

Poole, Bridport and Yeovil Out and About and The Wessex Wanderer

Please scroll down to the first five pages of the the events diary to see the Branches front cover. Go to page 6 for the Poole, Bridport and Yeovil Out and About events diary and page 45 for The Wessex Wanderer newsletter

Please scroll to page 6 or click the link below

[Poole, Bridport and Yeovil Out and About](#)

Also click on the tumbnil below for the 5 different Branch covers



Acorn



Bournemouth



Brownsea



Hand-in-Hand



Phoenix

Please scroll to page 45 or click the link below

[The Wessex Wanderer](#)



Autumn 2026 | Issue 42
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Wessex Wanderer

News and views from your local friendship group

Poole, Bridport and Yeovil District Fundraising

As we start to move away from a glorious summer (even though at times it was a little too hot!), into the cooler days of Autumn, we would like to take this opportunity to send a big heartfelt thank you to all our members and friends who have supported the Branches and District charity fundraising for 2025-2026 at social events and business meetings.

In the spring we were able to make donations of over £10,500 to local charities through money raised from raffles, bring and buy stalls and donations from you. We have been able to support: MacMillan Cancer Society, Julia House, Foster Helen Hospice, MS Centre Dorset, The Broom Unit at Poole and Bournemouth Hospitals, Dorset County Hospital, New Man Pension Cancer and the Orphan Gift Fund.

For 2026-2027 we are raising monies for the Lushall Broom Unit, SE20 Broom Road Bikes, Poole Heart Support Group, Seven Counties Farm, The Little Club Fund for the special Care Baby Unit at Dorset County Hospital.

We would be happy to continue to help you donating local charities without your help providing prizes for the raffles, items for the bring and buy and your generous donations.

Welcome to the 42nd edition of the Wessex Wanderer

We hope you will enjoy reading the articles that have been submitted for inclusion in this issue.

How to contact your District Secretary: Nicky Hopkins

Address: 4 Summarlands, Pinewood Road, Farnham GU12 3JG
Telephone: 07523 758275
Email: nicky.hopkins@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation

www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows
/Poole and Bournemouth /Acorn Lodge /Dorchester (Hand in Hand) /Bournemouth (Phoenix Lodge)

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman
Proposed Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman
Proposed Deputy Grand Master (Prop DGM): District Deputy Chairman
Proposed Corresponding Secretary (Prop CS): District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches
Immediate Past Proposed Grand Master (IPGM)
Immediate Past District Chairman
Past Proposed Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman
Lodge: Branch
Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Lodges, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to support brother support and family

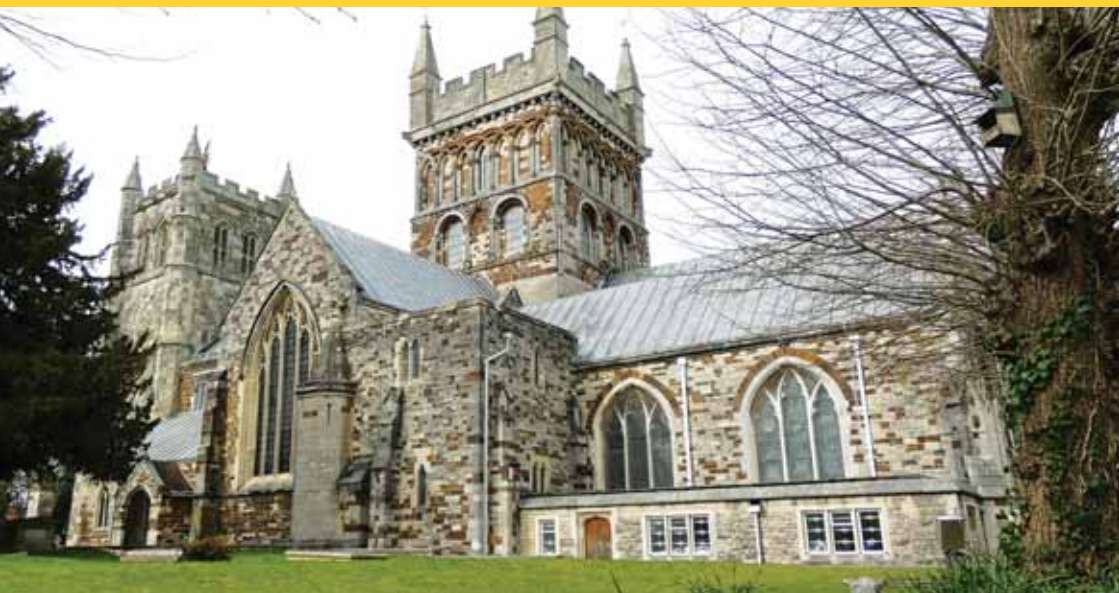
September 2026 – June 2027



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

out & about

Acorn Branch – Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Wimborne Minster, image by Colin Wright

September 2026 – June 2027



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

out & about

Bournemouth Branch – Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Longham Lakes, image by Wendy Hopper

September 2026 – June 2027



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

out & about

Brownsea Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Edna's Garden, image by Julian White

September 2026 – June 2027



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

out & *about*

Hand in Hand Branch – Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Little Bredy waterfall, Dorchester and Rhododendrons, image by allouphoto

September 2026 – June 2027



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

out & about

Phoenix Branch – Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Railway Gardens, Sturminster Newton, image by Judy Penfold



District Lunch and Optional Weekend – Sunday 25 October 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary for the Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District, 'Out & About'.

Each of our local Branches is part 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. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interests in socialising, making friends and helping people.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events, even if you are not a member.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember that it is essential to book for all the events in the current diary to avoid disappointment. Also please let us know if you are unable to attend once you have booked, as you may still have to pay if there is a cost involved.

Please advise of any mobility or dietary needs on booking.

Some of our more established events have proved to be so popular that they are often oversubscribed, so please remember to book early if you can – if numbers are

limited places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Unfortunately, events sometimes have to be cancelled or amended during the period of the current diary so please always check.

Outdoor Events

Please be aware that some events may be held on uneven ground. Any event which is taking place outside will be weather dependent. Therefore it is essential that you provide us with an up to date contact number when booking so that we can advise of any changes or cancellations.

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, please call:

District Social Secretary:

Andrew Hampton

Telephone: 07806 378989

Email:

andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

Email:

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Acorn Branch Secretary:

Nicky Hankins

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Email:

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Brownsea Branch Social Secretary:

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

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Andrew Hampton

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Email:

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Hand-in-Hand Branch

Social Secretary:

Rosemary Rogers

Telephone: 07788 436797

Email:

rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Secretary:

Mary Brewer

Telephone: 01305 853125

Phoenix and Blackmore Vale

Branches Social Secretary:

Judy Penfold

Telephone: 01963 363119

Email:

judy.penfold@oddfellows.co.uk

Bournemouth Branch

Social Secretary:

Wendy Hopper

Telephone: 07921 391696

Email:

wendy.hopper@oddfellows.co.uk

Please Note

The members of each Branch are responsible for their own administration and the organising of events. If you are already a member and would like to become more involved please contact your Branch Secretary. Details of our Business Meetings can be found on pages 38 and 39. Please remember that it is through friendship and social events that we try to help our members to get more out of life, and we offer care, advice and support in times of need.

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.

September 2026

WED
02

A Guided Tour of Shepton Mallet Prison Hand-in-Hand Branch



12.30pm



£25 per person, discount £10 for members



For those who like something different, come and join us for a guided tour of Shepton Mallet Prison. Find out what life was really like for prisoners, officers and visitors. The tour costs £25 per person, but there will be a discount of £10 for members. Please don't let the

journey put you off as lifts with other members will be available. Shepton Mallet Prison, Frithfield Lane, Shepton Mallet BA4 5FQ. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further information and for booking a place by Monday 31 August 2026.



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THURS
03

Friendship Coffee Morning Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



Free



September is Oddfellows Friendship Month! This is a free event for members and friends to join us for a chat and cuppa with a cake or two and find out a bit more about the Oddfellows. We will have a raffle and bring and buy stall for our charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 31 August 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



FRI
04

Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.



September 2026

TUES
08

Friendship Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch



Friendship Month returns and we would like to invite your nearest and dearest friends, or even your neighbours to learn about the Oddfellows, how membership benefits you and others and how our friendly society reaches far and wide. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity - Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book please contact Nicky on 07523 758275 by Friday 4 September 2026.

WED
09

Walk with Brownsea Brownsea Branch



Meeting at Whitecliff Car Park at 10.30am, we will walk, or stroll, towards the quay, via Baiter and enjoy the lovely views. There are plenty of nice cafés at the quay, or there is the little kiosk at Baiter that does very nice coffee and really good chips! Then make our way back to Whitecliff. Whitecliff Car Park, Whitecliff Road, Poole BH14 8DU. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to join us by Monday 7 September 2026.



THURS
10

Friendship Cream Tea Brownsea Branch



It's Friendship Month! We hope you will invite family and friends who are not yet members to come and enjoy a tasty cream tea with us (cheese scones will also be available). We will explain about the wonderful benefits of being an Oddfellow and the many ways in which we can help and support our members. As usual the refreshments will be supplied by Sam and her team. Please come and have a relaxing afternoon with good company in a lovely venue. The raffle will be raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. As this is always a popular event, please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Tuesday 8 September 2026.



September 2026

FRI 11 Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch

 10.30am  Free



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

MON 14 Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm  Free



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES 15 Antiques Roadshow Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm  Free



Come and join us at Crossways Village Hall for our 'Antiques Roadshow'. Bring your items and family heirlooms for valuing by Duke's Auctioneers. Refreshments will be available. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

**Circle
September for
new friendships**



Who can you invite
along to join in the
friendship and fun?

All welcome

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

September 2026

SAT
19

Friendship Fish and Chips Evening with Bingo Bournemouth Branch



7pm



£8



Our second Friendship Month event will be our very popular fish and chips evening with bingo. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Tea or coffee will be provided, but if you would like something stronger or cold drinks you are welcome to bring your own. We will, of course have a raffle for our charity – SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 14 September 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

SUN
20

Celebration Harvest Lunch at Crossways Village Hall Hand-in-Hand Branch



12.30pm



£10



Join us for a Celebration Harvest Lunch at Crossways Village Hall. Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm lunch. Members and non-members welcome to join our Friendship Month event. Please contact Mary on 01305 853125 to book your place by Tuesday 1 September 2026. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

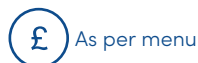


TUES
22

Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first tea or coffee is free. Refreshments available to buy from the menu. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



September

WED
23

Bacon Butties Phoenix Branch

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Today is National Bacon Butty Day so we've decided to have breakfast at the Bell Inn, Yeovil to help celebrate this prestigious event. All welcome. Book by Wednesday 16 September 2026. Bell Inn, 207 Preston Road, Yeovil BA20 2EW. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES
29

Whist Drive Hand-in-Hand Branch

⌚ 2pm

£ £5



Come along and have a go and enjoy refreshments at the end.

Large car park and access to the hall at the

rear of the church. Book by Friday 25 September 2026. St George's Church Hall, Fordington DT1 1LB. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



October

THURS
01

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 10.30am

£ £3



We hope you will come and join us for our regular coffee morning at Tuckton Social Club - meet new friends, have a chat over your coffee, all in a lovely venue. There will also be our usual raffle for our charity, which this year is for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could donate a prize that would be wonderful and the bring and buy stall is always popular. Book by Monday 28 September 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



FRI
02

Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch

⌚ 10am

£ As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.

October

SAT 03 Prize Bingo in aid of the Chairman's Charity Hand-in-Hand Branch

 7.30pm

 Donations



Come and join us for an evening of Prize Bingo in aid of our Chairman's charity. All profits will be added to Sally Childs-Slade appeal 'Little Acorns'. Donations of prizes gratefully received. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

SUN 04 Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch

 10am

 Free



After a successful event last year we are again going to Muckleford Farm Apple Picking. Come and join us to harvest eight varieties of heritage apples from 120 trees. Ploughmans lunch provided. 10am start. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES 06 Craft Afternoon at Crossways Village Hall Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm

 £5



Come and join us for a craft afternoon at Crossways Village Hall. Members and friends with craft skills will be on hand to help with projects. All are welcome. Board and card games will be available for those who do not wish to try crafting. £5 per head to cover costs of all materials and a hot drink and biscuit. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125 to book your place by Friday 2 October 2026.

THURS 08 Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses Brownsea Branch

 12 noon

 As per menu



Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The Coach & Horses is a lovely venue and we hope you will want to join us again for a very reasonably priced lunch - you can order one or two courses and they need our choices in advance, so please contact Andrew or Margaret for the menu. As usual we will have a raffle for our charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, so if you can bring along a prize that would be wonderful. The Coach & Horses, Poole Road, Wimborne BH21 1QB. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Monday 5 October 2026.

October

FRI **09** **Coffee and Get Together** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 10.30am  Free



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



MON **12** **Table Top Games at** **Pip Café, Poundbury** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 2pm  Free



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES **13** **Buffet Lunch and Music by Lisa Locarno** **Acorn Branch**



 12 noon  £6



We are pleased to welcome back Lisa Locarno, who will be singing songs from the '50s and '60s. Come and join us for a buffet lunch and maybe a dance around the village hall. October also sees the launch of our Christmas sale as part of the bring and buy corner. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity of the year – Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275 to book your place by Friday 9 October 2026.



October

THURS 15 Coffee Morning at The Spire Brownsea Branch

 10.30am

 As per menu



This month we are returning to The Spire for our regular coffee get-together. Enjoy a relaxing hour or so, chatting over your coffee



and cake or breakfast. Everyone is welcome - why not bring along a friend to meet us? We love supporting this community café and when you've had your coffee you could go for a walk on the quay or enjoy some retail therapy in the High Street. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, so that we can arrange to all sit together by Tuesday 13 October 2026.

SUN 18 Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch

 10am

 Free



Come and join us to harvest eight varieties of heritage apples from 120 trees. A ploughman's lunch will be provided. 10am start. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES 20 Whist Drive Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm

 £5



Come along and have a go and enjoy refreshments at the end. Large car park and access to the hall at the rear of the church. Book by Friday 16 October 2026. St George's Church Hall, Fordington DT1 1LB. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

WED 21 District Charity Carvery at the Bridge House Hotel

 12.30pm

 As per menu



Another fundraising lunch for our District Chairman's charity - The Ladybird Breast Unit. Margaret would love to welcome you to Bridge House Hotel once again. We will be having a raffle, so if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. Book by Monday 19 October 2026. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

October

WED 21 Pizza and Quiz Night Phoenix Branch

 7pm

 As per menu



Join us for a pizza and quiz night. To celebrate International Pizza Month, we will arrange for Domino's to deliver pizzas to the RAOB Club. While we wait for them to be delivered, there will be a quiz with a prize for the winner. Cost of your pizza. If we have enough people coming, then the RAOB Club may open the licensed bar. You will be able to choose your pizza the week before. Book by Monday 12 October 2026. RAOB Club, Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



THURS 22 Afternoon Tea Bournemouth Branch

 2pm

 £5



Join us at Tuckton Social Club for a lovely afternoon tea with cakes and savouries. Brenda



Cookey-Leeks will be giving a short talk, illustrated with some slides - subject to be confirmed. We will, of course have a raffle for our charity, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 19 October 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

THURS 22 Pottery Painting Afternoon at Poppies Tearoom Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm

 Cost per item



We are holding a pottery painting afternoon at Poppies Tearoom. You are able to choose your own pot to decorate costing between £15 and £30. Cream teas are also available at £6 per person. Poppies Tearoom, King George V Road, Bovington BH20 6JQ.

To book your place please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email at rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk by Friday 16 October 2026.



October

SUN
25

Annual District Lunch and Optional Weekend



12.30pm



Two courses £27, Three courses £32



We will be returning to the Riviera Hotel for our Annual District Lunch, Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm. Our Chairman, Margaret White would be delighted to welcome you. We will be having a raffle in support of The Ladybird Clinic, Dorset Breast Screening Unit, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing. We have negotiated a two course option for £27 or a three course option for £32 and hope you will be able to join us.



Please contact Andrew or Margaret for the menu choices and to book your place. We have also arranged a weekend stay for those who would like to join us from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October. The cost per person: For two people sharing is £190. This includes dinner on both Friday and Saturday evening and breakfast on both Saturday and Sunday morning and of course, the three-course lunch on the Sunday. If you would prefer the two-course option the total would be £185. We have five rooms available for single occupancy at the same price, but once those have gone the surcharge will be £30 per room per night.

If you would like to book for the weekend, we require a £50 per person non-refundable deposit. We will automatically send the menu choices pre-order form for the Annual District Lunch to you if you are coming for the weekend. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. If you are interested in booking a room please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 as availability will be limited by Sunday 4 October 2026.

FRI
30

Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.

October

FRI **30** **Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club** **Browsea Branch**



10am



As per menu



The food is amazing at Bulbury Woods Golf Club and they have always looked after us very well indeed, so we hope you will want to get up early and have your breakfast with us! We will have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group, and of course if you are able to bring along a prize it would be much appreciated. Book by Wednesday 28 October 2026. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to come, so that we can arrange to all sit together.



November

THURS **05** **Coffee at Tuckton** **Bournemouth Branch**



10.30am



£3

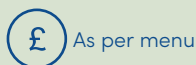


No fireworks, but a great selection of cake, tea, coffee, savouries, in a lovely venue – what could be better? We hope you will join us for our regular coffee morning, a chance to meet new friends and chat over coffee. We will have a raffle, bring and buy stall in support of SERV Wessex Blood Bikes. Might be a chance to get some early Christmas presents. A prize is always much appreciated, as are items for the bring and buy table, but as we have nowhere to store anything, so please remember to take things home if they don't sell. Book by Monday 2 November 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

SAT **31** **Visit to the October Makers Market** **Phoenix Branch**



11am



As per menu



Join us for the October Makers Market in Wimborne, showcasing independent makers, artists and creatives from right across Dorset. Run by the Dorset Team, you will find high quality stalls set across two rooms of the Allendale Centre with over 60 stalls in total. Expect a carefully curated mix of crafts and stalls with something for everyone and every budget. The market is open from 10am to 4pm. Meet us for lunch at the on-site café overlooking the river at 12.30pm. Book by Thursday 22 October 2026. Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne Minster BH21 1AS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



November

THURS
05

Bonfire Party at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us to watch the fireworks at Muckleford Farm. There will be refreshments including a filled roll and something to drink. Book by Thursday 29 October 2026. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for catering purposes.



MON
09

Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES
10

Remembrance Coffee Morning Acorn Branch



We will remember them. This remembrance week, we invite you to bring and share your wartime stories. We will create a display of our Acorn Branch's extended family tree as we reminisce and fondly reflect on the sacrifices made by our armed forces.



A moment of reflection will be followed by red, white and blue themed cakes and pastries as we share our memories over a warming cup of tea. Our Christmas sale will of course continue to run through the rest of the year and donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Book by Friday 6 November 2026. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275.

November

THURS **12** **Craft Morning** **with Amanda** **Bournemouth Branch**



Amanda has very kindly invited us to join her for another craft morning making beaded Christmas tree



decorations. The decorations will be based on the tree of life and involve threading beads onto wires - it should be a very relaxing activity and the results will be really pretty. The cost this time will be £6 to cover all the materials and light refreshments.

The numbers will be limited as usual. Book by Monday 9 November 2026. 30 Corbiere Avenue, Alderney, Poole, Dorset BH12 4JN. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

FRI **13** **Coffee and Get Together** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

WED **18** **Bring and Share** **Afternoon Tea and** **Table Top Games** **Bournemouth Branch**



Join us at Tuckton Social Club for a lovely afternoon tea with a selection of cakes and savouries. We hope you will want to join us again, play some games, maybe, win a prize in the raffle and have a relaxing fun afternoon with us in a lovely venue. There will be our usual raffle for our Chairman's charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could donate a prize that would be great. Book by Saturday 14 November 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

THURS **19** **Coffee and Cake at** **The Grasshopper** **Bournemouth Branch**



It's time for another coffee get together at The Grasshopper! An opportunity to meet up, catch up with our friends and enjoy a lovely coffee and maybe a piece of cake. Hopefully we will be in the Library again so we can have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group. There are two large car parks and the venue is on a bus route, so we hope you will be able to join us. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 16 November 2026.

November

FRI **20** **We Will Rock You at** **Weymouth Pavilion** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



7pm



Members £20
Guests £25



WOW present 'We will Rock You' at Weymouth Pavilion. WOW Youth Musical Theatre (who the Oddfellows have sponsored in the past) are performing this rock musical based on the hits of 'Queen'. Cost: £20 for members and £25 for non-members. Book by Monday 9 November 2026. Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth DT4 8ED. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES **24** **Coffee and Chat at the** **Kings Arms** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first tea or coffee is free. Refreshments available to buy from the menu. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



SUN **22** **Christmas Lunch at the Riviera Hotel** **Brownsea Branch**



12.30pm



Two courses £20, Three courses £24



Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start, Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches will be joining forces for their Christmas lunch once again this year. Everyone is of course very welcome to join us and enjoy an excellent meal in beautiful surroundings. Our Christmas lunch is a brilliant way to start your Christmas celebrations and spend time with like-minded friends. The raffle will be divided equally between the two Branches' charities as usual, which this year are the Poole Heart Support Group and the Blood Bikes. It would be appreciated if you could please book early as we have to pre-order our menu choices by Friday 13 November 2026. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



November

WED
25

District Charity Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club



10am



As per menu



You have probably guessed that we love going to Bulbury Woods Golf Club for our breakfast! This time it is a fundraising event for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital, which is Margaret's charity this year. We hope you will come and join us for a relaxing morning, a chat over your breakfast and a chance to win a prize in the raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book so that we can arrange to all sit together by Saturday 21 November 2026.



SAT
28

Christmas Prize Bingo Hand-in-Hand Branch



7pm



Buy your books on arrival



Come and join us for an evening of Christmas Prize Bingo at Crossways Village Hall. No need to book, buy your bingo books at the door. Starting at 7pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments during the evening and a raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



SUN
29

Christmas Concert Phoenix Branch



4pm



£13



Wessex Military Band Christmas Concert in Bridport. The band performs an excellent selection of popular tunes with one or two Christmas themed songs requiring audience participation in the second half. Doors open at 3pm, concert starts at 4pm. Tickets: £13 (concession £1). Children £11 (concession £1). Early booking is essential for this popular concert by Thursday 1 October 2026. Electric Palace, South Street, Bridport DT6 3NY. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



December

THURS
03

Christmas Coffee Morning at Tuckton Social Club Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



It's Christmas Jumper time again! Dig out your seasonal jumper, earrings, hat or socks! Join us for mince pie, cake, savouries with coffee or tea and maybe bring your favourite Christmas CD. Our Christmas coffee morning should be a lot of fun and we hope you will be able to come along, meet up with friends, maybe bring someone with you. Hopefully, there will be a chance to make a Christmas decoration to take home with you, there might be some festive goodies on the bring and buy stall and raffle. This is a very popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Monday 23 November 2026. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

FRI
04

Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.

SAT
05

Christmas Lunch Phoenix Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for a seasonal lunch at the pretty Folke Golf Club near Sherborne. All welcome. Book by Wednesday 25 November 2026.

Folke Golf Club, Folke Lane, Alweston, Sherborne DT9 5HR. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



SUN
06

Carol Service at St Nicholas Church Hand-in-Hand Branch



3pm



Free



Come and join us for a carol service at St Nicholas Church, followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. St Nicholas Church, Moreton, Dorchester DT2 8RH. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

December

TUES **08** **Christmas Buffet** **and Party** **Acorn Branch**



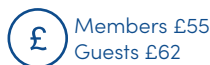
And with that, the 2026 season comes to a close. It's party time and you are invited to our traditional Acorn Branch Christmas buffet and party! Games, quizzes, music and special prizes for the best seasonal outfit are back for another year! Come dressed for the occasion and pull a cracker with your Oddfellows family. Today is the last day to grab your stocking fillers from our bring and buy corner! Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Book by Friday 4 December 2026. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275.

FRI **11** **Christmas Coffee** **Morning plus Bring** **and Buy** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Come and join us for our Christmas coffee morning plus bring and buy stalls. As this is the last coffee morning of the year, come and have some festive fun. There will be a prize for the best Christmas jumper or hat! Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

SAT **12** **Christmas Wreath** **Making Workshop** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Due to the success of last year's Christmas wreath making workshop, we have organised a day course, giving you the opportunity to make your own festive wreath from materials provided. The course will be located at Frampton Village Hall from 10am. Book by Saturday 5 December 2026. Frampton Village Hall, Dorchester Road, Frampton, Dorchester DT2 9NF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



THURS **17** **Christmas Coffee and** **Mince Pies** **Brownsea Branch**



We hope you can join us for our last coffee morning of 2026! This is a free event and we hope there will be lots of mince pies on offer - we would love to welcome you if you can make it. Come and enjoy a chat over your coffee or tea, spend the morning with us and forget the Christmas madness for a little while! East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 as early as possible as places will be limited by Monday 14 December 2026.

December

THURS **17** **Christmas Evening** **Outing to The Iford** **Bridge** **Bournemouth Branch**



We are hoping to organise an evening out at the Iford Bridge if there is enough interest. The Iford Bridge, Old Bridge Road, Iford, Christchurch BH6 5RG. Please let Wendy know on 07921 391696 by Wednesday 30 September 2026 if you would like to join us so that we can book the room.

WED **23** **Christmas Drop In at** **The Lodge Room** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



As we are coming to the end of 2026, Hand-in-Hand Branch would like to invite members and friends to join them at the Lodge Room in Dorchester for a chat and Christmas mince pie and a cup of tea or coffee between 10am and 1pm. The Lodge Room, 21 Great Western Road, Dorchester DT1 1UF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



January 2027

THURS **07** **New Year** **Coffee Morning** **Bournemouth Branch**



Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you to our New Year coffee morning. We will have our usual coffee, tea, cake and savouries, so hope you're not on a post-festive diet. We will, of course, have a raffle for our charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so raffle prizes will be much appreciated. Please feel free to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 to let us know you will be coming by Monday 4 January 2027 if possible, hope you can come, it would be great to see you.



Please note:

Hand in Hand are hoping to organise 'Ed's Christmas Cracker' evening of festive entertainment and buffet at Crossways Village Hall. Date and details to be confirmed. They will also be arranging a Christmas Meal on Wednesday 9 December 2026. Meet at 6.30pm for 7pm. Venue and details to be confirmed. For further information please contact Mary on 01305 853125 or Rosemary on 07788436797.

January 2027

FRI **08** **Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club** **Browsea Branch**

 10am

 As per menu



How about a New Year breakfast? Join us for a relaxing morning, enjoy a lovely breakfast, or



just a piece of cake or a coffee if you prefer and catch up with your friends. Bulbury Woods Golf Club comes highly recommended, so we hope you will want to come along. We will have a little raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 5 January 2027.

FRI **08** **Coffee and Get Together** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 10.30am

 Free



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

SUN **10** **Sunday Carvery** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 12.30pm

 As per menu



We would like to invite you to join us at The Sunray for a plated carvery (£22.25, £23.25 and £24.25 with £5 discount for members). Meet at 12.30 for 1pm. Book by Wednesday 9 December 2026. The Sunray, Chapel Lane, Osmington DT3 6EU. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES **12** **Coffee Morning at the Parlour** **Acorn Branch**

 10am

 As per menu



A new year and a new venue. Come and join us for coffee, cake, a chat and make new friends at Wimborne Garden Centre and have a stroll around the plant department and gift shop. We will have our raffle as usual and donations are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity. Wimborne Garden Centre, 229 Wimborne Road West, Wimborne BH21 2DN. Please contact Nicky on 07523 758275 to book by Monday 4 January 2027.

January 2027

THURS
14

Coffee and Cake at The Pilot Brownsa Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We will be supporting The Pilot on Canford Heath again this month for our regular coffee morning get-together. Lou always makes really delicious cakes and the coffee is really good, so we hope you will come and join us for a chat with your friends. Book by Tuesday 12 January 2027. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

THURS
21

Lunch at The Cranleigh Bournemouth Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



We are returning to The Cranleigh and hope you will want to come and join us. The Cranleigh



is a nice location, easy parking and on a bus route. We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. Please book by Monday 18 January 2027. The Cranleigh, 1 Clingan Road, Bournemouth BH6 5PY. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

TUES
26

Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our first regular bi-monthly coffee morning of 2027 at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first tea or coffee is free. Refreshments available as per the menu. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

WED
27

District Charity Lunch at the Bridge House



12.30pm



As per menu



Meet at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm lunch, we are returning to the Bridge House Hotel for our charity lunch, as they look after us so well. Most of us will have a carvery, but if you would prefer something from their optional menu that would be fine, they are happy to oblige and of course there are many things to choose from on their excellent dessert menu. Our raffle will be in support of the Ladybird Breast Unit and if you are able to donate a prize that would be brilliant. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. It would be great to see you there, so if you would like to book please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Monday 25 January 2027.

February

MON 01 Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury Hand-in-Hand Branch



2pm



Free



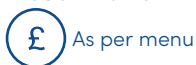
Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



WED 03 Coffee and Chat at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club Brownsea Branch



10am



As per menu



We are paying another visit to the Sturminster Marshall Golf Club this time. The food is excellent and you can have just a coffee, cake, or go for one of the breakfast options - the Full English was delicious last time. No raffle, just a lovely opportunity to meet up in a lovely venue and enjoy each other's company. Sturminster Marshall Golf Club, Moor Lane, Sturminster Marshall, Dorset BH21 4BD. If you would like to join us please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book, so that we can arrange to sit together by Monday 1 February 2027.

THURS 04 Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



We will be meeting once again at Tuckton Social Club. Hope you can come and enjoy a relaxing morning, chat over your tea or coffee and enjoy a cake, or two. There will be savoury nibbles for those who do not have a sweet tooth. We will, of course, have a raffle, bring and buy stall for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, all prizes very welcome. Please feel free to bring things for the bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Monday 1 February 2027.

FRI 05 Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu

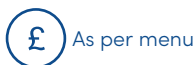


Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.



February

TUES **09** **Coffee Morning at** **Aroma Turkish Grill & Bar** **Acorn Branch**



We would like to invite you to another new venue for 2027. We are holding a coffee morning at Aroma Turkish Grill & Bar in Ferndown. Come and join us for coffee, cake, a chat and maybe stay for lunch. The nearest bus stops are Town Centre 13 and 13A. Aroma's car park is located behind the restaurant via Princes Road. Aroma Turkish Grill & Bar, 94 Victoria Road, Ferndown BH22 9JA. Due to having to pre-book the venue please contact Nicky on 07523 758275 by Friday 29 January 2027 to book your place.

THURS **11** **Coffee, Beetle Drive** **plus Fish and Chips** **Bournemouth Branch**



A perfect combination: Have a natter and set the world to rights over tea or coffee, draw a beetle - or two, while waiting for lunch to arrive; then enjoy fish and chips for lunch. The raffle will be raising funds for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes. As we have to pay for the food when we order, please can you pay Wendy when you book. Hope you can join us, bring a friend, it would be great to meet them. Book by Monday 8 February 2027. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

FRI **12** **Coffee and Get Together** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

SAT **13** **Chairman's Lunch** **at the Coach House,** **Athelhampton** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Join us for our Chairman's lunch in the Long Room of the Coach House, Athelhampton House and Garden. Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm. For two course carvery and dessert - £30 for non-members and £25 for members. We will be holding a raffle with the proceeds going to the Chairman's charity. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received. Book by Sunday 31 January 2027. Coach House, Athelhampton House, Athelhampton Road, Puddletown DT2 7LG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

February

THURS 18 Coffee at The Grasshopper Bournemouth Branch

🕒 10.30am 🧐 £ As per menu



The Grasshopper is the venue once again for our regular coffee morning and chat. Hopefully, there will be a good selection of cakes available and of course the coffee is excellent at The Grasshopper. We will have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to bring along a prize that would be very much appreciated. Book by Tuesday 16 February 2027. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



March

THURS 04 Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch

🕒 10.30am 🧐 £ £3



With St David's Day on Monday 1 March maybe we will have Welsh cakes and daffodils at our early spring coffee morning? Definitely tea, coffee, cakes and savouries. We will, of course, have a raffle, bring and buy stall for our charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so a raffle prize would be very much appreciated. You are of course welcome to bring things for the bring and buy stall, but please be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 to book by Tuesday 2 March 2027.

WED 24 Lunch Club at The Inn In The Park Bournemouth Branch

🕒 11.45am 🧐 £ As per menu



It has been quite a long time since we went to The Inn In The Park, but it is a really nice venue and they offer smaller appetites for those who can't manage large portions, so we hope you will want to come and join us for our lunch. We will meet at 11.45am for a 12.15pm lunch and we will need to pre-order, so please contact Andrew or Margaret to book and we will send you the menu choices. Our raffle will be in support of the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. Book by Thursday 18 February 2027. The Inn In The Park, 26 Pinewood Road, Branksome Park, Poole BH13 6JS. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



March

FRI 05 Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel Hand-in-Hand Branch

 10am

 As per menu



Come and join us for a coffee and chat at The Bull Hotel, Bridport. The first coffee or tea on the Oddfellows, bar snacks are available to buy. The Bull Hotel, 34 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemary.rogers@oddfellows.co.uk for further details.

FRI 05 Rod Brewer Quiz Night Hand-in-Hand Branch

 7pm

 £20 per team of four



Rod Brewer Quiz Challenge at Crossways Village Hall. Meet at 7pm for 7.30pm start with teams of four at £20 per team to include ploughman's type supper. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. To book please contact Mary on 01305 853125 by Monday 1 March 2027.

FRI 05 District Weekend at Marsham Court Hotel

 3pm

 £199 per person



We will be going to the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth for the weekend. This will incorporate our Annual District Meeting on the Saturday and if you are staying for the weekend it would be great if you could join us for the meeting. The price for the weekend will be £199 per person for the two night stay on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis including entertainment on the Saturday night.

If you book early there is no supplement for single occupancy! There will be a raffle during the Saturday evening dinner dance in support of our new Chairman's charity. Please contact Andrew or Margaret as soon as possible to register your interest as rooms are limited. There are a number of rooms available with walk in showers which they have kindly made available to us. Book by Friday 5 February 2027. Marsham Court Hotel, 3 Russell Cotes Road, East Cliff, Bournemouth BH1 3AB. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



March

MON 08 Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES 09 Afternoon Cream Tea Acorn Branch



We will be welcoming a speaker from our 2027/2028 charity, to give us some insight into what they do and how our



donation will be put to very good use. A lovely afternoon cream tea will be provided by our lovely kitchen crew and enjoy the table quizzes and our spring raffle. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity, of the year - Sturts Farm Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275 to book by Friday 5 March 2027.

THURS 11 Coffee at Soho Bournemouth Branch



We have decided to try something new – a coffee get-together at Soho in Christchurch. No raffle, just a lovely chance to meet up with our friends and have a chat over our coffee. Book by Monday 8 March 2027. Soho, 7 Church Street, Christchurch BH23 1BW. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



FRI 12 Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch



We would love to welcome you for our regular coffee morning at Crossways. We will have our usual bring and buy stall. The coffee morning is free, but we welcome a donation towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

March

TUES
16

District Charity Lunch at the Bridge House Hotel



12.30pm



As per menu



This will be our first charity event in support of our new District Chairman, Andrew Hampton, who this year will be raising funds in support of Forest Holme. We will meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch - the carvery is always good value, but if you prefer to order from their optional menu they are happy to accommodate this. If you are able to donate a

raffle prize that would be brilliant. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by 12 March 2027.



THURS
18

Coffee at The Pilot Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Our regular coffee mornings are a nice way to keep in touch with our friends and enjoy a relaxing morning together. This

time we are back at The Pilot to enjoy Lou's delicious cakes! We may be able to have a raffle, so if you can bring a prize that would be great. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 16 March 2027.



TUES
23

Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first tea or coffee is free. Refreshments available to buy from the menu. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



March

THURS
25

Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



We always enjoy meeting up with our friends and having a good chat! We are returning to The Coach & Horses in Wimborne this time and we hope you will want to join us. Our charity, this year is Forest Holme Hospice, chosen by our new Chairman, Dave Tyler, so if you are able to bring a prize for the raffle we would be very grateful. The Coach & Horses, Poole Road, Wimborne BH21 1QB. We will need to pre-order our meals, so please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 for the menu choices by Monday 22 March 2027.

April

THURS
01

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



Spring is in the air - hopefully time for Easter bonnets, bunnies and eggs. Our coffee mornings are a really nice way to keep in touch with friends, both old and new, chat over tea or coffee and enjoy a cake or savoury. There will be a raffle in aid of our Chairman's charity, so a prize would be greatly appreciated. You are very welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but please be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Monday 29 March 2027.

WED
07

Coffee at Blooms Café Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We are returning to Blooms Café - they have an amazing choice of cakes and savouries to choose from, but of course you may prefer a Full English! We hope to have a raffle for Forest Holme this time, so if you could bring a prize that would be wonderful. Blooms Café, Basket & Blooms Garden Centre, 392 Christchurch Road, West Parley BH22 8SW. Please book early by Monday 5 April 2027 with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, so we can arrange to all sit together.

April

TUES
13

Spring Lunch with Music by Julia Acorn Branch



12 noon



£6



We invite you to join us for our spring lunch with musical entertainment from Julia to enjoy. Whether the sun is shining down on us or not, the hall will be bursting with colour as we welcome the change in seasons.

Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity of the year - Sturts Community Farm. Book by Friday 9 April 2027. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275.



THURS
15

Cream Coffee Phoenix Branch



10.30am



TBC



Cream Coffee?

It's like a cream tea, but in the morning.

The Lakeside Café serves up delicious home-made scones (including the best gluten

free scones) and generous portions of jam and clotted cream. Coffee's not bad either. Other beverages are available. Book by Thursday 8 April 2027. Lakeside Kitchen, Todber Manor Fisheries, Todber, Sturminster Newton DT10 1JB. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



FRI
16

Otter Nursery, near Lymington Bournemouth Branch



2pm



As per menu



We had a great time at Otter Nurseries last year and hope that you will want to join us again for

a relaxing afternoon out, a chance to wander around the plants and enjoy the food in the café. Book by Tuesday 13 April 2027. Otter Nurseries of Lymington, Milford Road, Everton, Lymington SO41 0JD. Please let Wendy know on 07921 391696 if you would like to come, as we might be able to organise a car-share again this year.



April

THURS
22

Spring Lunch at the Bridge House Hotel Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



We have moved our spring lunch from a Sunday to mid-week to make it more affordable and in the hope that more members will be able to attend. As we are at the Bridge House Hotel, there is no need to pre-order. Most of us enjoy their carvery, but of course you can choose to have something from their midweek menu instead, starters and their ever popular desserts will also be available. Our raffle will be raising funds for Forest Holme and if you can help by bringing a prize that would be amazing. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Saturday 17 April 2027.



TUES
27

Craft with Amanda Brownsea Branch



10am



TBC



Amanda has very kindly invited us to join her for another

'crafty' morning. There will be more details in the spring events diary, but we always have a wonderful time with Amanda - lots of laughter and chatting, as we try our best to learn a new skill. Light refreshments will be provided. 30 Corbiere Avenue, Alderney, Poole, Dorset BH12 4JN. Please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 as space is very limited by Friday 23 April 2027.



May

WED
05

Coffee or Breakfast at Ozzie's Big Breakfast Brownsea Branch



10am



As per menu



Ozzie's Big Breakfast is a new venue and comes very well recommended. We will meet at 10am for coffee, breakfast, brunch, pancakes, or waffles. They have a huge menu to choose from - please let Andrew or Margaret know if you are able to come and join us so that we can arrange to all sit together. No raffle this time, just a nice opportunity to spend time together and have a chat and put the world to rights. Book by Monday 3 May 2027. Ozzie's Big Breakfast, 3 Adastral Square, Canford Heath BH17 8SA. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

May

THURS
06

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



It would be lovely to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Tuckton Social Club. We have a relaxing time, meet and chat with friends and enjoy a cake or savoury with our coffee, there is always the chance to win a prize in the raffle and if you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing. You are of course welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Monday 3 May 2027.

FRI
07

Walk - Coy Pond to Bournemouth Brownsea Branch



10am



Free



Meeting at Coy Pond at 10am we will take a walk through the gardens to Bournemouth.



There are lots of cafés available in Bournemouth to choose from. Book by Tuesday 4 May 2027. Coy Pond, Coy Pond Road, Branksome, Poole BH12 1HX. If you would like to join us for a stroll/walk, or for information, please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to let us know that you will be coming.

TUES
11

Coffee Morning with Lisa Locarno and Charity Presentation Acorn Branch



10am



£5



This is a very special coffee morning as our friends from Sturts Community Farm will be presented with our annual charity cheque from the 2026/2027 fundraising that you have all kindly contributed. We are also pleased to welcome back Lisa Locarno who will be singing classic Jazz songs. Come and join us for a coffee, cake and maybe a dance around the village hall. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity, of the year. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book please contact Nicky on 07523 758275 by Friday 7 May 2027.



May

THURS
20

Coffee at The Pilot Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We are returning to The Pilot this time for our regular coffee get together! Enjoy a relaxing time, enjoy your cake and have a natter with your friends. Book by Tuesday 18 May 2027. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Please let Edna know on 07982 461674 if you would like to join us, so that we can arrange to all sit together.



SAT
22

Bring and Share Supper with Bingo Bournemouth Branch



7pm



£5



We hope you will join us for our bingo night with bring and share supper at



Tuckton Social Club. This is always a popular fun evening, so please book early if possible. We will have our usual raffle for our Chairman's charity, so if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. Please book by Wednesday 19 May 2027. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

MON
31

Don't Panic Festival Phoenix Branch



10am



Free



This is the Don't Panic Festival at Stalbridge Park. We may have a stand there, but it depends on how many volunteers we get to set up, man the stall, then break down. It is an afternoon gig, so just a couple of hours on a shift basis, that would be fantastic.



If you are interested please contact Judy (or Bob Penfold via Facebook). If we do not get enough volunteers, we will not be able to book a stand. There will be talks, live music, food, drink and stalls. Free entry, but you pay to park your car. Stalbridge Recreation Ground, 1-99 Park Grove, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton DT10 2RA. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

June

THURS
03

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



As usual we will be at Tuckton Social Club for coffee. Join us for a chance to put the world to rights while enjoying the



cakes and snacks. We will have our Chairman's raffle, so if you could bring a prize that would be much appreciated. You are of course welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Tuesday 1 June 2027.

TUES
08

Coffee Morning and Bingo Acorn Branch



10am



£5



Roll up to our Bring and Buy Style Bazaar! Our most glamorous sale of the year comes to Acorn Branch! Donate your unwanted and pre-loved fashion and style accessories, jewellery, millinery accoutrements and finishing touches, then browse the displays and sales. Embellish yourself in style ready for the spring season! You can also try your luck on a few games of bingo - eyes down. Donations towards the raffle are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity of the year. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. Please contact Nicky on 07523 758275 by Friday 4 June 2027 to book.

THURS
10

Day Trip to Lyme Regis Phoenix Branch



9am



Free



Join us for a day trip on the X51 Jurassic Breezer bus. Meet in Poundbury (or you may catch it from the railway station and meet us on the bus) and enjoy a trip to Lyme Regis for lunch. Return via the X51. This is free if you have a bus pass, if not, a minimal charge will apply. Book by Tuesday 1 June 2027. Location to be confirmed. Contact Vellela on 07515 417076.



June

THURS
10

Lunch Club at The Bridge House Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch, we are returning to The Bridge House this time. The carvery is always good value, but other options are available and of course you can also enjoy one of their lovely puddings, some of us also go for a starter! We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity as usual - Forest Holme, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 7 June 2027. The Bridge House, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

WED
16

Walk from Argyll Café Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Meeting at Argyll Café for a walk once again. The café is part of the Argyll Bowling Club, but open to non-members. There is an easy flat route, or for the more energetic you can go down to the prom and walk towards Bournemouth or Sandbanks and back again for a coffee at the café at 11.30am. Some of us will just stay at the café, not walk anywhere at all and just have a nice natter until our friends return! Argyll Café, West Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth BH4 8AB. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to join us by Monday 14 June 2027.

SUN
13

District Annual Church Service



2.30pm



Free



Andrew Hampton, our District Chairman for 2027 has chosen to return to St Mark's Church, Talbot Village for our annual church service. The service will be followed by refreshments in the church hall, so please let Andrew or Margaret know if you would like to come as this will help us with the catering. Everyone would be very welcome. Book by Sunday 30 May 2027. St Mark's Church, Talbot Village, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth BH10 4HY. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

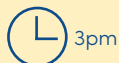


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June

THURS
17

District Charity Cream Tea



3pm



£5



We hope you will be able to join us for a charity cream tea in Edna's beautiful garden raising funds for Forest Holme. We will be offering tea, coffee, scones (including cheese), cakes and savouries. Why not enjoy a relaxing time with friends in lovely surroundings and hopefully win a prize on the raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing as all profits will go to Forest Holme. We must thank Edna for kindly hosting this event for us once again. Edna's House, 49 Warburton Road, Poole BH17. Please book your place with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Tuesday 15 June 2027.

FRI
18

Annual Boat Trip from Tuckton Tea Gardens Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



TBC



Why not join us again for our annual boat trip from Tuckton Tea Gardens? We will be hoping for fine weather, but if we are unlucky a coffee and chat at the Tuckton Tea Gardens, together with a piece of cake will still be enjoyable! Tuckton Tea Gardens, 323 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth BH6 3BA. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 for more information or to book your place by Friday 11 June 2027.

THURS
24

Afternoon Tea and Bingo Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



£5



Sandra and Nigel have invited us to their beautiful garden to enjoy afternoon tea and a few games of bingo once again. We enjoy a relaxing time in a lovely venue, enjoy each other's company and hope to win a prize on the bingo or the raffle. Our raffle will be supporting Forest Holme, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be very much appreciated. Sandra and Nigel's House, 176 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TZ. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 22 June 2027.

Business Meetings

We discuss the business of the Branch including social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know other members as well as making new friends. Most meetings are rounded off with light refreshments and a chance to socialise.

Acorn Branch

Secretary: Nicky Hankins, 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG
Telephone: 07523 758275 **Email:** nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Monday of each month, 2pm at the United Church, 505 Wimborne Road East, Ferndown BH22 9NF. Dates as follows:

21 September 2026	14 December 2026	15 March 2027
19 October 2026	18 January 2027	19 April 2027
16 November 2026	15 February 2027	21 June 2027

Bournemouth Branch

Secretary: Wendy Hopper, 6 Southlea Avenue, Bournemouth BH6 3AB
Telephone: 07921 391696 **Email:** wendy.hopper@oddfellows.co.uk

Usually meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Dates as follows:

22 September 2026	26 January 2027	27 April 2027
27 October 2026	23 February 2027	25 May 2027
8 December 2026	23 March 2027	

Browsea Branch

Secretary: Nicky Hankins, 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG
Telephone: 07523 758275 **Email:** nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Dates as follows:

15 September 2026	15 December 2026	16 March 2027
20 October 2026	19 January 2027	20 April 2027
17 November 2026	16 February 2027	15 June 2027

Business Meetings

Hand-in-Hand Branch

Secretary: Mike Clarke, 21 Great Western Road, Dorchester DT1 1UF

Telephone: 01305 260081 **Mobile:** 07397 241794

Email: mike.clarke@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at Durnovaria Band Hall, Kings Road, Dorchester DT1 1NH. Dates as follows:

8 September 2026

13 October 2026

10 November 2026

12 January 2027

9 February 2027

9 March 2027

13 April 2027

11 May 2027

8 June 2027

Phoenix Branch (Incorporating Blackmore Vale)

Secretary: Velletta Cracknell, Golden Meadow, Kings Mill Lane, Marnhull DT10 2HH

Telephone: 07515 417076 **Email:** velleta.cracknell@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, 7pm at the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Hall, Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA. Dates as follows:

16 September 2026

21 October 2026

18 November 2026

16 December 2026

20 January 2027

17 February 2027

17 March 2027

21 April 2027

19 May 2027

16 June 2027

At a glance

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Wed 2	A Guided Tour of Shepton Mallet Prison (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Thurs 3	Friendship Coffee Morning (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 4	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Tues 8	Friendship Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Wed 9	Walk with Brownsea (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 10	Friendship Cream Tea (Brownsea Branch)	3pm
Fri 11	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Mon 14	Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 15	Antiques Roadshow (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm

At a glance

September 2026 - Friendship Month

Sat 19	Friendship Fish and Chips Evening with Bingo (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
Sun 20	Celebration Harvest Lunch at Crossways Village Hall (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 22	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 23	Bacon Butties (Phoenix Branch)	10am
Tues 29	Whist Drive (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm

October

Thurs 1	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 2	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Sat 3	Prize Bingo in aid of the Chairman's Charity (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm
Sun 4	Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Tues 6	Craft Afternoon at Crossways Village Hall (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Thurs 8	Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses (Brownsea Branch)	12 noon
Fri 9	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Mon 12	Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 13	Buffet Lunch and Music by Lisa Locarno (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 15	Coffee Morning at The Spire (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Sun 18	Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Tues 20	Whist Drive (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Wed 21	District Charity Carvery at the Bridge House Hotel	12.30pm
Wed 21	Pizza and Quiz Night (Phoenix Branch)	7pm
Thurs 22	Pottery Painting Afternoon at Poppies Tearoom (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Thurs 22	Afternoon Tea (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Sun 25	Annual District Lunch and Optional Weekend	12.30pm
Fri 30	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am

At a glance

October

Fri 30	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Sat 31	Visit to the October Makers Market (Phoenix Branch)	11am

November

Thurs 5	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 5	Bonfire Party at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Mon 9	Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 10	Remembrance Coffee Morning (Acorn Branch)	10am
Thurs 12	Craft Morning with Amanda (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Fri 13	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Wed 18	Bring and Share Afternoon Tea and Table Top Games (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Thurs 19	Coffee and Cake at The Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Fri 20	We Will Rock You at Weymouth Pavilion (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Sun 22	Christmas Lunch at the Riviera Hotel (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 24	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 25	District Charity Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club	10am
Sat 28	Christmas Prize Bingo (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Sun 29	Christmas Concert (Phoenix Branch)	4pm

December

Thurs 3	Christmas Coffee Morning at Tuckton Social Club (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 4	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Sat 5	Christmas Lunch (Phoenix Branch)	12.30pm
Sun 6	Carol Service at St Nicholas Church (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	3pm
Tues 8	Christmas Buffet and Party (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Fri 11	Christmas Coffee Morning plus Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am

At a glance

December

Sat 12	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Thurs 17	Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 17	Christmas Evening Outing to The Iford Bridge (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
Wed 23	Christmas Drop In at The Lodge Room (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am

January 2027

Thurs 7	New Year Coffee Morning (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 8	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Fri 8	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Sun 10	Sunday Carvery (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 12	Coffee Morning at the Parlour (Acorn Branch)	10am
Thurs 14	Coffee and Cake at The Pilot (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 21	Lunch at The Cranleigh (Bournemouth Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 26	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 27	District Charity Lunch at the Bridge House	12.15pm

February

Mon 1	Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Wed 3	Coffee and Chat at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Thurs 4	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 5	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Tues 9	Coffee Morning at Aroma Turkish Grill & Bar (Acorn Branch)	10am
Thurs 11	Coffee, Beetle Drive plus Fish and Chips (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 12	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Sat 13	Chairman's Lunch at the Coach House, Athelhampton (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Thurs 18	Coffee at The Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Wed 24	Lunch Club at The Inn In The Park (Brownsea Branch)	11.45am

At a glance

March

Thurs 4	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 5	Coffee and Chat at The Bull Hotel (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Fri 5	District Weekend at Marsham Court Hotel	3pm
Fri 5	Rod Brewer Quiz Night (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Mon 8	Table Top Games at Pip Café, Poundbury (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 9	Afternoon Cream Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Thurs 11	Coffee at Soho (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 12	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Tues 16	District Charity Lunch at the Bridge House Hotel	12.30pm
Thurs 18	Coffee at The Pilot (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Tues 23	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Thurs 25	Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm

April

Thurs 1	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Wed 7	Coffee at Blooms Café (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Tues 13	Spring Lunch with Music by Julia (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 15	Cream Coffee (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Fri 16	Otter Nursery, near Lymington (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Thurs 22	Spring Lunch at the Bridge House Hotel (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 27	Craft with Amanda (Brownsea Branch)	10am

May

Wed 5	Coffee or Breakfast at Ozzie's Big Breakfast (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Thurs 6	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 7	Walk - Coy Pond to Bournemouth (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Tues 11	Coffee Morning with Lisa Locarno and Charity Presentation (Acorn Branch)	10am
Thurs 20	Coffee at The Pilot (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am

At a glance

May

Sat 22	Bring and Share Super with Bingo (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
Mon 31	Don't Panic Festival (Phoenix Branch)	10am

June

Thurs 3	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Tues 8	Coffee Morning and Bingo (Acorn Branch)	10am
Thurs 10	Day Trip to Lyme Regis (Phoenix Branch)	9am
Thurs 10	Lunch Club at The Bridge House (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Sun 13	District Annual Church Service	2.30pm
Wed 16	Walk from Argyll Café (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 17	District Charity Cream Tea	3pm
Fri 18	Annual Boat Trip from Tuckton Tea Gardens (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 24	Afternoon Tea and Bingo (Brownsea Branch)	2.30pm

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Secretary a call or email
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Wessex Wanderer

News and views from your local friendship group

Poole, Bridport and Yeovil District Fundraising

As we start to move away from a glorious summer (even though at times it was a little too hot!), into the cooler days of Autumn. We would like to take this opportunity to send a big heartfelt thank you to all our members and friends who have supported the Branches and District charity fundraising for 2025 - 2026 at social events and Business meetings.

In the spring we were able to make donations of over £10,500 to local charities through monies raised from raffles, Bring and Buy Stalls and donations from yourselves. We have been able to support, MacMillan Caring Locally, Julia's

House, Forest Holme Hospice, MS Centre Dorset, The Breast Units at Poole and Bournemouth Hospitals, Dorset County Hospital, New Man Prostate Cancer and the Orphan Gift Fund.

For 2026 - 2027 we are raising monies for the Ladybird Breast Unit, SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, Poole Heart Support Group, Sturts Community Farm, The Little Oaks Fund for the special Care Baby Unit at Dorset County Hospital.

We would not be able to continue to help well deserving local charities without your help providing prizes for the raffles, items for the Bring and Buy and your generous donations.



Welcome to the 42nd edition of the Wessex Wanderer

We hope you will enjoy reading the articles that have been submitted for inclusion in this issue.

How to contact your District District Secretary: Nicky Hankins

Address: 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG

Telephone: 07523 758275

Email:

nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation

f www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows
/Poole and Bournemouth
/Acorn Lodge
/Dorchester (Hand in Hand)
/Blackmore Vale (Phoenix Lodge)

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM): District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS): District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM): Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

Acorn Branch Coffee Morning and Sturts Community Farm

We were delighted to welcome Ali and Chantel from Sturts Community Farm to our coffee morning in January. They shared a wonderful insight into the amazing work they do. Sturts Farm is based in West Moors on a beautiful 90-acre site.

Sturts' vision is to promote opportunities in land-based activities across their farm, homes, and gardens. They focus on lifelong learning, sustainability, food, and the arts, while also offering accommodation opportunities. Most importantly, they provide individuals with a learning disability the personalised support they need to thrive. Acorn Branch are really looking forward to working alongside Sturts and supporting their incredible mission.



Hand in Hand Branch's day at Wincanton Races

A small group of us enjoyed a day at Wincanton races. The racing and hospitality were both good. Included in our hospitality package was an opportunity to join the

owners and trainers in the paddock before one of the races. Sadly, the group of us were not very good at choosing the winning horses, most of us came away somewhat lighter!

Bournemouth Branch enjoying their first get-together of 2026 on Thursday 8 January

It was so nice to meet again for a chat, we all had quite a bit to talk about after the Christmas and New Year holidays and although everyone claimed to have eaten too much, we all enjoyed the lovely selection of cakes and savouries.

Most of us managed to get to the Social Centre before the storm but I think we all got a bit wet and wind-blown on the way home. Our raffle raised £50 and the bring and buy table an additional £27.10, all in aid of Julia's House.



Brownsea Branch Coffee Mornings

Brownsea Branch hold a regular Coffee Morning, usually on the third Thursday of each month. We are trying new venues as it is getting to be a bit of a squash at the Tennis Club! We did still go to the Tennis Club several times, but we also had a lovely morning at the Pilot on Canford Heath in January and April, when we supported their community coffee morning – the cake there is always excellent, thanks to Lou's baking skills!

In March our Coffee Morning was held at The Grasshopper in Bournemouth Road. We were accommodated in their Library area which enabled us to hold a raffle. This was the first event for our new Chairman, Edna Daniels, who is raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group this year. Edna would like to thank everyone for supporting the raffle which raised £66.

In May we returned to the Tennis Club.



Brownsea Branch Breakfast at Bulbury Woods – January and May 2026

Brownsea members and friends really enjoy going out for breakfast, and we especially enjoy going to Bulbury Woods!! They look after us very well and the food is amazing. Many of us have a 'Full English' but they do a brilliant Bubble and Squeak breakfast which is very tasty, and of course they also cater for dietary requirements too.

The Golf Club allow us to have a raffle for our charity fundraising. In May, our new Chairman Edna Daniels ran the event as Andrew

and Margaret, together with Julie and Julian, were away on holiday so we must say a huge 'Thank You' to Edna for holding the fort for us, and also for remembering to take pictures!

Our breakfasts at Bulbury have become a regular event for us, so if you would like to join us please check out the Events Diary – it would be great to see you there!



Bournemouth Branch Cranleigh Lunch

On a miserable wet day in January 21 members of the Bournemouth Branch had a lovely lunch at the Cranleigh pub, a great variety of good food and lots of chatting. The raffle raised £51 for Julia's House.



District Charity Fundraising 2026 – Macmillan Caring Locally

In January we were due to hold a Charity Lunch at the Bridge House, raising funds for Macmillan Caring Locally, but unfortunately the weather was appalling and the hotel cancelled the event. This was such a disappointment as our Chairman Keith Quinton had been delighted to welcome so many members and friends during his year

in office to his charity fundraisers. In total Keith raised an amazing £1,402.04 for this very worthy cause. If you look at our article about the District Lunch in February you will see a picture of Keith presenting our cheque to Barry Wilson who was our guest at the lunch.

Bournemouth Branch Edna receives a bar to her Chairman's jewel

During our Annual Summoned Meeting our new Chairman, Mary Lintott, presented our outgoing Chairman, Edna Daniels, with a bar to her jewel.

We would like to thank Edna for all her hard work, and congratulate Mary on her election. We wish Mary the very best of luck for her year in office.



District Weekend at the Riviera Hotel

In February the Annual District Meeting was held at the Riviera Hotel in Alum Chine. In the last few years we have also organised a weekend stay at the hotel and have been supported by members and friends from many Districts including Reading, Coventry, Brighton, Bristol, South London, Salisbury, Heart of England and Southampton. Our visitors are able to join us for our District Meeting if they so wish, or enjoy the delights of sunny Bournemouth – which this year was far from sunny.



We were delighted that Past Grand Master Clive Tayler performed the installation ceremony when Margaret White became our Provincial Grand Master (Chairman), Andrew Hampton our Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chairman) and Keith Quinton became our Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (Immediate Past Chairman). Clive also officially installed our new Provincial Corresponding Secretary, Nicky Hankins.

On the Saturday evening, we held a Dinner and Dance, enjoyed a lovely meal and danced the night away as you can see in our pictures.



On the Sunday we held a Charity Lunch when we invited a representative from Macmillan Caring Locally to receive our cheque following Keith's efforts to raise funds in memory of his dear friend, Past Grand Master, Ron Munro. Barry Wilson gave us a very interesting talk on Macmillan Caring Locally, explaining its origins and what they are able to do for those living in our area. We were interested to learn about their links with Forest Holme and how they work together to support terminally ill patients.



Games Afternoons with Hand in Hand Branch

The regular games afternoons held by Hand in Hand Branch are proving to be very popular. Their new members Deb and Chris learnt to

play Mahjong and were so enthralled they bought a set of their own and returned as seasoned players.



Brownsea Lunch Club - Carpenter's Arms

We enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Carpenter's Arms in February – they offer a very varied and delicious menu – the Pies were amazing and the Liver and Bacon also proved to be very popular! We were able to use a separate room in the restaurant and this enabled us to have a raffle which raised £69 for Forest Holme. Thanks so much to all who came to the event and supported the raffle by bringing prizes and buying raffle tickets.

Bournemouth Branch Happy 107th Birthday Maud



Bournemouth Oddfellows were pleased to help celebrate the 107th Birthday of Maud Jones.

As you can see from the photo Maud had a lovely day, making a birthday garland and playing cards with her friends. It was decided that 107 candles would be too much of a fire risk, but she enjoyed the cake and the card signed by many of our 'slightly' younger members.

Maud has been an active member of the Oddfellows for many years attending both our social and business meetings – and she can still beat most of us at a game of cards.

Maud Jones passed away peacefully on Sunday 9 August 2026 aged 107. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Acorn Branch Coffee, Cake, Wellness and Bring and Buy Bazaar

Acorn Branch's February Social took place with a self-care theme. We were delighted to welcome 35 members and friends for an enjoyable and uplifting afternoon. A highlight of the event was our Big Bring and Buy Boutique Bazaar, which raised around £35, alongside a raffle that brought in an excellent

£73. Special thanks to Flo for her hard work in organising this. The food, as always, was excellent, and the novelty addition of fresh smoothies proved very popular and added a fun, healthy twist to the spread. Thank you to everyone who contributed, donated, organised, and attended.



Hand in Hand Branch Choir

Monday 23 February, our first choir get together which I think anyone who was there will agree that Julie was very warm, encouraging and enthusiastic.



Brownsea Branch Coffee and Chat at Sturminster Marshall Golf Club

February saw Brownsea return to the Sturminster Marshall Golf Club for a 'Coffee and Chat' morning. Nearly everyone enjoyed a cooked breakfast and a good natter with our friends. It's a bit further to go, but the food is definitely worth the extra mile or two. We didn't have a raffle, just a lovely time putting the world to rights and enjoying each other's company.

Hand in Hand Branch - talk on the conservation and wildlife benefits of a small local rough shoot

Hand in Hand Branch held a talk with a local Shoot which again was well attended, it was very informative impressing upon us that this is a shoot that focuses on the welfare of the countryside promoting good practice in the sport. As it's a small group everyone involved takes part

in all aspects of the day. Some young lads join in who are educated in the safe and appropriate use of guns. Each year more pheasant chicks are raised than shot and the game cover attracts a large selection of wild birds.



Hand in Hand Branch Willow Weaving with Windrush Willow

Willow weaving with Windrush Willow was enjoyed by members of Hand in Hand Branch. They used two different species; Blackmaul willow and Brittany

green willow and made bird feeders and dragon flies. They came away very pleased with their efforts and hope to repeat the event next year.



Browsea Branch Breakfast at the Spire

The Spire is another lovely venue for our breakfast time get togethers. We met there at the beginning of March when we enjoyed the varied choices – everything from cake, scones or sandwiches to a Full English! Having had a brilliant breakfast and a good natter we then enjoyed some retail therapy or a walk on the Quay. We like to go to the Spire as it supports adults with disabilities and it is great to see the help that they are given.

Browsea Branch Lunch Club at The Bridge House

In March we were due to have a lunch club at the Coach & Horses, but we re-located to the Bridge House as they were unable to accommodate us. However, as usual the carvery was excellent. This was the first fundraising event for our new Chairman, Edna Daniels, and her first raffle raised an excellent £101. Thanks to all who supported the raffle by buying the tickets and donating the prizes. Edna's charity this year is the Poole Heart Support Group – a charity very close to her heart as her late husband, Norman, was helped and supported by the group.

Tapas and Cocktails with Hand in Hand Branch



The tapas and cocktail evening at Crossroads was much enjoyed by all who attended.

Seaside Afternoon Tea at Acorn Branch



March's event had a theme of being by the sea. We were privileged to have David from the RNLI, who gave a comprehensive and interesting talk on the lifeboats and lifeguarding around our local coast.

The catering ladies had put on a wonderful spread in keeping with the theme, including melon boats and sponge cakes in a

cornet representing a 99 ice-cream with a flake. The seaside quiz was fun and the winning table correctly guessed 15 out of 20. Julia then gave us a selection of seaside songs on her keyboard and she soon had us having a sing along with gusto. "We do like to be beside the seaside" raised the roof. The raffle raised £100 which was donated to the RNLI for training the lifeguards. Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon a very happy event.

Hand in Hand Branch Coffee mornings at the Kings Arms

Our bi-monthly coffee morning at The Kings Arms continues to be very well attended with numbers growing at this informal drop-in coffee morning.



Hand in Hand Branch Rod Brewer Quiz Challenge

On Friday 6 March Andrew, Mary and Paul from Hand in hand Branch ran The Rod Brewer Quiz challenge, members and guests agreed that it was a challenge with lots of fun elements to the quiz and a lovely ploughman's supper.

District Charity Lunch – Carpenter's Arms

In March Margaret White, our new District Chairman, was delighted to welcome members and friends to a lunch at the Carpenter's Arms. Unfortunately, the restaurant had recently been taken over by new management, and although they had promised that the menu would remain

the same it did not. This resulted in everyone who had ordered lamb having to choose an alternative on arrival, and the general consensus was that the meals were not up to the previous excellent standard that we were used to. Needless to say, we will not be returning any time soon.

Having said all that, we still had a good time and enjoyed each other's company, and Margaret would like to thank everyone who came, donated prizes for the raffle and bought the raffle tickets. We raised £70 for the Ladybird Unit at Poole Hospital which is our charity for the year.



Bournemouth Branch March Coffee Morning

Members of the Bournemouth Branch enjoyed their 'Early Spring' coffee morning and send their thanks to Edna Daniels for the daffodils from her garden and Wendy Hopper for the Welsh cakes.



Brownsea Branch supporting Forest Holme Hospice

Brownsea's Chairman for 2025/2026, Julian White and our Branch Secretary, Nicky Hankins, visited Forest Holme Hospice in April to present them with our cheque for £1,420. We were made very welcome by the lovely staff at Forest Holme, and it was a bonus to be able to present the cheque out in the sunshine in their courtyard.

This charity was chosen as many of our Lodge members and also family members have spent their final days at Forest Holme.

We held raffles whenever possible at our social events throughout the year in support of Forest Holme, and Julian would like to thank all our members and friends for their support.

Hand in Hand Branch That'll Be the Day at Weymouth Pavilion

Members of Hand in Hand Branch went to see 'That'll be the day - 40th Anniversary Tour' at Weymouth Pavilion. They found it a very up-lifting experience, with great music and a bit of comedy in the middle. Sally was seen singing along to the numbers!



Brownsea Branch Craft with Amanda

Crafting with Amanda is always great fun and she is a very patient and knowledgeable teacher. As you can see from the pictures we made 'Iris Cards' this time which some of us found quite tricky but we were all pleased with our efforts.



Amanda also provided lovely refreshments which we enjoyed very much – the sausage rolls were amazing. We want to say a huge thank you to Amanda for hosting our Crafting sessions and we are all looking forward to the next time when we are going to try Mandala painting once again.



Brownsea Branch Spring Lunch

We were due to go to the Riviera for our Spring Lunch, but unfortunately, we could not rustle up the required numbers to make it viable for the hotel. We therefore re-located to the Bridge House once again, who were happy to accommodate us and by changing the venue a few more members were able to attend, which was brilliant. With the weather improving it was nice to enjoy a coffee on the balcony overlooking the river before lunch. The raffle raised an amazing £86 for The Poole Heart Support Group.

Brownsea Branch Coffee and Cake at Blooms Café

Well, the get-together at Blooms Café was lovely as always, but it was also very noisy!! Everyone enjoyed the lovely food on offer – everything from a breakfast to a toasted tea cake, and anything else you fancied in between. Jonathan, who runs the café always looks after us very well, and it is clearly a very popular venue for other groups as the café was extremely busy on the day that we went.

Acorn Branch Spring Lunch

Acorn Branch's social event in April was a celebration of Spring. Members and friends gathered for great food and lively afternoon at Three Cross Village Hall. The weather read the script, reverting to cooler, more seasonal temperatures after a brief preview of Summer earlier in the week!

A fine Spring Buffet Lunch was expertly prepared and served by our Kitchen Crew. It started with a tasty Chicken Salad and there were so many accompanying portions to choose from! Fortunately, everyone had left enough room to select from the equally delicious range of desserts!

A Spring-themed table quiz was held during the afternoon and produced worthy

winners. Our raffle raised £75.00 for our nominated charities, along with the monies taken on our Bring and Buy stall.



A big thank you as always to the Kitchen Crew for all their work on the day, and beforehand, to ensure that we were well-fed. Thank you, too, to those volunteers assisting behind the scenes, especially those who stepped in for others on this occasion.



Thank you to Amanda



During our Annual Summoned Meeting our new Chairman, Flo Munro, presented our outgoing Chairman, Amanda Dale, with a garden voucher in thanks for all her hard work. We would like to congratulate Flo on her election and wish her the very best of luck for her year in office.

Social Organiser Vacancy

Are you available for 10 hours per month? Acorn Branch are looking for a Social Organiser to plan, organise and host their monthly branch events.

The role includes:

- Organising and hosting monthly social events
- Taking bookings for events
- Setting up the venue
- Providing write ups on the events for our Facebook page

For further information and full job specification please contact the Branch Secretary Nicky on 07523 758275 or email: nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Bournemouth Branch Otter Nurseries

Bournemouth Oddfellows had a great time at Otter Nurseries in April, although a few members unintentionally visited Everton Nursery first! We all enjoyed the afternoon with a good choice of food plus a chance to wander around the plants and shop.



Congratulations Ruth!



We were all very proud to see Ruth Bloomfield (pictured far left) elected to the Executive Committee of the Southern Group Conference at their 2026 conference in Torquay in April.

We wish Ruth all the very best, we know that she will do a brilliant job representing our District. Well done Ruth!!



There are also a few pictures of some of our deputies enjoying the Celebration Dinner on the Saturday evening of the conference.



Antiques Roadshow with Hand in Hand Branch

Hand in Hand members enjoyed an evening looking at treasures that fellow members had bought to the Antiques Roadshow event. In true style we played Basic, Better, Best, as Fiona Bruce was

unable to be there, Rosemary Rogers, Social Organiser did the guessing and got it completely wrong! They are looking to do another one at Crossways with Dukes the auction house.

Coffee Morning at Bournemouth Branch

Members and friends of the Bournemouth Branch met for Coffee, Cakes and a chat at our May Coffee Morning at Tuckton Social Club. We would like to thank all those who provided and brought items from the Bring and Buy stall. All proceeds go towards supporting SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, our chairman's charity for 2026.



Hand in Hand Carvery Lunch

On a sunny Sunday in May an outstanding 46 members and guests enjoyed a carvery at The New Inn West Knighton. The pub offers large and small plates to cater for all appetites, and the beef was so tender!

Phoenix Branch Cream Tea at the Riverside Kitchen

Social events at the start of the year took a bit of a bashing because of venues wanting minimum numbers to cover their costs without charging

too much. However, we eventually got to May and our first event was an early Cream Tea at the Riverside Kitchen, Todber Manor. Ten members

attended, and we had a lovely time. The Staff were friendly and catered for our every need. Well worth visiting again.



Phoenix Branch at Stalbridge Festival



To help celebrate the life and work of Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and conservationist, the art community of Stalbridge held a festival on the first hottest day of the year in Stalbridge Recreation Ground.

We had a lovely time on the bank holiday Monday afternoon at the Don't Panic Festival. Our newest recruit, Laura, helped to set up the gazebo along with Phoenix

Branch's Chairman, Ruth Bloomfield. Local army cadets were helpful in bringing everything into the showground from the car (we weren't allowed to take cars onto the cricket pitch).

As you can see from the pictures, we set up the banner in between towels featuring two Young Oddfellows (mother is Laura). Towels were compulsory for the festival due to it also being International Towel Day. Dressing gowns were optional, but we didn't bother. Too hot.

The site was large, and stalls were spread far apart. We were in the middle, so we didn't get as much footfall as we would have liked. Most people came in and

headed for the big screen, music stage and beer tent – because they had ice.

We distributed plenty of goodie bags. Not everybody wanted to enter the prize draw, but we did have 48 entries. Ruth drew the winning tickets, and all prizes have been collected.

It was a pleasant day, with each visitor taking time to ask about the Oddfellows. We had one visitor who was at her wit's end trying to find respite help from her local council. She had a lengthy chat with us and took away a membership application booklet. Even if we can help one person with a bit of advice, the day is worth it.



Hand in Hand Branch visit to Sculptures By the Lake

In May members spent the most beautiful tranquil day at Sculptures by the Lake, near Dorchester. They had the pavilion to themselves which was a short walk from the café. They enjoyed half the park before lunch

and half the park after lunch with plenty of time to relax on their own floating pontoon. We are hoping to do it again in the autumn!



District Charity Lunch at the Bridge House Hotel

In May we returned to the Bridge House Hotel for a Charity Lunch for the Ladybird Unit which is part of the Dorset Breast Screening Unit.

The weather was amazing and so was the company!! We all had a lovely time catching up with our friends and most of us had a carvery - although the queueing to collect our meals was extremely hot!!! A good number also enjoyed one of the wonderful desserts – lots of Eton Mess and Ice Cream Sundaes went down well.

Edna is Margaret's 'Director of Ceremonies' for the year and she did a marvellous job selling the raffle tickets and organising the raffle. We would like to thank everyone who donated prizes,



including Bob and Helen Cross from Bristol and Christine Foyle and Clive Tayler from Reading, and of course everyone who bought the tickets on the day. An amazing £102 was raised!!



Acorn Branch May Day Afternoon Tea

Acorn Branch's May Day afternoon tea, had a full programme which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. It started with charity presentations for MS Centre Dorset and University Hospitals NHS Trust. Dianna Logan – Watts, MS Centre Dorset and Karen Smith, University Hospitals NHS Trust gave talks about the work of each of the organisations and the types of projects that our monies would be put towards.

A buffet tea was then served by our wonderful Kitchen Crew, with a tasty selection of

sandwiches and yummy cakes. Second helpings were offered and it would have been rude not to have accepted, wouldn't it?

We were then led in music and song by Julia, with a May-theme woven into a number of her tunes. These included some dances and, although the maypole existed only in our imaginations this did not stop a couple of our members from displaying some nifty footwork on the dancefloor, if only briefly. Thanks go to the Kitchen Crew, to Julia and all who helped in any



way to make this such an enjoyable event, both on the day and behind the scenes.



Brownsea Branch Walk from the Argyll Bowling Club

In June we had our first walk! We were a select few with some staying at the café whilst others walked to Bournemouth pier along the prom and back again along the road. We all had a good natter, put the world to rights and those who walked blew away a few cobwebs. As you can see from our pictures it was an overcast day, but the sun did come out during

our return to the café. We are now looking forward to our next walk and hoping a few more will want to join us.



Brownsea Branch Afternoon Tea and Bingo

Well, that was a scorcher!!! We usually have to worry about whether or not it is going to rain but this time it was the heat that was the problem. On one of the hottest days of the year our Afternoon Tea and Bingo was a very warm affair, but luckily Sandra and Nigel's lovely garden was nice and breezy and we had gazebos and

fans, and gallons of iced water to keep us all as cool as possible.

We decided to eat our tea first as it was so hot and the food was lovely as always – the strawberries were particularly popular!! Andrew was our caller once again and did an excellent job, although we did have a few strange calls – we blamed the heat!!

The raffle was well supported, raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group and Edna thanked everyone for bringing the fantastic prizes and for buying the tickets. A big thank you must also go to Sandra and Nigel for inviting us to their garden once again, and to all who helped in any way to make the afternoon such a success.



District Charity Cream Tea

On a wonderful sunny day in June we had our District Charity Cream Tea in Edna's beautiful garden. We have included some pictures of the amazing flowers and shrubs – such a lot of work for Edna, but so beautiful for us all to enjoy.

The gazebos were essential due to the very sunny day and the refreshments were really good. Edna also had a bring and buy area in her garage which added to the

funds raised for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital.

We had a fantastic raffle and Margaret, our District Chairman, would like to thank everyone who came for their support in buying the raffle tickets and donating the prizes. Over £100 was raised!

We must give a huge 'Thank You' to Edna for inviting us to her garden, for her hospitality and for all her hard work on the day. Also,

to everyone who helped set up the garden, bought and prepared the refreshments and helped us with the washing up – it was a real team effort. Well done everyone.



Brownsea Branch Lunch Club – Bridge House

Edna was delighted to welcome members and friends to our Lunch Club event in June. We returned to the Bridge House (there's a surprise!) once again and enjoyed a very tasty carvery lunch – desserts were, as usual, popular and looked amazing. The raffle was very well supported and

Edna would like to thank all those who donated prizes or bought tickets – over £70 was raised for the Poole Heart Support Group. Thanks again to all who came and helped to make this such an enjoyable event.

Acorn Branch June Shakespeare Afternoon Tea

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend Acorn Branch your ears (or eyes!) as we tell you about the fun we had at our Shakespearean themed Midsummer's Afternoon Tea. Over forty of us gathered to enjoy our June social event and to learn some interesting facts about the famous author through two short quizzes.

As a prelude, we were pleased to hear a few words from staff and companions from Sturts Community Trust, who are our current supported charity. They brought a stall of delicious produce from

their Gulliver's Farm Shop: milk, eggs, sausage rolls and chocolate brownies, which a number of us purchased to take home for later. Our Catering Crew then served us with our afternoon buffet tea of sandwiches and cakes, before we settled down to complete the quizzes together. We were 'bedazzled' to learn that Shakespeare introduced so many words that are still in common use in the English language today. We were also pleased to welcome several new people at the event and hope that the quiz helped to 'break the ice'.



The final act was to draw the raffle, which raised £79 for our friends from Sturts. Grateful thanks go to all who contributed to this and to all our volunteers who worked so hard in preparing and delivering the various parts of another successful afternoon.



Bournemouth Branch River Trip to Mudeford

In June 16 Oddfellows set off on the Bournemouth Oddfellows Annual River Adventure, but only 13 returned.

We met at Tuckton Tea Gardens and boarded the boat to Mudeford. Some found this easier than others but nobody fell in the river so that was a good start to the day.

Three abandoned ship at Christchurch Quay but the remaining hardy 13 Oddfellows enjoyed a lovely cruise down river. Once on dry land again most headed straight for the coffee shop with a few having a paddle in the sea first. (yes, the water was cold).



A windy walk along the sand, past some very expensive beach huts, then back on the boat for the return journey. We had a duck's eye view of the renovations to the Hengistbury Head Activity Centre, the recipient of our Chairman's Charity fundraising last year.

The weather was very kind to us and it felt like a relaxing mini-holiday. Hopefully we will all do it again next year.

July Coffee Morning

At our July coffee morning Bournemouth Branch were joined by Laura, a representative from Julia's House Children's Hospice. Edna Daniels presented her with a cheque for £1,852, being the amazing amount which was raised for our Chairman's charity over the past year. Laura explained some of the



support available from Julia's House and invited us to visit. Many thanks to all our members and friends who contributed by supporting our Raffles and Bring and Buy tables.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Nicky on 07523 758275 or email nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk or contact your Branch Secretary.

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

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

*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.

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.

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.

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.