

April - September 2025
Issue 12



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

out & about

Concord Branch



Aerial view of Farnham Castle

Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire



Book Club



Bowling



Travel



Shopping



Crafts



Theatre



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Welcome to the 12th edition of our combined Out and About Events Diary and Newsletter for Concord Branch.

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

We are basically a group of friends brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. This issue features details of all our upcoming events from coffee mornings to interesting talks, trips out plus lots of other activities.

Contact Details

We love to hear from our members and are always here to help you in any way that we can.

District Secretary: Steph Hopes

Address:

4 Montrose Close
Fleet GU51 3XB

Mobile: 07312 115323

Email: concord@oddfellows.co.uk

Everyone 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 of our events that take your fancy and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time.

Steph

**Any changes to dates are sent via our regular email
newsletter or are on the website**

Regular Events

Aldershot Coffee Mornings



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



**First Monday
of the Month**

We are very excited to have the West End Centre as one of our regular venues. It is billed as the creative heart of Aldershot for more than 45 years, so please join us here for coffee and conversation at 10.30am on the first Monday of every month (except Bank holidays). Not only will we make new friends but we can become familiar with all the exciting activities this centre has to offer. To find us we will be just inside the door in the main bar area. Plenty of free parking – don't forget to put your car registration at the bar on arrival. West End Centre, 48 Queen's Road, Aldershot GU11 3JD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

7 April

2 June

7 July

1 September

Fleet Coffee and Conversation



2.30pm



Cost of refreshments



**Fourth Monday
of the Month**

Come and join us at our popular regular event at this iconic pub in the heart of Fleet town. In this relaxed environment, catch up with old friends and welcome some new ones. To find us, look for the yellow Oddfellows table sign and listen for the buzz of conversation! Plenty of free parking – don't forget to log your car registration at the bar on arrival. Bus stop right outside (Number 10, Number 7). Do let us know if you are coming along and we will know to look out for you. Always the fourth Monday of the month. Do check with us if it is a Bank Holiday! The Oatsheaf, 2 Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5DR. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

28 April

26 May

23 June

28 July

25 August

22 September

Book Club and Lunch



1pm



Members £10
Guests £12



**First Wednesday
of the Month**

You are welcome to join us at our monthly book club accompanied by a light lunch. Please liaise with Hannah for details of the book to be discussed. There is a WhatsApp group set up to liaise with book club regulars – if you wish to be added, please ask Hannah. Book one day in advance. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

2 April

7 May

4 June

2 July

6 August

3 September

Regular Events

Fleet Dine Around



**Second Wednesday
of the month**

Join us for lunch, brunch or dinner as we embark on our regular Dine Arouns in Fleet. On the second Wednesday of the month we will meet in a local establishment for a bite to eat and a natter. Booking essential so the table can be organised. Book five days in advance. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

9 April - Trattoria La Casa, 203 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3BL, 12.30pm

14 May - The Kara Lounge and Grill, 335 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3NT, 12.30pm

11 June - Station Ember Inn Pub, 1 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3QJ, 12.30pm

9 July - Bella Capri, 206 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 4BY, 12.30pm

13 August - Gurka Square Restaurant, 327 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3BU, 6.30pm

10 September - Alento Lounge, 162 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 4BE, 10.30am

Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning



**Third Wednesday
of the Month**

Why not come and make new friends and have a natter, in the lovely Bush Hotel at Farnham, as per dates listed. Come when you can, go when you must. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

16 April
21 May

18 June
16 July

20 August
17 September

Pub Quiz Nights



**First Thursday of
the month**

Come and join us at The White Hart in Frimley for their Thursday evening quiz night. Quiz starts at 8pm. Join us from 7pm for dinner, if you would like to eat beforehand. Please let us know if you will be joining us so we book enough spaces! The White Hart, Frimley High Street, Frimley GU16 7HU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Jane on 07951 814860.

3 April
1 May

5 June
3 July

7 August
4 September

Regular Events

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers

Every Thursday



9am



£10



Join us and make something beautiful! Please join our member Sharon at this regular weekly event. There is embroidery, traditional needlecrafts and chat. All abilities are welcome. Sessions run from 9am to 3pm and are held at Victoria Hall. For just £10 a session, refreshments and cakes are provided. Please either bring a packed lunch with you or they order sandwiches from their local bakery on the day. There is free car parking on site and a free car park opposite the hall. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. To book your place please contact Sharon on 07825 266377, or email sharon@euroboxonline.net. A list of class requirements will be sent to you upon booking.

Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!

Various Thursdays



6pm



IRO £10



Join us for a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and pre-payment is required seven days in advance. Hosted by Nick, this will include two games of bowling and a burger meal. Tenpin, No8, The Atrium, Park Street, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

10 April

26 June

14 August

Dave's Charity Quiz

Various Fridays



7.30pm



£5 plus optional raffle



Join our team and help us win first place, at the same time as raising lots of money for various charities including our chosen charity of the year. Quiz costs £5 per person, plus raffle money - cash only please. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please let us know if you are coming so we can reserve enough spaces. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Jane on 07951 814860.

11 April - Mencap

2 May - Parity Farnborough

6 June - Hand in Hand Ethiopia

27 June - Frimley Health Charity

18 July - The Samaritans

29 August - Friends of Bells Piece Farnham

26 September - Macmillan Cancer Support

Regular Events

Roving Coffee



Various



Cost of refreshments



Held on Tuesdays
and Fridays

Come and enjoy a coffee and catch up at one of our new 'Roving Coffee' area hoping to make new friends. Meeting up in venues within our area hoping to make new friends. Everyone is welcome. Booking advised. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

The Refectory, Portsmouth Road, Milford, Godalming GU8 5HJ at 2.30pm

Tuesday 1 April

Tuesday 1 July

The Hatch, London Road, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7JL at 10.30am

Friday 2 May

Friday 1 August

The Lightbox, Woking, Chobham Road, Woking GU21 4AA at 11am

Friday 6 June

Friday 5 September

Camberley Dine Around



Various
See below



As per menu



Held on Tuesdays
and Fridays

Come and join us for one of our Camberley Dine Arouds. Booking essential, five days in advance. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Jane on 07951 814860.

Tuesday 22 April, 7pm - Sanjha Indian Restaurant, 67 Park Street, Camberley GU15 3PE

Friday 25 July, 12.30pm - Pizza Express, 52 Park Street, Camberley GU14 3PT

Friday 30 May, 10.30am - Wildwood Pizza Pasta Grill, Park Street, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3PL

Friday 29 August, 12.30pm - Harvester Kings Head, Guildford Road, Frimley Green, Camberley GU16 6NR

Friday 27 June, 12.30pm - Toby Carvery Frimley, 114 Portsmouth Road, Frimley, Camberley GU15 1HS

Friday 26 September, 12.30pm - Mimosa, First Floor Atrium, Park Street, Camberley GU15 3PT

Comedy Night in Yateley



7.30pm



£15



Saturdays

A group of Oddfellows visited the opening night of the Laughing Chili Comedy Club at their new location in Yateley and had a fun evening. Doors and bar 7pm, show 8pm Please contact us for more information. Book five days in advance. Starburst Studios, Yateley Village Hall, Old School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NG. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

17 May

16 August

April 2025

MON 14 Guest Speaker/Event - SustainaBites



11.30am



Donations



SustainaBites will be bringing the message that cutting down on the meat and dairy in our diets is one of the best ways we can both reduce our environmental impact and benefit our health. Come along and try some nibbles to find out just how tasty the alternatives can be. Doors open 11.30 Talk at 11.45am. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



THURS 17 War of the Worlds - A talk based on the story by HG Wells



2pm



Donations for refreshments



Boundless have kindly invited Oddfellows to join their talk by Tim Stoneman, a retired Royal Navy Commander, a member of the Battlefield Tour Guides and a seasoned speaker. His talk is based on the story by HG Wells. Our venue has disabled access and facilities, refreshments will also be available, and donations would be welcomed. All welcome. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

THURS 24 Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) Museum - Guided visit plus optional wind tunnel



10.30am



£15 minimum



Join the Oddfellows and Boundless for a guided visit to the FAST Museum. This local venue includes a fascinating collection of aircraft, equipment, machinery, photographs, films, reports and books related to Farnborough's illustrious aviation history. The tour starts at 10.30am, followed by an optional tour of the famous wind tunnels after a break for lunch. The FAST Museum tour cost is £15 and the Wind Tunnel Tour cost is £20 per person. Spaces are limited, so please contact Steph as soon as possible to book by Tuesday 15 April. Farnborough Air Sciences Museum, Trenchard House, 85 Farnborough Road, Farnborough GU14 6TF. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.



May

FRI
09

Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Heather Farm near Woking

L 11am

£ Cost of refreshments



Come and join us at this lovely location near Woking. Weather permitting we'll have a gentle stroll and then refresh ourselves with a drink and/or lunch in their delightful café. Your well behaved pooch will be welcome too! Please book in so we know who to look out for. Heather Farm, Horsell Common Road, Woking GU21 4XY. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

SUN
11

Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village

L 3pm

£ £12.50



Have you ever been to a sound bath? It's a fabulous form of relaxation and rebalances the body. It works on vibration at a cellular level, as the body is made up of 70% water (think of ripples on a pond).

Do wear comfortable clothes. This is our first sound bath event and booking is essential. Spaces are limited, so please let Steph know as soon as possible if you would like to come or need any help to get there.

Sound bath lasts for approximately one hour. Book by Wednesday 30 April. The Coach House Café and Coffee Shop, The Street, Crookham Village GU51 5SJ. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

MON
12

Guest Speaker/Event - A May Melange with Trish Thorns

L 11.30am

£ Donations



We are delighted to welcome back Trish. "I was asked to give a talk on 12 May about VE Day through the poetry of the Second World War. But I could not dismiss the thought that this actual date is, more significantly, International Nurses' Day. So I wondered for a while: Could I explore both subjects in one talk? However, the idea, like Topsy, 'just grewed'! So I have offered instead to put together a pot pourri of events, ideas, people and places that came to significance in the month of May. I hope to see you there!" Trish. Doors open 11.30am The talk will start at 11.45am. Donations towards refreshments welcomed. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

May

THURS
15

War of the Worlds - A guided walk based on the story by HG Wells - Woking



2pm



Donations welcomed/Costs of refreshments



Boundless have kindly invited Oddfellows to join their guided walk with Tim Stoneman. The walk will follow what the book by HG Wells describes. The walk is in two parts: First approximately two miles, then a stop for rest and refreshments then another two miles.

Parts of the walk could be muddy, so choose your footwear wisely. We will be walking at the slowest pace, so no worries about keeping up. A donation for the cost of the walk would be appreciated. Book by Monday 12 May. Brewery Road Car Park, Woking GU21 4ND. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.



June

MON
09

Guest Speaker/Event - Spring into Summer with Nuffield Health



11.30am



Free



This month we are joined by Emma and her team from Farnborough's Nuffield Health Gym. They will share tips for leading a healthy lifestyle, give background into their free joint pain course and if you would like to join in, we will also get the chance to practice some chair yoga. No need to wear gym kit. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



FRI
13

Alton Coffee and Cakes



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



Join Hannah at Alton Community Centre. We will meet in the café and sample the excellent value drinks and food

over a catch up! If the weather is nice, the flood meadows are a short walk away. Please let us know you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



June

SAT
28

Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Mytchett Canal Centre

11am

£ As per menu



Back to one of our favourites, let's get together to walk and talk, or sit and sip at the delightful Mytchett Canal Centre, which borders Frimley Lodge Park. We'll meet up outside the Canal Centre by the benches at 11am. The canal centre at Mytchett is the perfect place for visitors of all ages. It is a good place to start for walks, cycling or boating. The car park is free during opening hours. At other times the barrier allows entry with a code only. Outside there is a children's playground and next to that a café with inside and outside seating. In the spring and summer, there are regular trips on the 12 seater boat 'Rosebud' and a variety of unpowered craft to hire. Please do let us know you are coming, so we don't set off on our walk without you. Well behaved dogs welcomed! Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey GU16 6DD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

July

MON
30

Watch Wimbledon Championship with a Cream Tea at The Oatsheaf

1pm

£ IRO £10



Join us at the Oatsheaf where they will be showing the opening day of the Wimbledon Championship especially for us. Nestled in our usual 'private' area, the day's tennis will be on the big screen. They hope to source a cream tea especially for us - cost to be confirmed. Please let us know if you would like one. Everyone welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy the tennis in great company. Plenty of free parking. The Oatsheaf, 2 Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5DR. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

SUN
13

Family Picnic Farnham - Music in the Meadow

1.30pm

£ Free



Bring your family along to an afternoon of music and relaxation in beautiful Gostrey Meadow in Farnham. Bring a picnic and hopefully, sunglasses. We will be there from 1.30pm to reserve a space. Please let us know if you will be coming so we know to look out for you. We are told there are refreshments available from the charity tea tent. Music will run from 3pm to 5pm. Very family friendly. Gostrey Meadow, Union Road, Farnham GU9 7PT. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



July

MON
14

Guest Speaker/Event - Fishy Games with Hannah Appleby



11.30am



As per menu
IRO £10 for fish
and chips



Join Hannah at her games café. She will be bringing a selection of games but if you have a favourite then do bring it along. We will be ordering fish and chips for lunch. For more information contact us by phone or email. Doors open 11.30am Fish and chips will be served at 1pm. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



WED
16

Charter on the Wey and Arun Canal with Boundless



2pm



£21



Take a boat cruise along the idyllic Loxwood Link section of the canal on the Surrey/W.Sussex border. A large car park is available beyond the Onslow Arms car park. This pub has an extensive menu if members want to have lunch before the trip. Meet at the Canal Centre by 1.45pm for a prompt 2pm start. Cost: £21 including a cream tea. Early booking essential. Please contact Steph to reserve your place and make payment. This is a joint trip with Boundless. Book by Wednesday 9 July. Canal Centre behind Onslow Arms, Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 0RD. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

WED
30

Chicago Musical at Woking Theatre - Matinee Performance



2.30pm



IRO £34



CHICAGO, the 'sexiest musical ever' (Metro) comes to Woking in August for one week only, starring Strictly Come Dancing Professional Dancer and TV Star Janette Manrara (It Takes Two, Burn The Floor, Glee) as Roxie Hart. Set amidst the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s. We have reserved 20 seats in the upper circle front rows A and B for this amazing show. Deadline for booking is Friday 9 May, so please let Steph know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. Everyone welcome. Ticket will be discounted to £34 (was £40) and no booking fee if minimum number (10) is met. New Victoria Theatre, Peacocks Centre/Victoria Place, The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre GU21 6GQ. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

August

WED
27

Family Day at Birdwold



10.30am



IRO £16 adult,
£14 concession,
£12 child



We do like to end the summer holidays on a high, this year it's at Birdworld. With everything from birds, pretty flowers, animal talks, a petting farm and a restaurant. So whether you are young families or the young at heart, please do come along! All ages welcome. Plenty of free parking and the number 18 Bus stops outside, either from central Aldershot, central Farnham or Farnham station. We hope to take advantage of a group booking, so please let Steph know in plenty of time if you plan on coming to get the best rates! Free entry for 1:1 carers and under three year olds. Cost: IRO £16 adult, £14 concession, £12 child, awaiting group booking discount. Book by Wednesday 20 August. Birdworld, Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LD. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



September

WED
03

Bat Walk and Talk with Friends of Basingbourne Park



7pm



Free



The Friends of Basingbourne Park have invited the Oddfellows to join them for an evening all about bats and conservation. Meeting in the pavilion, we will start with a hot drink. One of their volunteers will then give a short presentation about all things 'bats' and then we will head out at sunset for a walk to find the bats. Booking essential, so we can reserve a bat detector for you. The evening is free, but as they are a community group, donations are welcome towards their conversation work. There are paths through the woods, but please wear sturdy shoes and bring a torch. If you do have your own bat detector, please bring it along as they only have limited supplies. Do get in touch if you would like a lift as there will not be public transport at that time in the evening. If you have any questions, please contact Steph. Book by Wednesday 27 August. Basingbourne Park Pavilion, Basingbourne Park, End of Basingbourne Road, Fleet GU52 6TQ. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.



MON
08

Friendship Month - Learn all about Concord



11.30am



Donations to
The Grub Hub



Join us to hear more about what your local Branch of the Oddfellows have to offer. Regular members will be there to welcome you. Listen to a short presentation about our history and learn about the current benefits. You

will also get the chance to meet our Welfare Visitors and hear about their role in supporting our members. You may also make new friends. Doors open 11.30am in time to make a cup of tea or coffee. We will be taking the chance to accept donations for Aldershot's Community Food Bank 'The Grub Hub'. Please consider bringing along store cupboard items which our member/Welfare Visitor, Dawn will personally deliver to the team there. For more information do contact us. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.



FRI
12

Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Frimley Lodge



11am



As per menu



Back to one of our favourites, let's get together to walk and talk, or sit and sip at Frimley Lodge Park. We'll meet up outside the café at 11am. Please do let us know you are coming, so we don't set off on our walk without you. Well behaved dogs welcomed! Free parking. Frimley Lodge, Sturt Road, Frimley Green, Surrey GU16 6HY. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.



THURS
18

Putting Party - Crazy Golf in Farnborough



3.30pm



IRO £11



Join your host, Nick as you putt your way around their nine hole, motorsport inspired, challenging course. Great for all crazy golf levels. With a group booking, we will have our own private area. Food and drink available. Cost: IRO £11 - minimum numbers needed. Everyone welcome. Book by Wednesday 3 September. Putt Club, 28 Invincible Road, Farnborough GU14 7QU. Contact Concord on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



FRI
19

Alton Coffee and Cakes



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



MON
22

Macmillan Coffee and Cake Fundraising Event and Craft Fair



10am



Donations for cake and coffee



Join Bruce at Alton Community Centre. We will meet in the café and sample the excellent value drinks and food over a catch up! Whether you want just a drink, or a full meal, the chef is very friendly and the fare is fantastic. If the weather is nice, the flood meadows are a short walk away for able bodied folk or those with mobility scooters... so we could go enjoy the scenic views and have a walk to burn those calories. Please let us know you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

Come and support our combined charity event for Macmillan Cancer Support. Ash Creative Stitchers have invited the Concord Oddfellows to be part of their fundraising event. Not only will you get the chance to enjoy coffee and cake, but there will also be a craft fair running from 10am to 2pm and a tombola. Everyone welcome at Victoria Hall, there is free car parking on site and opposite the hall. Cake donations will be gratefully accepted from 8am on the day, or contact Sharon 07825 266 377 to arrange drop off. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

SUN
21

Friendship Month Afternoon Tea



2.30pm



IRO £15



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun

A return to the lovely Guildford Cathedral Refectory for our Friendship Month afternoon tea. A representative of our Chairman's charity will be present to give a short talk about their charity work and there will be the usual raffle. We do hope you can come and please feel free to invite family and friends. You do not need to be a member of the Oddfellows to enjoy the afternoon with us. Everyone is welcome. Booking essential. Menu: Freshly brewed coffee and selection of teas. Selection of finger sandwiches, home-made scones, sweet treats and delicious home baked cakes, slices and tarts. Plenty of free parking. Perhaps take the chance to arrive a bit earlier and have a wander around the cathedral. Book by Monday 8 September. Season's Café, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP. Contact Concord on 07388 871260.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?



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 Steph on **07312 115323** or email **steph.hopes@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**

Message from your Secretary

Hello Everyone,

It has been an exciting and challenging ten months since I became your District Secretary: September's Friendship month was a great success; the new regular venues will continue as they have proved very popular; it is very satisfying to listen to the interests of members and tailor events to match; I have attended a number of valuable training sessions provided by Oddfellows' Head Office; I successfully completed my first Accounts' Year End; I have organised the training for two new welfare officers; I have particularly enjoyed developing our links with our Charity of the Year, The Autism Trust.

Owing to the popularity of our regular monthly coffee events in Aldershot, Farnham and Fleet, we are introducing a new 'Roving Coffee Meeting' on the first Tuesday, or first Friday, of each month in Milford, Basingstoke and Woking to widen our provision for members. We will also return to support the Ash Creative Stitchers' Macmillan coffee and craft fundraiser in September.

The Walk and Talk, Sit and Sip are back for the summer and we are delighted to announce the link we have forged with Hart Healthy Walks who host walks daily in various locations. Another link we have created is with local organisation Boundless and, thanks to our member Nick, we have a number of shared events in our calendar. We also have our first Bat Walk scheduled for early September. The speaker events in Farnborough have proved popular, with topics often suggested by

members, and this event will continue as long as the ideas keep coming!

There will be a Woking theatre trip to the matinee of Chicago in

July. There is a quick deadline for booking to get the best deal. We will be having a family day at Birdworld as well as a family picnic at the Music in the Meadows in Farnham.

We have our first Sound Bath in Crookham village and if this proves popular we will continue to offer future sessions. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

I would also like to thank all of you, members and friends, for your generous support for our Charity of the Year: from purchasing wristbands and trolley tokens to donating raffle prizes; buying raffle tickets at various events through the year or donating for a laser cross.

We would welcome new ideas from you, so please do get in touch and let us know if there is something that interests you that we could look at adding to the programme.

Once this magazine is published, which happens twice a year, then any updates to members is via our website or is sent every ten days via email. This does mean, however, that those of you who do not use the internet, or have opted out of "email marketing", may not be receiving our updates. If this is the case and you think we may not even have your email address, then



please do email me at concord@oddfellows.co.uk and ask to be added to the database. You will then receive all the information that we communicate with members throughout the year. If, however, you do not have access to the internet, then I could organise to send any updates to you via the Royal Mail. Please send me a letter to 4 Montrose Close, Fleet, GU51 3XB with your details and I will aim to post any event updates to you when they arise.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all the members I have met these last ten months. This is your organisation and I am very happy to see so many of you at our events. More so now that members such as Lynn, Chris and Dawn are hosting some new events. Thank you, your help is much appreciated.

Steph Hopes

Changes to Dental and Optical Care Benefit claims



If you're a member on the Extra Benefits package (£35 a year), it means you can claim up to £30 every other membership year towards the cost of optical care and up to £30 every membership year towards dental costs.*

Claims against dental and optical payment plans were previously excluded, but from 1 June 2024 this has changed. You can now claim £30 every membership year towards check-ups, treatments and dental payment plan costs and £30 every other membership year towards an eye test, new glasses, contact lenses and optical payment plan costs.

Life, Associate and Widow members can also now claim towards optical or dental payment plans as a result of this recent benefit update.

Further information

- Want to find out more about the Dental and Optical Care Benefit and how to claim? Speak with your Branch Secretary, or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/dental-and-optical-care-benefit.
- Unsure of which membership package you're on, or want to learn more about switching membership packages? Speak with your Branch Secretary or contact our Membership team on 0800 028 1810/ membership@oddfellows.co.uk.

*Terms and conditions apply to all financial benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Extra Benefits members can read the full list of member terms and conditions on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs.

Life, Associate and Widow members should contact their Branch Secretary for details about entitlements.

My year as District Chairman!

Wow! This year has flown by quicker than ever for me. It's been so much fun being busy with fundraising for my chosen charity, The Autism Trust. With many events like the Bingo, afternoon tea and the Dinner dance to name a few. I also had the task of being on the interview panels for new staff, once when I was the Deputy Chair and then again as the Chair!



impact the lives of not just their service users, but also the family and community of those members.

I have been lucky enough to have a very supportive committee, who have each helped me this year which has allowed me to have an active role in serving you, whilst still being able to go back to college to train in hairdressing!

I look forward to handing the reins over to Jane in March, and seeing what amazing things are in store for us in the coming year. In the meantime, I hope you will all find events which excite you in this new Out and About; and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future occasions!

Hannah Appleby

Our incoming District Chairman

Jane Nicole, is delighted to choose the Ezra Charitable Trust (Ezra) as Concord's Charity of the Year. Ezra, being in its foundational phase, needs the support of not just finances to help develop to its full potential, but also practical help. Ezra was inspired by the work of the 'All Night Café', a service to the homeless community in Camberley established in 2007, with the motto: "No one should be homeless and no one should be hungry."



Ezra seeks to evolve, develop and serve the community and enable wellbeing.

Services currently offered include a free hot meal service on Sundays from 5pm; a Community Fridge Mondays 11am-2pm – this is a mini food supermarket stocking donated food items from individuals and local supermarkets; a free café (open when the building is open) – a warm space to get a free hot or cold drink, a biscuit and an opportunity to meet the friendly team.

If you would like to know more email:
info@ezra-trust.com

Jane Nicole

Hart Health Walks



Some years ago, Hart Voluntary Action established a weekly programme of easy, or more challenging, walks from various different starting points, in Blackwater, Crookham, Fleet, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Odiham and Yateley. These walks are now popular and well established; they are led by enthusiastic volunteers. Having spoken to their organisers, they

would be very happy to welcome Oddfellows' members to join in.

Please do have a look at their website www.hartvolaction.org.uk to discover all the benefits of walking in the fresh air with a sociable group, who have refreshments after the walk. Then you can decide which walks would suit you best! To contact them call 01252 815652 or email healthwalks@hartvolaction.org.uk

A Newcomer's Impression of the Oddfellows Society

I had never heard of Oddfellows - until my daughter became the District Secretary for the Concord Branch. I already had a delightfully active social life, deliberately so since I was widowed a few years ago, but I decided to join Oddfellows in order to give some support to my daughter in her new job. I am SO glad that I made that decision!

We often find in life that if we set about doing something for other people, we ourselves become the greater beneficiary of our gesture. And so it was with my experience of Oddfellows. I have met some delightful people at events, all willing to converse and forge new friendships; I have had a superb afternoon tea in the shadow of the elegant Guildford Cathedral and lunch at the lovely old-style Lismoyne Hotel; I have discovered, to my surprise, that I can make a significant contribution to our team's success at Quiz Nights; I had the pleasure of being invited (by my daughter, of course!)

to deliver a talk about The Great War through its poetry on Armistice Day at St Mark's

Church Hall in Farnborough; the icing on the cake was the best ever Dinner Dance at The Hogs Back Hotel, where it was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves. Yes, my decision to squeeze Oddfellows into my life in order to support my daughter has benefitted me quite as much as I have helped her, in the end. But it occurs to me that this is the fundamental premise of this Friendly organisation: we all, officials, trustees, committee, event hosts and members, work together for the benefit of others but, in the process of giving our time and energy, gain great joy and satisfaction from our efforts.



Trish Thorns
(member since August 2024)

Fruitful Liaison Between Two Local Groups

Let me introduce myself: my name is Nick and I have been a member of Oddfellows' Concord branch for just over two years. I have attended the last two Committee Meetings with the aim of becoming a full committee member soon. To facilitate this, I am undertaking a series of lectures to understand the ethos of the Oddfellows organisation. I am also planning to attend the Oddfellows' training weekend in Leamington Spa in March where I will participate in a number of seminars.

However, I am also Secretary of the local branch of a national organisation called Boundless. This is a Members' social group for people who currently work, formerly worked, or retired from the Civil Service or the Public Sector. This also includes the Armed Services and firms that have been privatised, such as BT and the Royal Mail. For more information about the benefits of joining Boundless, please go to their website www.boundless.co.uk

My involvement with both groups has allowed me to organise some enjoyable joint Boundless

/ Odd Fellows activities, including Ten Pin Bowling and a steam train excursion, and the plan for 2025 is to offer a Crazy Golf event in Farnborough and a trip to the FAST Museum. However, the really exciting joint event we will invite you to attend will be the Canal Trip along the Wey and the Arun Canal on Wednesday 16th July 2025. Put this date in your diary!

I am delighted that, owing to my membership of both groups, I am able to liaise and forge a bond of mutual benefit and friendship between these two exceptional organisations.

Nick Woodward



Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

We've online events for all to enjoy. Give one a try.



To see what's coming up visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

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Past Events

We have brought lots of events to you in the past six months. From our regular talks at St Mark's Church Hall, bowling and burger in Camberley, an amazing afternoon tea at Guildford Cathedral, our increasingly popular coffee catch ups, quiz nights, monthly book club with lunch, Camberley Dine Around, Christmas lunch and our flagship Annual Dinner Dance. A few photos captured our members in action. Please see our Facebook page for more pictures.



Oddfellows Travel: Destination Mystery

In November last year, 16 Oddfellows and three friends boarded a cruise ship with no idea of its destination.

With six mystery ports scheduled in 11 days, there was a lot to pack in, and there was plenty to keep them entertained on board: interesting talks, a murder mystery, craft sessions, quizzes and a drinks party.

Port one

Dawn broke on day two, revealing Gijon in northern Spain as the first destination. Some set out on organised excursions while others explored independently.



Port two

An overnight hop delivered our travellers to their second secret Spanish stop – Ferrol.

Wendy, an Ipswich Oddfellows member and cruise host, said: “It was an interesting port, not well known to many regular passengers. There was a mix of interesting architecture and maritime history – the naval museum was a must.”

Port three

The ship next docked in Porto, Portugal, where the group were greeted by a broad

esplanade and a sweeping sandy beach, and they discovered a thriving fish market.

Port four

Back in Spain, the fourth port was a warm, sunny Malaga. “It was amazing,” said Wendy. “The cathedral was well worth a visit, also the Roman amphitheatre.”

Port five

The Spanish odyssey and Roman themes continued at the penultimate stop in Cadiz.

“The sea defences were testament to the city’s position close to the entrance of the Mediterranean,” Wendy said.

Port six

Having worked out their next stop, Wendy said: “Lisbon wasn’t quite such a mystery, but a delight nevertheless. The highlight was a lift ride to see magnificent views over Lisbon and the River Tejo.”

Surprises and celebrations

Before returning, the Oddfellows crew received a mystery gift bag containing souvenirs from Spain and Portugal, Fred. Olsen gifts and chocolates, and celebrated a member’s birthday with cake provided by the chef and singing waiters.

See Oddfellows Travel’s 2025 group holiday schedule, including a cruise to Iceland in July, by visiting www.oddfellows.co.uk/travel

Unity Mutual: Seasonal scam spotting



With tax season coming to a close, scammers start to move their attention to new opportunities.

As new financial scams emerge, people get targeted in different ways. Our financial services brand, Unity Mutual, has assessed what to watch out for in the coming months.

April to May: The tax refund scam

With key tax deadlines passing, fraudsters may take advantage of taxpayers hoping for a refund. You may receive emails, phone calls or text messages claiming you're due reimbursement.

Verify any tax-related communication through official government channels before responding to avoid being caught out.

Summer scams: Holidays, events and ticket fraud

From June to August, scammers often aim to exploit the excitement of summer holiday planning by offering fake 'not to be missed' deals on accommodation and flights, often through unofficial websites.

Concert and sporting event fraud is also on the up, and attempts to sell fake tickets on social media platforms are becoming increasingly common. Avoid these traps

by booking through reputable travel agencies and official events websites.

August to September: Back to school scams

As students and their families prepare for a new school year, fraudsters like to create fake offers for school supplies, loans and student rental accommodation.

If an offer seems too good to be true, verify it with official sources before taking action.

Stay vigilant year-round

While some scams are season-specific, fraudsters are always on the lookout for their next victim.



Stay informed, be sceptical of unsolicited requests for money or personal information, and always verify who you're dealing with before taking action.

For more financial tips and resources visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/knowledge-hub
To view Unity Mutual's range of family friendly financial products* visit www.unitymutual.co.uk/oddfellows

For more information call 0161 214 4628.

*Terms and conditions apply

Trio receive university funding

Congratulations to the latest recipients of our First Degree Course Educational Awards: Lillie Buckley, Edward Smith and Torsten Ellis.

Easing the pressure

Each year, a selection of Oddfellows members heading to university for the first time are chosen to receive a non-repayable bursary of £900 per year for the duration of their studies.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said: "I'm delighted that the Society can play a part in enhancing Lillie, Edward and Torsten's university experiences.

"Attempting to budget finances alongside studying is as tough as it's ever been but this funding from our Educational Awards will help to ease those stresses as they embark on this exciting stage in their lives."

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the funding, based on the applications received.

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, added: "I'm so proud that we are able to give the younger generation a bit of a financial boost, which will help them to take these all-important next steps on their way to making their mark on the world.

"I wish them every success over the next few years and beyond."

Lillie Buckley, Nottingham Trent Branch member

Lillie started studying Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in September 2024.



She says the funding will allow her to purchase a new laptop for doing her university work, as well as helping to cover travel costs for work placements which she'll complete as part of her studies.

She said: "When I found out I would be receiving the funding, I was extremely happy and honoured to have been chosen. I want to say a huge thank you to the Oddfellows, as this will help support me throughout my degree and I can't wait to see what the future holds.

"I am loving the course so far. We've learnt lots of interesting things. In the future I would like to be a small animal vet, however I am keeping an open mind as I love cows!"

Edward Smith,

Erewash Valley
Branch member

Chemical Engineering student Edward began his course at the University of Manchester in September 2024.

He plans to follow his studies with a chartership while working as a Process Engineer. A Process Engineer designs, optimises and manages the processes used to transform raw materials into finished products in manufacturing or chemical plants.

“I felt very proud, honoured and relieved to receive extra funding to help with my studies,” he said. “I would encourage all eligible students to have a go at applying for this award.”

Edward says the money will go toward purchasing books and other learning materials.

**Torsten Ellis,**

Derby Derwent Valley
Branch member

Torsten has been reading Theoretical Physics with Mathematics at Lancaster University since October 2024.



He says the funding will allow him to budget better when purchasing learning materials, such as textbooks, and taking part in extra-curricular activities.

He added: “It felt great to learn I had been chosen for the funding. I was also somewhat relieved as it means I will have to worry less about my finances over the course of each year.

“My modules are split between the physics and maths departments, which is great because I’ll get a rich understanding of both and I’m looking forward to next year when I can pick modules and advance my understanding of both fields.”

At a glance

Every Thursday Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers

9am

April 2025

Tues 1	Roving Coffee at The Refectory, Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 2	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 3	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 7	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 9	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at Trattoria La Casa	12.30pm
Thurs 10	Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!	6pm
Fri 11	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Mencap	7.30pm
Mon 14	Guest Speaker/Event – SustainaBites	11.30am
Wed 16	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	War of the Worlds – A talk based on the story by HG Wells	2pm
Tues 22	Camberley Dine Around Dinner at Sanjha Indian	7pm
Thurs 24	Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Museum – Guided visit plus optional wind tunnel	10.30am
Mon 28	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

May

Thurs 1	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Fri 2	Roving Coffee at The Hatch near Basingstoke	10.30am
Fri 2	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Parity Farnborough	7.30pm
Wed 7	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Fri 9	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Heather Farm near Woking	11am
Sun 11	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	3pm
Mon 12	Guest Speaker/Event – A May Melange with Trish Thorns	11.30am
Wed 14	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at The Kara Lounge and Grill	12.30pm
Thurs 15	War of the Worlds – A guided walk based on the story by HG Wells – Woking	2pm
Sat 17	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Wed 21	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 26	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Fri 30	Camberley Dine Around Brunch at Wildwood Pizza Pasta Grill	10.30am

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At a glance

June

Mon 2	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 4	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 5	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Fri 6	Roving Coffee at The Lightbox, Woking	11am
Fri 6	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Hand in Hand Ethiopia	7.30pm
Mon 9	Guest Speaker/Event - Spring into Summer with Nuffield Health	11.30am
Wed 11	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at Station Ember Inn	12.30pm
Fri 13	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Wed 18	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 23	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Thurs 26	Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!	6pm
Fri 27	Camberley Dine Around Lunch at Toby Carvery	12.30pm
Fri 27	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Frimley Health Charity	7.30pm
Sat 28	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Mytchett Canal Centre	11am
Mon 30	Watch Wimbledon Championship with a Cream Tea at The Oatsheaf	1pm

July

Tues 1	Roving Coffee at The Refectory, Godalming	2.30pm
Wed 2	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 3	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 7	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 9	Fleet Dine Around Lunch at Bella Capri	12.30pm
Sun 13	Family Picnic Farnham - Music in the Meadow	1.30pm
Mon 14	Guest Speaker/Event - Fishy Games with Hannah Appleby	11.30am
Wed 16	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 16	Charter on the Wey and Arun Canal with Boundless	2pm
Fri 18	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of The Samaritans	7.30pm
Fri 25	Camberley Dine Around Lunch at Pizza Express	12.30pm
Mon 28	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Wed 30	Chicago Musical at Woking Theatre - Matinee Performance	2.30pm

At a glance

August

Fri 1	Roving Coffee at The Hatch near Basingstoke	10.30am
Wed 6	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 7	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Wed 13	Fleet Dine Around Dinner at The Ghurka Square	6.30pm
Thurs 14	Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!	6pm
Sat 16	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Wed 20	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 25	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Wed 27	Family Day at Birdwold	10.30am
Fri 29	Camberley Dine Around Lunch at Harvester Kings Head	12.30pm
Fri 29	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Friends of Bells Piece Farnham	7.30pm

September - Friendship Month

Mon 1	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 3	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Wed 3	Bat Walk and Talk with Friends of Basingbourne Park	7pm
Thurs 4	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Fri 5	Roving Coffee at The Lightbox, Woking	11am
Mon 8	Friendship Month - Learn all about Concord	11.30am
Wed 10	Fleet Dine Around Brunch at Alento Lounge	10.30am
Fri 12	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Frimley Lodge	11am
Wed 17	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 18	Putting Party - Crazy Golf in Farnborough	3.30pm
Fri 19	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Sun 21	Friendship Month Afternoon Tea	2.30pm
Mon 22	Macmillan Coffee and Cake Fundraising Event and Craft Fair	10am
Mon 22	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Fri 26	Camberley Dine Around Lunch at Mimosa	12.30pm
Fri 26	Dave's Charity Quiz in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support	7.30pm

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.
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