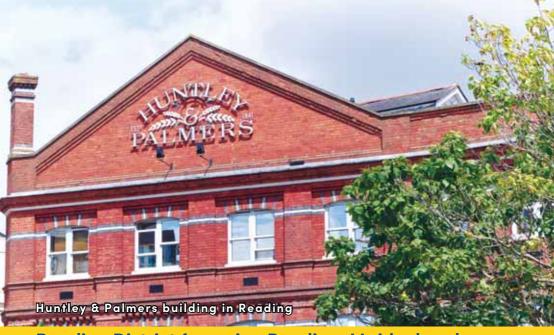
October 2023 - March 2024 Issue 16



# OUL Cabout

**Reading District** 



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



Online



Music/ Concert







Travel



Games





**Food and Drink** 





Quizzes





The ladies of the Reading District at the Southern Group Conference

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 or anything else you can think of – if you are able to run a social activity for us please contact your local secretary (see page 3) 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.

Above photo by Colin Lewis.

## **Booking and Cancellations**

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

### **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:** Debbie Jex **Email:** debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk **Assistant Secretary:** Nicky Jex **Email:** nicky.jex@oddfellows.co.uk

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

**Telephone:** 0118 957 3354

Reading District Social Secretary - Karen Dyke on 0118 959 4073 Reading Art and Craft Group: Debbie lex on 0118 957 3354

#### Thames and Kennet Branch

Covering Reading, Woodley Afternoon Group, Maidenhead and Thatcham:

Secretary: Karen Dyke, Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG17NQ.

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

Britons Pride (Thatcham) - Joyce Lewis on 07483 119404 Jubilee (Maidenhead) - Debbie Jex on 0118 957 3354 Reading Abbey (Reading) - Fiona Vince on 0118 954 8454 Woodley Afternoon Group - Karen Dyke on 0118 9594073

### Royal Berkshire Branch •

**Covering Reading and Pangbourne:** 

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

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

Crown of England (Reading) - Russell Vince on 0118 954 8454

Pangbourne - Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Singing Together - Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Gentle Exercise Class - Russell Vince on 0118 954 8454

### **Three Counties Branch**

**Covering Reading and Henley:** 

Secretary: Lynda Edwards

Durlston Cottage, High Street, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 9BA **Telephone:** 01491 871054 **Email:** lynda.edwards@oddfellows.co.uk

Good Samaritan (Henley) - Tony Bonnett on 0118 987 1488

Princess Alexandra and Reading Get Together Social - Christine Foyle on 0118 978 3919

Henley Get Together Social - Lynda Edwards on 01491 871054

Tilehurst Social Group - Mike Scott on 0118 907 1497 and 07792 959022

## **Weekly Events**

### Singing Together





Join us at our fun and relaxed singing group, no experience necessary, if you can talk you can sing and will be more than welcome! The hall will be open at 10am for tea and coffee beforehand. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831. Every Tuesday



Every Thursday

### Gentle Exercise Class. **Standing and Seated**





Members £2 Guests £3



Join us for some gentle exercise suitable for those from 50+, all exercises can be enjoyed seated if preferred. The hall will be open from 10.30am beforehand for tea, coffee and chat. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454 for more information.



## **Regular Events**

### **Art and Craft Group**





Please come along and join our friendly art and craft group, whether you paint, sew or craft you are welcome along. Bring your own project and materials and enjoy some like minded company and refreshments while you create. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading



First and Third Wednesday of each month



RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

4 October 2023 18 October 2023 1 November 2023 15 November 2023 6 December 202317 January 20247 February 202421 February 2024

6 March 2024 20 March 2024

### **Monthly Zoom Quiz**









Second Wednesday of each month

Please come on and join us for our Monthly Zoom Quiz, we can only run it with your support. Zoom Meeting ID: 854 7692 3503, hope to see you on screen. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



11 October 2023 8 November 2023 13 December 2023 10 January 2024

14 February 2024 13 March 2024

### October 2023



### Consumer Protection – Avoiding Scams Reading Abbey







A Senior Consumer Protection Officer from Reading Trading Standards will be giving us a very useful talk on how to avoid current scams and how to be aware of what to look out for. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



## Colour Brain Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2 Guests £3



There is colour all around us, providing quiz question options to test your memory and imagination. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR.



## The Great Train Robbery **Jubilee**







Join us when we welcome Tony Keep, a volunteer at the Thames Valley Police Museum for a talk on a crime that rocked Britain 60 years ago. The Great Train Robbery was the robbery of £2.61 million from a Royal Mail train heading from Glasgow to London when it was ambushed in Buckinghamshire. This is one not to be missed. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



# Crime Scenes Investigations Talk given by John Oblein Princess Alexandra



7.30pm





Have you ever watched CSI on TV? Well here's your chance to listen and learn about that very subject. The talk will be given by John Oblein a Thames Valley Police Museum Volunteer. He retired in July 2019 after 44 years of employment with the Thames Valley Police. Some of his time was spent utilising his interest in science and photography, working as a SOCO and it is that area of his career that he will be talking to us about this evening. All welcome. Refreshment will be provided along with the monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



## Reading Accordion Group





n l

Members Free Guests £3





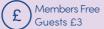
We are pleased to welcome back the Reading Accordion Group who will once again be entertaining us with their wide repertoire of music. They always put on a good show so please come along and join in the fun. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

### October 2023



### **Inter Branch Quiz**









All members and guests are invited to come along to this enjoyable event. The format will be that of a Pub Quiz, play in a team of up to four representing the group or branch you usually attend. Don't worry if you are not part of a team we can put teams together on the night. No one will be put in the hot seat so sit back, relax and have fun. The bar will be open and nibbles will be provided. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



### Life as a registrar Woodley Afternoon Group



( :

Members Free Guests £3



Come along and join us when welcome Jennifer Beeney, a retired registrar who will entertain us with a talk on her 'Life as a Registrar' which promises to be both entertaining and amusing. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

## 16

### What's in the Bag? Tilehurst Social Group







Come and join us for a fun guessing game of 'What's in the Bag', by feeling, squeezing or possibly, even smelling.
Each Bag contains something in everyday use. You can play on your own or be part of a team. All welcome. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



#### British Artisan Cheese Get Together Henley







Join us for a talk given by Christine Foyle with her years of experience working in the cheese making and selling industry. Come and sample a variety of artisan cheeses. Refreshments provided along with a monthly raffle. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

## 18

## Wealth Planning Zoom Meeting









Join us when we welcome back one of our own members, Paul Andrews who gave us a very interesting talk during the lockdown. This time he will be giving us some information on subjects such as Protecting your family/Inheritance Tax, Gifting & Estate Planning and Equity Release. These are subject we all could probably do with learning more about. Zoom Meeting ID: 860 3015 9189. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

### October 2023 November



### **Annual District Church Service**





Come along and join us at our Annual Church Service to be held at St Michaels Church, New Lane Hill, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4JX. Refreshments will be served in the Morlais Room attached to the church after the service. St Michael's Church, New Lane Hill, Tilehurst, Berkshire RG30 4|X. Please let us know on 0118 9594073 if you would like to attend for catering purposes.



### **Guess Who Get Together Reading**





Bring along photographs of your younger self, for a fun game of Name That Person. Can you identify the person in that photo? Includes an informal chat about the history behind the photo. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



#### **Social Evenina Britons Pride**



7.30pm





Come along and join us for a social evening run by June and Paul, two of our lovely members. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



#### **Mexican Train Panabourne**



Members £2 Guests £3



The fun table top game of Mexican Train returns by popular request. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



#### What's In The Bag? **lubilee**



7.30pm





Come along and ioin us for some fun and games with this and other activities arranged for your enjoyment. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.









Members Free



Join us for an afternoon of music with this duo who are very popular with our members. They will be playing the guitar, fiddle and mandolin and will have you tapping your feet and singing along with a mixture of Country, Folk and Irish music. Not one to be missed. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

### November



#### No Strings Attached Woodley Afternoon Group







Its that time again when we welcome back the Ukulele band, 'No Strings Attached' for another afternoon of music, singing and maybe even some dancing. If we are lucky Elvis may even make an appearance. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



## Sharing Supper following a Business Meeting Princess Alexandra



7.30pm



Free



This evening will be a business meeting including nomination for Deputies to Southern Group Conference 2024. It will be followed by a relaxing chat along with a Sharing Supper and a monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



## Reading Male Voice Choir Crown of England





Members Free Guests £3



We are pleased to welcome back the Reading Male Voice Choir who always put on an excellent show for us. Please come along and make this a successful afternoon. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

## 20 MON

### Home Security and Safety in the Home Tilehurst Social Group







We will be welcoming two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO), Jan Greenaway and Lauren Jerrom, and colleagues,



to give a presentation on how to make your home more safe and secure. There will be opportunities to ask questions and take away some very useful informative leaflets. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



## Dining Out Get Together Henley



noon

£ As per





Join us for our annual lunch to round off the year. This will be held at a local venue in Henley. Booking essential. Meeting at 12 noon for 12.30pm. Further details on request. Book by Tuesday 14 November 2023. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

### November



#### **Bring and Share Party Britons Pride**







Let's celebrate with good food and friendship. Please bring along some food and we can have a relaxing evening together. If you are attending please let us know what you might like to bring so we can get a good selection. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact loyce on 07483 119404.



### **Southern Group Conference Carol** Service









Please join us and members of the Southern Group Conference at their annual Church Service, which this year will take the form of a Carol Service to be held in Reading. Let's get into the Christmas Spirit together. Book by Monday 17 November 2023. St James Church Centre, Kingfisher Drive, Woodley, Reading RG5 3LH. The service starts at 3pm and will be followed by a buffet tea, so for catering purposes please let us know on 0118 957 3354 or readingdistrict@oddfellows.co.uk if you would like to attend.

#### Fish and Chips Lunch **Get Together Reading**



**–)** 12.30pm





Join us for our final meeting of the year when we will be holding a fish and chips lunch followed by light entertainment. The monthly raffle will also be held. Please note booking is essential as places are limited. Book by Sunday 26 November 2023. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

### December



### Children's Christmas **Party**



3.30pm



Members Free Guests £12



Please bring your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews along for an afternoon of fun when we welcome back professional entertainer Silly Scott to our Annual Children's Christmas Party. Party tea will



be provided for the children and Father Christmas will also be coming along to give the children a present. The party is free to Junior members or £12 for guests. Young Oddfellows membership is just £10 per year (terms and conditions apply). Booking is essential for catering purposes and Christmas Presents. Book by Friday 24 November 2023. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

### December



#### **Shillingford Bridge Christmas Lunch Three Counties Branch**



12.30pm





We would like to invite you once again to our annual traditional Christmas Lunch in the beautiful setting of the Shillingford Bridge Hotel on the banks of the River Thames. A charity raffle will be held on the day with proceeds split between the Provincial Grand Master's (Chairman) nominated charity Motor Neurone Disease Association and the HA Andrews Memorial Fund. Further details to be confirmed. Book by Tuesday 21 November 2023. The Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford Road, Nr Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ. Contact David on 01235 812179.



#### **Chocolate Continental Reading Abbey**



Members Free



Chocolates Continental will be presented by Bob Whelpton, A popular afternoon where members are informed



of the origins of chocolate and are offered several varieties to taste. Bob also offers a wide selection of chocolate for members to purchase (just in time for Christmas). Depending upon the proceeds Bob will present some for future raffle prizes to the Branch, Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG17NQ. Contact Fiong on 0118 954 8454.



### Christmas Cracker **Pangbourne**





Members £2



Dig out your Christmas jumper, put on Santa's beard or whatever other festive items are hidden in your bottom drawer. Join us in this light hearted and boisterous welcome to the Christmas season. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



#### Christmas Meal **Woodley Afternoon Group**



12 noon

Three courses



Come and join us for a Christmas meal. Cost: £25 for a three course meal plus tea or coffee and mince pies. Please contact Karen for a menu on 0118 959 4073. Booking essential, All bookings and food orders to be in by Tuesday 31 October 2023. The Kitchen, Reading College, 191 Kings Road, Reading RG1 4HI.



#### **Christmas Party lubilee**



7.30pm

Members Free



Come along and start your Christmas Celebrations with us. Members will provide a buffet supper and drinks will be provided. Please bring along a wrapped, unisex Christmas Present to the value of £3 with you and let the festivities begin. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

### December



### Heritage Too and Christmas Party Fun Time Princess Alexandra







Join us for our last meeting of the year when we are happy to announce that Heritage Too will join us for an evening of music and song. This will be a jolly evening followed by seasonal refreshments. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



### Seasonal Readings and Refreshments Crown of England







Please join us for an afternoon of festive fun, refreshments of the season will be on offer. Please bring along a festive poem or reading if you have one and get yourself into the Christmas Spirit. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454



#### Christmas Dinner Britons Pride



7.30pm





Details to follow for this evening. It would be lovely to have a festive get together in the lead up to Christmas (location to be arranged). Booking will be required and a deposit to secure your place once arrangements have been made. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



### Ring My Bell Tilehurst Social Group







Join us for our last meeting of the year when we are please to welcome a group of Hand Bell Ringers, led by Len Palfrey. A wide range of tunes, including some relevant to the season will be played, with an opportunity for members to 'have a go' at the end. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



## Christmas Movie Night - Elf







Please join us for some Christmas Magic as we watch the movie Elf together. Raised as an oversized elf, Buddy travels from the North Pole to New York City to meet his biological father, Walter Hobbs, who doesn't know he exists and is in desperate need of some Christmas spirit. The bar will be open and nibbles will be on offer, come along, you are guaranteed a good evening. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



### Coach Trip to Royal Albert Hall







We are thinking of organising a coach trip to the Royal Albert Hall in London to attend a Friendship Matinee of Carols. Coaches will probably be arranged from the hall in Reading and Woodley as usual, the event starts at 11am. We are not guaranteed to get tickets but could you please let us know if you would be interested? Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

## **January 2024**



#### Luck of the Draw Reading Abbey





Members Free Guests £3



Cards with a game of chance, will you be a winner? A novel game of chance using cards.



You have to be in it to win it, come along and join us for a bit of fun. The more of us playing the more fun it will be. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



#### Bits and Bobs Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2 Guests £3



Anything can happen in our first ever Bits and Bobs quiz. Who knows what's heading our way, but it's bound to be fun! The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



#### Welcome in 2024 Princess Alexandra



7.30pm



Free



Join us for our first meeting of the New Year when we will install our new officers for the next 12 months. This will be followed by a social activity, raffle and light refreshments. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

## TUES 09

### Heritage Too Crown of England





Members Free Guests £3



Please join us as we welcome Kevin and Allan who make up the talented duo Heritage Too. They play the guitar, fiddle and mandolin between them and guarantee you a foot tapping afternoon, please come along. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.



## Meal Out Jubilee







Feeling a little flat after Christmas? Join us for a meal out at a location in the Maidenhead area that is yet to be decided. This event will only go ahead if there is demand for it. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



### The Wonderful World of Westerns Talk Woodley Afternoon Group



£ Members Free Guests £3



Come and join us when we welcome back Mike Payne with another of his wonderful talks. This time relive the Western Films and TV shows featuring the likes of John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and many others, not forgetting their leading ladies. See some of the locations and beautiful backdrops as well as some of the quirky facts and scenes that make this genre of films so unique. Don't miss this funny and entertaining talk! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

## **January 2024**



## Protect Yourself Against Scammers Tilehurst Social Group







Come along and learn how, by introducing simple and easy actions, you can reduce the risk of being scammed. The presentation will cover all types of scams; some scams don't involve the internet or mobile phone. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



## **Boccia**Get Together Henley









Join us for our regular monthly meeting when we will be testing your skills at Boccia (pronounced bot-cha). It is a target ball sport which tests both muscle control and accuracy. Never played it before, not a problem, we will teach you. Refreshments provided along with a monthly raffle. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

## THURS 25

### Bob's Challenges Get Together Reading







Join us for an afternoon of games to challenge your physical and mental abilities. Come along participate or just watch either way all welcome. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

## THURS 25

### New Year Nibbles Britons Pride



pm







Let's celebrate the New Year with a good post Christmas catch up and lots of nibbles. We'd love to welcome everyone back for our first meeting of 2024. Please come along with some food to share. A list will be provided nearer the time. To aid organisation, please advise of your attendance. Here's to a happy and healthy year in 2024! Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

## **February**



### February Feast Jubilee



L) 7.30pm (



Members Free Guests £3



You are welcome to join us for our annual February Feast. There will be supper along with soft drinks and wine will be available too. Please come along and make this a fun evening. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.





#### New Zealand Travels Reading Abbey



Members Free Guests £3



Talk to be confirmed but we are hoping to be led around the islands of New Zealand. Have any of you been, and have happy memories of any scenic spots? Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Figna on 0118 954 8454.



## The Clue's in the Question Pangbourne





Members £2 Guests £3



Following last year's successful introduction this quiz is bound to bring in the crowds! The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



### Carol of the Bells Woodley Afternoon Group





Members Free



Carol Wheeler will be entertaining us with her musical repertoire on her solo hand bells. Come along, sit back and enjoy an afternoon of music. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



### **Charity Race Night**



**-)** 7.30pm



£)Free



Come along and support our Chairman Fiona at the final fundraising event of her year. The race night aims to raise funds for her charity, The Motor Neurone Disease Association which is a very worthwhile cause so please bring some pennies along! The bar will also be open so come along and have some fun. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

## 12 MON

## The Ernie Holt Dominoes Competition Princess Alexandra







You are welcome to join us for our annual dominoes competition for the prized Ernie Holt Trophy. If you are unsure how to play we will be happy to teach you. The evening will include a raffle and light refreshments. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

## **February**



### National Trust Coastline Illustrated Talk Crown of England





Members Free Guests £3



Join us when we welcome David Hunt, National Trust enthusiast, for a very interesting talk. This will be an introduction to the work of the National Trust in protecting coastline, covering both early and more recent acquisitions, with an emphasis on showing the lovely areas that we and future generations can enjoy. We do hope you can come along. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.



## Guide Dogs For the Blind Tilehurst Social Group



2pm





We are pleased to welcome back Stuart Pearce with his guide dog Olivia. Stuart will be talking to us about how his life changed when he lost his sight. Along with a colleague, he will give us insight as to how the dogs are trained to



take on the important role of being the eyes of someone who has lost their sight. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

## TUES 20

### Alan's Big Picture Show Get Together Henley







We are pleased to welcome back Alan Copeland who will be giving us a unique audio visual show of short films, from his collection, covering many different subjects. All welcome. Refreshments provided along with a monthly raffle. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.





## **Choose Your Topping!** Britons Pride



30pm







Following Shrove Tuesday earlier this month we thought we would enjoy a fun evening with pancakes. Please come along and select the toppings of your choice. Are you traditional with lemon and sugar, or do you like to mix it up a bit? Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

## **February**



What's In a Name Get Together Reading







Join us for an afternoon to test your spelling ability. How many words can you find in a given name? Individual or team participation. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

### March



Talk about Camp Mohawk Reading Abbey



m

Members Free



Join us for this talk when a representative from Camp Mohawk enlightens us on the valuable service they provide. Camp Mohawk is a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs, set in five acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave, Berkshire. This is the charity our new Chairman Marilyn will be supporting in her year of office. If time allows the talk will be followed by a beetle drive, not sure how to play? Don't worry we can show you, it's easy to pick up. Light refreshments will be provided along with a monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall. 118b Oxford Road. Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



## March



## Wits and Wagers Pangbourne





Members £2 Guests £3





Another opportunity to gamble the night away in the knowledge you are not going to lose a penny. But using your general knowledge and betting skills (or luck) you could be a winner on the night! The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



### Heritage Too Woodley Afternoon Group





Members Free Guests £3



Please note the change of day! Come and join us when we welcome back Kevin and Allan who make up the talented duo Heritage Too to entertain us at our meeting. They play the guitar, fiddle and mandolin between them and will have you tapping your feet and singing along to the mixture of country, folk and Irish music. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

### March



### How the British Landscape was Formed lubilee



7.30pm





If you have ever wondered how the British landscape was formed then this is the talk for you. Join us when we welcome Bob Holland one of our members who will explain all. Everyone is welcome along. St Peter's Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.





### Guess What? Princess Alexandra



7.30pm

£ Free



Join us when Paul will bring along farm implements to test your knowledge as to what they are and what they were used for. This is a step back in time, and will be an interesting and informative evening. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. All welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



## TUES 12

## The Importance of an LPA Crown of England





Members Free



We welcome Chris Chipperdale of LPA Made Simple to enlighten us on the importance of having a Lasting Power of Attorney. This is a legal document that allows you to appoint chosen representatives who will be responsible for you and your affairs should you be unable to do it for yourself in the future. Come along and learn more. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454.

## 18

## Categories - A Game of Imagination Tilehurst Social Group





Free





Join us for a friendly game that tests your imagination and competitiveness. Think of items beginning with a specified letter in a chosen category. The more unique the item is compared to you fellow competitors, the more points you score. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reform Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

### March



## Art with Terry Get Together Henley









Join us when Terry will give us a short talk on the principles of art and painting, then we will endeavour to create our own Easter cards using items provided. Includes refreshments along with a monthly raffle. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

## THURS 28

### **Get Together Reading**







Join us for a social afternoon. Further details to be confirmed. Refreshments provided. Monthly raffle held.



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



### Meeting Cancelled Britons Pride



6.30pm (





Please note that there will be no meeting this month due to it being Maundy Thursday. We look forward to seeing you all again next month. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

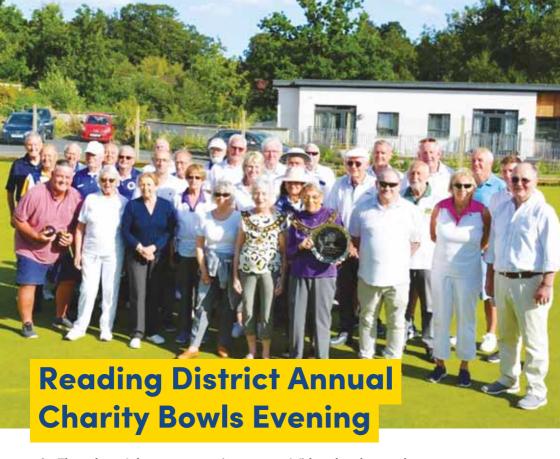
# Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

Our online events are here to stay



To see what's coming up visit **oddfellows.co.uk/events** and enter 'Kelso' in the place name search box

OE/0122A6



On Thursday 6 July a great evening was had by all, the weather was on our side after a mixed start to the week.



With 32 bowlers and 10 spectators we had an evening of fantastic bowling by bowlers both experienced and new. The delightful spread of food went down a treat (especially the chocolate brownies). The Chairman's team was the eventual winner on the night but the real winner was the Chairman's charity, we raised an amazing £458 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Many thanks to the Kilford Family for their fantastic support of the event. We were delighted to be presented with the George Kilford Bowls Competition Plate (Sue Kilford seen presenting it to our Chairman Fiona Vince left).

## **Supporting Local Athletes**

On Monday 20 March our Chairman Fiona Vince and her husband Russell were invited to join the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Rachel Eden in her parlour at the Civic Offices, Reading. They met the athletes and their families, who are part of the latest Reading Sports Aid Fund Awards.

The Oddfellows Reading District is the sole contributor to the Reading Sports Aid Fund. Sophie Gray,25 (a rower at Reading Rowing Club) and Asinia Byfield, 33, (a super welterweight boxer with 16 career wins) were each awarded £200 to

help towards the cost of equipment and training or competition. Esmae Elsmore, 6 (who only took up gymnastics last year) has benefited from £100 to help with the cost of training, to hopefully help add to her medals already won in county competitions.

The Mayor said "We are extremely grateful to Reading Oddfellows for their generous sponsorship. Their support is so much appreciated and not only helps local athletes financially, but also helps us to acknowledge the achievements of these talented sportsmen and women."



### 30 Years of Bringing Joy to the Hospital

One of our members Joy Walters was rewarded for her 30 Years of loyal and dedicated service to the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust. She said, "Back in 1993 I came across an advert.

Voluntary Services were looking for people to help on the new welcome desk being set up in the Battle Hospital. I applied and was accepted and worked every Tuesday afternoon until the hospital closed. I then moved to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and made many new friends. After Covid I returned and added a Friday afternoon, which I will continue to do as long as the old grey matter will allow.

Hopefully that's a long way off because I love my job".



We wish you good luck Joy with many more years supporting people at the hospital.

### You Can Bet On It!



Saturday 15 July saw 39 members and their guests dusting off their suits and smartest dresses to attend a race day at Ascot Racecourse. Some came from as far away as the Isle of Wight and Hastings. 27 people made their way on the coach from Reading prepared for a day watching those beautiful horses and their jockeys race for the finish line.

Many thanks to Lynn Harrison for organising the luxury private hospitality room- The Old Press Room, in the Grandstand overlooking the Winning Post. Apparently it was great service and a superb buffet. Also perfect for those making the most of the private Tote located just outside to place bets on the array of thoroughbreds running that day. We heard there were a few winners amongst our party, but we wondered if any were even close to the odds of the Norfolk Stakes Winner during Royal Ascot week, Valiant Force who came in first with odds of 150/1. Imagine winning on those odds!

## **School Olympics**

Our District Secretary Debbie
Jex and Vice Chairman Marilyn
Hayward attended the WEC intersports School Olympics. Reading
District is proud to have been
able to sponsor Schools in the
Whitley area, providing funding for
transport for inter-school sports.
Despite the looming thunder storms
all the children managed to focus
and try their best, making it a very
successful afternoon.



It was great to see so many competing in this Olympics event held at Palmer Park on 29 June. Marilyn presented the trophy to the winning school. It would be a surprise if any of them had a voice left after all the cheering they did for their team mates!

## **Charity Cheque Presentation**



Our Chairman Fiona Vince invited Dr Sue Fowler and Priti Kashyap from the Dyslexia Trust to attend our Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Celebration Cream Tea on 2 May. Members had a great time sharing memories of the Queen's Coronation, many were lucky enough to watch it on a neighbour's TV, others braved the weather and attended in person. A wonderful cream tea was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our Past Chairman Mike Scott took this opportunity to present our guests with a cheque for £3000 to assist the Dyslexia Trust with their amazing work, helping

children with Dyslexia to reach their full potential. We would like to thank our members for their support throughout Mike's year as Chairman, attending the Barn Dance, Dinner Dance, Annual Bowls night and of course all our regular meetings, raffles and collections. It is lovely that we are able to meet and share good times whilst raising funds for such a worthy cause.

This year's charity chosen by our Chairman Fiona is the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We are already off to a good start with events such as our Annual Bowls Evening. MNDA fundraiser Lin Jenkins kindly came to talk to us about the great support they are able to provide for people, carers and families living with MND. Fiona would be delighted if you could support this worthy cause. Call 0118 957 3354 if you have any queries regarding donations, or require collection boxes.



None of us know what is around the corner...

### **Local Care and Welfare Support**

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Debbie on **0118 957 3354** or email **debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk** 

## Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line Call 0800 0149 821\*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number) Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

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

## Care and Welfare Helpline Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number) Monday to Thursday, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am - 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Run by the Oddfellows Care and Welfare Department, you can access information and guidance on issues such as accessing health and care services, supported housing, support for carers, and planning for later life. The helpline will try and identify any Oddfellows benefits or services in the community which may be of help to you.

Visit our website page at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care for care and welfare information EDCWA50223

## **Society News**



www.oddfellows.co.uk

### **Annual conference returns to Eastbourne**



Conducting important business in Eastbourne.

The May sun shone on the south coast as members from up and down the UK converged on the seaside town for the Society's annual conference. A highlight in the Oddfellows' calendar, the Annual Movable Conference (AMC) is a chance for members to catch up, reflect on the previous year, and discuss and vote on how the Society is run, as well as welcome the new Grand Master (Chairman) - Vale of York's Barbara Needham.

Hosted by Brighton and Sussex Oddfellows, there were a number of social activities in the schedule too. Before business got underway, members and the public were treated to another fantastic performance by Oddfellows Brass – a high point for many each year. Other events held throughout the week included the black and white-themed welcome evening, a church service where remembrance wreaths were laid, a day trip to Rye, a bowls tournament, and the Farewell Dance.



Members enjoyed the Roy Harmer Bowls Tournament.

### **Apprenticeship Educational Award Winner**

Kerry Luckett, from Coventry Godiya Oddfellows. has been chosen as the latest recipient of an Oddfellows



Kerry Luckett

Apprenticeship Educational Award. Kerry, who says she is "very honoured"

to have received the award, will use the money to buy a new laptop to help with the classroom elements of her Optical Assistant course with Specsavers.

The Oddfellows has been backing its members who choose to undertake an apprenticeship since 2017 by providing selected applicants with a £250 non-refundable grant to go towards their studies

Find out more about the Educational Awards by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards Society News Issue 22

### Five stars shone at the 2023 Making a Difference Awards

This year we were privileged to recognise five of our wonderful members with a Making a Difference Award during a ceremony at our annual conference.



## Sue Davies Cleveland and Durham

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

This award recognises Sue's embodiment of the ethos of the Society. She joined the Oddfellows after her



husband died in 2004, and within just three months of becoming a member she had already volunteered to write the Branch's newsletter.

Sue went on to organise a popular luncheon club and has helped out at a variety of other social events and on the Committee of Management.

"Oddfellows has been a lifeline to me because I have made so many new friends since joining. I have had so many new experiences and learned so much," said Sue.

"With the Oddfellows, you are never alone for long. You are made welcome at any event."

### Keith and Margaret Glanville Derby Derwent Valley Achieving Together

With more than 120 years of membership between them, husband and wife, Keith



and Margaret Glanville, topped the 'Achieving Together' category for their team effort to significantly improve the lives of other members and make their Branch and the Society the best they can be.

Both have served in various roles at the Derby Derwent Valley Branch, from volunteering to both becoming Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) – Keith twice!

Margaret described how they enjoy what they do and they were both in "absolute disbelief" when they found out. Keith added: "I've been around the block a bit and I wouldn't have missed Oddfellowship for the world."

Society News Issue 22

### Karen Dyke Thames and Kennet Giving a Helping Hand

Branch
Secretary at
Thames and
Kennet,
Karen
frequently
goes way
beyond



the role's expectations. She is also a welfare visitor, providing a friendly face while checking in on fellow members, often in her own time.

She is also known to give members lifts to appointments and hospital visits, and is always just a phone call away if she is needed.

Karen described working for the Oddfellows as "more than just a job", adding: "You can do a nine-to-five but for me it's more than that. It's about making my members happy and being there when they need me."

## Marilyn Hayward Thames and Kennet

**Enriching Lives Socially** 

This award celebrates
Marilyn's contributions to the running of Thames and Kennet



Branch's social events.

Marilyn moved to Reading from Sidcup to be closer to her son when her husband died, which she described as a "big step to make".

After trying a number of social groups without much success, she then discovered the Oddfellows.

She said: "I've tried to make people feel welcome and let them know that we want to see them again. That often doesn't happen at other places. You feel like you belong here."

CEO of the Oddfellows, Jane Nelson, said: "Congratulations to all this year's winners – each of you are shining examples to us all and we are lucky to have you. The contributions you have made are invaluable to the Society and our members."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2024 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Society News Issue 22

## Members updated on HA Andrews Memorial Fund project



Left to right: Professor Edd James, the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson, Nur Zainal, and Immediate Past Grand Master (Past Chairman) David Ogden.

The recipients of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund have described the honour they feel and explained how the Oddfellows' backing is fundamental to what they do.

Nur Zainal, a PhD student at the University of Southampton whose studies are being sponsored by the Fund, and one of the leaders of the research, Professor Edd James, came to the Society's annual conference in Eastbourne in May to discuss their project's progress.

The first year has been spent teaching Nur the skills she will need to carry out the research. She described the funding as "essential" and said she was honoured to receive the Oddfellows' backing.

Edd added: "Funding is shrinking, so the Oddfellows' ability to have this funding means that we can do these projects.

"This could be a step to going into clinical trials and getting much bigger sources of

funding to then take what Nur identifies and finds out during her PhD to patients and clinics in the future."

In 2022 the Centre



for Cancer Immunology was awarded £100,000, which will be split over three years. The research team is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine. If successful, this could profoundly change outcomes for patients with cancer, particularly lung, breast, head and neck, oesophageal and bladder cancers.

The HA Andrews Memorial Fund was created in 1971 to honour a remarkable Society Secretary, Herbert Arthur Andrews. It provides financial support over a two or three year period to a UK project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research. To date, thanks to generosity of individuals and Branches, it has donated £1,214,000.

Find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund at www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

### **Regular Events**

Thurs 5

Every Tue	esday Singing Together	10.30am
Every Thu	ırsday Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am
October 2023 Tues 3 Consumer Protection – Avoiding Scams (Reading Abbey)		2pm
Wed 4	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 4	Colour Brain (Pangbourne)	7.30pm

## Mon 9 Crime Scenes Investigations Talk given by John Oblein (Princess Alexandra) Tues 10 Reading Accordion Group (Crown of England) 2pm

7.30pm

The Great Train Robbery (Jubilee)

Wed 11	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Wed 11	Inter Branch Quiz	7.30pm

Fri 13	Life as a registrar (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 16	What's in the Bag? (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm

Tues 17	British Artisan Cheese (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 18	Art and Craft Group	10am

Wed 18	Wealth Planning	<i>7</i> pm
		_

Sun 22	Annual District Church Service	3pm
Thurs 26	Guess Who (Get Together Reading)	2pm

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Thurs 26	Social Evening (Britons Pride)		7.30pm

### **November**

Wed 1	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 1	Mexican Train (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Thurs 2	What's In The Bag? (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Tues 7	Heritage Too (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 8	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Fri 10	No Strings Attached (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 13	Sharing Supper following a Business Meeting (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 14	Reading Male Voice Choir (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 15	Art and Craft Group	10am

### Regular Events

Every Tue	sday Singing Together	10.30am
Every Thu	rsday Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am
Novem	ber	
Mon 20	Home Security and Safety in the Home (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 21	Dining Out (Get Together Henley)	12 noon
Thurs 23	Bring and Share Party (Britons Pride)	2pm
Sun 26	Southern Group Conference Carol Service	3pm
Thurs 30	Fish and Chips Lunch (Get Together Reading)	12.30pm
Decem	ber	
Sat 2	Children's Christmas Party	3.30pm
Sun 3	Shillingford Bridge Christmas Lunch (Three Counties Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 5	Chocolate Continental (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 6	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 6	Christmas Cracker (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Thurs 7	Christmas Meal (Woodley Afternoon Group)	12 noon
Thurs 7	Christmas Party (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Mon 11	Heritage Too and Christmas Party Fun Time (Princess Alexandra)	7pm
Tues 12	Seasonal Readings and Refreshments (Crown of England	d) 2pm
Wed 13	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Thurs 14	Christmas Dinner (Britons Pride)	7.30pm
Mon 18	Ring My Bell (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 19	Christmas Movie Night - Elf	7pm
Thurs 21	Coach Trip to Royal Albert Hall	11am
Januar	y 2024	
Tues 2	Luck of the Draw (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 3	Bits and Bobs (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Mon 8	Welcome in 2024 (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 9	Heritage Too (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 10	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm

### **Regular Events**

Regula	r Events		
Every Tue	sday Singing Togethe	er	10.30am
<b>Every Thu</b>	rsday Gentle Exercise	Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am
Januar	y 2024		
Thurs 11	Meal Out (Jubilee)		7pm
Fri 12	The Wonderful World of W (Woodley Afternoon Grou		2pm
Mon 15	Protect Yourself Against Sc	ammers (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 16	Boccia (Get Together Hen	ley)	2pm
Wed 17	Art and Craft Group		10am
Thurs 25	Bob's Challenges (Get Tog	gether Reading)	2pm
Thurs 25	New Year Nibbles (Britons	Pride)	7.30pm
Februa	•		
Thurs 1	February Feast (Jubilee)		7.30pm
Tues 6	New Zealand Travels (Red	ading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 7	Art and Craft Group		10am
Wed 7	The Clue's in the Question	(Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Fri 9	Carol of the Bells (Woodle	y Afternoon Group)	2pm
Fri 9	Charity Race Night		7.30pm
Mon 12	The Ernie Holt Dominoes C	Competition (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 13	National Trust Coastline Illu	ıstrated Talk (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 14	Monthly Zoom Quiz		3pm
Mon 19	Guide Dogs For the Blind	(Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 20	Alan's Big Picture Show (C	Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 21	Art and Craft Group		10am
Thurs 22	Choose Your Topping! (Br	itons Pride)	7.30pm
Thurs 29	What's In a Name (Get To	gether Reading)	2pm
March			
Tues 5	Talk about Camp Mohaw	k (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 6	Art and Craft Group		10am
Wed 6	Wits and Wagers (Pangbo	ourne)	7.30pm

### **Regular Events**

Tues 19

Wed 20

Every Tue	sday	Singing Logether	10.30am
Every Thu	rsday	Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am
March			
Thurs 7	Heritage	Too (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Thurs 7	How the	British Landscape was Formed (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Mon 11	Guess W	hat? (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 12	The Impo	ortance of an LPA (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 13	Monthly	Zoom Quiz	3pm
Mon 18	Categori	es - A Game of Imagination (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm

2pm

10am

UCUA60223

Art with Terry (Get Together Henley)

Art and Craft Group



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