

October 2025 - March 2026
Issue 13



the **ODDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Concord Branch



Members at the Fleet Dine Around.

Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire



Book Club



Bowling



Travel



Shopping



Crafts



Theatre



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Concord's Annual Dinner Dance will be in Farnham on Saturday 7 March 2026. We hope you can join us

Welcome to the 13th edition of our combined Out and About Events Diary and Newsletter for Concord Branch

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

A bit about us ...

The Oddfellows is a not for profit Friendly Society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members, for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call our District Secretary.

Contact Details

District Secretary: Steph Hopes

Steph is responsible for the day to day running of our Branch, monthly accounts, Care and Welfare claims, meeting minutes and administration.

Address: 4 Montrose Close
Fleet
GU51 3XB

Mobile: 07312 115323

Email: concord@oddfellows.co.uk

We are a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. This issue features details of all our upcoming events from coffee mornings to interesting talks, trips out plus lots of other activities.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows' events, even if you are not a member. We extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy. We know you will have a good time.

Any changes to dates are sent via our regular email newsletter or are on the website

Regular Events

Aldershot Coffee Mornings



**First Monday
of the Month**

We are very excited to have the West End Centre as one of our regular venues. It has been billed as the creative heart of Aldershot for more than 45 years, so please join us here for coffee and conversation at 10.30am on the first Monday of every month (except Bank holidays). Not only will we make new friends, but we can become familiar with all the exciting activities this centre has to offer. We will be just inside the door in the main bar area. Plenty of free parking – don't forget to put your car registration at the bar on arrival. West End Centre, 48 Queen's Road, Aldershot GU11 3JD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

**6 October 2025
3 November 2025**

**1 December 2025
5 January 2026**

**2 February 2026
2 March 2026**

Fleet Coffee and Conversation



**Fourth Monday
of the Month**

Come and join us at our popular regular event at this iconic pub in the heart of Fleet town. In this relaxed environment, catch up with old friends and welcome some new ones. To find us, look for the yellow Oddfellows table sign and listen for the buzz of conversation! Plenty of free parking – don't forget to log your car registration at the bar on arrival. Bus stop right outside (Number 10, Number 7). Do let us know if you are coming along and we will know to look out for you. Always the fourth Monday of the month. Do check with us if it is a Bank Holiday! The Oatsheaf, 2 Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5DR. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

**27 October 2025
24 November 2025**

**22 December 2025
26 January 2026**

**23 February 2026
23 March 2026**

Coffee Afternoons in Godalming



**Second Tuesday
of the month**

Come along to our newest venue in Godalming. Join us for a natter and drink with new friends at the lovely Ragged Robin pub. Chris is your host and will meet you just inside the bar. The Ragged Robin Pub, Guildford Road, Godalming GU7 3BX. Drop in when you can and leave when you want, do contact Concord on 07388 871260 to let us know you're coming and we'll look out for you!

**14 October 2025
11 November 2025**

**9 December 2025
13 January 2026**

**10 February 2026
10 March 2026**

Regular Events

Book Club and Lunch



**First Wednesday
of the Month**

Are you a book lover? You are welcome to join us at our monthly book club accompanied by a light lunch. Please liaise with Hannah for details of the book to be discussed each month. This is a bookable event. Please let us know on the Monday before if you can come on the Wednesday. There is a WhatsApp group set up to liaise with book club regulars - if you wish to be added, please ask Hannah. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

**1 October 2025
5 November 2025**

**3 December 2025
7 January 2026**

**4 February 2026
4 March 2026**

Fleet Dine Around



**Second Wednesday
of the month**

Join us for lunch, brunch or dinner as we continue on our regular Dine ArounDs in Fleet. On the second Wednesday of the month we will meet in a local establishment for a bite to eat and a natter. Booking essential so the table can be organised. Book at least five days in advance. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

8 October 2025, 10am - Trattoria La Casa, 203 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3BL

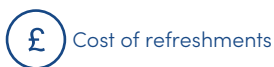
12 November 2025, 12.30pm - The Kara Lounge and Grill, 335 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3NT

14 January 2026, 12.30pm - Station (Ember Inns), 1 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3QJ

11 February 2026, 12.30pm - Heron on the Lake 14 Old Cove Road, Fleet GU51 2RY

11 March 2026, 12.30pm - Sorrento Restaurant (Italian), 33 Reading Road South, Fleet GU52 7UP

Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning



**Third Wednesday
of the Month**

Why not come and make new friends and have a natter in the lovely Bush Hotel at Farnham. Come when you can, go when you must. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

**15 October 2025
19 November 2025**

**17 December 2025
21 January 2026**

**18 February 2026
18 March 2026**

Regular Events

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers

Every Thursday



Join us and make something beautiful! Please join our member Sharon at this regular weekly event. There is embroidery, traditional needlecrafts and chat. All abilities are welcome. Sessions run from 9am to 3pm and are held at Victoria Hall. For just £10 a session, refreshments and cakes are provided. Please either bring a packed lunch with you or they order sandwiches (cost) from their local bakery on the day. There is free car parking on site and a free car park opposite the hall. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. To book your place please contact Sharon on 07825 266377, or email sharon@euroboxonline.net. A list of class requirements will be sent to you upon booking.

Pub Quiz Nights



Various Thursdays

Keep your brains whirring and the fun coming! Join us at The White Hart in Frimley for their Thursday evening quiz night. Join an Oddfellows team and make friends. Quiz starts at 8pm. Some people arrive early for dinner at 7pm. Join our WhatsApp group for the latest updates, if you would like to eat beforehand. Cost: £2 per person, quiz fee paid direct to the quiz master. Please let us know if you will be joining us so we book enough spaces! The White Hart, Frimley High Street, Frimley GU16 7HU. Contact Jane on 07951 814860.

2 October 2025
6 November 2025

11 December 2025
8 January 2026

5 February 2026
5 March 2026

Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!



Various Thursdays

Join us for a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and pre-payment is required at least seven days in advance. Hosted by Nick, this will include two games of bowling and a burger meal. Tenpin, No8, The Atrium, Park Street, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

30 October 2025

26 February 2026

Regular Events

Basingstoke Coffee Morning



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



**First Friday
of the month**

Come and enjoy a coffee and catch up at our new, regular Basingstoke coffee morning. We will be holding this on the first Friday of every month (except 2 January, when it will be held on 9 January). Pop along and say hi, come for the coffee and stay for the conversation. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend and we can introduce them to the great benefits of being a member of Oddfellows. Food is being served, so you are welcome to have brunch too. The Hatch Pub, London Road, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7JL. Your host will meet you in the bar area at 10.30am. Do let Concord know if you can come on 07388 871260.

**3 October 2025
7 November 2025**

**5 December 2025
9 January 2026**

**6 February 2026
6 March 2026**

Dave's Charity Quiz



7.30pm



£5 cash only



Various Fridays

Join our team and help us win first place, at the same time as raising lots of money for various charities including our chosen charity of the year. Quiz costs £5 per person, plus raffle money – cash only please. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please let us know by the Wednesday before if you are coming so we can reserve enough spaces. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

17 October 2025 – RSPCA

14 November 2025 – Royal British Legion

5 December 2025 – NSPCC

2 January 2026 – Local Food Bank

20 March 2026 – Ezra Trust

Camberley Dine Around



Various
See below



As per menu



**Held on various
Thursdays and
Saturdays**

Come and join us for one of our Camberley Dine Arouns. Booking essential, at least five days in advance. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

Thursday 23 October 2025, 7pm –
Dynasty Fusion Restaurant (Chinese),
9 Park Street, Camberley GU15 3PQ

Saturday 29 November 2025, 12.30pm –
Toby Carvery Frimley, 114 Portsmouth
Road, Frimley, Camberley GU15 1HS

Thursday 29 January 2026, 7pm –
Sanjha Indian Restaurant, 67 Park
Street, Camberley GU15 3PE

Saturday 28 February 2026, 10.30am –
Wildwood Pizza Pasta Grill, Park
Street, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3PL

Saturday 21 March 2026, 12.30pm –
Mimosa (Asian Fusion Buffet), First
Floor Atrium, Park Street, Camberley
GU15 3PT.

Regular Events

Sound Bath with Lotus Moon

Sundays
Alternate Months



Have you ever been to a sound bath? It's a fabulous form of relaxation and rebalances the body. It works on vibration at a cellular level, as the body is made up of 70% water (think of ripples on a pond). Do wear comfortable clothes. Spaces are limited, so please let Steph know as soon as possible if you would like to come or need any help to get there. Sound bath lasts for approximately one hour. Book at least 12 days in advance. The Coach House Café and Coffee Shop, The Street, Crookham Village GU51 5SJ. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

16 November 2025

18 January 2026

22 March 2026

October 2025

WED
08

Charter on the Wey and Arun Canal (with Boundless)



Take a boat cruise along the idyllic Loxwood Link section of the canal on the Surrey/West Sussex border. All boat trips depart from the Canal Centre behind the Onslow Arms in Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 0RD. A large car and coach park for canal visitors is available beyond the Onslow Arms car park. The Onslow Arms has an extensive menu if members want to have lunch before the trip.



Members should be at the canal centre by 1.45pm for a prompt 2pm start. Cost is £21 including a cream tea. Limited seats available, so early booking essential. This is a joint trip with Boundless. Loxwood Canal Centre, behind Onslow Arms Pub, Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 0RD. Please call Concord on 07388 871260 to reserve your place and make payment by Monday 22 September 2025.

October 2025

MON 13 Guest Speaker: Sarah Jane and her Guide Dog

L 11.30am

£ Free



Come along to hear about the fascinating journey of the guide dog training



process. Sarah Jane Commarford is blind and this will be an inspiring talk, from a guide dog owner's lived experience of Guide Dog Partnerships. Learn how these special animals are trained from puppy stage up to their match and training with their Guide Dog Handler. Doors open at 11.30am, get a free tea or coffee, talk starts at 11.45am. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

SUN 26 Sunday Tea and Talks: The Military in the time of Jane Austen

L 2pm

£ £7



Basingstoke and the surrounding area is Jane Austen country, so come and celebrate her 250th anniversary with us. This intriguing talk by local historian Alan Turton will describe what life was like for Jane Austen while Britain was at war, which was for most of her life. This talk covers some of the events that Jane and her family would have experienced on the home front of the time and will shed light on this turbulent point in history. Please note this talk takes place on the second floor at Willis Museum - there are access issues for those who can't climb stairs. Cost: £7 to include tea, coffee and cakes. Please book your space by Friday 10 October 2025. Willis Museum, Market Place, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7QD. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

SAT 25 Barn Dance Evening

L 7pm

£ £10 per person,
Family ticket £20



Come and learn some new moves at the Barn Dance. One of our members, Deborah will be hosting this event in The Christ Church Hall. Everyone welcome, including children. Costs are £10 per person, or a family ticket at £20 includes two adults and three children. Refreshments of tea, coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be provided (no alcohol). Deborah can be contacted on 07592 567363. Do let us know if you are planning to come along. Book by Saturday 11 October 2025. Christ Church Hall, 55 Cove Road, Farnborough GU14 0EX. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

October 2025

FRI
31

The Cadillac Kings Blues Night



8.30pm



£18 cash only



Come along for a wonderful night of blues music in Fleet. The award-winning Cadillac Kings have a well earned reputation for wowing their audiences and have opened for acts such as John Mayall, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, and Rod Piazza, to name but a few! Hailed as 'one of the nation's finest bands in any genre' with their last album, they became one of the few UK acts to reach number one on Cashbox USA's blues chart! Tickets cost £18 and are payable in cash only. Please confirm your place by Friday 10 October 2025. Soft drinks, coffee, tea and refreshments are available. If you wish to bring something stronger, you are welcome. So get those dancing shoes on and have some fun. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

November

MON
10

Guest Speaker: Tim from the Samaritans



11.30am



Free



Enjoy tea or coffee at 11.30am, then settle in for our talk today, from Tim, who is the director of the Farnborough branch of the Samaritans. He will tell us about how the Samaritans started out with a brief history, how they train their volunteers and who they support in the community. Tim will also suggest how you can develop your listening skills and discuss the essentials for emotional health. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

SAT
15

Comedy Night in Yateley



7.30pm



£15



They promise a top line-up of fabulous comedians from the UK comedy circuit for an evening filled with fun and laughter. Get those chuckle muscles warmed up for a wonderful night of entertainment. 16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature. Doors and bar open at 7pm. Show starts at 8pm. Book by Wednesday 12 November 2025. Starburst Studios, Yateley Village Hall, Old School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NG. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323 for more information.

November

FRI **21** Alton Coffee and Cakes



Join Bruce at Alton Community Centre where we will meet in the café and sample the excellent value drinks and food over a catch up. Whether you want just a drink, or a full meal, the chef is very friendly and the fare is fantastic. Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact the office on 07388 871260.



SAT **22** Dinner Dance (with Reading District)



Members £32, Guests £34

In addition to our own dinner dance in March, Concord Branch is joining up with Reading for their annual dinner dance at the Holiday Inn in Reading in November. So put your glad rags on, it's an evening not to be missed! We will enjoy a delicious three course meal followed by freshly brewed tea or coffee. Entertainment will be a fabulous magician, followed by dancing the night away to a local DJ. Booking required by Friday 31 October 2025. Holiday Inn Reading South, M4 Junction 11, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0SL. Contact them directly Karen Dyke 0118 9594073 or email karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk

SUN **23** Southern Group Conference Seasonal Carol Service



Concord are delighted to host the Annual Church Service for the Southern Group Conference area followed by a delicious afternoon tea. All welcome. Booking in advance required for catering purposes. St Martin's Church, 231 Upper College Ride, Camberley GU15 4HE. For further information please contact Rev Bruce Nicole on 07974 021764. To reserve your place please contact Concord on 07388 871260.



December

TUES
02

Christmas Illuminations at Windsor Great Park



4.30pm



£21 over 16s, £14 under 16s



Prepare to be captivated as woodland and water at Windsor Great Park come alive with dazzling lights, magical projections and flood-lit fountains. You can also enjoy mouth-wateringly good food, mulled wine, hot chocolate or toasted marshmallows at one of the fire pits. Entry at 4.30pm. 20 tickets available at discounted off-peak group rates.



This is a joint event with Boundless so please get in touch soon if you would like to join us. Car parking must be booked in advance. Please let us know if you would like to come and can offer a lift to someone or would like a lift. Book by Tuesday 4 November 2025. Windsor Great Park, The Crown Estates, Windsor SL4 2HT. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

THURS
04

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and Lunch



11am



£18



Come along and make a beautiful wreath for your door at Rowhill Nature Reserve, which is set in 55 acres of beautiful ancient woodland and is the source of the River Blackwater. Jackie will keep us warm and toasty with tea or coffee throughout the morning and she is also going to provide us with a hearty home-made soup and roll lunch. This costs £18 per person for all materials, wreath and hot lunch. Do let us know if you want us to save you a spot. Minimum of 10 people required (20 places maximum). Book by Friday 28 November 2025. Rowhill Nature Reserve, Cranmore Lane, Farnham/Aldershot, Surrey GU11 3BD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

December

MON
08

Concord Christmas Lunch at The Gallery Restaurant



12.30pm



£25 per person



Time to get into the festive mood. We have reserved 20 places for a slap-up Christmas lunch at Farnborough College's own restaurant. Do reserve your place early to avoid disappointment. Menu to be confirmed, but sure to include all the trimmings! Book by Monday 24 November 2025. The Gallery Restaurant, Farnborough College of Technology, Boundary Road, Farnborough GU14 6SB. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

FRI
12

Jack and The Beanstalk Christmas Panto



1.30pm



£15 per person



It's panto time again! Oh yes it is! Get into the Christmas mood early and come along to see a classic favourite - Jack and the Beanstalk at Princes Hall at a special matinee price of £15 per person. This panto is a truly magical production, with fabulous sets, stunning costumes, fantastic dancers and excellent songs and music. The well-loved panto traditions and friendly atmosphere all go into making the Princes Hall pantomime an annual Christmas treat for all the family. We have reserved 20 tickets for the matinee at 1.30pm on Friday 12 December. Seating is in the stalls and accessible. Princes Hall, Aldershot GU11 1NX. Please let Concord know at concord@oddfellows.co.uk or call 07388 871260 to reserve your seat by Wednesday 1 October 2025.



January 2026

MON
12

Beetle Drive with Fish and Chips Lunch



11.30am



Cost of fish and chips



An opportunity to have some fun and play some games in a relaxed environment. We'll be playing the ever-popular beetle drive today, so do come along and join in. At 12.45pm we'll break and have a fish and chips hot lunch. Book by Friday 8 January 2026. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

January 2026

THURS
22

The Titanic Story: Private Tour at Sea City Museum



11am



£19.50



A proper day out discovering how the tragedy of the RMS Titanic affected the city of Southampton. This expert-led tour of the permanent Titanic exhibition is designed to complement the collections on display, including an interactive model

of the Titanic, recorded messages of its passengers of the fateful night, original objects from on board the world-famous ship and more.



The ticket price of £19.50 per person includes entry to the Titanic Museum, a private tour for our group (we need 25 people to attend to secure this special price and this is a joint trip with Boundless). A catered lunch to include assorted sandwiches, crisps and fruit basket served with orange juice, tea and coffee will be provided afterwards. Tour starts at 11am and lunch will be available at 1pm. You can travel to Southampton by car or by train and the Sea City Museum is just five minutes walk from the train station. Please note the private group tour cost will be divided by how many people come along, so this price is subject to change if there are fewer than 25 attendees. Book by Tuesday 5 January 2026. Sea City Museum, Havelock Road, Southampton SO14 7FY. Contact Steph on 07312 115323 for more information.

THURS
29

Andy Parsons - Top Comedy in Aldershot



7.30pm



£19
per person



Come along for a good laugh with top comedian Andy Parsons at the West End Centre. Andy is well known for his appearances on Mock the Week

and Live at the Apollo, alongside numerous TV appearances. Tickets are £19 each and we have reserved 10 - first come, first served, so do get in touch by mid-October to nab your place, as it is sure to sell out. Book by Friday 17 October 2025. West End Centre, 48 Queen's Road, Aldershot GU11 3JD. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.



February

MON
09

Guest Speaker: Rushmoor Healthy Living: Check your Blood Pressure



11.30am



Free



Come along at 11.30am for a cup of tea or coffee, followed by this short talk which reinforces the importance of keeping your blood pressure stable. After the talk, RHL staff can carry out health checks on anyone who wants to have their blood pressure monitored. RHL is an award-winning charity dedicated to empowering individuals to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

FRI
20

Alton Coffee and Cakes



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



Join Bruce at Alton Community Centre where we will meet in the café and sample the excellent value drinks and food over a catch up. Whether you want just a drink, or a full meal, the chef is very friendly and the fare is fantastic. Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact the office on 07388 871260.



TUES
17

Pottery Painting with Mambo Jambos



11am



£3.50



Get creative at this pottery painting event. Choose tiles, mugs, plates or trinket boxes and use special pens and tools to decorate your items with. Children welcome (it's half term!). Each piece is individually priced ranging from £4 up to £20, plus a studio fee of £3.50 covering paints, glaze and firing. Once painted, your unique design will be glazed and fired, ready for you to collect within 14 days. If you would like to come, let us know. Maximum six to a table. A café is onsite if you fancy lunch afterwards. Book by Tuesday 10 February 2026. Squires Garden Centre, Badshot Lea Road, Badshot Lea, Farnham GU9 9JX. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



March

SAT
07

Concord Annual Dinner Dance



6.30pm



Members £38
Guests £45



Come and join Concord at our Annual Celebration Dinner Dance at the stunning Hogs Back Hotel and Spa in Farnham from 7pm. Enjoy a delicious three course meal followed by tea or coffee. Our popular DJ will be back, with dancing until midnight. We are delighted that our guest speaker is Jane Nelson, CEO and Secretary of the Order. We will also have a raffle. Discounted rooms are available £89 for a double room bed and breakfast. We look forward to seeing you there. Everyone welcome. Book by Wednesday 4 February 2026. Hog's Back Hotel & Spa, Seale, Tongham, Farnham GU10 1EX. For more details please contact Steph on 07312 115323.

MON
09

Guest Speaker: Rushmoor Healthy Living - Cholesterol



11.30am



Free



Grab a tea or coffee at 11.30am and then at 11.45am Rachael from RHL will deliver this talk, which offers friendly, down to earth tweaks to help you get your Cholesterol as low as possible and keep it there. RHL is an award-winning charity dedicated to empowering individuals to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



TUES
24

Guildford History Walk: Private Group



11am



£5 per person
cash only



Join us for a walk with a difference. The highlights of Guildford's colourful history - the castle and its royal visitors, an archbishop with a fishy past, the house that Lewis Carroll chose, Alan Turing growing up, ancient inns and churches. This walk has something for everyone. Your £5 fee helps the society raise money for local charities. Meeting place: Tunsgate Arch, Guildford High Street opposite the Guildhall clock. The walk takes 60 to 90 minutes. Book by Monday 16 March 2026. Guildford Walking Tours, Tunsgate Arch, Guildford High Street, Guildford GU1 3AA. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

Message from your Secretary

Hello Everyone,

The last six months have flown by and I am so pleased to be able to share with you our events for the next six.

The role has kept me busy, and with the departure of our Social Organiser, I am continuing to juggle both jobs. I am pleased to let you know that member Dawn Spikesman and I have both completed our welfare officer training and have started to call up all members to update them on what Concord and Oddfellows has to offer them.

The Roving Coffee events proved popular, so we will be continuing with a regular coffee event in Godalming and Basingstoke. Please see the events listing for more details. The Woking theatre trip proved to be eventful (please see Facebook for the full story) and everyone had a thoroughly good time. The Sound Bath was a success so we have included some extra dates also.

Oddfellows is a national organisation and, as a member, you can visit events at any branch according to their diary (which you can easily view online). With that in mind, we would love you to join us at Reading's Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 22 November. Please contact me for more



information. Booking must be made by 31 October. We have our own Dinner Dance on 7 March 2026 where we are delighted to welcome the CEO of Oddfellows, Jane Nelson, as our Guest Speaker. We return to the Hog's Back Hotel and Spa, with excellent room rates should you wish to stay the night. There will be the usual raffle where we are raising money for our Chairman's charity of the year "The Ezra Trust".

The 2025 Annual Movable Conference was attended by our Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman), Lynn Harmer, where she was asked to present the trophy for the annual bowls tournament in the name of her father, Roy Harmer. I was pleased to be able to share that experience with her. I was also proud to see one of our Trustees, Rev Bruce Nicole, lead the church service at the start of the conference.



Lynn and Steph with the Roy Harmer trophy.

Thank you to our members and friends for their generous support of our charity of the year. Hannah Appleby and I were proud to present The Autism Trust with a cheque for £2411.55. This will go a long way to helping them continue their great work.

Thank you also to our volunteer members who joined me on a very hot Saturday at Fleet Market where we ran a prize draw to entice people to our stand. We were able to tell people about the many benefits of joining our organisation. We will have had Friendship Month by the time you read this, but we have many events

planned so we hope to have increased our membership further. Remember, more members means more events can be run, so do tell your friends and family about us. All ages welcome.

My offer to write to you still stands. If you are not on the internet and you ask me to post out any new events, then I will do that if we have anything additional added to our diary from what you see in Issue 13. Likewise, if you are not receiving the regular update emails from us, then send me an email to concord@oddfellows.co.uk and I can ensure you are updated on our database.



Hannah and Steph with the team at The Autism Trust.

We have lots of events in this issue, many with tight deadlines. Please get in touch as soon as you can if you fancy coming along. You will be in good company. Hope to see you at an event soon

Steph

District Chairman Report

I am now six months into my year as Concord's District Chairman. Whilst I am retired from my Oddfellows work, I still work as a part-time bookkeeper for three days a week as well as doing the bookkeeping for two charities. I usually attend the two monthly quiz evenings, one at The White Hart in Frimley, the other being Dave's Charity Quiz, also an evening event. I'm often at the monthly Farnborough social event which is usually a 'Speaker' event, and I've enjoyed the 'Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip' events. If you are a member and I've not met you yet because I've not been at the social events that you've attended, then please accept my apologies. It's a good sign that there are now so many social activities arranged by Concord in various areas as it indicates growth, but it does mean that your District Chairman might not be able to get to them all!

It's a privilege that as your District Chairman I have been able to nominate 'Ezra Charitable Trust' (whose motto is 'No-one should be homeless, and no-one should be hungry') as the recipient for our 2025-2026 year of fundraising. Ezra is based in Camberley so very much in Concord's catchment area. We have not, at the time of writing, held any specific fundraising events. We've considered

hosting a Murder Mystery Party, or a musical gig, but nothing is finalised yet. A couple of members generously donate a small amount by standing order each month, direct into Concord's Charity bank account. If you live too far away to be actively involved, perhaps you might consider either a one-off donation, or even a monthly standing order – just ask Steph, our District Secretary, for the bank details.

I've been keeping my arthritic fingers busy by knitting hats, scarves and knitted toys. I am covering the cost of materials, so any donations raised from these handmade items go in full to the charity account. To date I've received five commissions, all for scarf and hat combos. I've completed some of these, but if you are still waiting for yours, please be in touch with me.

I'm also making knitted toys which can also be pre-ordered. Again, I will provide the materials. Please do be in touch with me on the following details if you would like to place an order.

Jane Nicole

Email: janefnicole@gmail.com

Mobile: 07951 814860

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Ezra Charitable Trust



Our charity of the year is Ezra Charitable Trust, which provides care and love to the community in Camberley. We have chosen Ezra because although this area is affluent, rising housing costs and bills can make life a struggle for so many people.

Ezra is a community hub where everyone is welcome. People can enjoy a free hot drink, have something to eat and take shelter from the cold, and there are trained volunteers who can lend a friendly ear to listen and signpost people to support services within the local community.

There is a food bank, a hot meal service on Sundays, a free café and they are planning to set up an internet café.

If you would like to support the Ezra Charitable Trust, do come along to our special fund raising quiz night in Ash on Friday 20 March. Also, Jane our Chairman has been busy knitting some lovely hats and scarves which you can order in time for Christmas. You can buy individual items in adult or child size for £7 minimum donation, or two matching items for £15. Various colours available. Look out for her wares on sale at an event, or contact us by email concord@oddfellows.co.uk to place an order and make payment.

Together we can support the great community service provided by Ezra Charitable Trust, whose motto is 'no-one should be homeless and no one should be hungry'. If you want more information see their website www.ezra-trust.com/our-story.



Annual Summoned Meeting

Saturday 28 March 2026, 12.30pm

Ash Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash,
Aldershot GU12 5DN

This is a formal business meeting chaired by the Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) where the annual accounts, District Business and elections of District Officers take place. We will start with a sandwich lunch and all members are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday 25 March 2026 and advise of dietary requirements. Please contact Steph on either 07312 115323 or email concord@oddfellows.co.uk

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received.

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 Steph by phone on
07312 115323 or email concord@oddfellows.co.uk

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 **the Oddfellows** SINCE 1810
MAKING FRIENDS. HELPING PEOPLE
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies



For the 20th time in more than 200 years the Society's Annual Movable Conference (AMC) was held in beautiful Scarborough, hosted by Vale of York Oddfellows.

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from

all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

There was change at the top, as South London Oddfellows' John Mann replaced Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham as Grand Master.

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, including indulging in the delights of an Oddfellows Brass performance, the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, and a day trip to Whitby and Scarborough Fair.

Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

Nur Zainal, whose PhD at the University of Southampton has been supported by the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, and Professor of Cancer Biology Tim Fenton (pictured), addressed the Society's annual conference as three years of funding comes to an end.

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run

the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



Making a Difference Awards 2025

The Oddfellows is full of remarkable people, none more so than the six winners of this year's Making a Difference Awards. They have been nationally recognised for their selflessness and dedication to making their Branch and wider Society as good as they can be.

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Jean's contributions to the running of the Branch's social events. She's key to coming up with new ideas, organising and hosting events, and making sure everyone has a good time.

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger.

You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



On winning the award, Jean, from Bourne, Lincolnshire, says she had to read the letter twice, adding: "You've got so many branches all over the country and I end up as the overall winner. It was a nice surprise."

Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

Achieving Together

The married couple from Conwy, North Wales, have been recognised for their teamwork and commitment to improving the lives of members.



As a Welfare visitor, Gordon regularly assists members however they might need, be that giving lifts to appointments or events, or going to the shops for them. Kath takes the lead on organising social events such as trips to the cinema, the theatre or a day out somewhere.

Kath says they could've been knocked down with a feather when they learnt they'd won. Gordon added: "We don't do it to get rewarded. We do it because we love doing it."

Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

Chris, from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire, has been highlighted for her passion and dedication for her Branch and the Society as a whole.



Having held almost every role possible locally and represented Nene and Welland Oddfellows on regional and national committees, Chris said: "Oddfellows gives to me as much as I give to it. You get to know people. I've friends all over the country through Oddfellowship. I love it, absolutely love it."

She added: "How proud was I that someone had thought I was worthy of this Award?"

Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

Giving Something Back

Nottingham-based Ann's selfless commitment to raising money for worthy causes, both in connection with her Branch and of her own accord, is why she has been singled out for praise.

"I've been doing it about 10 years, if not more," she said. "I reckon I've raised around £10,000."

"I've always had the motto of, 'if you go through life and behave and you help somebody on your way you've done your job'."



She added: "You do things because you do them, not for awards. To get an award is a bonus."

Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

Giving a Helping Hand

Barry, from Peterborough, has been recognised for his dedication to looking after his fellow members and being counted on when it matters, or in times of need. He's been known to give members lifts to and from events and the shops, and has assisted in all manner of DIY projects, including clearing driveways, repairing doors, decorating and gardening.



He said: "I am very proud of what they think I've achieved. It's the way I live my life and always have done and if that transforms into helping other people then I'm thankful."

Incredible total raised for good causes



Brownsea Oddfellows raised £1,608.50 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need.

“It’s what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people’s welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must.”

Giving back to our communities has always mattered to us. Last year, our branches and members donated over £163,000 to good causes.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I’m astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their

Find out more about how the Society gives back to its communities, including information about our support for the RNLI, Oddfellows Brass, our Orphan Gift Fund and HA Andrews Memorial Fund, at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



In February, we announced the completion, by transfer of engagements, of Tees Mutual.

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since

2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: “Tees Mutual has been providing life and savings products to the people of Teesside and South Durham for well over a century.

“We are both passionate about mutuality and are pleased to be able to provide Tees Mutual members with a secure future.”

Meet your Concord Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



We would like to introduce you to our friendly Care and Welfare team who are here to help you.



Bruce Nicole
Welfare Visitor



Steph Hopes
Welfare Visitor



Dawn Spikesman
Welfare Visitor

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a member of the Welfare team to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Steph Hopes on **07312 115323** or email **steph.hopes@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Telephone: 0800 0149 822

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*

Telephone: 0800 0149 821

Email:

oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

**Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice they provide.*

Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care
for care and welfare information

At a glance

October 2025

Wed 1	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 2	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 3	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 6	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 8	Fleet Dine Around Brunch at Trattoria La Casa	10am
Wed 8	Charter on the Wey and Arun Canal (with Boundless)	2pm
Mon 13	Guest Speaker: Sarah Jane and her Guide Dog	11.30am
Tues 14	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 15	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 17	Dave's Charity Quiz - RSPCA	7.30pm
Thurs 23	Camberley Dine Around at Dynasty Fusion (Chinese) Restaurant	7pm
Sat 25	Barn Dance Evening in Cove	7pm
Sun 26	Sunday Tea and Talks: The Military in the time of Jane Austen	2pm
Mon 27	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Thurs 30	Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!	6pm
Fri 31	The Cadillac Kings Blues Night	8.30pm

November

Mon 3	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 5	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 6	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 7	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 10	Guest Speaker: Tim from the Samaritans	11.30am
Tues 11	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 12	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at The Kara Lounge and Grill	12.30pm
Fri 14	Dave's Charity Quiz - Royal British Legion	7.30pm
Sat 15	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Sun 16	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	3pm
Wed 19	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 21	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Sat 22	Dinner Dance (with Reading District)	6.30pm
Sun 23	Southern Group Conference Seasonal Carol Service	2pm

At a glance

November

Mon 24	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Sat 29	Camberley Dine Around at Toby Carvery Frimley	12.30pm

December

Mon 1	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Tues 2	Christmas Illuminations at Windsor Great Park with Boundless	4.30pm
Wed 3	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 4	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and Lunch	11am
Fri 5	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 5	Dave's Charity Quiz - NSPCC	7.30pm
Mon 8	Concord Christmas Lunch at The Gallery Restaurant	12.30pm
Tues 9	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Thurs 11	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 12	Jack and The Beanstalk Christmas Panto	1.30pm
Wed 17	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 22	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

January 2026

Fri 2	Dave's Charity Quiz - Local Food Bank	7.30pm
Mon 5	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 7	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 8	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 9	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 12	Beetle Drive with Fish and Chips Lunch in Farnborough	11.30am
Tues 13	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 14	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at The Ember Inn	12.30pm
Sun 18	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	3pm
Wed 21	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 22	The Titanic Story: Private Tour at Sea City Museum	11am
Mon 26	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Thurs 29	Camberley Dine Around Dinner at Sanjha Indian Restaurant	7pm
Thurs 29	Andy Parsons - Top Comedy in Aldershot	7.30pm

At a glance

February

Mon 2	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 4	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 5	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 6	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 9	Guest Speaker: Rushmoor Healthy Living: Check your Blood Pressure	11.30am
Tues 10	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 11	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at Heron on the Lake	12.30pm
Tues 17	Pottery Painting with Mambo Jambos	11am
Wed 18	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 20	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Mon 23	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Thurs 26	Bowling and a Burger in Camberley	6pm
Sat 28	Camberley Dine Around: Brunch at Wildwood Pizza Pasta Grill	10.30am

March

Mon 2	Aldershot Coffee Morning at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 4	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 5	Pub Quiz Night	7.30pm
Fri 6	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 7	Concord Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm
Mon 9	Guest Speaker: Rushmoor Healthy Living - Cholesterol	11.30am
Tues 10	Coffee Afternoon in Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 11	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at Sorrento Restaurant (Italian)	12.30pm
Wed 18	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 20	Dave's Charity Quiz - Ezra Trust	7.30pm
Sat 21	Camberley Dine Around Lunch at Mimosa Asian Fusion	12.30pm
Sun 22	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	3pm
Mon 23	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 24	Guildford History Walk: Private Group with Boundless	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.
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