up with a lovely lady on his arm, but also by sporting a well-formed pony tail!!!

Alan, you were a one off who worked to keep our Society's ideals of Friendship, Love and Truth alive in us all, and I was honoured to be accepted into your circle of friends.

May you rest in Peace.

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.

Find us at **f** Mid-Surrey Oddfellows

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is one of the largest and oldest friendly societies in 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. As a mutual and non-profit, our Society is run by our members for our members and raises thousands of pounds each year for good causes. We welcome everyone of all ages. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call **0800 028 1810**.

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this autumn!

Throughout October and November, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and in upcoming print editions of Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about
our Making a Difference Awards,
including previous years'
winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/
makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.

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 Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



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**

Branch Meetings

Third Monday of the month, 10.30am - Free

Ever wondered how the Oddfellows Mid-Surrey District Branch operates? Join us for an insightful meeting where we'll cover everything from social events to finances, care, property, publicity, and more. It's great opportunity to learn how our Branch runs and how you can get involved!

Monday 21 September 2026	Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 19 October 2026	Half Yearly Summoned Meeting	Leatherhead
Monday 16 November 2026	Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 21 December 2026	Business Meeting	Leatherhead
Monday 18 January 2027	Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 15 February 2027	Business Meeting	Leatherhead

The Committee of Management meet about four times a year. Our next provisional dates are Friday 7 November 2026 and Friday 6 February 2027. If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact Maeve 01306 877792 or email: maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Extra

– big brand offers and savings

From cinema tickets, holidays and new cars to grocery shopping, health spas and much more – Oddfellows Extra* can help you save on life's little extras or necessities.

Oddfellows Extra is an online collection of money-saving discounts and offers from many well-known brands and major retailers.

All Oddfellows Extra deals are open to Standard members and members with Extra Benefits from day one, for no extra charge.

Access Oddfellows Extra

If you're a member, sign in to the Member's Area and select 'Oddfellows Extra' from the member offers section. If you've not yet registered for the Member's Area, there are instructions on how to do so on our website: www.oddfellows.co.uk/login



***Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. Visit the Oddfellows Extra website for details.**

Oddfellows Extra is operated on behalf of Oddfellows by Parliament Hill Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under register number 308448.

OEA60926

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong - Term times only.

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Tues 8	Badminton	10am
Wed 9	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 10	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 11	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 11	Start Friendship Month with a Lovely Pub Lunch! - Sun Inn Pub	12.30pm
Fri 11	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 14	Friendship Bingo and Coffee Morning	11am
Tues 15	Badminton	10am
Wed 16	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 17	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 18	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 18	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 21	Business Meeting - Dorking	10.30am
Tues 22	Badminton	10am
Wed 23	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 24	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 25	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 25	Friday Badminton	8pm
Tues 29	Badminton	10am
Wed 30	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Wed 30	A Day at the Races	12 noon

October

Thurs 1	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 2	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Tues 6	Badminton	10am
Wed 7	Glass Fusing Workshop - Lantern Making	10am
Wed 7	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 8	Pickle Ball	1pm

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong - Term times only.

October

Fri 9	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 9	Lunch Out at The Windmill Café	12.30pm
Fri 9	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 12	Quiz Morning With Candis and Helen	TBC
Tues 13	Badminton	10am
Wed 14	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 15	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 16	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 16	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 19	Half Yearly Summoned Meeting and Business Meeting - Leatherhead	10.30am
Tues 20	Badminton	10am
Wed 21	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Wed 21	Pub Lunch at Tattenham Corner	12.30pm
Thurs 22	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 23	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 23	Friday Badminton	8pm
Tues 27	Badminton	10am
Thurs 29	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 30	Friday Badminton	8pm

November

Tues 3	Badminton	10am
Wed 4	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 5	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 6	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 6	Coppa Club Lunch Out	12.30pm
Fri 6	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 9	1926 - The Year of the Queen: 100 Years On	11am
Mon 9	Neil Sands Christmas Memories - Epsom Playhouse	2.30pm

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong – Term times only.

November

Tues 10	Badminton	10am
Wed 11	Remembrance Morning with Lizzie France	10.45am
Wed 11	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 12	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 13	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 13	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 16	Business Meeting – Dorking	10.30am
Tues 17	Badminton	10am
Wed 18	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	12 noon
Thurs 19	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 20	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 20	Friday Badminton	8pm
Tues 24	Badminton	10am
Wed 25	Festive Garland Making Workshop	10am
Wed 25	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 26	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 27	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 27	Friday Badminton	8pm

December

Tues 1	Badminton	10am
Wed 2	Leatherhead Trinity Choir Christmas Cheer and Carols	11am
Wed 2	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 3	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 4	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 4	Christmas Lunch at The Express Tavern	12.30pm
Fri 4	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 7	Christmas Coffee Morning at Chessington Garden Centre	11am
Tues 8	Badminton	10am
Wed 9	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong – Term times only.

December

Thurs 10	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 11	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 11	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 14	Mid-Surrey Oddfellows Invite You to a Festive Christmas Lunch	12.30pm
Tues 15	Badminton	10am
Wed 16	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 17	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 18	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 18	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 21	Business Meeting – Leatherhead	10.30am
Tues 22	Badminton	10am

January 2027

Tues 5	Badminton	10am
Wed 6	New Year Catch-Up Lunch at The Running Horses	TBC
Wed 6	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 7	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 8	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 8	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 11	Fish, Chips and a Fun Quiz!	11am
Tues 12	Badminton	10am
Wed 13	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 14	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 15	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 15	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 18	Business Meeting – Dorking	10:30am
Tues 19	Badminton	10am
Wed 20	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Wed 20	Oddfellows Lunch Out – January Gathering	12.30pm
Thurs 21	Pickle Ball	1pm

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong – Term times only.

January 2027

Fri 22	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 22	Friday Badminton	8pm
Tues 26	Badminton	10am
Wed 27	Coffee, Chat and Puzzle Swap	11am
Wed 27	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 28	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 29	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 29	Friday Badminton	8pm

February

Tues 2	Badminton	10am
Wed 3	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Wed 3	New Year, New Venue Lunch at The White Swan	12.30pm
Thurs 4	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 5	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 5	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 8	Love Singo Bingo and Cosy Picnic Lunch	11am
Tues 9	Badminton	10am
Wed 10	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 11	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 12	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 12	Friday Badminton	8pm
Mon 15	Business Meeting – Leatherhead	10:30am
Tues 16	Badminton	10am
Thurs 18	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 19	Friday Badminton	8pm
Tues 23	Badminton	10am
Wed 24	Coffee Morning at Squires Garden Centre	11am

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

At a glance Zumba Gold and Tai Chi Qi Gong - Term times only.

February

Wed 24	Tai Chi with Tea or Coffee	11.45am
Thurs 25	Pickle Ball	1pm
Fri 26	Zumba Gold	10.30am
Fri 26	Friday Badminton	8pm

Oddfellows online Events

Wellbeing webinar with Dr Anna Machin

Tuesday 13 October, 7pm

Join Dr Anna Machin for another insightful wellbeing webinar. This webinar will offer expert advice on how to be proactive about finding friendship in later life.

To register, type this link into your browser: tinyurl.com/AnnaMachin3

More Ghostly Tales to be Told

Tuesday 27 October, 7pm

Get ready for Halloween with another fascinating evening of stories and poems by Dr Ann Featherstone, a retired university lecturer, teacher and writer who has appeared on numerous BBC programmes and documentaries.

To register, type this link into your browser: tinyurl.com/MoreGhostlyTales



See all our online events at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events

We Want to Hear From You

We always enjoy seeing the amazing creativity within our community! If you have photos, articles, poems, or any other contributions you'd like to share, we'd be delighted to feature them. Please reach out to the Branch to submit your work—contact information can be found on page 3. We look forward to hearing from you and showcasing your contributions!