

# 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 41 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 thumbnail below  
for the 5 different Branch covers



## Acorn

## Brownseq

## Hand-in-Hand



## Phoenix

## Pride of Bournemouth

Please scroll to page 41 or click  
the link below

## The Wessex Wanderer



Annual District Lunch – Sunday 5 October 2025

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

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.

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

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

**Booking and Cancellations**  
Please remember that it is essential 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

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.

Please advise of any mobility or dietary needs on booking.

**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 change or cancellations.

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



Autumn 2025



*O*<sup>the</sup>DDfeLLows 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

*Knowlton, Wimborne – image by Carl Jacolette*

Autumn 2025



*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

*RNLI, Poole – image by Julian White*

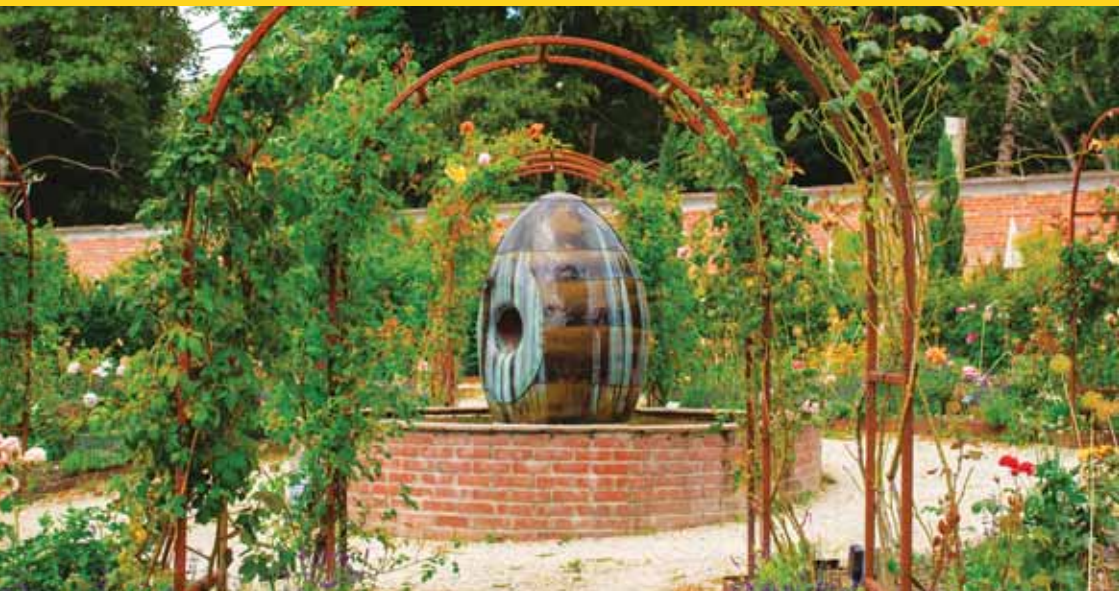
Autumn 2025



*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

*Carey's Secret Garden – image by Paul Brewer*

Autumn 2025



*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

*Sutton Bingham Reservoir – image by Judy Penfold*



Autumn 2025



*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

*The River Stour taken from Tuckton Bridge – by Julian White*



### *Annual District Lunch – Sunday 5 October 2025*

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.

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### **Booking and Cancellations**

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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**

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## Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, 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 Social Secretary**

Alice Setchfield

**Telephone:** 07712 340269

**Email:** alice.setchfield@oddfellows.co.uk

### **Brownsea Branch Social Secretary**

Margaret White

**Telephone:** 01202 775122

**Email:**

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Andrew Hampton

**Telephone:** 07806 378989

**Email:**

andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

### **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

#### **Social Secretary**

Rosemary Rogers

**Telephone:** 07788 436797

**Email:** rosemmarywdt2@gmail.com

### **Social Secretary**

Mary Brewer

**Telephone:** 01305 853125

**Email:** andrew.brewer@oddfellows.co.uk

### **Phoenix and Blackmore Vale Branches Social Secretary**

Judy Penfold

**Telephone:** 01963 363119

**Email:**

judy.penfold@oddfellows.co.uk

### **Pride of Bournemouth Branch Social Secretary**

Wendy Hopper

**Telephone:** 01202 428975

**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 35 and 36. 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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk) or call our District Secretary.



# September 2025

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER  


**MON 01** **Afternoon of Tabletop Games**  
Hand-in-Hand Branch



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Scrabble, Rummikub, Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



**FRI 05** **An Evening of Jazz**  
Hand-in-Hand Branch



An evening of Jazz music with Roger Beaujolis on vibraphone and Rob Palmer on guitar. Drinks and nibbles will be served. Tincleton Gallery, The Old School House, Tincleton, Dorchester DT2 8QR. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 to book.



**THURS 04** **Friendship Month Coffee Morning**  
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



September is Oddfellows Friendship Month! This is a free event for members and friends to come and join in the fun and find out a bit more about the Oddfellows. We hope you will

being along a friend for a chat and cuppa with a cake or two. We will have a raffle and bring and buy stall for our Chairman's charity, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 1 September 2025. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy to book on 01202 428975.



# September 2025

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER  


TUES  
09

## Friendship Month Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch



2pm



Free



Friendship isn't a big thing; it's a million little things - Paulo Coelho September is Oddfellows Friendship Month and to celebrate, we invite you to join us at our free Friendship Afternoon Tea! Bring along a friend, a neighbour, perhaps an old colleague as we share the true meaning of friendship; to support, listen and understand each other. There will be a special raffle, membership introductions and party games, as we also share and learn about the amazing advantages and benefits of becoming friends with us as an Oddfellows member! Please support this event with any donations for our raffle and bring and buy stall, so we can support our local community in true Oddfellow's style! Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. For more details and to book, please call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 2 September 2025.

FRI  
12

## Coffee, Get Together, Bring and Buy Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Donations



Another opportunity for you to meet up for our coffee morning at Crossways. A free event with our usual bring and buy stall. As this is Friendship Month for our

Society, why not bring a friend along so that they can find out what we are all about? Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



WED  
17

## Visit to The Blue Pool Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



Members £10  
Guests £16



The Blue Pool is a flooded, disused clay pit where Purbeck ball clay was once extracted. It is now a lake within the Furzebrook Estate. The ticket price includes cream tea, both cheese scones and sweet scones available. The Blue Pool Nature Reserve and Tearooms, Furzebrook Road, Wareham BH20 5AR. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 to book by Monday 1 September 2025.



# September 2025

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER  


WED  
17

## Friendship Cream Tea Brownsea Branch



3pm



Free



It's Friendship Month and we hope you will invite family and friends who are not members to come and enjoy a lovely cream tea with us, so that we can tell them all about the benefits of being an Oddfellow. The refreshments will be provided by Sam and her team - please come and have a chat in good company in a wonderful venue. We'll have a raffle for Forest Holme, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. Please book early with Nicky - this is a popular event. Book by Monday 15 September 2025. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Contact Nicky on 07523 758275.

SAT  
20

## Fish and Chips Supper with Bingo Pride of 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 Chairman's charity, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. As we have to order in advance please pay Wendy when you book for this event. Book by Tuesday 16 September 2025. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 01202 428975.

SUN  
21

## Celebration Harvest Lunch Hand-in-Hand Branch



12.30pm



£10



Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm lunch, please join us for our Celebration Harvest Lunch. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. This is always a very popular event and prior booking is requested by Monday 1 September 2025 please, with Mary on 01305853125.

# September 2025

ODDFELLOWS  
FRIENDSHIP MONTH  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER  


THURS  
25

## Lunch at Southbourne Bowling Club Pride of Bournemouth Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



We had such a brilliant time in July that we decided to go to the bowling club again and we hope you would like to join us! As it is Friendship Month it would be great if you could invite a friend who isn't already a member to join in the fun. Edna, our Chairman would be delighted to welcome you for lunch, or just a coffee and cake - whichever you prefer. We will have a raffle for our charity - Julia's House, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be very much appreciated. Southbourne Bowling Club, Guildhill Road, Southbourne BH6 3EX. Please contact Wendy on 01202 428975 to book your place by Monday 22 September 2025.



FRI  
26

## Friendship Meal - Chinese Buffet Phoenix Branch



6pm



As per menu



An all-you-can-eat-buffet at Mei's in Taunton. Meet there at 6pm - the car park opposite is free after 6pm. Cost is as advertised at the time. Book by Friday 19 September 2025. Mei's, 43-45 East Street, Taunton TA1 3NA. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



TUES  
30

## Coffee and Chat Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



Free



Our usual coffee and chat at the Kings Arms today - why not bring a friend as this is Friendship Month? Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081.



# October

THURS  
02

## Coffee at Tuckton - Hengistbury Outdoors: Get the latest news and progress Pride of 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. Last year, we raised £1,039.61 for Hengistbury Outdoors and we will be presenting our charity cheque to their treasurer at this meeting. They have started the re-build, so this will be a great opportunity to learn about their progress and what we can expect for the future. There will also be our usual raffle for our Chairman's charity - which this year is Julia's House, so if you could donate a prize that would be wonderful and the bring and buy stall is always popular. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy to book on 01202 428975 by Tuesday 30 September 2025.

SAT  
04

## Skittles Fun Phoenix Branch



7pm



TBC



Our regular place for a skittles fun night with excellent food and amazing prizes. Donations for a raffle welcome. Venue may not be available. More details will be issued nearer the time. Book by Saturday 27 September 2025. The Swan, High Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton DT10 2LL. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



SAT  
04

## Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



Free



If it is raining this will be postponed to Sunday 5 October. Come to our orchard and enjoy a rural activity. We have 120 trees, nine different old English varieties. Coffee or tea and biscuits will be served midmorning and a ploughman's lunch. Following the picking, there is a visit to Bridge Farm, Middle Chinnock to watch some of the process of producing juice and cider. Also a free event followed by a pub visit. Date and time to be confirmed. Book by Monday 29 September 2025. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for catering purposes.





# October

SUN  
05

## Annual District Lunch Poole Bridport and Yeovil District



12.30pm



Two courses £26.95, Three courses £29.95



This year we are returning to the Riviera Hotel for our Annual District Lunch. We will be offering a two or three course meal and menu choices will be available from Andrew or Margaret. Please come and support our Chairman, Keith Quinton, who looks forward to welcoming you to this excellent venue. We will be raising money for Macmillan Nurses with the raffle, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Friday 26 September 2025.



THURS  
09

## Lunch Club Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Our lunch time get togethers are always a nice way to meet up with our friends over a lovely meal and have a chat. This time we are trying a new venue The Coach & Horses in Wimborne, which comes highly recommended, so we hope you will want to join us. We will have a raffle for our charity – Forest Holme, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. The Coach & Horses, Wimborne Road, Poole BH21 1QB. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 for the menu choices and to book your place by Monday 6 October 2025.



FRI  
10

## Coffee/Get Together/ Bring and Buy Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Free



Come along to Crossways Village Hall for our free monthly coffee morning, browse the bring and buy stall, have a chat and maybe win a prize on the raffle. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



# October

## MON 13 Afternoon of Tabletop Games Hand-in-Hand Branch



2pm



Members £5  
Guests £7



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Scrabble, Rummikub, Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



## WED 15 Bournemouth Pavilion - Fawlty Towers The Play Hand-in-Hand Branch



7.30pm



£45, Members  
£10 discount



The 'Greatest British Sitcom of All Time' (Radio Times) is back - this time on stage! 50 years since it first graced our TV screens, Fawlty Towers is now a brand-new stage play adapted by comedy legend John Cleese and directed by Caroline Jay Ranger. Tickets are approximately £45 each, but for members there will be a discount of £10. Book by Friday 5 September 2025. Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre, Westover Road, Bournemouth BH1 2BU. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 to book a ticket.

## TUES 14 Harvest Festival Tea and Talk Acorn Branch



2pm



£5



Join us for a bountiful harvest festival afternoon tea as we celebrate everything we have grown and achieved! Celebrate the season with delicious savoury and sweet treats as you are invited to share stories, anecdotes and personal achievements from the year so far! You can test your knowledge on all things autumnal and harvest related in our themed quizzes. We will also welcome South West Ambulance Service for a short talk during the afternoon on their services and local projects across the region. Being harvest season, you are invited to bring along a donation for the local food bank and as always, any support you can offer our raffle or bring and buy stall will continue to grow our charity pot for the MS Centre Dorset and the local NHS Breast Units. Christmas Market notice: Our annual Christmas Market will run alongside the November and December events. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 7 October 2025.

# October

## THURS 16 Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch

🕒 10.30am    💷 As per menu    ☕

This month we are returning to the Tennis Club for a relaxing hour or so - please join us for a chat, coffee, maybe a piece of cake, or even a breakfast bap? Everyone is welcome - why not bring a friend? Book by Monday 13 October 2025. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book.



## THURS 23 Afternoon Tea with the Dorset Air Ambulance Pride of Bournemouth Branch

🕒 2pm    💷 £5    ☕

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



A representative from Dorset Air Ambulance will be with us to explain their work and receive our charity donation. Sorry, the car park is not big enough for them to bring a helicopter! We will have a raffle for Julia's House, so if you could donate a prize that would be great. Book by Monday 20 October 2025. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 01202 428975 to book.

## WED 22 Charity Carvery at The Bridge House Poole Bridport and Yeovil District

🕒 12.30pm    💷 As per menu    🍴

Another fundraising lunch for our Chairman's charity - Macmillan Nurses. Everyone is welcome and we will hold a raffle, so if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Saturday 18 October 2025.



# October

SAT  
25

## Dorchester Literary Festival Hand-in-Hand Branch



4.30pm



Members £13  
Guests £14



Martin Clunes presents his book 'Meetings with Remarkable Animals', which celebrates the fascinating, moving and sometimes astonishing ways animals have enriched our lives. From search and rescue dogs to mine-sniffing rats and life-saving dolphins, to therapy horses and medal-winning cats and pigeons, the stories brought to life will charm, surprise and astonish in equal measure. If anyone would like to extend the evening to enjoy a drink together afterwards, please let us know when booking your ticket! Dorford Centre, 2 Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1RR. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 to book your ticket by Friday 5 September 2025.

WED  
29

## Carvery Lunch Hand-in-Hand Branch



12.30pm



Member  
subsidy of £5



Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm, come and enjoy a carvery lunch with us at The Countryman in East Knighton. The Countryman Inn, Blacknoll Lane, East Knighton, Dorchester DT2 8LL. Prior booking is required by Wednesday 22 October 2025 please with Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081.

FRI  
31

## Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Brownsea Branch



9.30am



As per  
menu



We are returning to Bulbury for our breakfast this time – please let Margaret or Andrew know if you would like to join us, so that we can arrange to all sit together. The food is amazing at Bulbury, so we hope you will want to get up early and have your breakfast with us! Book by Tuesday 28 October 2025. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

# November

WED  
05

## Bonfire Party Hand-in-Hand Branch



5pm



£10, Children  
free



Please come and enjoy an old-fashioned bonfire party! Fireworks and refreshments to include a filled roll and

something to drink will be included! Tickets are £10, but children are free. Book by Thursday 30 October 2025. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for catering purposes.



# November

THURS  
06

## Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



Tea, cake, coffee, savouries, 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 and bring and buy stall for our Chairman's charity - Julia's House. 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, please remember to take things home if they don't sell. Book by Tuesday 4 November 2025. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 01202 428975 to book.

MON  
10

## Afternoon of Tabletop Games Hand-in-Hand Branch



2pm



£5



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Scrabble, Rummikub,



Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES  
11

## Remembrance Day Coffee Morning with Entertainment from the Land Girls Acorn Branch



10am



£6 ticketed  
event



For your tomorrow, we gave our today - John Maxwell Edmonds, from 10.30am. Acorn Branch remembers them this Remembrance Day and we invite you to join us as we honour and pay respect to our fallen servicemen and women and give thanks to those who continue to protect us across the world. Come dressed in your best vintage clothing attire, your current or old service uniform and wear your poppies proudly at our Remembrance Day coffee morning. We will observe a two-minute silence at 11am as we remember when the guns fell quiet in 1918 and follow this with a true celebration of life at our very own Oddfellows version of a street party. Bring along your memories and photographs of yourselves, family or loved ones who served in the Armed Forces to display on our 'Services Memory Board' for the morning, as we are whisked back in time by the incredible Land Girls. Christmas Market notice: Our annual Christmas Market sale will run alongside this event and will be open for browsing from 10am. Please support this event with any donations for our raffle and bring and buy stall, so we can support our local community in true Oddfellow's style! Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 4 November 2025.



# November

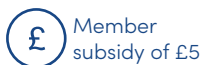
## **THURS** **13** **Bring and Share** **Afternoon Tea and Quiz** **Pride of Bournemouth Branch**



Join us at Tuckton Social Club for a lovely afternoon tea with sandwiches, cakes and savouries, maybe some shortbread as its getting close to St Andrew's Day. Last year, we had a 'Memories of Childhood' theme, this year why not bring a photo of you as a child. We hope you will want to join us again, enjoy the tea, maybe win a prize in the raffle and have a relaxing afternoon with us in a lovely venue. There will be our usual raffle for Julia's House, so if you could donate a prize that would be great. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy to book on 01202 428975 by Sunday 9 November 2025.



## **WED** **19** **Lunch at 'The Poet Laureate'** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



This time we are going to the 'Poet Laureate' in Poundbury for lunch and hope you will want to join us. The Poet Laureate, 5 Pummery Square, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 3GW. Prior booking is required by Saturday 1 November 2025 please with Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081.



## **THURS** **20** **Coffee at the Grasshopper** **Brownsea Branch**



Time for another coffee get together at The Grasshopper! Another opportunity to meet up, catch up with our friends and enjoy a lovely coffee and maybe a piece of cake. We hope to be in the library again, so we will have a raffle for Forest Holme - if you are able to donate a prize that would be amazing. There is a large car park 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 by Monday 17 November 2025.

## **FRI** **14** **Coffee/Get Together/** **Bring and Buy** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Join us at Crossways for our regular monthly coffee morning and bring and buy. The event is free, but donations towards the lovely cakes are always welcome. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

# November

SAT  
22

## Christmas Lunch Phoenix Branch

12.30pm

£ As per menu



Join the Blackmore Vale and Phoenix Branches for their Christmas lunch at the Pen Mill Hotel. A raffle will be held for the Chairman's charity, so donations of prizes welcome. Numbers are limited, so book early with Judy. Book by Saturday 8 November 2025. Pen Mill Hotel, Sherborne Road, Yeovil BA21 5DB. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



TUES  
25

## Coffee and Chat Hand-in-Hand Branch

10am

£ Free



Back again to the Kings Arms for our coffee and chat event. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Contact Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081.



SUN  
23

## Christmas Lunch at the Riviera Hotel Brownsea Branch

12 noon

£ £22



Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm, Pride of Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches will be joining forces for their Christmas lunch again this year. Everyone is very welcome to join us at the Riviera Hotel and enjoy an

excellent meal in beautiful surroundings. Our Christmas lunch is a lovely 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 Julia's House and Forest Holme. Early booking would be appreciated as we have to pre-order our menu choices. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Sunday 16 November 2025.



# November

**WED**  
**26** **District Breakfast at**  
**Bulbury Woods**  
Poole Bridport and Yeovil District



Bulbury Woods is an excellent venue for our charity breakfast, raising funds for Macmillan Nurses - our



Chairman'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 by Saturday 22 November 2025.

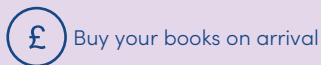
# December

**THURS**  
**04** **Christmas Coffee**  
**Morning**  
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



It's Christmas jumper time again - dig out your seasonal jumper, earrings, hat or socks! Join us for mince pies, cakes, savouries, coffee or tea and maybe 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. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy to book on 01202 428975 by Monday 1 December 2025.

**SAT**  
**29** **Christmas Prize Bingo**  
**Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Eyes down and look in for our Christmas prize bingo evening. No need to book, buy your bingo books on the door - there will be refreshments during the evening and a raffle, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081.



# December

SAT  
06

## Christmas Buffet and Party Acorn Branch



12 noon



£6



Get into the festive spirit at Acorn Branch's annual Christmas party! Kick off the holiday season with a delicious, seasonal buffet lunch with free raffle to thank you for everything you have contributed to our lodge throughout 2025! This year, we are bringing the fun with traditional party games, trivia quizzes and a festive outfit competition! With prizes and surprises all afternoon, this party will be the one to beat! Christmas Market: Our annual Christmas Market will run alongside this event and is your last chance to pick up stocking fillers and handcrafted festive gifts. All proceeds from our party will be split across our two chosen community causes: MS Centre Dorset and the local NHS Breast Units. This is the last opportunity to raise money for these important charities, so any donations are hugely welcomed. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Saturday 29 November 2025.



MON  
08

## Afternoon of Tabletop Games Hand-in-Hand Branch



2pm



£5



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Scrabble, Rummikub, Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

WED  
10

## Christmas Meal Hand-in-Hand Branch



6.30pm



Member  
subsidy  
of £10



We are returning to the Walnut Grove for our Christmas meal - meet at 6.30pm for 7pm. We had an excellent time last Christmas, so we hope you will want to join us again. The Walnut Grove, Durngate Street, Dorchester DT1 1JP. Prior booking is essential by Monday 1 December with Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081 please.

FRI  
12

## Christmas Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Free



This will be our last coffee morning in 2025, so there will be a prize for the best Christmas jumper or hat! Why not come and join in the Christmas fun? Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

# December

## SAT 13 Christmas Wreath Workshop Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come to learn how to make your own luxury Christmas wreath with Denise Jones, Gold medallist at Chelsea 2025! All materials to include structure, greenery and as much very varied decoration as you like are all included and refreshments will be served. Book by Saturday 15 November 2025. Frampton Village Hall, Dorchester Road, Frampton, Dorchester DT2 9NF. For more information please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for catering purposes.



## SUN 14 Carol Service Hand-in-Hand Branch



Our carol service this year is at St John the Baptist Church in Woodsford, followed by refreshments at Crossways Village Hall. We hope you can join us for this lovely event. Please contact Mary if you are able to come as this will help us with the catering. Book by Monday 8 December 2025. St John the Baptist Church, School Lane, Woodsford, Dorchester DT2 8AU. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



## SAT 13 Christmas Party Pride of Bournemouth Branch



The Pride of Bournemouth Christmas party is always a wonderful excuse to have a good time and hunt out your Christmas finery. This year, we are going to have a bring and share supper, a festive game or two and some Christmas music. As usual we will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - Julia's House, so all prizes will be gratefully received. This is always a very popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy to book on 01202 428975 by Monday 8 December 2025.





# December

THURS  
18

## Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies Brownsea Branch



10.30am



Free



Please join us for our last coffee morning of 2025! We hope there will be plenty of mince pies on offer and it would be lovely to welcome you if you can make it. Come and enjoy a chat over your coffee or tea, spend a relaxing morning with us and forget the Christmas madness for a little while! Please book with Andrew as early as possible as places will be limited by Monday 15 December 2025. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989.

# January 2026

THURS  
08

## New Year Coffee at Tuckton Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



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 we hope you're not on a post-festive diet. We will, of course, have a raffle for our Chairman's charity, 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 01202 428975 to let us know you will be coming by Sunday 4 January 2026 if possible - we hope you can come.

FRI  
09

## Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club Brownsea Branch



10am



As per  
menu



It must be time for a delicious New Year breakfast! Forget about the diet and come and join us for a relaxing morning, enjoy a lovely breakfast, or just a piece of cake if you prefer and have a catch up with your friends. If you've never been before, we can highly recommend Bulbury Woods. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place and so that we can arrange to all sit together by Wednesday 7 January 2026.

# January 2026

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



10.30am



Donations



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



## **MON** **12** **Afternoon of Tabletop Games** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**



2pm



£5



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Scrabble, Rummikub, Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

## **TUES** **13** **Coffee Morning** **Acorn Branch**



10.30am



£5



Join us for a coffee morning in the New Year to celebrate our contributions to the local community. Forget the post-festive diet and enjoy the coffee, tea, cake and savouries, whilst we reflect on the past year and set our goals for 2026. To beat the January blues, we will be making our annual charity cheque presentation to the MS Centre Dorset and University Hospitals Dorset Charity in aid of The Breast Units. We will also hear from our Chairman about the history of Oddfellows charity and community support projects with an announcement of our 2026 dedicated cause. Please bring along those unwanted Christmas gifts and donations for our raffle and bring and buy stall, so we can kick off 2026 in our usual community spirit! Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 6 January 2026.



# January 2026

THURS  
15

## Coffee and Cake at The Pilot Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We will be supporting the Pilot on Canford Heath again this month when we gather for our regular coffee morning.

The cake is always delicious, so is the coffee – so we hope you will come and join us for a chat with friends. Book by Tuesday 13 January 2026. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, to let us know you will be coming so that we can try to all sit together.



THURS  
22

## Lunch at The Cranleigh Pride of Bournemouth Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



We've had good reports of the lunch menu here so decided to try somewhere new, a nice location, easy parking and on a bus route. The Cranleigh, 1 Clingan Road, Bournemouth BH6 5PY. Please book with Wendy by Monday 19 January 2026 on 01202 428975.



WED  
28

## District Charity Lunch Poole Bridport and Yeovil District



12.30pm



As per menu



We are returning to The Bridge House once again for our charity lunch, raising funds for Macmillan Nurses. The carvery at The Bridge House is always excellent, but other options are available. Our Chairman, Keith Quinton, would be delighted to welcome you to this lovely venue and

if you are able to donate a prize for the raffle that would be wonderful.

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 Monday 26 January 2026.



# February

WED  
04

## Coffee and Chat Brownsea Branch

L 10am

£ As per menu



We had a lovely time at the Sturminster Marshall Golf Club when we went last year, so we are going back again for more of the same! Although we went for a coffee and a chat, a lot of us actually decided to have an English breakfast, which was delicious. We can't promise bubble and squeak this time, but we will be hoping for the best! Sturminster Marshall Golf Club, Moor Lane, Sturminster Marshall, Dorset BH21 4BD. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 2 February 2026.

THURS  
05

## Coffee at Tuckton Pride of Bournemouth Branch

L 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 and bring and buy stall for our Chairman's charity - Julia's House, 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. Book with Wendy 01202 428975 by Monday 2 February 2026.

THURS  
05

## A local shoot, life and wildlife Talk by Mark Phillips Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 7pm

£ £5 plus voluntary donation



Mark Phillips runs a friendly rough shoot at Higher Skippett Farm. He will talk about the shoot and its social and wildlife benefits. Tickets £5 for room hire, plus a voluntary donation to RNLi or GWCT. Book by Wednesday 14 January 2026. The Sleeping Bear Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UP. For further information please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



# February

**MON**  
**09** **Afternoon of  
Tabletop Games**  
Hand-in-Hand Branch



Join us for our regular afternoon of tabletop games, Crabble, Rummikub, Bananagram, Chess, Backgammon, Mahjong, Canasta. Tea, coffee and cakes served at half time. Payment on the afternoon. Pavilion in the Park Café, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

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



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

**TUES**  
**10** **Coffee and Cake Wellness Event and Bring and Buy  
Bazaar**  
Acorn Branch



February is a time for showing others we care, but do we ever really take time for ourselves? Join us for an afternoon of self-care and self-love! 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!

Alongside a selection of delicious cakes and pastries, we will have nutritious smoothies and fruit juices on offer. Raffle donations are always gratefully received. All proceeds from this event will go to our nominated 2026 charity. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 3 February 2026.





# February

THURS  
12

## Coffee, Beetle Drive plus Fish and Chips Lunch Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£8



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. As we have to pay for the food when we order please can you pay Wendy when you order. Hope you can join us, bring a friend, it would be great to meet them. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy 01202 428975 to book by Monday 9 February 2026.



THURS  
19

## Coffee at the Tennis Club Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



The tennis club is the venue once again for our regular coffee morning and chat. You can enjoy a coffee, a piece

of cake, or a breakfast bap, or even a 'Full English' the choice is yours. Book by Tuesday 17 February 2026. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



WED  
25

## Lunch Club at the Carpenter's Arms Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per menu

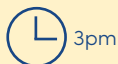


The food is always amazing at the Carpenter's Arms, so we hope you will want to join us. Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm, we will have our usual raffle for Forest Holme, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. The Carpenter's Arms, 103 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch BH23 8BA. We will need to pre-order our menu choices, so please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 in plenty of time to book your place by Wednesday 11 February 2026.

# February

FRI  
27

## District Weekend at the Riviera Hotel Poole Bridport and Yeovil District



3pm



TBC



We will be returning to the Riviera Hotel, Alum Chine for the weekend incorporating our Annual District Meeting on the Saturday. The price is yet to be confirmed for dinner, bed and breakfast, on both Friday and Saturday night, with a more formal dinner on the Saturday. There will be entertainment on the Saturday evening after dinner – all included in the price. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. If you would be interested in booking a room please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to register your interest as availability will be limited – first come first served. Book by Saturday 31 January 2026.

# March

WED  
04

## Breakfast at the Spire Brownsa Branch



10.30am



As per  
menu



Please join us for breakfast, or coffee and cake at The Spire in Poole High Street. They do lovely bacon sandwiches, cake, etc to go with your tea or coffee. We don't have a raffle, just a natter with our friends. Either before or after your breakfast you could have some retail therapy in Poole, or a walk along the Quay. Please let us know if you are coming so that we can arrange to all sit together. Book by Friday 27 February 2026. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

THURS  
05

## Coffee at Tuckton Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



Only a week after St David's Day, so maybe Welsh cakes and daffodils at our early spring coffee morning? Definitely tea, coffee, cakes and savouries. We will, of course, have a raffle and bring and buy stall for our Chairman's charity, so a raffle prize would be very much appreciated. You are 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 by Tuesday 3 March 2026 to book on 01202 428975.

# March

## **FRI** **06** **Rod Brewer Quiz** **Challenge** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 7pm

 £20 per team  
of four



Meet at 7pm  
for 7.30pm  
start, teams of  
four at £20 per  
team to include  
a ploughmans  
type supper.



Why not come and test your grey  
cells and join in the fun? Crossways  
Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road,  
Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA.  
Contact Andrew or Mike on 01305  
260081 to book by Monday 2  
March 2026.

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



10.30am

 Donations



We would love  
to welcome  
you to our  
regular coffee  
morning at  
Crossways,  
with our



usual bring and buy stalls. The  
coffee mornings are free, but  
we welcome donations towards  
the costs. Crossways Village Hall,  
Moigne Combe Road, Crossways,  
Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on  
01305 853125.

## **TUES** **10** **Seaside Afternoon Tea** **Acorn Branch**

 2pm

 £5



We do like to be beside the seaside!  
Do you remember having sand in your  
sandwiches as you sat with a soggy  
bottom on the beach? Or trying to dig  
to Australia with your siblings? Join  
us for our seaside themed afternoon  
tea where we invite you to share your  
childhood memories of being at the  
seaside. We will be joined by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for  
a talk on the history of local lifeboats, whilst enjoying a selection of traditional  
seaside picnic treats. Of course, we will have the usual table quiz and raffle  
and come prepared for a good sing song! Three Cross Village Hall, Village  
Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on  
07712 340269 by Tuesday 3 March 2026.



# March

MON  
16

## District Charity Lunch - Carpenter's Arms Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District.



12.30pm



As per  
menu



This will be our first charity event in support of our new Chairman, Margaret White, and we hope you will want to join us to help raise funds for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital. Meet at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm, the menu choices at the Carpenter's Arms are always very good – everything from a jacket potato to their famous pies – something for everyone. We will have a raffle, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be brilliant. Everyone is welcome. Please let Andrew know if you would like to come, so that he can send you a menu as we have to pre-order our choices. Book by Friday 13 March 2026. The Carpenter's Arms, 103 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch BH23 8BA. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989.

THURS  
19

## Coffee Morning Brownsa Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Our regular coffee mornings are a nice way of keeping in touch with our friends and enjoying a relaxing time together. This time we are back at the Grasshopper, in the library, so we will be able to have a raffle for Forest Holme and we hope you will come and join us. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 17 March 2026.

SAT  
21

## Afternoon Tea, Crafts and Quiz Pride of Bournemouth Branch



2pm



£5



We hope to have an Easter craft session this afternoon, fuelled by our usual afternoon tea selection of savouries, nibbles and cakes. There will be a table quiz for those who do not feel crafty. We will have our charity raffle and bring and buy stall, so all contributions would be very much appreciated please. You are 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 contact Wendy on 01202 428975 by Tuesday 17 March 2026 as we need to organise the craft supplies.

# March

THURS  
26

**Lunch Club**  
**Brownsea Branch**

🕒 12.30pm

£ As per menu



We always enjoy meeting up with our friends and having a chat! We are returning to the Coach & Horses in Wimborne this time and hope you will want to join us. Our new Chairman, Edna Daniels will be raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group, so we hope you will support the raffle by donating a prize. The Coach & Horses, Wimborne Road, Poole BH21 1QB. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 23 March 2026.

# April

THURS  
02

**Coffee at Tuckton**  
**Pride of Bournemouth Branch**

🕒 10.30am

£ £3



Maundy Thursday: 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 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 by Monday 30 March 2026 on 01202 428975.

WED  
08

**Coffee and Cake**  
**Brownsea Branch**

🕒 10.30am

£ As per menu



We always enjoy visiting Blooms Café - they have an amazing choice of cakes and savories, and of course you could indulge in one of their lovely breakfasts. Hopefully, we will be able to have a raffle, so if you could bring a prize that would be great. Blooms Café, Basket & Blooms Garden Centre, 392 Christchurch Road, West Parley BH22 8SW. Please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, so we can arrange to all sit together. Book by Monday 6 April 2026.





# April

## **SAT 11** Spring Buffet Lunch Acorn Branch



12 noon



£6



Spring has sprung and to celebrate we invite you to join with us at our annual spring buffet lunch. Come along in your most colourful attire and try your hand at a spring themed crafting with Amanda. Whether the sun is shining down on us or not, the hall will be bursting with colour as we welcome the change in seasons with themed music, table quizzes and our spring raffle. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Saturday 4 April 2026.

## **THURS 16** Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



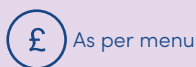
We are back at The Pilot this month for our regular coffee get-together. If you would like to join us, we can guarantee a brilliant choice of cake and a good natter with your friends. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 14 April 2026.



## **FRI 17** Otter Nurseries of Lymington Pride of Bournemouth Branch



2pm



As per menu



The Otter Nursery is near Lymington and is on a bus route. Recommended by some of our members for a nice afternoon out, a chance to wander around the plants and enjoy the food in the café. We hope you can join us. Please let Wendy know if you would like to come, as we might be able to organise a car-share again this year. Book by Tuesday 14 April 2026. Otter Nurseries of Lymington, Milford Road, Everton, Lymington SO41 0JD. Contact Wendy on 01202 428975.



# April

**SUN**  
**19** **Spring Lunch**  
**Brownsea Branch**



12.30pm



TBC



Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch, we are returning to the Riviera once again for our spring lunch. As the lunches have to be pre-ordered, please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come and we will send you the menu choices. As usual we will negotiate a two or three course menu. A raffle in support of our Chairman's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group will be held and it would be much appreciated if you are able to donate a prize. Book by Saturday 11 April 2026. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

# May

# May

**THURS**  
**07** **Breakfast at Bulbury Woods**  
**Brownsea Branch**



10am



As per menu



We always enjoy meeting up for breakfast and Bulbury Woods Golf Club is a lovely venue. You can go for a full English, but vegetarian options or just a piece of cake are also available. Why not join us for great food and a chat with friends? 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 May 2026.



**TUES**  
**05** **Craft with Amanda**  
**Brownsea Branch**



10am



£2



Amanda has invited us to join her for another crafty morning. This time we will be attempting 'Iris Folding Cards'. We always have a laughter filled morning with Amanda, as we do our best to learn a new skill. Light refreshments will be included. Please be aware that the date of this event might change. 30 Corbiere Avenue, Alderney, Poole BH12 4JN. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to join us - numbers are very limited, so early booking is advised. Book by Friday 1 May 2026.



# May

## THURS 07 Coffee at Tuckton Pride of 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. 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 by Monday 4 May on 01202 428975.

## THURS 14 Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch

🕒 10.30am 💷 Free



Join us for our regular coffee morning at the Tennis Club for a relaxing morning and maybe enjoy a cake, savoury, or a breakfast. Your first coffee will be free this time, so do come along and meet us all. Book by Tuesday 12 May 2026. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



## TUES 12 May Day Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch

🕒 2pm 💷 £5



As the evenings start to lengthen, we invite you to join us for our May Day themed afternoon tea. We will take the opportunity to reflect on our chosen charity for 2026, as we hear about their history and how your generous monthly donations are directly helping the local community. For those of you brave enough, there will be a May Pole dance and musical entertainment to enjoy. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 5 May 2026.



# May

**SAT  
23** **Bring and Share  
Supper with Bingo**  
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



We hope you will join us for our bingo night and bring and share supper at Tuckton Social Club. This is always a popular fun evening, so please book early. 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. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy by Wednesday 13 May 2026 to book on 01202 428975.

# June

**THURS  
04** **Coffee at Tuckton**  
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



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 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 by Tuesday 2 June 2026 on 01202 428975.

# June

**TUES  
09** **Midsummer's  
Afternoon Tea**  
Acorn Branch



If music be the food of love, play on 'Twelfth Night'. To celebrate the coming of midsummer, join us for a Shakespearean themed 'Midsummer's Afternoon Tea'. With a selection of the finest sweet and savoury delights. Enjoy a renaissance of famous Shakespeare sonnets and quotes from his plays, brought to life by yourselves. Donations towards the raffle and bring and buy stall 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 call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 2 June 2026.

# June

THURS  
11

## Lunch Club Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



As per  
menu



Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch, we are returning to the The Bridge House for our lunch this time.



The carvery is always good value, but other options are available. We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 8 June 2026. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

FRI  
19

## Boat Trip from Tuckton - perhaps! Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



TBC



A boat trip from Tuckton Tea Gardens, or maybe outdoor bowls at SeafIELD, or a trip to Russel Cotes Museum and Harry Ramsdens - we haven't decided yet, so please be aware this event is likely to change. There will be more details in the Spring 2026 Out and About events diary. Book by Monday 15 June 2026. Tuckton Tea Gardens, 323 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth BH6 3BA. Contact Wendy on 01202 428975.

THURS  
18

## District Charity Cream Tea Poole Bridport and Yeovil District



3pm



£5



Edna has invited us to her wonderful garden for a cream tea, raising funds for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital. Edna is very kindly hosting our 'District Charity Cream Tea' again and our Chairman, Margaret White



would be delighted to welcome members and friends who are able to join us. We will be offering tea, coffee, scones, cake and savouries. Please come along and enjoy a relaxing time with friends in lovely surroundings. It is worth coming just to see Edna's beautiful garden! Book by Tuesday 16 June 2026. Edna's House, 49 Warburton Road, Poole BH17 8SD. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



# June

SUN  
21

## District Annual Church Service Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



Free



Margaret White will be our Chairman in 2026 and she 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 Thursday 18 June 2026. St Mark's Church, Talbot Village, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth BH10 4HY. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



THURS  
25

## Afternoon Tea and Bingo Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



£5



Sandra and Nigel have invited us back to their beautiful garden to enjoy afternoon tea and bingo. It is always nice to relax in a lovely venue, enjoy each other's company and maybe win a prize on the bingo or on the raffle! Come and relax in the sunshine (hopefully), enjoy good company, good food and a natter. We will be raising funds for Edna's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to bring a raffle prize that would be brilliant. Book by Tuesday 23 June 2026. Sandra and Nigel's House, 176 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TZ. Contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.



## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

 [www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows](https://www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows)

# 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:

<b>2025</b>	<b>Monday 15 December</b>	<b>Monday 16 March</b>
<b>Monday 15 September</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Monday 20 April</b>
<b>Monday 20 October</b>	<b>Monday 19 January</b>	<b>Monday 15 June</b>
<b>Monday 17 November</b>	<b>Monday 16 February</b>	

## 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:

<b>2025</b>	<b>Tuesday 16 December</b>	<b>Tuesday 17 March</b>
<b>Tuesday 16 September</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Tuesday 21 April</b>
<b>Tuesday 21 October</b>	<b>Tuesday 20 January</b>	<b>Tuesday 16 June</b>
<b>Tuesday 18 November</b>	<b>Tuesday 17 February</b>	

## 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 7.30pm at The Sleeping Bear Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UP. Dates as follows:

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 May</b>
<b>Tuesday 9 September</b>	<b>Tuesday 13 January</b>	<b>Tuesday 9 June</b>
<b>Tuesday 14 October</b>	<b>Tuesday 10 February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 11 November</b>	<b>Tuesday 10 March</b>	
<b>Tuesday 9 December</b>	<b>Tuesday 14 April</b>	

# Business Meetings

## 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:

<b>2025</b>	<b>Wednesday 17 December</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 March</b>
<b>Wednesday 17 September</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Wednesday 15 April</b>
<b>Wednesday 15 October</b>	<b>Wednesday 21 January</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 May</b>
<b>Wednesday 19 November</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 February</b>	<b>Wednesday 17 June</b>

## Pride of Bournemouth Branch

**Secretary:** Wendy Hopper, 6 Southlea Avenue, Bournemouth BH6 3AB

**Telephone:** 01202 428975 **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:

<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Tuesday 28 April</b>
<b>Tuesday 23 September</b>	<b>Tuesday 27 January</b>	<b>Tuesday 26 May</b>
<b>Tuesday 28 October</b>	<b>Tuesday 24 February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 25 November</b>	<b>Tuesday 24 March</b>	

# At a glance

## September 2025 - Friendship Month

<b>Mon 1</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Thurs 4</b>	Friendship Month Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Fri 5</b>	An Evening of Jazz (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm
<b>Tues 9</b>	Friendship Month Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Fri 12</b>	Coffee, Get Together, Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Visit to The Blue Pool (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
<b>Wed 17</b>	Friendship Cream Tea (Brownsea Branch)	3pm
<b>Sat 20</b>	Fish and Chips Supper with Bingo (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
<b>Sun 21</b>	Celebration Harvest Lunch (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm

# At a glance

## September 2025 - Friendship Month

<b>Thurs 25</b>	Lunch at Southbourne Bolwing Club (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Fri 26</b>	Friendship Meal - Chinese Buffet (Phoenix Branch)	6pm
<b>Tues 30</b>	Coffee and Chat (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am

## October

<b>Thurs 2</b>	Coffee at Tuckton - Hengistbury Outdoors: Get the latest news and progress (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sat 4</b>	Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
<b>Sat 4</b>	Skittles Fun (Phoenix Branch)	7pm
<b>Sun 5</b>	Annual District Lunch	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 9</b>	Lunch Club (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Fri 10</b>	Coffee/Get Together/Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Mon 13</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Tues 14</b>	Harvest Festival Tea and Talk (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Wed 15</b>	Bournemouth Pavilion - Fawltly Towers The Play (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Wed 22</b>	Charity Carvery at The Bridge House	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 23</b>	Afternoon Tea with the Dorset Air Ambulance (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
<b>Sat 25</b>	Dorchester Literary Festival (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	4.30pm
<b>Wed 29</b>	Carvery Lunch (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Fri 31</b>	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods (Brownsea Branch)	9.30am

## November

<b>Wed 5</b>	Bonfire Party (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	5pm
<b>Thurs 6</b>	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Mon 10</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Tues 11</b>	Remembrance Day Coffee Morning with Entertainment from the Land Girls (Acorn Branch)	10am

# At a glance

## November

<b>Thurs 13</b>	Bring and Share Afternoon Tea and Quiz (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
<b>Fri 14</b>	Coffee/Get Together/Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Wed 19</b>	Lunch at 'The Poet Laureate' (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 20</b>	Coffee at the Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	11am
<b>Sat 22</b>	Christmas Lunch (Phoenix Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Sun 23</b>	Christmas Lunch at the Riviera Hotel (Brownsea Branch)	12 noon
<b>Tues 25</b>	Coffee and Chat (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
<b>Wed 26</b>	District Breakfast at Bulbury Woods	10am
<b>Sat 29</b>	Christmas Prize Bingo (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm

## December

<b>Thurs 4</b>	Christmas Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sat 6</b>	Christmas Buffet and Party (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
<b>Mon 8</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Wed 10</b>	Christmas Meal (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	6.30pm
<b>Fri 12</b>	Christmas Coffee Morning/Bring and Buy Sale (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sat 13</b>	Christmas Wreath Workshop (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	1pm
<b>Sat 13</b>	Christmas Party (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
<b>Sun 14</b>	Carol Service (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	3pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am

## January 2026

<b>Thurs 8</b>	New Year Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Fri 9</b>	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Golf Club (Brownsea Branch)	10am
<b>Fri 9</b>	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Mon 12</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Tues 13</b>	Coffee Morning (Acorn Branch)	10.30am
<b>Thurs 15</b>	Coffee and Cake at The Pilot (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Thurs 22</b>	Lunch at The Cranleigh (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	12.30pm



# At a glance

## January 2026

<b>Wed 28</b>	District Charity Lunch (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
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## February

<b>Wed 4</b>	Coffee and Chat (Brownsea Branch)	10am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	A local shoot, life and wildlife Talk by Mark Phillips (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
<b>Mon 9</b>	Afternoon of Tabletop Games (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Coffee and Cake Wellness Event and Bring and Buy Bazaar (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Thurs 12</b>	Coffee, Beetle Drive plus Fish and Chips Lunch (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Fri 13</b>	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Thurs 19</b>	Coffee at the Tennis Club (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Wed 25</b>	Lunch Club at the Carpenter's Arms (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Fri 27</b>	District Weekend at the Riviera Hotel	3pm

## March

<b>Wed 4</b>	Breakfast at the Spire (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Thurs 5</b>	Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Fri 6</b>	Rod Brewer Quiz Challenge (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
<b>Tues 10</b>	Seaside Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Fri 13</b>	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
<b>Mon 16</b>	District Charity Lunch - Carpenter's Arms	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 19</b>	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sat 21</b>	Afternoon Tea, Crafts and Quiz (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
<b>Thurs 26</b>	Lunch Club (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm

## April

<b>Thurs 2</b>	Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Wed 8</b>	Coffee and Cake (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am

# At a glance

## April

<b>Sat 11</b>	Spring Buffet Lunch (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
<b>Thurs 16</b>	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Fri 17</b>	Otter Nurseries of Lymington (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
<b>Sun 19</b>	Spring Lunch (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm

## May

<b>Tues 5</b>	Craft with Amanda (Brownsea Branch)	10am
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods (Brownsea Branch)	10am
<b>Thurs 7</b>	Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Tues 12</b>	May Day Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Thurs 14</b>	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sat 23</b>	Bring and Share Supper with Bingo (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	7pm

## June

<b>Thurs 4</b>	Coffee at Tuckton (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Tues 9</b>	Midsummer's Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
<b>Thurs 11</b>	Lunch Club (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
<b>Thurs 18</b>	District Charity Cream Tea	3pm
<b>Fri 19</b>	Boat Trip from Tuckton – perhaps! (Pride of Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
<b>Sun 21</b>	District Annual Church Service (Brownsea Branch)	2.30pm
<b>Thurs 25</b>	Afternoon Tea and Bingo (Brownsea Branch)	2.30pm

# Wessex Wanderer

News and views from your local friendship group

## Hello from Nicky – our new District Secretary

I joined Brownsea Lodge in 2017 after attending a couple of social quizzes with my parents and sister who were already members. Not long after I started to attend Lodge meetings with my father, Bill Coombes. In 2019 I was elected onto the Management Committee and have been an active member ever since and in 2024 I was elected onto the District Committee of Management.



In 2020 I was asked if I would like to be a Welfare Officer for the Lodge. Shortly afterwards we went into lockdown. I spent many hours on the phone talking to our members. We had lots of interesting conversations about the lack of toilet rolls, what we were doing to pass the hours at home and what it was like in Poole and Bournemouth when they were growing up.

In 2023 I decided that after 25+ years working in Human Resources (Personnel) I wanted to do something completely different, but had no idea what to do. A year later I saw an advert in the Wessex Wanderer for the

Secretary role at Acorn Lodge and another for Brownsea Lodge, so I applied and was successful for both roles. I took over Acorn Lodge in September 2024 and Brownsea Lodge in January 2025.

I am now about to take on my next challenge as Provincial Corresponding Secretary (ProvCS/District Secretary) for Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District alongside my roles as Lodge Secretary for Acorn and Brownsea. I have a lot to learn and would like to send my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped, supported and believed in me, over the past year to get me where I am today.

## District Charity Lunch at the Red Lion

Our Chairman, Edna Daniels, was delighted to welcome members and friends to her Charity Lunch, raising funds for Julia's House. We had a very reasonably priced two course meal at the Red Lion in Hamworthy and we all enjoyed a good chat. The raffle was very well supported and Edna would like to thank everyone who donated the prizes or bought the tickets.



## Welcome to the 40th edition of the Wessex Wanderer

Welcome to the 40th 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



[www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows](https://www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows)

## 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's Support for The Centre Food Bank

We are proud to share this photo from our January food delivery to the food bank at The Centre, Ferndown. Over the past two years, from January 2023 to December 2024, our members have been dedicated to supporting this vital cause.

Through the proceeds of our social events, branch raffles, and the ever-popular Bring and Buy stall, we have successfully raised over

£2,300 to help those in need. This incredible achievement is a testament to the generosity and commitment of our members, who continue to make a real difference in our community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed—whether through donations, participation in events, or volunteering your time.



## Phoenix Branch Curry Night at Saffron

On Friday 24 January eight members of Phoenix Branch enjoyed another delicious curry night at Saffron in Stalbridge. As usual the staff were efficient and welcoming and couldn't do enough for us. The restaurant is getting busier these days, which is a good sign. Again, we had such a lovely time that photos were not taken! Never mind, maybe next time.

## Pride of Bournemouth Branch New Year Coffee Morning



It was nice to welcome so many friends - and friends of friends, to our January 2nd Coffee at Tuckton on such a chilly morning.

Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and chat about their Christmas & New Year. Lots of prizes for the raffle which raised £41 for Hengistbury Outdoors.

## A Massive Thank You to the Acorn Oddfellows!

This was a thank you letter to Acorn Lodge from the Foodbank, thanking them for all their support.

"We are incredibly grateful for your generous support of The Centre's Foodbank in Ferndown over the past two years. From your continued kindness to your final donation of Easter Eggs today — every contribution has made a real difference to our community.



Thank you for standing with us and helping those in need."

## Breakfast at Bulbury Woods

Brownsea Branch had another lovely get together at Bulbury Woods Golf Club at the beginning of January, no pictures this time as we were all too busy chatting and eating!! We hope more people will want to get up early to join us the next time we venture to Bulbury.

## Carvery Lunch at the Bridge House

In January Brownsea returned to the Bridge House for another excellent Carvery Lunch. Raising funds for the Sepsis Trust, the raffle was well supported and our thanks to all who donated prizes or bought the tickets.

## Brownsea Coffee and Chat – Sturminster Marshall Golf Club

Sturminster Marshall Golf Club was a new venue for us and we all thoroughly enjoyed our visit. The chef had made 'bubble & squeak' so that was a good incentive to have a breakfast!!!

It was lovely to see so many join us and once the renovation works are finished we will definitely be returning. They have facilities for us to use for quizzes or bingo so we will also investigate the possibilities they have to offer.



# Hand in Hand enjoy discovering 'The Secret Garden'

**The Branch had a very enjoyable trip to Carey's Secret Garden, near Wareham.**

Glorious weather greeted us at this little known Dorset Treasure. Part of a neighbouring estate, the garden had lain neglected for many years before being bought and the project to restore the walled garden began.

We started with pizza straight from the oven using ingredients grown in the gardens.

We then were given a comprehensive guided tour by one of the Gardeners who gave a fascinating insight into the project. The gardens lie alongside an Osprey breeding site and there are hides to go and study them as well.



## Brownsea Lunch Club – Inn in The Park

Our Lunch Club visit to the Inn in the Park was a great success. The food was excellent and they had reserved an area just for us so that we could have a raffle for the Sepsis Trust. Richard would like to thank everyone who supported the raffle which raised £82. It was good to try the Inn in the Park again – a venue we had not used for many years.



## Coffee at Tuckton

We had a very lively coffee morning in February, with over 20 members attending, who all had lots of things to talk about.

The electricity had tripped in the main hall, but luckily we still had power in the kitchen to make hot drinks. We raised £43 for Hengistbury Outdoors.

## Breakfast at the Spire 5 January

Our Breakfast at the Spire was well supported as usual. We love going back to the Spire which is a lovely Community Café within the church. Michael was amazed by the size of his 'Full English' and we all enjoyed whatever we chose, whether it was a breakfast, a bap, a slice of their delicious cake, or a toasted tea cake. We were all made to feel very welcome at the Spire and will be going again soon.



## Hand-in-Hand get Crafty!

Members of the Hand-in-Hand enjoyed an afternoon of hands on learning, attempting various crafts using the skills and expertise of other members and friends.

Card making, knitting, patchwork and decoupage were amongst the crafts on offer. As an added incentive the afternoon ended with a cream tea. It is hoped to repeat the event and try other crafts such as spinning and crochet.



## Pride of Bournemouth Coffee, Beetle Drive and Fish & Chip Lunch

Our coffee, Beetle and lunch was a great success and a good way for people to get to know more people as the winner of each game moves to the next table.

It took a while for some of our members to understand how a beetle drive works but we had a lot of fun and laughter from all especially at the 'Robot Beetles' and 'Valentines Beetles'. The fish & chips for lunch were very welcome and kept the conversations going for a bit longer. Many thanks to Julian and Andrew for being the delivery drivers.

The raffle raised £34 for Hengistbury Outdoors.



## Coffee mornings go from strength to strength

The Hand in Hand monthly coffee mornings and get together have continued. From the sales and donations in 2024, the magnificent sum of £2,250 was divided equally between Julia's House, Children's Hospice and Doc Bikes which is a charity providing immediate response to motorcycle accidents with the aid of specially equipped motorbikes. Both charities sent representatives to receive cheques. The coffee mornings continue with proceeds to be divided between two worthy causes.

The Hand in Hand Branch also now hold bi-monthly coffee and chat sessions at the King's Arms, Dorchester. These get-togethers have proved to be popular and are going very well.



The Photograph shows from left to right Amanda Gillett from Julia's House, Mary Brewer for Hand in Hand, Edna Daniels from the District, and Adrian Batstone from DocBikes.

# Hand in Hand – ‘Old faces and new faces’

At the Annual Summused Meeting, the chair passed from Keith Quinton to Mary Brewer. In grateful thanks to Keith for his hard work not only as Chairman but as a very effective Trustee, the Branch made an award to him. This was presented as part of the meeting.

The Branch staff has been complemented by the appointment of Melanie (‘Mel’) Pimm as Branch Welfare Officer. As part of her work, the office is now opening on a Wednesday from 10am to 1pm when members can call in and have a chat and a cuppa.

Also a programme of making contact with members has been commenced and Mel is able to undertake home visits.

The Branch is also delighted to have recruited Rosemary Rogers as Branch Social Secretary. Already, Rosemary has started organising additional events to run alongside our already successful programme. It is hoped that the branch will be able to provide and promote activities and socials in parts of our catchment area not previously well covered. We welcome both Melanie and Rosemary to the team.



John O'Brien, Committee of Management member and Trustee of Hand in Hand, has also been instrumental in reviewing membership recruitment and retention. Already, the Lodge room has been updated and there is work to install eye catching promotional material and make best use of the frontage of the building.

In addition a series of radio adverts on the local Keep FM station and the running of adverts in the West Dorset Magazine has seen the Oddfellows promoting itself locally. Mary and John have also visited local events with promotional material to spread the word about Oddfellowship.

## Valentine's Afternoon Tea at Acorn Lodge

Nearly 50 members of Acorn Lodge enjoyed a delightful Valentine-themed Afternoon Tea!

We were treated to an engaging talk on street photography by Carl from Photomedia.uk, while our fabulous kitchen crew filled the cake stands with delicious sandwiches, cakes, and a heavenly peach & strawberry pavlova.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets—together, we raised over £70 for our 2025 charities: Jigsaw, Ladybird Cancer Centres, and the MS Centre Dorset.

## Bring and Share Afternoon Tea and Bingo

What a great way to spend an afternoon! We had a few games of bingo before opening up the buffet table, which was full of a wide selection of sandwiches, savouries and nibbles.

We had a few complaints that members were over-full but then the cakes came out and we all miraculously found a bit more space for a cake, or two! We ended the afternoon with a few more bingo games and, as a finale, a game of Irish Bingo.

Many thanks to Andrew and Julian for organising the Bingo, and to all the members who provided the food and helped with the washing up and clearing up at the end.



## District Carvery Lunch at the Turks Head



Our new District Chairman welcomed a select group of members to his first fund-raising event – a Carvery at the Turks Head in Chickerell.

Although we were few in number we all had a lovely lunch and a good catch-up with our friends. The raffle raised £43 for Macmillan Nurses, and Keith was grateful to those who came and supported the charity.



# 'Thank You' Lunch for Andrew

**In March, Brownsea Lodge held a 'Thank You' Lunch for Andrew Hampton who had been our Branch Secretary for 32 years!!**

Almost 60 members joined Andrew to celebrate his dedication and service to the members. As usual the carvery was excellent and the branch had bought cup-cakes for everyone – either lemon or chocolate (both were scrummy).

Our pictures show our Chairman, Richard Ferns presenting Andrew with a gift from the branch, and Nicky Hankins, our new

Branch Secretary, presenting flowers to Julie, Andrew's wife.

We all hope that Andrew has a long and happy retirement – he certainly deserves it!



## Skittles at the Swan

**Friday 28 March saw yet another skittles fun night at the Swan in Stalbridge. 18 members and friends took part on a non-frenzied evening. The competition was fierce to see**

**who scored the lowest points and prizes awarded. As always, the food was delicious – lamb shanks, baby potatoes, green beans, carrots and baby sweetcorn – yum!**

Our first two pictures show husband and wife Jo and Dave who were our top scorers. Then we have Liz and Chris (not husband and wife) who were the lowest scorers, and finally a picture of our empty plates!!



## Musicals and Films Afternoon Tea

On Tuesday 11 March, Acorn hosted a delightful Musicals and Films Afternoon Tea. Julia provided wonderful music and songs from beloved films and stage productions, setting the perfect atmosphere.

Guests enjoyed joining in with the singing, and as always, the afternoon included the ever-popular quiz. Our wonderful kitchen crew treated everyone to a

lovely selection of sandwiches, cake, and hot drinks – the perfect accompaniment to an afternoon of entertainment.

It was a well-attended event filled with fun, laughter, and warm friendship – a truly enjoyable time for everyone involved.



# Craft Session with Amanda

**In March we tried something new for our Branch, six enthusiastic members of the Brownsea Lodge gathered at Frog's Hollow for a delightful morning of quilling and card making, hosted by Amanda.**

We were limited on numbers as we all had to fit round Amanda's dining room table and Amanda had made us lovely cakes which we enjoyed half way through the morning.

Some of us had never done Quilling before and it took us a while to get the hang of it, but we were all soon twiddling away with our special tools to make the petals, leaves etc. Carol made a beautiful daffodil card, and Edna got completely carried away, ending up with several flowers on her card – most of us were very pleased to have managed one flower!!! The morning was filled with fun and laughter and we were also entertained by Amanda's lovely cat, Loki. The chaps went out for a coffee at a local pub – so they all had a good morning too!!!

As you can see from the pictures we all had a brilliant morning – the display of cards when we had finished just goes to show what you can achieve when you are having a brilliant time, with an excellent teacher and in great company. As one attendee put it, "It's amazing how a bit of paper, a touch of glue, and good company can lift your whole week."

Our thanks must go to Amanda for hosting what was a really lovely event. Next time we are going to try Mandala painting – watch this space!!



## Acorn Afternoon Tea with Guest Speaker

**As many of you know, the MS Centre Dorset was kindly nominated by Acorn Lodge as one of our chosen charities for 2025. In May we had the pleasure of welcoming Diana Logan, who represents the MS Centre, to speak to us about the centre's vital and inspiring work. What a powerful and uplifting talk.**

We also put our thinking caps on for a fun May-themed quiz, sharing laughs and testing our knowledge together.

Amanda led a creative craft session where we painted terracotta pots with acrylics – and wow, what a talented group of artists we have at Acorn!

A huge thank you to our amazing kitchen team for serving up a delicious Afternoon Tea, and of course, to all the volunteers who helped make this event so special. Let's keep enjoying these moments, supporting each other, and continuing to champion the fantastic work of the MS Centre Dorset.





# District Weekend at the Riviera

**Once again we held our Annual District Meeting (AGM) at the Riviera Hotel in February.**

As in previous years we organised a weekend deal with the hotel and Edna, our Chairman for the year, welcomed members from Brighton & East Sussex, Reading, Bristol, South London and Southampton to the various events that took place throughout the weekend.



On the Friday evening Andrew had organised some quizzes which were up to his usual standard! However, the winners were happy with their prizes of boxes of chocs!! It was good to catch up with our old friends.



It was disappointing that we only had 12 deputies in attendance at the District Meeting, but it was lovely to have so many visitors supporting Edna. Keith Quinton was elected as our new District Chairman, with Margaret White elected as his deputy and Edna Daniels as Immediate Past Chairman, and they were all delighted that Clive Tayler, Past Grand Master of the Order, was able to install them at the end of the meeting as our new officers.



Before lunch was held we had a raffle for Edna's charity which raised £123 for Julia's House. One of our pictures shows our newly installed District Officers, complete with their chains of office.



The Saturday evening saw us enjoying a dinner followed by a disco type event. The meal was excellent and Stuart Peters was very amenable to playing all our favourites – not everyone enjoyed the Monkees of course!!! Our pictures show our guests enjoying the evening and joining in with 'Hey Babe'.



On the Sunday we had a lovely lunch with more members joining us from Southampton and the local Lodges. The raffle was a great success, raising £128 for Keith's charity for the year – Macmillan Nurses.



During the event we celebrated Bradley Rendle's birthday with a lovely chocolate cake, complete with candle and hearty singing of 'Happy Birthday to Bradley'!!!

Thanks to everyone who organised the weekend and to everyone who came and joined in the fun.



# Lunch Club at the Carpenter's Arms

**This was our new Chairman, Julian White's first social event, and we all enjoyed a lovely meal as usual at the Carpenter's Arms at the end of March.**

Julian has chosen Forest Holme as his charity for the year and he would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle or bought the raffle tickets. £69 was raised on the day. Unfortunately

one of our guests was unwell during the meal and had to leave early, but we had a lovely phone call the following day to say that all was well and she was feeling much better.

The staff at the Carpenter's had been amazing and Andrew phoned them to thank them for their support and to let them know that our guest had recovered well.



## Spring Lunch – Brownsea Branch

**It was lovely to welcome our friends to the Brownsea Spring Lunch at the Riviera Hotel once again. It was a special occasion as we invited guests from the Sepsis Trust to receive our cheque for £1,114 which had been raised during Richard Ferns' year as our Branch Chairman.**

Our pictures show Richard presenting our cheque to Karen and also Karen talking to us about the Trust. Karen told us about her own Sepsis journey and why she became a volunteer for the Sepsis Trust. The food was excellent and the raffle was well supported with over

£60 being raised for our charity this year which is Forest Holme. Although we were fewer in number this time we still had a great lunch and would like to thank everyone for helping to make it such a lovely event.



## Exciting News from Acorn!

Acorn Lodge are thrilled to welcome Alice Setchfield as our new Social Organiser! Alice joined us in March and jumped straight into the action at our Musical Afternoon Tea -handing out quiz papers and spreading smiles all around.

She's already bringing fresh energy and exciting ideas for our autumn events and into next year. Please join us in giving Alice a very warm welcome—we can't wait to see what she has in store!



## Coffee and Cake at Blooms Café

In April Brownsea members and friends enjoyed a lovely morning at Blooms Café, at Baskets and Blooms Garden Centre, where we were looked after very well as usual by Jonathan and his team. Most of us opted for an enormous piece of cake (all the slices are enormous at Blooms) but some of us had a breakfast bap, or just a natter over our coffee or tea. Many then had a wander around the garden centre or the emporium. A pleasant way to spend an hour or two, putting the world to rights with our friends!



# Oddfellows Go Walking

**A group of Oddfellows met up in Weymouth to go for a walk. Some had arrived by car, sharing where possible to avoid parking problems or getting lost. Others had come by train, using their bus passes to get a discount. They gathered at the start of the Lodmoor Trail, which follows the former railway line that ran to Portland.**

As you would expect, the inclines along the path, which is about two miles long, are very gentle, making it easy for the less agile. It has a tarmac surface (with no potholes!) and so is popular with cyclists, mobility scooters and pram pushers. Some parts are on an embankment, giving views over

people's back gardens, the town and the sea. Other parts, giving a much better view, are in wooded cuttings giving lots of nature to enjoy.

In one place there's a geological feature, Weymouth Dripping Well. There are bands of stone overlapping horizontally which act as a reservoir and filter for water that constantly drips about once a second. Those Oddfellows who gathered, some in cupped hands, sampled it and said it tasted much better than tap water.

Eventually they reached the beach at Small Mouth next to Ferry Bridge and, the tide being out, were able to saunter around it gathering shells etc. Then they started their

way back along the Coast Path, which runs almost parallel with the Trail. It was rather uneven and difficult in places but had masses of interesting botany as well as views over Portland Harbour. It led to Sandsfoot Castle where there are seats so they paused to take a rest, enjoy the scenery and eat their picnics.

They then made their way back to where they started and said 'Goodbye' but the people who had come by train had some time to spare before their return was due so they spent some time exploring the RSPB bird reserve at Radipole with lots of swans, ducks, herons and song birds to observe and enjoy.

It was a good day out.

## Coffee and Cake at the Grasshopper

**Browsea Branch have decided to try some new venues this year for our coffee get-togethers and in April we went to The Grasshopper in Bournemouth Road. They allowed us to gather in what we call 'The Library' and to have a raffle for Forest Holme.**

Everyone seemed to enjoy the new venue which had been chosen as it had been recommended by some of our members, and it has two large car parks and is on a bus route. Unfortunately we were all having such a good natter that we forgot to take pictures!!!

## Bingo and Supper at the Tennis Club

**Andrew was our 'caller' once again and we all had a good laugh, as well as the fun of trying to win the huge cash prizes!!**

Actually the final full house was well worth winning at £20 and it was a nail biting finish to the end. We had an excellent supper of either chicken curry or chilli served with a

choice of baked potato, rice or chips, or a vegetable lasagne or cheese and beans jacket for the vegetarian option. Our thanks must go to Andrew for his hard work on the bingo calling machine, and Julian who was his right hand man helping with the checking and delivering the winnings to the lucky players.



## Breakfast with Friends at Bulbury Woods

**Browsea members met up once again at Bulbury Woods Golf Club for a very tasty breakfast. Although we were few in numbers we had a lovely morning and the food was wonderful as always.**

This time one of the choices was a Bubble and Squeak breakfast which was delicious. We don't have a raffle at Bulbury – it is just a lovely opportunity to meet up and enjoy each other's company. We are looking forward to our next Bulbury get together, whenever that might be!

## Cash Bingo and Afternoon Tea

The Acorn Branch's June social event was an absolute hit, with a packed house coming together for an afternoon of bingo, banter and big laughs! From first-timers to seasoned dabbers, everyone got into the spirit of the game with a cup of tea and cupcake in hand! Laughter echoed through the room as numbers were called, friendly rivalries formed and a few lucky winners walked away with some great prizes! More importantly, the event helped raise funds for our 2025 charities – thank you to everyone who donated generously! A huge thank you to our volunteers, kitchen crew and of course all who attended. We love seeing new faces join the fun! Eyes down for our next event!

# The Return of Oddfellows Brass

On Sunday 29 June Phoenix Branch once again hosted the Oddfellows Brass in Stalbridge Hall to great acclaim. They arrived in time for a ploughman's lunch provided by the branch, and re-arranged the seating due to them bringing their full percussion set. This set was placed on the stage and the rest of the band had to make do on the floor.

Bob Penfold introduced the band. They immediately played their first tune Past Time with Good Company.



Conductor John Davies mentioned the film The Full Monty then invited the band to strip. Actually, to take off their jackets as it was so hot.

As always, they performed well. Every section had their moment of fame, with the drummer doing his bit with Choral and Rock Out; soloist Ian Dickman performing a beautiful rendition of Love on the Rocks on his cornet in the first half; and founder Rob Boulter getting to the audience with

I've Got you Under My Skin. He wore a Frank Sinatra style hat for this...

For their encore they played a medley of WW2 film favourites to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

During the interval the audience were treated to refreshments and home-made cakes supplied by the Blackmore Vale U3a. There was also a raffle in aid of the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.



## Coffee Morning at the Pilot

In June Brownsea Branch tried something new and joined 'The Pilot' on Canford Heath for their Coffee Morning as they have a weekly community coffee morning and we thought it would be nice to support them. The cakes were amazing – Lou makes fabulous cakes – and we all put the world to rights as usual.



## Blackmore Vale Annual Lunch

Blackmore Vale Branch saw sixteen members, including Junior members, enjoy a leisurely carvery on Sunday 22 June at the Crown in Marnhull. It has been many years since the lodge met there and we still had the same polite and efficient service, albeit different staff now. The food was excellent and there was no rush for us to leave afterwards. A pub worth visiting again.



## Coffee Morning at Jenny's House

In June Jenny Thacker of the Acorn Branch invited members and friends to join her for a Coffee Morning at her house.

It was a lovely morning and we were able to sit in Jenny's beautiful garden, enjoy the sunshine and the wonderful home-made cakes, scones and sausage rolls, and have a chat over our tea or

coffee. Jenny held a raffle and the proceeds were donated to the MS Centre. Our thanks to Jenny for a really lovely, relaxing morning.





# Afternoon Tea and Bingo



It was eyes down and look in at Sandra and Nigel's house this time for the Brownsea Afternoon Tea and Bingo. The weather was kind to us and we all enjoyed the lovely refreshments – good food, good company and the opportunity to win on the Bingo or take home a lovely raffle prize – what could be better?

A big thank you to Sandra and Nigel for hosting the event and to Andrew who was our Bingo Caller once again, and all our volunteers who sorted out the gazebos, seating, etc Of course thanks must also go to all who brought along the raffle prizes and bought the tickets. As you can see from our picture of the raffle table it was quite heavily laden with wine – that seems to be normal for Brownsea events!!



## Lunch Club at The Bridge House

In June Brownsea Branch held their Lunch Club at the Bridge House. Our thanks must go to Edna for running the event, and to everyone who came along to support us.

As usual the carvery was excellent and the raffle, which raised funds for Forest Holme, was well supported – thanks to everyone who either brought along a prize or bought the raffle tickets.





# District Charity Cream Tea

**Our Chairman, Keith Quinton, welcomed members and friends to Edna's beautiful garden for our Charity Cream Tea in June. As you can see from the photos the sun shone and we needed all our gazebos and umbrellas to protect us from the sunshine!**

During the afternoon Edna, who had been our District Chairman in 2024, presented Amanda from Julia's House with our cheque for £1,830.89 which represented all the fundraising that we had done that year. Amanda explained how our donation would help the children and the families who are

supported by Julia's House. We would like to thank all the members who supported Edna's efforts throughout her year in office.

Everyone enjoyed a relaxing, if rather warm, afternoon with Edna and the team and by the end of the event another £265 had been raised for Keith's chosen charity this year which is Macmillan Nurses – again thanks to everyone who joined us and helped to raise such an amazing amount for a very worthy cause. A special and very big 'thank you' must go to Sally Gates who made the most fantastic cakes for Keith – everyone enjoyed them so much and we are so sorry that we didn't get a picture of them!!



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



# Annual District Church Service

On Sunday 22 June we held our Annual District Church Service in the lovely St Mark's Church in Talbot Village. Keith Quinton, our District Chairman, was delighted to welcome so many members and friends to our service, on what was a lovely, hot and balmy day.

The ladies (and Julian) worked hard to prepare everything in the kitchen and the hall. Everyone enjoyed the fantastic refreshments and having a good catch-up with friends old and new.

The theme chosen by Keith this year for the service was 'Peace', which was very appropriate bearing in mind that the United States had bombed the nuclear facilities in Iran over-night. The Reverend Nick Wells, in his sermon, said our reading from Micah was about peace - we should be praying for a world full of peace.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to make the service such a success.



## Afternoon Tea with Yellow Theme

A huge thank you to Hannah Bird from the Dorset Police Cyber Safety Team for joining us at our Sunshine Yellow Afternoon Tea in July!

Hannah gave an incredibly helpful and easy-to-understand talk on how to stay safe online and over the phone.

We picked up some really useful tips — including one many of us hadn't heard before: Dial 159 from any phone to be connected directly to your bank. A quick, safe way to make sure you're speaking to the real thing — not a scammer.

We also raised £78 on the raffle, and had a wonderful yellow-themed tea party with lemon tarts, scones, and lots of sunshine on our plates.



Thank you to everyone who wore yellow, brought the good vibes, and made the day such a lovely success.

## Scarborough hosts the nation's Oddies

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

Members representing their Branches converged on the seaside town from all corners of the country to assess the previous 12 months and to decide on the direction of the next.

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

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



## Final update from HA Andrews Memorial Fund recipients

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

"My PhD – made possible by the generous support of the Oddfellows – has made

some significant contributions to cancer research," said Nur. "My ultimate goal is to find ways to prevent or overcome drug resistance, and my model will let us run the pre-clinical studies needed to move promising strategies toward the clinic."

Tim added: "Until recently, we did not understand enough about how our immune system recognises and responds to tumours, or about how tumours learn

to switch off our immune responses to deploy cancer vaccines effectively. This is changing rapidly, and cancer vaccines hold great promise for kinder, more effective therapy, though significant challenges remain."



## Incredible total raised for good causes

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



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

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "Every year, when we work out the collaborative total, I'm astounded by the generosity of our Branches and their members. We know that money is tight for many people, but they still dig deep and have compassion for those in need. "It's what binds us as Oddfellows – caring for people's welfare and looking out for the needs of others. This humanitarian spirit makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of the Society. Where we can help, we must."

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

## Welcoming Tees Mutual to the Oddfellows



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

The acquisition was approved and agreed on by Tees Mutual's members and their Board. Both the Oddfellows and Tees Mutual share a similar ethos and complementary values. This is the Society's sixth acquisition since 2007 and follows the last transfer of engagements in 2021.

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

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



# Making a Difference Awards 2025

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

For more information about the Awards, including how to nominate someone for 2026, visit [www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

## Jean Logan, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

### Enriching Lives Socially

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

"Socialising keeps your brain busy and keeps you active and keeps you younger. You can sit on the sofa and watch telly all day long but I'm a doer. I'm always up and about."



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

## Gordon and Kath Hinett, North Wales and Chester Oddfellows

### Achieving Together

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



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

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

## Chris Sargeant, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

### Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

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



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

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

## Barry Bedford, Nene and Welland Oddfellows

### Giving a Helping Hand

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



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

## Ann Kight, Nottingham Trent Oddfellows

### Giving Something Back

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



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

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

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