

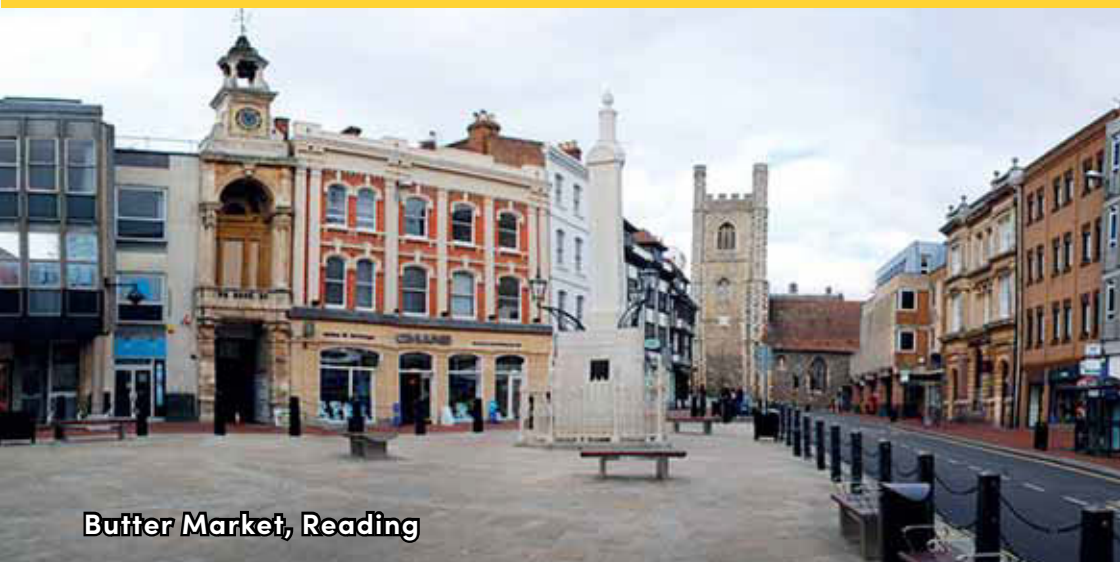
April - September 2019
Issue 8



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

out & *about*

Reading District



Butter Market, Reading

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



Film/
Movie



Music/
Concert



Travel



Games



Crafts



Walk/
Activities



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



*District Church Service
Sunday 8 September.*

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

Everybody welcome

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

Remember!

Put dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep this Events Diary in a handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Want to get involved?

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

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

A bit about us...

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

Front cover: Butter Market, Reading by Uli Harder and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.

Branch and Event Contacts

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

Reading District ●

District Secretary: Mrs Debbie Jex

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

Telephone: 0118 9573354 **Email:** debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk

Reading District Social Secretary – Karen Dyke on 0118 9594073

Reading Art and Craft Group: Debbie Jex on 0118 9573354

Thames and Kennet Branch ●

Covering Reading, Woodley, Maidenhead and Thatcham:

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

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

Britons' Pride (Thatcham) – Joyce Lewis on 01635 868387

Jubilee (Maidenhead) – Debbie Jex on 0118 9573354

Reading Abbey (Reading) – Fiona Vince on 0118 9548454

Woodley – Karen Dyke on 0118 9594073

Royal Berkshire Branch ●

Covering Reading and Pangbourne:

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

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

Crown of England (Reading) – Anthony Bonnett on 0118 9871488

Pangbourne, Games and Visits Group – Doug Walters 0118 9614610

Singing Together and Zumba Gold – Lynn Harrison 01442 823195.

Three Counties Branch ●

Covering Reading and Henley:

Secretary: Ms Lynda Edwards

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

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

Good Samaritan (Henley) – Anthony Bonnett on 0118 9871488

Princess Alexandra and Reading Get Together Social – Christine Foyle on 0118 9783919

Henley Get Together Social – Lynda Edwards on 01491 871054

Tilehurst Get Together Social

First Monday of each month at 2pm, please contact Mike Scott on 07792 959022 for further details.

NEW

April 2019

Regular Event

TUES
02

Singing Together

 10.30am




Members £2
Guests £3




Join us for our fun and relaxed group under the guidance of a Professional Choirmaster. No singing experience required. Tea or coffee from 10am. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.


TUES
02

Witches of Pendle Talk and DOV Reading Abbey

 7.30pm



Free



Please come along and join us as we welcome the District Officers to our meeting, this will be preceded by the Thames and Kennet Branch Summoned meeting which starts at 6pm. A lovely supper will be provided along with a very interesting talk on the 'Witches of Pendle' by Jaye Windmill, everyone is welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.



Regular Event

WED
03

Art and Craft Group

 10am




Members £2
Guests £3




You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft, bring along your own project and materials and work alongside other like-minded people. Tea and coffee will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.


WED
03

Knowing England Pangbourne

 7.30pm



Members £2
Guests £3



Another fun evening in Pangbourne. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.

Regular Event

THURS
04

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

 10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Join us for some gentle exercise suitable for those from 50+, it helps keep the body and mind active and it's fun. The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

FRI
05

No Strings Attached Woodley Afternoon Group

 2pm

 Members Free
Guests £3



Back by popular demand. No Strings Attached, Ukulele Group. Come along and join us for an afternoon of singing, maybe even dancing to the cheerful and brilliant band. Don't miss the fun! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

MON
08

Artisan Cheese Princess Alexandra

 7.30pm

 Free



An informative talk given by our Noble Grand Christine on cheese. Includes light refreshments and a raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES
09

103rd Reading Wind Band Crown of England

 2pm

 Free



Please join us as we welcome back the 103rd Reading Wind Band after their successful visit last year. Everyone is welcome to hear this splendid concert, the more the merrier please. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

WED
10

Singing Together

Regular
Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
11

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
16

Singing Together

Regular
Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
16

WWI - A talk by Mr Green from the British Legion Henley

 2pm


 Free



Come and join us for a talk given by Mr Green from the Royal British Legion. Please bring along any memorabilia, photos etc of family and friends with a connection to either WWI or WWII, to share with us. Light refreshments provided plus monthly raffle. This meeting will be followed by a short Good Samaritan meeting with Tony Bonnett. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

April 2019

TUES 16 Oddfellows Academy

 6.30pm  Free



If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

WED 17 Art and Craft Group

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.





THURS 18 Zumba Gold and OTAGO

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES 23 Stuart and his Guide Dog Olivia Jubilee

 7.30pm  Free



Please come along and join us for an interesting talk by Stuart who will be accompanied by his faithful friend and guide dog Olivia. Everyone is welcome to join us. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED 24 Singing Together

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS 25 Zumba Gold and OTAGO

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS 25 A talk by the Fire and Rescue Service Get-together Social Meeting - Reading

 2pm  Free



Join us for a talk on safety in the home. Refreshments and raffle included. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

THURS
25 **Cheese Challenge**
Britons Pride

 7.30pm  Free



How well do you know your cheeses? Feel like a challenge? Come along and join us for a fun evening and see how many cheeses you can identify. Please book so we have enough cheese to go round. Book by Thursday 18 April. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.



TUES
30 **Singing Together**

Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

May

WED
01 **Art and Craft Group**

Regular Event

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

May

WED
01 **The Variety Quiz**
Pangbourne

 7.30pm  Members £2
Guests £3



Something different from Hannah and Gregg, sure to be a great evening. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.

THURS
02 **Zumba Gold**
and OTAGO

Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3



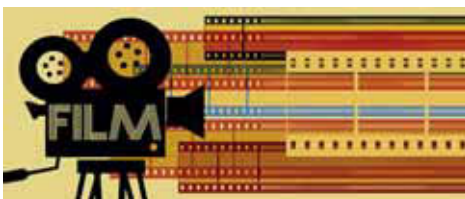
The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

FRI
10 **'Here we Go Again'**
Mamma Mia 2 Film Night

 7.30pm  Free



Come along and join us for an evening of entertainment. After the success of our Mamma Mia, The Musical Film Night we now present Mamma Mia 2. Sit back, relax and sing along to the songs we all know and love. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



May

TUES
07

Cheese and Wine Evening Reading Abbey

7.30pm

£ Free



You are welcome to join us at our Cheese and Wine Evening where fun and friendship will also be on offer. Soft drinks will be available as well to help the evening go with a swing. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.



WED
08

Singing Together

Regular Event

10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
09

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular Event

10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
09

Good Samaritan Annual Dinner

7pm

£ TBC



Please join us for the Good Samaritans Annual Dinner and District Officers Visit. All welcome. Please book in advance. Book by Wednesday 1 May. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



FRI
10

Taste the Difference Woodley Afternoon Group

2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Are you a food snob? Can you taste the difference between budget and branded foods? Come along and put your taste buds to the test. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



MON
13

Business Meeting followed by a Quiz Princess Alexandra

 7.30pm

 Free



Join us for a short business meeting and SGC Deputies Reports, followed by a general knowledge quiz. Light refreshments and raffle included. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES
14

Singing Together

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
14

Pub Quiz Crown of England

 2pm

 Free



Please join us for our popular Pub Quiz hosted by Terry Butcher. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

WED
15

Art and Craft Group

 10am

 Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS
16

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
21

Charity Bingo with Julia Get Together Henley

 2pm

 Free



Join us for a gentle afternoon with Julia. Come and support our Charity Bingo afternoon. Light refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



TUES
21

Oddfellows Academy

 6.30pm

 Free



If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

May

WED
22

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
23

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
23

Board Games Britons Pride



7.30pm



Free



Come along and join us for an evening of fun with the board games we all know and love. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.



TUES
28

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
28

Travels in Tanzania Jubilee



7.30pm



Free



Please join the members of Jubilee Branch for an interesting evening when Richard and Biddy will tell us all about their fascinating travels in Tanzania. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS
30

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
30

Childhood Memories Get Together Reading



2pm



Free



Join us for a gentle discussion afternoon with Bob. Share your childhood memories, including home, holidays, family life etc., with us. Raffle and refreshment. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



June

TUES
04

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
04

Gentle Exercise Session Reading Abbey



7.30pm



Free



Please join us for a spot of gentle exercise. It is good for body and soul. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.

June

WED
05

Art and Craft Group

Regular
Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
05

Unfamiliar Facts! Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2
Guests £3



Pointless by another name, when the least known facts with the lowest score win. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.



THURS
06

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

June

MON
10

Lets Go Racing Princess Alexandra

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us for a fun filled social 'Royal Ascot' themed evening at the races.

Hats to be worn. Light refreshments and raffle included. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES
11

RNLI Presentation Crown of England

L 2pm

£ Free



Please join us for a talk on the RNLI by Local Secretary Mrs Bridget Britton. I am sure we will all appreciate this wonderful organisation even more when we hear what she has to say. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

WED
12

Singing Together

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
13

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

FRI
14

Dinton Pastures Walk Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Free, Pay your
own meal



Come along and join us for a stroll around Dinton Pastures Country Park. More details to follow. Dinton Pastures Country Park, Davis Street, Wokingham, Berkshire RG10 0TH. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



TUES
18

Singing Together

Regular
Event

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
18**

The Importance of Wills, Trusts and Power of Attorney Get Together - Henley

 2pm

 Free



Have you made a Will or do you need advice about setting up a Trust? Join us for a presentation given by a firm of local solicitors on this very important topic. We hope you will come along with your questions to be answered by professional people. The afternoon will include light refreshments and a monthly raffle. Following this meeting a business meeting will take place for the Good Samaritan Branch at approximately 4pm, organised by Tony Bonnett. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



**TUES
18**

Oddfellows Academy

 6.30pm

 Free



If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

**WED
19**

Art and Craft Group

Regular Event

 10am

 Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

**THURS
20**

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
25**

District Officers Visit and Social Evening Jubilee

 7.30pm

 Free



Come along and join us as we welcome the District Officers to our Branch. A lovely supper and a dose of fun will be on offer for the evening. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

**WED
26**

Singing Together

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

June

THURS
27

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
27

Indoor Treasure Hunt Get Together Reading



2pm



Free



Join us for a team challenge with Mike's fun and observational Treasure Hunt. All welcome. Includes refreshments and raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



THURS
27

Summer Walk Britons Pride



7pm



Free



Come and join us once again for a gentle walk around Thatcham Lakes. Please note the 7pm start time. More details available nearer the time. Please let us know if you will be joining us. Thatcham Discovery Centre, Muddy Lane, Off Lower Way, Thatcham RG19 3FU. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.

SAT
29

Reading District Dinner Dance



6.30pm



TBC



You are invited to get your glad rags on and join us for a Summer Dinner Dance where we will be entertained by Kevin from K B Sounds. This is to be a double celebration in honour of our Provincial Grand Master, (District Chairman) Clive Tayler (PGM), and President of Southern Group Conference, Debbie Jex, Past Provincial Grand Master (Past District Chairman). Please join us and help make this an extra special occasion. If you would like to stay the night then rooms can be booked at the hotel for only £85 for a double room including breakfast. We hope to see you there! Book by Friday 14 June. Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (formerly Sindlesham Moat House), Mill Lane, Sindlesham RG41 5DG. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

SUN
30

Southern Group Conference Bowls Competition



10am



TBC



Calling all Bowlers! Please come along and join a team representing Reading District Oddfellows as we take on teams from other Districts from the South of the Country. Lunch and/or tea will be provided and full details will be available soon, please contact us if you are interested. Maiden Erlegh Bowls Club, Beech Lane, Earley, Reading RG6 5PT. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

July

TUES
02

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
02

Strawberries and Cream Reading Abbey



7.30pm



Free



Please come along and join us for our annual Strawberries and Cream meeting, a taste of summer! Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.



WED
03

Art and Craft Group

Regular
Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
03

New England! A Table Top Treasure Hunt Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2
Guests £3



Another fun evening in Pangbourne. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.



THURS
04

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

MON
08

Pub Quiz with Clive Princess Alexandra



7.30pm



Free



Join us for our annual District Officers visit followed by a Pub Quiz Including refreshments and a raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



July

TUES
09

Lasting Power of Attorney Crown of England

⌚ 2pm

£ Free



Please join us as we learn more about the complex issue of Lasting Powers of Attorney. We welcome Jackie Lucas from LPA Made Simple to simplify things for us. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



WED
10

Singing Together

Regular
Event

⌚ 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
11

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event

⌚ 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
11

Reading District Annual Charity Bowls Evening

⌚ 5.30pm

£ TBC



Come along and join us for an evening of bowling followed by a supper. All proceeds going to our Chairman's chosen charity for the year, The Royal Berks Charity. Booking is essential for catering and arranging teams. Wokingham Bowls Club, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EG. For more information contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

FRI
12

Poetry Afternoon Woodley Afternoon Group

⌚ 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Back by popular demand. Come along and join us for another brilliant afternoon full of laughter and warmth when Jean Hill shares some of her Summer Poetry with us. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

**TUES
16** **Singing Together** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
16** **A visit to the River and Rowing Museum by the River Thames in Henley Get Together - Henley**

 2pm  TBC 

Join us for a Guided Tour around this local museum. Find out more about the fascinating history and our connection, on and beside the River Thames. Book by Monday 8 July. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



Image by Motmit and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

**TUES
16** **Oddfellows Academy**

 6.30pm  Free 

If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

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

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3 

You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

**THURS
18** **Zumba Gold and OTAGO** Regular Event

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
23** **Picnic on The Thames Jubilee**

 7pm  Free 

Please come along and join us as we picnic on the banks of the River Thames at Hurley. We will meet at the carpark by the church and move onto the island with our picnics and chairs. Please bring along an outdoor game if you have one and if it is raining we can always go to the pub instead. Hurley carpark by church, High Street, Hurley SL6 5NB. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



July

WED
24

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
25

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
25

Musical Afternoon Get Together Reading



2pm



Free



Join us for a musical afternoon (details to be finalised). All welcome. Includes light refreshments and raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



THURS
25

Holiday Memories Britons Pride



7.30pm



Free



Come along and join us for an evening of holiday memories. Tell us about a favourite holiday and/or destination. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.

TUES
30

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

August

THURS
01

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
06

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

August

TUES **06** **Taste the Difference** **Reading Abbey**

 7.30pm  Free 

Come along and put your taste buds to the test as we compare bargain and brand named foods and treats with each other, can you taste the difference! Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.

WED **07** **Art and Craft Group**

 10am  Members £2
Guests £3 

You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED **07** **All Singing and Dancing** **Pangbourne**

 7.30pm  Members £2
Guests £3 

A quiz which may involve actions! The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.

THURS **08** **Zumba Gold** **and OTAGO**

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £3 

The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

FRI **09** **Hearing Dogs for** **the Deaf** **Woodley Afternoon Group**

 2pm  Members Free
Guests £3 

Please come along and join us when we welcome along Rosemary Edginton with her Hearing Dog called Teaka who is a miniature poodle. Hear all about their life together and the importance and benefits of having a Hearing Dog. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

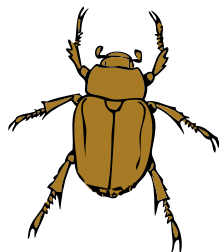


MON **12** **Beetle Drive** **Princess Alexandra**

 7.30pm  Free 

Join us for a social games evening. Includes light refreshments and raffle. Non-members very welcome.

Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



August

TUES 13 **Painting with Angie and Terry** Crown of England



2pm



Free



You are welcome to join us for an old favourite 'Painting with Angie and Terry'. Enthusiasm not skill is required and all materials will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



MON 19 **Windsor Races**



3pm



TBC



Join us for this annual event and enjoy private facilities with balcony and cash bar. Complimentary tea, coffee, scones and racecards available in the suite. Optional coach travel from Reading and Woodley. Book by Wednesday 31 July. Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 5JJ. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195 for more information and booking form.

TUES 20 **Singing Together**

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

WED 14 **Singing Together**

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS 15 **Zumba Gold and OTAGO**

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES 20 **Handbell Ringing with Carol** Get together - Henley



2pm



Free



Join us for a musical afternoon with Carol Wheeler who will entertain us with her Handbell Ringing. We will also be having Afternoon Tea (sandwiches/ cakes etc) so don't eat too much lunch. The monthly raffle will also be held. Following this meeting a business meeting will take place for the Good Samaritan Branch at approximately 4pm, organised by Tony Bonnett. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

TUES
20 **Oddfellows Academy**



6.30pm



Free



If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

WED
21 **Art and Craft Group**

Regular Event



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



THURS
22 **Zumba Gold and OTAGO**

Regular Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
22 **Kennet and Avon Canal Trip**
Britons Pride



6.45pm



£15 per person



Join us for a trip on the Kennet and Avon canal, leaving from Newbury Wharf. The 2 1/4 hour trip includes an afternoon tea box. All drinks can be purchased on the boat. Advanced booking is essential as there are limited spaces. (Sorry, no disabled access, 5 steep steps down to get onto the boat) Book by Thursday 1 August. Newbury Wharf, Wharf Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AP. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.



TUES
27 **On This Day Jubilee**



7.30pm



Free



Join us for an interesting evening when we will explore 'This Day in History'. Please also share with us memories you have of a special August day if you have any. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

August

WED
28

Singing Together

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
29

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
29

**Fit for Life with Kirsty Ede
Get Together Reading**

 2pm

 Free



Come and join us for an active afternoon with Kirsty Ede who will engage us in gentle exercise and advise us as to how to keep active, fit and healthy in senior years. Includes light refreshments and a raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
03

Singing Together

Regular Event

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

TUES
03

**Talk from Thames Water
Reading Abbey**

 7.30pm

 Free



Join us when we welcome a representative from Thames Water who will enlighten us on Thames Waters' Priority Service. This is a service they provide to their more vulnerable customers in times of need. Everyone is welcome along. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 9548454.

WED
04

Art and Craft Group

Regular Event

 10am

 Members £2
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

WED
04

Wits and Wagers Pangbourne



The return of a favourite in Pangbourne. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Doug on 0118 961 4610.

THURS
05

Zumba Gold and OTAGO



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

SUN
08

District Church Service



Come along and join us at Christ Church United Reformed Church, 46 Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall after the service. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



MON
09

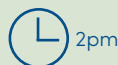
Fiona Page Professional Singer Princess Alexandra



Friendship Month – bring a guest along and join us for an evening of musical entertainment of songs old and new by professional singer Fiona Page. The evening will include light refreshments and raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES
10

Afternoon Tea Crown of England



Please come along and join us for afternoon Tea provided from the proceeds of our Social Fund, traditional tea and cake will be on offer and everyone is welcome to join us. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

September

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Celebrating 10 years

WED
11

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

WED
11

Friendship Month Charity Ploughman's Lunch



1pm



Members £5
Guests £6



Please come along and join us again for our Charity Friendship Month event. All profits raised will be donated to our chosen charity of the year, The Royal Berks Charity. Enjoy a lovely Ploughman's Lunch and make new friends. Booking is essential. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. For more information or to book, contact Karen on 0118 9594073.

THURS
12

Zumba Gold and OTAGO

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

FRI
13

Pictionary with a Difference Woodley Afternoon Group



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Instead of drawing an object for your team to guess, have a go at modelling it out of playdough. No artistic flair needed! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



TUES
17

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
17** **Antiques' with David Lang including Guess the Value**
Get Together - Henley



Join us for an afternoon with David Lang who will be giving an informative talk on Antiques. We will also have a light hearted game of Guess the Value. Please feel free to bring along any items of interest you may have to display. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. Following this meeting a business meeting will take place for the Good Samaritan Branch at approximately 4pm, organised by Tony Bonnett. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



**TUES
17** **Oddfellows Academy**



If you are interested in learning more about the history and traditions of The Oddfellows and also practicing the ceremony, please come along to our new Oddfellows Academy, all members are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 9548454.

**WED
18** **Art and Craft Group**

Regular Event



You are welcome to join us for a morning of art and craft. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

**THURS
19** **Zumba Gold and OTAGO**

Regular Event



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

**TUES
24** **'What is Friendship?' Jubilee**



Please come along for our special 'Friendship Month' event where we will try to devise the best friendship recipe ever! Bring along any photos of special moments with your friends if you have any (photos that is, not friends!). St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

September

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



Celebrating 10 years

WED
25

Singing Together

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



Tea or coffee from 10am. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
26

**Zumba Gold
and OTAGO**

Regular
Event



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £3



The hall will be open from 10am beforehand for tea and coffee and chat. See page 4 for full details. Oddfellows Hall. Contact Lynn on 01442 823195.

THURS
26

**Culinary Quiz and
Bob's Demo
Get Together Reading**



2pm



Free



Please come and join us for a team quiz afternoon focusing on food and drink, preceded by Bob's cookery demonstration. Light refreshments and raffle included. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



THURS
26

**Bangers and Mash and District Officers' Visit
Britons Pride**



7.30pm



Free



Please come and join us for our Friendship Month, Bangers and Mash evening and a visit from the District Chairman and Officers. Booking with Joyce is essential. Please confirm by Thursday 12 September so we have enough to go round. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 01635 868387.



Oddfellows Summer Holiday

Discover the best of Hampshire's Coastline with Oddfellows members and friends at the Sinah Warren Coastal Hotel.

Situated on Hayling Island, Sinah Warren is a large, comfortable hotel surrounded by elegant gardens and spectacular view of Langstone Harbour.

**8 – 12 July 2019:
4 nights (half-board)**

Breakfast and three-course evening meals are included.

**Standard rooms from
only £280 per person**

With evening entertainment, activities and use of leisure facilities.



To book call Warner's on **0330 1009 772**
(Booking reference 4272269) and quote ODDFELLOWS

Share the friendship – enjoy the rewards!

Refer a Friend

Did you know that the Society runs a Refer a Friend scheme?

When the first friend you've recommended has joined, we'll send you a £10 Love2Shop voucher as a thank you. There are different reward levels, so you'd receive your next reward – £60 in Love2Shop vouchers – after recruiting five friends in total.*

To refer a friend, call Membership on **0800 028 1810**, visit our Members' Area at **www.oddfellows.co.uk** or fill in a Refer a Friend form available from your Branch Secretary.

Terms and conditions apply* The Refer a Friend offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other membership offer. For full terms and conditions, visit **www.oddfellows.co.uk/offers**.

www.oddfellows.co.uk



Reading District Member Iris Yates

28 September 1918 – Sunday 27 January 2019

Iris was born on 28 September 1918 near Leafield in Oxfordshire. She was the oldest of seven children – the family moving to Wokingham in Berkshire where her mum and dad owned a sweet and tobacco shop. Her father had been serving in the Royal Berkshire Regiment during World War I but returned to his original work as a carpenter and joiner. The family had a house with a lovely garden of which her father was very proud. Iris had two years off school when she was ten years old with an illness similar to rheumatic fever which meant she missed out on exams, the illness was to affect her much later in life. When Iris was 14, she went out to work taking on several different jobs such as housework and shop work where she was to eventually meet her future husband Charlie.

Iris knew Charlie for a year when working in John Quality Ltd., before walking out with him as the saying goes (what a lovely phrase). Their love blossomed and they were married on Boxing Day 1939. Charlie was in the Royal Horse Artillery Territorial when he was called up for the Second World War. His first posting abroad was in Iceland from where he had leave at Christmas 1941. Their son Alan was born in September 1942 and Marilyn came along in March 1947. They both enjoyed a lovely childhood and later married Sylvia and Peter respectively. Iris was to suffer much sadness when her dear Charlie died after 62 years of very happy marriage together. Further sadness came when Alan's wife Sylvia passed away and Alan himself in 2017.



In August 1993, Iris and Charlie came along to the Oddfellows and were quickly initiated into the Princess Alexandra Branch, they proved wonderful acquisitions for the Branch with neither looking back from the day they joined. Although Iris never wanted to become an officer in the Branch (Charlie was Noble Grand in 1986) she was always fully partook in Branch matters. As a team, both Charlie and Iris were prominent members of the Three Links Association and were instrumental in many of the activities and outings that were enjoyed by the club. Sadly, this fine gathering of older members was forced to disband with the last meeting on Thursday 31 May 2007 much to their dismay.

Iris was a great supporter of Reading Football Club following in her parent's footsteps and also a keen member of the Reading District Indoor Sports who met on Friday evenings during winter months. She won many trophies and was especially good

at shove ha'penny, dominoes and cribbage so if you were able to beat Iris in any of those competitions you either had a stroke of luck or you played a blinder such was Iris's prowess.

As time moved on, I believe Iris really did want to reach her centenary and on Friday 28 September 2018 that desire came true and a number of Oddfellows, friends and family members celebrated her 100th birthday in Parkside Care Home. The guest of honour was Sir John Madejski, the former owner of Reading F.C. whom Iris had met whilst celebrating her 90th birthday with a tour of Reading F.C.s ground. The occasion was highlighted in the local paper and

anyone looking at the pictures that appeared would have said that Iris did not appear old enough to be celebrating that BIG birthday! Sadly, the party seemed to take its toll on Iris and she seemed to be unable to bounce back from niggling issues as she had done many times before. Iris sadly passed away in the early hours of Sunday 27 January 2019 and in Iris, we have lost a lovely, warm-hearted lady and a great Oddfellow. May she rest in peace re-united with her dearest Charlie. May God bless you both.

Many thanks to David Lang for the article and photograph of Iris and Sir John Madejski

Friendship and Social activities across the UK



At Reading Oddfellows we put on a range social activities each month for us to enjoy together in friendship. We always welcome new people to come along and give us a try... No longer living in the Reading area? Why not check out the social activities being put on by the Branch nearest to where you are living...

Visit the Oddfellows Website (www.oddfellows.co.uk) and click on the events tab to search for local events. Alternatively, contact us, (details on page 3) and we can request that your local secretary gets in touch and sends you a copy of their Events Diary.

Three Links in Brides Headdress

Mrs Margaret Tepper member of the Thames and Kennet Branch of the Reading District Oddfellows sent us her wedding photograph which appeared in the April 1953 edition of The Oddfellows Magazine, the report with it went as follows:



“The marriage took place on February 28 1951 between Sister M E Schedenberg of the Pride of Mitcham Lodge and Brother E G Tepper of the Surrey Lodge. Both of them were in the Juvenile Section prior to entering their adult lodges. They are both ardent workers for their Lodges.

An unusual feature of the wedding was the Three Link headdress of the bride, who also had the Three Links embroidered on her train, both being the handiwork of the

bride. Many various forms of this have been utilised in the past, but have The Three Links ever been utilised in connection with a bride's wedding toilette?”

It was lovely to receive this article and we thought it too good not to share. Mrs Tepper enjoyed 65 happy years of marriage to her husband Ernest until he sadly died in July 2016.

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

Oddfellows Advice Line Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email:

oddfellows@manchestercab.org

Care and Welfare Helpline Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm,

Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

Adlestrop Trip

On Friday 5 October 2018, 26 members and friends enjoyed a trip to Richard Phillips' Racing Stables at Adlestrop, near Stow-on-the-Wold. The trip was arranged by the Royal Berkshire Branch and included a tour of the stables and the gallops, where professional Racing Trainer Richard Phillips proved to be a charming and well informed host.

He stayed with the group throughout the visit and even led a tour around the lovely village of Adlestrop, including visiting St Mary Magdalene church which features a 13th century arch and where Jane Austen is known to have worshipped on a few occasions. A lunch was enjoyed at the Horse and Groom pub at nearby Oddington on the way home to round off a splendid day out.



Richard had a horse running the next day which he tipped, we do not know if anyone put money on it but they should have done as it actually won! Thanks to Alan Porton for the photo

Friendship Month Ploughmans

On 12 September 2018, 51 members and friends of the Reading District joined the Thames and Kennet Branch for a

Friendship Month Ploughman's Lunch. Members of the Singing Together Group entertained at the lunch and the grand sum of £195 was raised for our Chairman's Charity, Camp Mohawk.



As part of Friendship Month signs were sent to all branches for use in promoting events. Pictured are four, camera shy members of the hardworking Thames and Kennet Committee of Management who spent the morning preparing the lunch putting the signs to good use.

The photo captures the mood of the afternoon which was, fun, fun and more fun!

Harry West and Lucy West Both Members of Princess Alexandra Branch



Since taking up golf at a very young age Harry has achieved many highlights including being Junior captain last year of his club The Calcot Golf Club, and county at age group levels, winning major club, county and national tournaments, representing the UK in the Junior World Golf Championships in Santiago as well picking up the Reading Junior Sports Personality Of The Year Award on 3 occasions when he was extremely young.

Now 18 years old, Harry is hoping to turn professional after taking his 'A' Levels. He will combine playing competitively in professional events with studying for the Professional Golfers Association Foundation Degree in Professional Golf Studies through the University of Birmingham, so lots of academic work ahead.

He capped a successful year in 2018 with strong performances at county level but perhaps most notably by winning his final amateur event and securing "The Founders Trophy" at his home club Calcot Park in Reading. He completes a famous family

double following his Father Dave winning the same event the year Harry was born.

Harry has been a Junior Oddfellow since birth and Brother Dave Phillips and Brother Bob Fullbrook noticed the potential that Harry had, Brother David being very impressed by Harry's skills at such a young age. At the Annual Reading District Golf Day in 2009, and on behalf of the Princess Alexandra Lodge Brother Bob presented Harry with his first golf bag and other sundry items including a T shirt and cap with The Oddfellows motif on them. This was then followed by a 3 year sponsorship by the Three Counties Branch. Harry has also, previously, featured in the spring 2009 edition of the Oddfellows Magazine.

His all-rounder sportswomen sister Lucy also enjoyed golfing success at county level by winning the handicap event at the Berkshire Girls County Championships during the summer, Lucy is also a junior Oddfellow once again since she was born and is now 14 years old. Wishing them every success for the future in Golf which is now an Olympic sport, how amazing it would be if both Harry and Lucy took part in the future.





This quote recently caught my eye. Many of us are guilty of being caught up in the day-to-day. We often get so focused on the task at hand that our proverbial blinkers stop us from having a REALLY good look around.

I'm sure many of us could benefit from slowing down a little, to take stock of those daily pick-me-up moments – people asking how you are, having a coffee made for you, being at the bus stop at exactly the right time... Those simple things.

I must say that us Oddfellows are pretty good at making the most of the everyday. We need little excuse to get together. A cup of tea and a biscuit, or a chance to grab a lunch, usually does the trick. We're fortunate to have this opportunity to go along to one of our Branch events and spend time with others. Regular, friendly catch-ups, or just sitting with company, really does fuel happiness.

It saddens me that there are people out there who don't get the chance to spend time with others, and who don't have anyone to fall back on when times get tough.

It might be that they've had a change of personal circumstance and the people they used to mix with have moved on, or they just don't see them as often. It happens all too frequently, and it's shocking how quickly your confidence gets knocked and you drift into chronic loneliness.

If there's anyone you know that could do with some friendly company or support, please don't forget to mention the Oddfellows and welcome them to your next get-together. There's no hard sell in this at all. If they like it, then brilliant. If we're not their cup of tea, then they know we're here if they change their mind.

So for 2019, it's right for us to continue to celebrate the extraordinary things in our calendar – Friendship Month, AMC and our major HA Andrews Memorial Fund donation. But let's not forget to celebrate the wonderful everyday at the Oddfellows, too.

Thank you for every cup of tea shared, caring phone call made and idea given at a meeting. Thank you for each pot washed, new face welcomed and friendly email written. These little things make a huge difference to people's everyday lives and the running of our Society. Despite life's rush, rest assured, they do not go unnoticed.

I wish you and your families every happiness – big and small – for 2019.

Jane Nelson, CEO

Five tips to help you cut down on the booze

Many of us enjoy a glass of wine with our meal or a beer in front of the television, but this casual drinking can add up. You may find that, without realising, you are consuming more alcohol than is good for you.

But how much booze is too much?

The current guidance is that men and women should not drink more than 14 units of alcohol per week, which is equal to six 175ml glasses of wine or six pints of beer. So, if you're currently drinking more than the recommended amount, how can you change your drinking habits? Here are five tips that can help:

1. Go low

There is a huge range of low alcohol wines, beers and gins available nowadays. You may even find that you prefer the taste of some brands. If you drink the same amount but switch to low, or even alcohol-free, drinks then you will be automatically cutting down the units you're consuming.

2. Dine out on it

Another way to reduce your alcohol intake would be to only drink it with a meal. So have your glass of merlot at dinner or a G&T with lunch, but switch to soft drinks or have a brew when you're finished.

3. Take it day by day

If you find yourself drinking every day of the week, then your body is not really getting any break from alcohol. Plan in a couple of alcohol-free days which work best for you. Sometimes it's just a matter of breaking the habit.



4. Size matters

One way to reduce your alcohol intake is to go for smaller measures. Enjoy a small glass of wine instead of a large one, and take your time with it. If you prefer beer, opt for a half-pint. Spritzers or shandies are good alternatives, giving you a large drink but with reduced alcohol content.

5. Get Appy

Public Health England has launched a free app called Drink Free Days to help you pledge and nominate a specific number of alcohol-free free days each week. It provides daily, practical support which encourages you achieve your goals.

Remember, cutting down on alcohol doesn't mean cutting down on the fun. By reducing the amount of booze you consume, you could sleep better, lose weight and have more energy.

If you're concerned about someone's drinking, or your own, Drinkline runs a free, confidential helpline. Call 0300 123 1110.

Spotting the difference between collecting and hoarding

Many will have heard of hoarding, but are unsure of what it really means. There are TV shows, news articles and videos floating around on social media which aim to educate people about the problem, but more commonly, they just fuel misconceptions.

An estimated five per cent of the population has issues with hoarding, but only a small number of them seek assistance, despite services being available.

Hoarding disorder is a fairly new term, and it is classified as a distinct mental health condition, although often it can occur alongside other mental health issues. On the surface, it may just appear that somebody needs help clearing out or tidying up, but this sort of action can be hugely detrimental if the underlying issues are not addressed first.

So what's the difference between collecting and hoarding?

Collectors have a particular focus, and often buy, save or restore similar types of items such as vinyl records, coins, stamps or toys. Collections are carefully curated and displayed in an ordered way, to be enjoyed and shared with others.

On the other hand, hoarders acquire their items in a less selective way, and often don't properly store, use or even look at these things once retained, as their focus is always on getting more.



Hoarders often feel distressed at the thought of discarding items, regardless of their value, and this can often result in large areas of the home rendered useless due to being filled with clutter, such as the bedroom or kitchen. As the issue progresses, this can lead to health and safety hazards, difficulty leaving the house, deterioration of personal hygiene, low self-esteem and self-imposed isolation.

Getting help

Speak to your GP to get further information on how you might be able to access help for yourself or a loved one, or visit some of the useful websites below.

Hoarding UK, resources, support and helpline on 020 3239 1600 or visit <https://hoardinguk.org/>

Help for hoarders, information, support and advice, visit www.helpforhoarders.co.uk

Mind, call the Infoline on 0300 123 3393 or visit www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/hoarding.



On your marks, get set, parkrun

There aren't many things left in life that are free, but one growing phenomenon that is completely gratis is parkrun.

The 5km community events take place in parks each Saturday morning, but parkrun is more than a way of keeping fit, it's a way of making friends, being part of a community, and even inspiration to travel the world.

Parkrun isn't a race. There are no winners, volunteer Tail Walkers ensure that nobody finishes last, and the emphasis is on regular participation rather than performance. There are more than 550 5km courses in the UK and 1,600 across the world, with more than 235,000 adults and juniors taking part on a good weekend globally. Additionally, there are 250 junior parkruns on Sunday mornings for 4-14 year-olds and their families that are 2k in distance.

You don't need to be a top athlete. At any event you will find parents with pushchairs, dog walkers and people who have never taken part in organised physical activity before. If you use a wheelchair, then you're also welcome,

but it's probably worth checking the individual course you fancy doing is accessible with the organisers before setting off.

The events have a great reputation for being friendly and often there's a catch-up after the event at a local café over tea.

It's easy to get started. Register on the website **www.parkrun.org.uk** and you will be given an individual barcode. Print it out and turn up at the event you fancy taking part in. The events all start at 9am in the UK, except for in Scotland and Northern Ireland where they kick off at 9.30am.

If you don't fancy walking or running, then volunteering at the events is a brilliant way to meet people and give back to the community. Each event is self-organising and has its own team of volunteers who would be very pleased to have an extra pair of hands.

Get in touch with your local parkrun to find out how you can volunteer
www.parkrun.org.uk/events/events