

August 2020 – February 2021
Summer Issue



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

out & about

Mid-Surrey District



Music



Art/Crafts



Theatre



Dining Out



Walks



Games



Day Trip



Meetings



Social



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Quiz



Oddfellows Hall Dorking

Welcome to this latest edition of the news and events diary for Mid-Surrey Branch.

This of course is a different events diary to reflect the different times we are now in, but I hope you will still enjoy reading the articles and seeing what events we still have planned.

As a local branch of a national organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends, and enjoy a variety of events. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when they need them and opportunities to volunteer and support charities.

We are basically a friendly group brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making new friends and helping people. This events diary and newsletter is a handy guide for you to keep so you know what is happening in your area.

Contact Details

Secretary: Maeve Stott
maeve.stott@oddfellows.co.uk

Address: Oddfellows Hall,
270 High Street, Dorking
Surrey RH4 1QT

Telephone: 01306 877792

Email:
mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

Social Organiser: Roxane Butterworth
roxane.butterworth@oddfellows.co.uk

Membership: Jenny Vincent
jenny.vincent@oddfellows.co.uk

Dates are subject to change. Please call to confirm your attendance.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows. If you're not a member, many events are open to you and your friends to attend and have a good time and find out more about Oddfellows. Please email or call the office for more information.

A bit about us...

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810 to speak to one of our team.

If you have any ideas for events, talks or articles please contact Cynthia, Brenda or Roxane via the office 01306 877792 or mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk.

Regular Event

Monday Evening Social (DOE)



7.30pm



Free



Second Monday

These Monday evening meetings (Duke of Edinburgh) usually take place on the second Monday of the month. On going to press, the hall is still closed following government guidelines. When events can recommence safely they will be advertised on the website or please contact the office.

If events can take place they will be on the date advertised but please contact the office to check it is on and book before attending. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Contact the Social at the office on 01306 877792.

September 2020



Welcome Back Fish and Chips Lunch



12 noon



All pay for own fish and chips



**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER**



We will confirm all details nearer the time, we hope it safe to do so to have a safe socially distanced fish and chip lunch in the main hall. Booking in advance will be essential. Book by Friday 4 September 2020. Oddfellows Hall, 270 High Street, Dorking RH4 1QT. Please contact the office on 01306 877792 before attending to check that the event is able to run.

We are monitoring the current Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines and all events will be subject to the up to date advice. Please call to confirm the event is on and to book your place.

Online Events with Oddfellows

We have a regular successful Mid-Surrey Zoom Coffee Morning chat every other week on a Friday at 11am. Just a half hour chat with each other - do contact the office for the dates and Zoom link and join in to say hello. If you need any help getting on using the Zoom app please do let us know.

A graphic with a blue background and yellow text. It features a white silhouette of a person sitting at a table with a cup of coffee. The text reads: "Mid Surrey District Coffee Morning Meet-up", "Every other Friday, 11am", "Venue: Zoom", "Join us for a friendly chat, We'd love to see you.", "RSVP:", "Please email mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk for dates and the link."/>

**Mid Surrey District
Coffee Morning Meet-up**
Every other Friday, 11am
Venue: Zoom

Join us for a friendly chat,
We'd love to see you.

RSVP:
Please email
mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk
for dates and the link.

We appreciate that not all of you have access to a smart phone or computer to do this, but if you do and need help to access Zoom please ask. You can also dial up and listen via a landline. We will of course still be communicating with you via email and post, and start face to face social events when safe to do so.

Don't forget there are many events starting online from other branches, for all Oddfellows members to access.

Please see the website for more details
<https://www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/>

Mid-Surrey Online Events

Friendship Month

Tuesday 22 September, 11am

Beetle Drive - Zoom

Please email the office for the link - open to all in friendship month so do mention to your friends to join in.



Friday 9 October, 11am - Zingo

Online Bingo - Just for fun, you just need a pack of cards.

Have you heard of Zoom?

Like many organisations, schools, families Oddfellows has been using Zoom for some online meetings and activities.

Attending a Zoom get together

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool that can be accessed through the internet, or via an app on your computer, Mac, smartphone or tablet. You will need to have a valid email address to register and use it.

To find and install the app, just visit the app store on your device and search for Zoom. You can still use Zoom without installing the app or setting up an account, although is easier if you have downloaded the app just go to www.zoom.us Zoom allows users to meet online, with or without video, so if you don't have a webcam but have a built in mic, don't worry, you can still take part as if you were on a telephone conference call.

Joining if you can't get online:

You can access Zoom meetings with any phone, you obviously won't have the video element, but you can speak and hear the conversations. Please contact the office for more information and help to access this. Call us and we can help to talk you through this.

Don't forget that you can still get involved with free seated Yoga class every Thursday, please contact the office for more details. Mid-Surrey members are already enjoying this. Why not join them?

"Lisa is a lovely lady and a very good instructor, and it was enjoyable, I did not see everyone, but those I did see looked a similar age to myself."

"It was lovely. Just what I wanted, and the relaxation after was amazing. Lisa was lovely and very easy to follow. I'm looking forward to next week's one"

Seated yoga & relaxation

**FREE 30 minute session
Via 'Zoom' every Thursday, 2.30pm**

Join Lisa, our qualified Yoga 4 Health teacher, as she guides you through this fun workout for your body and mind.

Sessions will include a gentle warm-up and a seated yoga workout, followed by some soothing relaxation.

Contact your Social Organiser for joining instructions and further information.

It's a members only event but if you'd like to know about membership visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits, or email enquiries@oddfellows.co.uk for a free enquiry pack.



Monday (Duke of Edinburgh) Evening Meetings

These usually take place the second Monday of the month. Ongoing to press the hall is still closed following government guidelines. When events can recommence safely they will be advertised on the website or please contact the office. If events can take place they will be on the following dates:

Monday 14 September 2020

Monday 12 October 2020

Monday 9 November 2020

**Monday 14 December 2020,
(Christmas Drinks)**

Monday 11 January 2021

Monday 8 February 2021

Lunches Out and Teas and Talks

We hope to continue these as soon as safe to do so. We will update the website and contact you when we have plans to restart these safely.

The Christmas lunch is pencilled in for after the business meeting on 16 November. Please contact the office for more details on the venue and to book nearer the time.

Want to get involved?

Looking to volunteer? And meet new friends?

If so, there is plenty for you to get involved in with at the Oddfellows. Mid-Surrey are always looking for volunteers to help. This can just be as a one off or regular help such a friendly face to welcome at the evening or afternoon events or outing, help preparing teas/coffees, welcoming speakers, deciding events and suggesting ideas for events.

Is there is an activity you want to do with friends we are not currently running in the area? Would you like to help run a new event like a book club, singing group, dancing or cinema group or a one off walk in the country or coffee morning? After all Oddfellows is run by members for members-so you can help decide what events you would like to be running in Mid-Surrey. Of course you will get the support and encouragement of the other members and help with organising and promotion from the office staff for any these events.

What we would especially like to offer when we can safely do so, is more regular visits including, films at Dorking Halls and other local venues in the Epsom and Kingston areas where we can organise a group booking. Also regular walks and rambles – with stops for tea/lunch. If you are interested to support these either regularly or a one off – just let the office know.

Did you also know that all members are also welcome to attend business meetings and become more involved with the running of the branch? It would be great to have more members attending, again regularly or just as a one off. These meetings cover discussions on welfare, finance, members, property, development and social planning. If you want to get involved further you can also contact Maeve about joining the Committee of Management.

You could also become a volunteer welfare visitor keeping on touch with members with health and welfare concerns, (DBS check required) this can be a regular phone call or visit if requested.

If you are interested in any of the above or just would like more information on getting more involved please email Maeve or Roxane in the office call the office 01306 877792.

During Volunteers week in June, we stopped to think of all those that currently volunteer and to thank them for their, often many years of volunteering. We have included a few in this newsletter see pages 16 - 17.

Many thanks to all those you volunteer and help with the branch in any way.



Member's Pages

Gardening Tips

Two gardening tips that have worked for me! By Cynthia

Last summer while pruning a rose, I cut a long rose stem into four smaller stems and placed them in a pot of compost. I watered the pot regularly and each stem grew new shoots. Earlier this year I re potted each stem into its own pot, and not only have they grown into mini bushes, three of them have buds on.



Another tip, while taking out the side shoots of my tomato plants, I planted a longer one in a pot of compost where it is flourishing.



I am hoping it will produce flowers then tomatoes later on.

Do share any photos, poems you have written or favourites you like to read in our regular email update.

Poems

With thanks to Valerie Wright for sending in this lovely comforting poem that she wrote.

In the Garden

You will find hedgehogs, butterflies,
ants, spiders and woodlice,
If you are lucky you may see
something nice,

The flowers and shrubs are a joy to see,
And if you look closely maybe a bee,
Get on your knees and you might find,
A black beetle under a stone.
There is always something to see there,
So you are never alone.

Regular Update

Did you know Mid-surrey send out a regular email update with local, member and general news and quizzes? If you would like this regular contact just let us know we also post to you if you let the office know. We are always looking for contributions so if you have a memory, photo, idea, book review, and music you would like to share with local members just let us know.

Boredom Busters

We've put together some fun puzzles to help distract your mind and pass the time. How quickly can you crack them?

Anagrams ~ rearrange the letters to guess the word!

Doledwolfs Henisfirpud Clodkonw Behpmimers Beefnits

Riddles

Can you guess the answers to these quarrelsome questions?

1. What has to be broken before you can use it?
2. What goes up, but never comes down?
3. What question can you never honestly answer yes to?
4. This belongs to you, but everybody else uses it. What is it?
5. How can a pocket be empty, but still have something in it?

Where is the

Dinabats

Photos of previous events

Earlier in the year we had some enjoyable events...



Mike Hall from Oddfellows Travel and Sarah Goldsbrough from Warners, both gave an interesting talk on travel options and ideas using Oddfellows and Warners travel offers, which I am sure many members will look forward to taking advantage of this when possible.



Wildlife Aid Talk

Stuart Venmore came from local charity Wildlife Aid and spoke of the important work that Wildlife Aid do, showing a presentation of the history of the charity, the moving videos and personal stories of animal rescues. It made us all more now aware of the charity, and all the amazing work they do, and plans for the future. The photo shows Stuart Venmore from Wildlife Aid, and Alan Cole who gave a donation on behalf of Mid-Surrey Oddfellows to Wildlife Aid.



Members also enjoyed an entertaining talk from Pete Allen on the History of Pantomime, Pete is always a great entertainer and speaker. The Cinnamon Trust came and gave an insight to all the important work that Cinnamon Trust do and made us aware of the charity, and all the amazing work and support they offer to people and their pets.

Unfortunately all events after 10 March have had to be cancelled until further notice, but the Social Organiser will try to fit the speakers and trips that have been missed back in to the programme as soon as possible.

VE Day celebrations

How did you celebrate VE day commemorations? We heard from local members who had tea on their doorsteps and front gardens with members. This photo was donated by Eve Wood taken of the Oddfellows Hall on 1945 VE Day. Also VE day hall this year with the flagout. Do let us know if you have any photos to share.



The Committee of Management and office hope that you have all been coping during this very difficult time.

Obviously we have haven't had any face to face social events during this period and so it has been difficult to communicate with you all. We have been contacting all members by phone, email or post, using a postcard or birthday cards. We have had such positive feedback from you all, it has been lovely to hear your messages, calls and letters from you and update our details so we can now contact you more easily.

If you have not heard from us and wish to update us with any changes, please do call or email the office. If you would like to be added to our twice monthly email update or like a regular phone call from one of welfare visitors do let us know.

As an office we have been working from home, due to social distancing, but Maeve is popping into the office regularly to check the post and answerphone messages. We look forward to when all meetings and social events can resume, but until then, please remember we are still here to support you.

Obituaries

We remember all those members who have died recently and families touched by the Covid-19 illness. We remember particularly: Olive Copas, Peter Orpin, Gladys Burrough (nee Adey), May Webb and Beatrice Joyce Andrews (known as Joyce).

May Webb

12 May 1932 – 19 May 2020

Obituary taken from words Phil Alderman wrote to celebrate Mays 80th birthday in 2012.



“In 1947 a young girl by the name of May Gruber, along with her boyfriend Steve Webb joined what is now Mid-Surrey District and became keen Oddfellows. May and Steve married in 1953 and initially lived in Brock ham.

They remained dedicated Oddfellows and both served the district well in many positions, including both taking the role of Provincial Grand Master.

Sadly, Steve passed away in 1996, May continued despite advancing years to attend meetings and continued to have keen interest in what is going on at all times. When one reflects on the time that May and Steven gave to the Oddfellows over the years, we realise that in these days this type of people are sadly missed and more of whom we could always do with.”

We have details sent from the families on two members to share with you, particularly Gladys’ memories of the local Mid-Surrey area.

Gladys Burrough (nee Adey)

5 April 1920 – 13 March 2020

Obituary. Kindly shared by her son Phil.

Sadly Gladys passed away on 30 March 2020 at a Care Centre in Maidstone. Aged 99 just 6 days before her 100th birthday although she did receive her 100th birthday card from the Queen.

Following the onset of dementia in 2015 Gladys was encouraged as a part of her occupational therapy at the Care Centre to write her own ‘Life Story’. Although due to her dementia this was never completed. The first part of the ‘story’ is particularly interesting as Gladys was born and before going to college spent all her early years in the Gomshall area.

To quote from her memories: “I lived in the village of Gomshall between Guildford and Dorking. My father (Harry) worked in the local grocers shop and used to ride his bike around the local villages delivering the groceries and taking orders.

He couldn't afford a car and this was his only means of transport.

I went to the village school (Shere C of E Primary School) and with my friends we had to walk about a mile to the school each day. My classroom had a big coal fire in the corner with an equally large fireguard round it. I was allowed a bottle of milk each day at school (one third of a pint). The Adey family attended the village church and I can remember the vicar regularly visiting us at home to ensure we would be going to church on Sunday.

On leaving primary school I went to Guildford County School for Girls before training as a school teacher in Brighton. I obtained my 'Teachers Certificate' with my specialist subject being 'Nature Study'. I have always kept the first school photograph showing me as class teacher in May 1948 at a school in Brighton.

In Brighton I met my future husband, Leslie, who had sadly lost his wife after the birth of their only child Christopher.

We were married at Shere church in 1949 and I gave birth to my son Philip in December 1951".

Gladys would talk about her childhood days living at High View in Gomshall. She was allowed to go down with her friends and play games under the railway bridge in Gomshall (Haven't times changed!). Gladys enjoyed family life and despite never having a car it was a regular event in the school holidays to take Christopher and me (Phil) by train to Gomshall.

It was a 'big event' to go on the steam train between Redhill and Gomshall.

The property in High View backed on to the railway line and I can remember buckets of water being kept at the top of the garden to put out fires on the embankment caused by the passing steam trains particularly as the trains' left Gomshall station.



Gladys loved everything to do with wildlife and in particular her garden flowers. She spent many hours talking about flowers with her grandson Simon. Simon had studied horticulture at college and so they had a common interest. Her room at the Care Centre was always admired for the flower arrangements which Simon had put together for her."

Joyce Andrews

13 December 1928 - 13 March 2020.

Memories kindly shared by her husband Frank.



“Though she was actually born in Ramsgate, Joyce was a Dovorian; her father was a Trinity House pilot. The family was evacuated in June 1940 to Sidmouth in Devon, and then later moved to Glasgow. After training at the Shropshire College of Domestic Science at Shrewsbury she came back to Kent as a junior Matron at what was then Betteshanger School.

In 1950 she accepted a Matron's post at Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich, where we met when I joined the staff in 1957. She continued as Matron in one of the houses at the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Dover, when I went there in 1972. When we left Dover in 1980 she became a very well-liked optician's receptionist in Sandwich, and remained there until the business closed in 1999. I had taken a post with Barnardo's, in 1981 and she threw herself into that work with me, running coffee mornings and stalls, selling flags and counting the contents of collecting boxes.

She was persuaded to join the helpers' team at St Clement's in Sandwich, and for many years paid regular visits to elderly (and often rather difficult) ladies from the congregation.

She was an excellent handicraft worker, and did some splendid embroideries and made knitted garments and toys.

She was a fanatical housewife: no spider was safe from her duster, and unpolished brass was an anathema to her. Her only weakness was that she was quite unable to say “No” to any request for help or support: “spare time” was an unknown quantity for Joyce: she was a tremendous support to me in all I did. I miss her more than I can say.”

The photograph is actually the last one I took of Joyce, dating from August 218 when we were on holiday on the Isle of Man - I think it is quite a good one.”



Supporting Charities

Did you know that the Mid-Surrey District donates to these charities annually? Air Ambulance, Combat Stress, Orphan Gift Fund, HA Andrews Fund, Princess Alice Hospice, The Brigitte Trust, The Aplastic Anaemia Trust, Friends of Dorking Community Hospital, Age Concern, Leatherhead Swans, Dorking Talking Newspaper, and thanks to the talks given by volunteers this year, Mid-Surrey also gave to Cinnamon Trust, Wildlife Aid.

Oddfellows Coronavirus Emergency Appeal from head office and branches including Mid-Surrey raised and amazing £19,210. With a £5,000 contribution from Unity.

This money had been divided between Silver Line and the national Emergencies trust.

The Silver Line offer an invaluable 24 hour helpline and befriending service to anyone over 55 in the UK. Older people are among those hardest hit by the pandemic and the charity has been inundated by calls from many in desperate need of company and assistance.

The National Emergencies Trust Coronavirus appeal is helping numerous grassroots organisations and charities to keep going, so they can continue to provide critical support to struggling individuals, families and communities.

For more than 200 years the Oddfellows has stepped forward to help people in desperate need. The pandemic has bought, and continues to bring, a lot of suffering. This donation is yet another example of how our society, our branches and our members truly care about others around them.

Penfellows

We appreciate that not everyone is online or texting, but still would like to keep in touch. Do you enjoy writing and receiving letters? If so would you like to join the Mid-Surrey Penfellows?

We are inviting members who like writing and receiving letters to write to each other. In the current climate, mobile phones, email and text messages dominate.

Letter writing can seem outdated, but we know it is still a much loved method of communication for many members.

Please let the office know if you would like to take part as often or occasionally as you would like. Of course personal data would only be shared with your permission to the other members as part of the scheme.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Meet your Mid Surrey Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



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



Pat Christmas



David Day

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings and would like a visit for a cup of tea and a chat?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone?

Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

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

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

To arrange for a Welfare Visitor to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Jenny Vincent on **01306 877792** or email jenny.vincent@oddfellows.co.uk

National Oddfellows Helplines

As well as the help available at your local Branch, you can also contact our free, confidential national helplines.

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@manchestercab.org

Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on areas such as welfare benefits, money and debt, consumer problems, housing, and employment issues.

Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice provided.



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, members 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.

Our Oddfellows care, advice, support services and benefits* are available to all members from day one, except the convalescence and carer benefits which are available after two years of membership. If you would like more information ask your Branch Secretary for a copy of our '**Looking After You**' Care, Advice and Support booklet or visit our website page at

www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/

Mid-Surrey Volunteers

As the UK marked National Volunteers' Week this week 1-7 June, it seemed a good opportunity to thank all the volunteers within Oddfellows, and particularly on Mid-Surrey.

Our volunteers have made a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as the Care and Welfare visitors making welfare check-in phone calls, and providing company through befriending calls and those taking part and coordinating and welcoming at events.



Above we would like to thank all the Trustees and Committee of Management who give their time generously some for many years to support the branch, members and office.

We would like to acknowledge and thank them for all their time, advice and support and hope that their example continues to inspire many others to offer their help where possible, long into the future.

There are many members to thank and no matter how much or how little you contribute, it makes a difference. Being

on the committee or helping collecting money at lunches or events – we couldn't do it without you.

I have just profiled below a few Mid-Surrey Volunteers below. If you volunteer or have in the past and would like to contribute to another newsletter with your experience as an Odd fellow volunteer please let the office know.

Volunteers' interview

Alan - Trustee

I was born and raised as an Odd fellow and it has become a way of life for me.



When did you join Oddfellows, and why?

I was entered at birth by my parents.

How long have you volunteered with Oddfellows as a Trustee /Care and Welfare visitor/helping at events?

I have been an active member since the formation of the Juvenile Lodge in 1952 and was elevated to a Trustee around about 1975.

What do you like about volunteering or could recommend to others about volunteering with the Oddfellows?

It is much like Baden Powell with the scouting movement 'If you can help someone every day'.

**How much time does your
Volunteering take per month?**

Usually no more than 10 hours and much of that is socialising.

**What's your favourite thing
about the Oddfellows?**

Friendship Love and Truth describe it all.

What hobbies and interests do you have?

I am an engineer so DIY comes pretty high up the list, as well as managing family finances.

**What new activities have you tried
or old ones rediscovered and
enjoyed doing during in lockdown?**

Nothing special but I have done a bit more gardening as less time spent socialising.

**What Oddfellows events and
other activities are you looking
forward to returning to?**

The meetings and socialising, as well as attending conferences.

Rosie - Trustee

**When did you join
Oddfellows, and why?**

I was introduced by my late husband and joined in January 1976.

**How long have you volunteered
with Oddfellows as a Trustee /Care
and Welfare visitor/helping at events?**

I have volunteered as Trustee since approximately 2013.

**What do you like about volunteering
or could recommend to others about
volunteering with the Oddfellows?**

To help members to the best of my ability.

**How much time does your
Volunteering take per month?**

Approximately four to six hours per month although I freely give as much time as possible when required.

**What's your favourite thing about
the Oddfellows?**

Friendship and meeting with other members.

What hobbies and interests do you have?

Theatre, cinema and holidays.

Member of local U3A.

**What new activities have you tried
or old ones rediscovered and
enjoyed doing during in lockdown?**

No new activities although I have found more interest in gardening.

**What Oddfellows events and
other activities are you looking
forward to returning to?**

The meetings both business and social, lunches and outings.





Social Distancing, but still being social

One of the great things about the Oddfellows is sharing good times with friends.

Although we can't see each other face to face right now, we're doing lots of great stuff online.

To find out what's on, or for more information, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/ or contact us on 01306 877792 (answerphone) email mid-surrey@oddfellows.co.uk

*Why not
join in?*



f OddfellowsMidSurrey
www.oddfellows.co.uk

Time to say “Thank you!”



It's true that lights shine brightest on the darkest of days as, since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, we've witnessed countless acts of kindness and the best of humankind.

Jane Nelson, CEO, says, “Oddfellows has its own very special brand of friendship which goes a long way in helping our members through some difficult times, and these past few weeks have been extremely difficult for so many people. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our Branches and all our volunteers for the fantastic way that they all rose to the challenge, and we can't thank them enough for their efforts.”

As with other local organisations supporting older or vulnerable people, including many who live alone or who

are shielding, our volunteers make a huge difference to the scale of help we can offer, such as making welfare check-in calls, organising essential shopping and providing company through befriending and online events.

Once again, our most heartfelt thanks go to the individuals who have given their time freely to be a friend to those in desperate need. We will not forget your kindness, and we hope that their example continues to inspire many others to offer their help where possible, long into the future.

Interested in becoming an Oddfellows member volunteer? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or take a look at www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/social/volunteering/

Our emergency appeals

At times of crisis, the Society has always looked for ways to help. Which is why, when our friends in Australia were fighting against bush fires at the end of 2019, our members rallied to offer their support.



Reflecting on the donations, Oddfellows CEO Jane Nelson said: “Thank you again to all who have contributed to the Appeals, and for enabling those in need to receive the support they so desperately need, as well as to draw comfort from the knowledge that they have not been forgotten.”

We're pleased to tell you that the total amount raised by our members was £7,600. This money has gone directly to those affected, to help rebuild communities and provide valuable support.

We also launched our Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, in support of The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust's critical work during the pandemic. Both organisations work hard to ensure help and comfort is provided to those who desperately need it.



We'd love to see you at our online events

Just because you aren't able to come along to our usual face-to-face events at the moment, doesn't mean that you should have to miss out on all of the fun!

Lots of our Branches are hosting online events, open to members from across the country, through Facebook Live or Zoom video conferencing. Don't have a smartphone or a computer with a camera? There's a phone-in option as well, so it's accessible to all.

Whether you're looking for exercise motivation with our Seated Yoga class, hosted by Swansea and Bridgend, or you'd like to test your general knowledge with Ipswich's weekly trivia quizzes, there is something for everyone. If you're struggling to get set up on Zoom, our Branches are on hand to help.



Give your local Social Organiser a call and they can talk you through the process. It's a free-to-use video conferencing tool, and it's a great way for you to stay in touch with your fellow members.

Facebook is another option. Lots of Branches have their own Facebook page updated regularly with events, news, fun quizzes and a little bit of humour to keep us smiling through these tough times. If you haven't liked your local Oddfellows page yet, get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ask for the link.

Oddfellows Travel Unveiled

Despite there being restrictions on how and where we can travel at the moment, we're busy behind the scenes creating a brand-new line-up of short breaks, longer trips and cruises for 2021 under the new name Oddfellows Travel (formerly Active Travel Club).

Rest assured, we're still working with our trusted third-party travel partners, Fred. Olsen, Warner Leisure Hotels, Haven and Leger Holidays who are ABTA and ATOL

protected, so you can be confident your booking is in good hands.

When you're thinking about taking your next trip, don't forget to look at what we have to offer. Whether you're a foodie, a culture vulture or a history buff, we hope to have a holiday that you'll love.

Visit Oddfellows Travel at www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Boredom Busters

We've put together some fun puzzles to help distract your mind and pass the time. How quickly can you crack them?

Anagrams – rearrange the letters to guess the word!

Doledwolfs

Henisfirpd

Clodkonw

Behpmimers

Beefnits

Riddles

Can you guess the answers to these quarrelsome questions?

1. What has to be broken before you can use it?
2. What goes up, but never comes down?
3. What question can you never honestly answer yes to?
4. This belongs to you, but everybody else uses it. What is it?
5. How can a pocket be empty, but still have something in it?

Where is the ping pong ball?



Dingbats

What's this well-known phrase?

E Y E S

Answers:

Where is the ping pong ball? (C)
 5. There's a hole in the pocket!
 3. Are you asleep?, 4. Your name
Riddle: 1. An egg, 2. Your age!,
Dingbats: Eyes wide open
Anagrams: Oddfellows, Friendship, Lockdown,
 Membership, Benefits

District Business Meeting

Usually all members are welcome to business meetings but in the current climate these may need to be limited in numbers or take place via video conferencing. These are the dates below please contact the office if you wish to attend any.

The meetings are every month at 10.30am alternately between Leatherhead Oddfellows Hall and Dorking Oddfellows Hall. For further information please contact Maeve Stott or Jenny Vincent on 01306 877792, some meetings are for the Committee of Management only so please call Maeve if you are interested to know more about joining the Committee of Management. Please call the office for more information before attending.

2020

Monday 21 September	Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 19 October	Half Yearly Meeting	Leatherhead
Monday 16 November	Committee of Management Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 21 December	Business Meeting	Leatherhead

2021

Monday 18 January	Business Meeting	Dorking
Monday 15 February	Committee of Management Business Meeting	Leatherhead

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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



At a glance

All face to face meetings TBC please contact the office for more details,
please contact office for zoom Friday coffee morning dates.

August 2020

Mon 17	Committee of Management Business Meeting	10.30am
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September - Friendship Month

Fri 11	Welcome Back Fish and Chips Lunch	12 noon
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Mon 14	Monday Evening Social (DOE)	7.30pm
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Mon 21	Business Meeting	10.30am
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Tues 22	Online Beetle Drive	11am
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October

Fri 9	Online Bingo Zingo	11am
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Mon 12	Monday Evening Social (DOE)	7.30pm
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Mon 19	Half Yearly Meeting	10.30am
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November

Mon 9	Monday Evening Social (DOE)	7.30pm
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Mon 16	Committee of Management Business Meeting and Christmas Lunch	10.30am
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December

Mon 14	Monday Evening Social (DOE) - Christmas Drinks	7.30pm
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Mon 21	Business Meeting	10.30am
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January 2021

Mon 11	Monday Evening Social (DOE)	7.30pm
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Mon 18	Business Meeting	10.30am
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February

Mon 8	Monday Evening Social (DOE)	7.30pm
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Mon 15	Committee of Management Business Meeting	10.30am
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We are monitoring the current Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines and all events will be subject to the up to date advice. Please call to confirm the event is on and to book your place.

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB