

April - September 2026
Issue 14



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

out & about

Concord Branch



Basingstoke Canal

Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire



Book Club



Bowling



Travel



Shopping



Crafts



Theatre



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Concord's Annual Afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday 20 September 2026 at Guildford Cathedral. We hope you can join us.

Welcome to the 14th 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 a group of people 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 trips out, plus lots of other activities.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows' events, even if you are not a member. We extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our

Contact Details

Social Organiser: Tracey Lawson

Tracey is responsible for planning, coordinating and running our events.

Telephone: 07388 871260

Email: concord@oddfellows.co.uk

Normal working hours:

Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursday and Friday 9am-3pm

District Secretary: Steph Hopes

Steph is responsible for the day-to-day running of our Branch, monthly accounts, Care and Welfare claims, minuting meetings and administration.

Address: 4 Montrose Close,
Fleet GU51 3XB

Telephone: 07312 115323

Email:

steph.hopes@oddfellows.co.uk

Normal Working Hours: Monday to Wednesday 8am – 4pm

We are both flexible workers: if there is no reply please do leave your name, number and a short message.

Find us on Facebook:

f [Concord Oddfellows](#)

events that take your fancy. We know you will have a good time. Let us know you are coming and we'll look out for you. Hopefully, after attending our events you will see the benefits of joining our caring organisation.

Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

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

Regular Events

Aldershot Coffee Mornings



First Monday
of the Month

We are very excited to have the West End Centre as one of our regular venues. It has been 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 Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

1 June

6 July

3 August

7 September

Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club



Third Monday
of the month

Come along and join fellow Oddfellows, including Lynda and Anne, who will be hosting this regular 'Cuppa Club' on the third Monday of the month. Enjoy the company and a chat over some wonderful home-made treats and a cuppa for just £2.50. Please let us know if you are coming, so we can save you a space. Rowhill Nature Reserve, Rowhill Field Centre, 120 Cranmore Lane, Aldershot, Surrey GU11 3BD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

20 April
18 May

15 June
20 July

17 August
21 September

Fleet Coffee and Conversation



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.

27 April
25 May

22 June
27 July

24 August
28 September

Regular Events

Farnham Dine Around



Usually Last Tuesday
of the month

Join your host Nick for brunch or lunch at our new regular Dine Around in Farnham. On the last Tuesday 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 at least five days in advance. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

28 April, 1pm - Cote, 26 Lion and Lamb Yard, Farnham GU9 7LL.

28 July, 1pm - Zizzi, 68 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7LN.

26 May, 2.30pm - Squires Garden Centre, Badshot Lea Road, Badshot Lea, Farnham GU9 9JX.

25 August, 10.30am - Megan's, 121 West Street, Farnham GU9 7HH.

30 June, 1pm - Giggling Squid, 67-68 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7LN.

22 September, 1pm - Bill's, 6-7 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7HR.

Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Morning



First Wednesday
of the month

Join us at our new joint-branch regular coffee morning, held together with our friends from Mid-Surrey Branch, hosted alternately by Carly and Tracey. These relaxed get-togethers are a great opportunity to meet members from other Branches, make new friends and enjoy good conversation. Weybridge Garden Centre, New Haw Road, Weybridge, Addlestone KT15 2BU. To book your place please contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Carly on 01306 877792.

1 April
6 May

3 June
1 July

5 August
2 September

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  Concord Oddfellows

Regular Events

Book Club and Lunch



First Wednesday
of the Month

Are you a book lover? You are welcome to join us at our monthly book club accompanied by a light lunch. This is a bookable event which costs £10 for members and £12 for guests. Please let us know on the first Monday of each month if you can come on the Wednesday. There is a WhatsApp group set up to liaise with book club regulars - if you wish to be added, please ask Bruce. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

1 April
6 May

3 June
1 July

5 August
2 September

Fleet Dine Around



Second Wednesday
of the month

Join us for lunch, brunch or dinner as we continue 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 at least five days in advance. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

8 April, 12.30pm - The Kara Lounge and Grill, 335 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3NT.

8 July, 6.30pm - El Castello, 198 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 4BY.

13 May, 12.30pm - Fox and Hounds, 71 Crookham Road, Church Crookham, Fleet GU51 5NP.

12 August, 6.30pm - Swaad, 305 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3BU.

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

9 September, 12.30pm - The Tweseldown, Beacon Hill Road, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8DY.

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. Come when you can, go when you must. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

15 April
20 May

17 June
15 July

19 August
16 September

Regular Events

Book Group (with a difference)



2.30pm



Cost of refreshments



Fourth or Last
Wednesday of the Month

Come along and join your host Trish for this new monthly book group with a difference! The difference? We will read one (or maybe two) short stories every month, instead of a novel, we will therefore have time to talk about not only the plot, characters and themes, but to consider the ways in which the authors had decided to organise the structure of their stories. After, say, a year of sessions, you may even be inspired to write your own short story! Station Ember Inn Pub, 1 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3QJ. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

29 April
27 May

24 June
22 July

26 August
23 September

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers



9am



£10



Every Thursday

Join us and make something beautiful! Please join our member Sharon at this regular weekly event. There is embroidery, traditional needle crafts 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 you can order sandwiches from the 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.

Pub Quiz Nights



7.30pm



Cost of refreshments



First Thursday
of the month

Keep your brains whirring and the fun coming! Join us at The White Hart in Frimley for their Thursday Evening Smartphone Quiz Night. No paper, no pens, just phones! Join an Oddfellows team and make friends. 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 can book enough spaces! The White Hart, Frimley High Street, Frimley GU16 7HU. Contact Tracey 07388 871260.

2 April
7 May

4 June
2 July

6 August
3 September

Regular Events

Camberley/Farnborough Dine Around



Held on various
Thursdays and
Saturdays

Join us for dinner at our Camberley and Farnborough Dine Arouds. Booking essential, at least five days in advance. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

Saturday 18 April - Wagamama, 9 The Atrium, Camberley GU15 3GP.

Thursday 28 May - Tattva Indian Restaurant, Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SJ.

Saturday 27 June - Dynasty Fusion, 9 Park Street, Camberley GU15 3PQ.

Thursday 23 July - Prezzo Italian Restaurant, 25 Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SJ.

Saturday 29 August - Mimosa Restaurant and Bar, The Atrium, Camberley GU15 3PT.

Thursday 24 September - Beefeater, 3 Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SJ.

Dave's Charity Quiz



Various Fridays

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

17 April - Parkside

8 May - Parity for Disability

5 June - Hand in Hand Ethiopia

26 June - Frimley Health Charity

17 July - Samaritans

7 August - Ash Tennis Club

28 August - Bells Piece

Please Note: Photography will take place at each of our events to be used across Oddfellows' website, social media platforms, adverts and promotional material. Please let a member of the social team or the photographer know if you would prefer not to be in any of these images.

Regular Events

Basingstoke Coffee Morning



**First Friday
of the month
Not Bank Holidays**

Come and join us at this new regular coffee morning in Basingstoke, make new friends and have a natter. Parking is free for two hours and only a short walk from the bus stops and train station. Tracey will be your host. Let us know if you are coming, so that we can look out for you. Waitrose Café, Waitrose and Partners, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4YY. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

**Thursday 2 April
1 May**

**5 June
3 July**

**7 August
4 September**

Roving Coffee



Various Fridays

Come and enjoy a coffee and a catch up at one of our new 'Roving Coffee' events. Look out for the yellow and blue Oddfellows table cloth and your host Tracey will be there to welcome you. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up

Tesco Café, The Meadows, Marshall Road,
College Town, Sandhurst GU47 0FD.

24 April

26 June

Thursday 27 August

Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking

Squires Garden Centre, Littlewick
Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4XR.

29 May

31 July

18 September

Alton Coffee and Cakes



Various Saturdays

Join Bruce at Alton Community Centre, where 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! Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

11 April

11 July

12 September

Regular Events

Sound Bath with Lotus Moon



Sundays
Alternate Months

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. 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 at least 12 days in advance. The Coach House Café and Coffee Shop, The Street, Crookham Village GU51 5SJ. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

10 May

5 July

13 September

April 2026



Guest Speaker:
**Commonwealth War
Graves Commission**



Come along at 11.30am for a cup of tea or coffee, followed by an informative talk about Brookwood Military Cemetery and its history, ahead of our guided tour there on Thursday 7 May. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



**Aldershot Walk at
Wellesley Woodlands**



Enjoy a leisurely guided circular walk around the beautiful Chalk Farm



Lake, followed by refreshments at The Lake House Eatery (a short walk or drive from Chalk Farm Lake). We will be joined by a leader from Wellesley Woodland Health Walks. The walk will take approximately one hour around this beautiful lake. Please note there are no toilet facilities during the walk. We will meet at the free car park at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. A chance to take in some fresh air, with old friends and new. Book by Thursday 23 April. Chalk Farm Lake, Camp Farm Road, Aldershot GU11 2PE. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

May

SAT 02 Comedy Night in Yateley

L 7.30pm £ £15



You are promised a top line-up of fabulous comedians from the UK comedy circuit for an evening filled with fun and laughter. Get those chuckle muscles warmed up for a wonderful night of entertainment. 16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature. Doors and bar at 7pm. Show at 8pm. Please contact us for more information and keep any eye out for future dates! Book by Monday 27 April. Starburst Studios, Yateley Village Hall, Old School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NG. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

THURS 07 Brookwood Military Cemetery Guided Tour

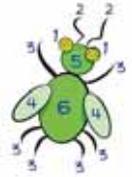
L 11am £ Free



Join us for an informative guided tour of Brookwood Military Cemetery and learn about the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and some of the stories commemorated. The tour will last approximately 90 minutes and there is a one mile of walking. Book by Thursday 30 April. Brookwood Military Cemetery, Pirbright, Brookwood, Woking GU24 0JB. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

MON 11 Beetle Drive with Fish and Chips Lunch in Farnborough

L 11.30am £ Cost of fish and chips



An opportunity to have some fun and play some games in a relaxed environment. We'll be playing the ever-popular beetle drive today, so do come along and join in.

At 12.45pm we'll break and have a fish and chips lunch. Book by Friday 1 May. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

FRI 15 Ten Pin Bowling - Camberley

L 7pm £ £14.40



Join us for a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and pre-payment is required four days in advance. Hosted by Nick, Friday Frenzy deal will include two games and 20% off selected food and drink. Book by Monday 11 May. Tenpin, No 8, The Atrium, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

May

SAT 23 Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Frimley Lodge

 10.30am  Walk Free, Lunch 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 10.30am. Please do let us know if 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 Tracey on 07388 871260.



June

MON 08 Guest Speaker: Blackbushe Heritage Trust

 11.30am  Free 

Join us at 11.30am for tea or coffee followed by an illustrated talk about Blackbushe Airport, celebrating over 80 years of aviation history. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

June

THURS 11 Aldershot Military Museum Visit

 11am  £9 

Come with us and visit this historic museum housed in the only surviving brick-built barrack blocks left in Aldershot. The museum tells the story of daily life for both soldiers and civilians in Rushmore. Tickets are £9 per person for groups of 15 or more. For groups of fewer than 15 the entry costs will be £11 per person, senior citizens 66+ £10. Book by Thursday 4 June. Aldershot Military Museum, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot GU11 2LG. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

WED 17 Operation Mincemeat: A New Musical at New Victoria Theatre, Woking

 2.30pm  £41 

Step into one of the most unbelievable true stories of World War II, come and join us for an afternoon at the theatre. Tickets are limited and available at a discounted price of £41 seated in the upper circle. Booking essential by Tuesday 14 April. New Victoria Theatre, Peacocks Centre, The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre GU21 6GQ. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



June

WED 17 Watercress Steam Railway

 6.45pm

 £10



Join us together with our friends at Boundless for an evening travelling through the Hampshire countryside. Oddfellows members, friends and family are invited. The steam train leaves Alresford Station at 7.30pm and returns around 9.30pm. Please arrive from 6.45pm. Cost: £10, cash only please, half price aged 12 and under. The Watercress Line, Station Road, New Alresford SO24 9JG. Contact Tracey 07388 871260 or Steph 07312 115323.

SAT 27 Oddfellows Brass Band Concert

 2pm

 £10



We are delighted that Reading District have invited members and friends of Concord Branch to attend the Oddfellows Brass Band Concert. Oddfellows Brass are a popular brass band who perform all over the UK. Book early to avoid disappointment. For more details on the band look at www.oddfellowsbrass.co.uk Tickets include light refreshments. Contact Reading District office on 0118 957 3354 by Friday 19 June or Tracey 07388 871260.

July

SAT 04 Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Mytchett Canal Centre

 10.30am

 Walk Free, Lunch 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 10.30am. The car park is free during opening hours and there is a café with inside and outside seating. Please do let us know if 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 Tracey on 07388 871260.

THURS 09 Brooklands Motor Museum

 10.30am

 £25



You are invited to join our friends at Boundless to explore the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation, including The Brooklands Museum 360. This is a one hour walking tour of the site, taking in the highlights of the exhibits. If you wish to include the Concord Experience, which is a 35 minute tour of a full sized static Concord, there is an additional cost of £7 at the time of booking. Please let us know if you wish to attend to secure your ticket. Book by Friday 5 June. Brooklands Motor Museum, Brookland's Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0SL. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

July

MON
13 **Guest Speaker: St Mark's Church Warden**

 11.30am  Free



Come along for a tour and talk of the historic St Mark's Church, Farnborough with their Church Warden followed by refreshments at the hall. St Mark's Church, 16 Reading Road, Farnborough GU14 6NA. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

August

MON
10 **Oddfellows Bingo**

 11.30am  Free



Eyes down and dabbers at the ready! Come and join us for a fun-filled session of bingo and refreshments. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

FRI
24 **Sea Shanty Evening Cruise on the Basingstoke Canal**

 7pm  £31



Step aboard the John Pinkerton on the Basingstoke Canal for an evening of Shanties and



a Ploughman's meal. Expect an evening of foot-tapping chorus with the talented Kings Pond Shantymen and plenty of good company. Licensed bar will be open to purchase hot and cold drinks. Departing from Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham at 7pm, the round trip will last approximately 2.5 to 3 hours. Please arrive by 6.45pm. Book by Friday 3 July. John Pinkerton Canal Cruises, Colt Hill Wharf, Odiham, Hook RG29 1DH. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

THURS
13 **Rural Life Living Museum, Farnham**

 11am  £11.25



Come with us and discover our ancient heritage and inspiring collection of rural machinery, artefacts and objects. Bring a picnic or enjoy refreshments from the Market Garden café. Something for all ages - children are welcome. For groups over 10 there will be a discount, children (4-16) £8 and children (under 4) free. Book by Wednesday 29 July. Rural Life Living Museum, The Rees Road, Tilford, Farnham GU10 2DL. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



September

SAT
05

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

L 11.30am

£ 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 Tracey on 07388 871260.

THURS
10

Milestones Living History Museum - Basingstoke

L 1.30pm

£ £12.50



Come with us and explore daily life in Hampshire from the 1800s through to the 1940s. You can stroll through cobbled streets lined with original vintage vehicles and recreated shops, factories and homes, all based on real buildings from across Hampshire. Tickets are £12.50 per person for groups of 15 or more. For groups of fewer than 15 the entry costs will be £16.50 per person, senior citizens 66+ £15.50 per person. Visitors can enjoy unlimited visits for 12 months from the date of the ticket purchase. Free parking and number 8 and 6 bus from Basingstoke railway station. Book by Friday 28 August. Milestones Museum, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke RG22 6PG. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

MON
14

Guest Speaker: Hampshire Police - Online Safety and Scams

L 11.30am

£ Free



Join us at 11.30am for tea or coffee followed by an informative talk from a local PCSO about how to stay safe online and avoid scams. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

SUN
20

Friendship Afternoon Tea at Guildford Cathedral Refectory

L 2.30pm

£ £15



A return to the lovely Guildford Cathedral Refectory for our 'Friendship 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 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. Reserved parking is available to Oddfellows in the first car park on the left as you drive up to the cathedral. Book by Friday 4 September. Season's Café, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

September

MON
21

Macmillan Coffee and Cake Fundraising Event and Craft Fair



10am



Donations for
cake and coffee



Come and help support our combined charity event for Macmillan Cancer Support. Ash Creative Stitchers have invited the Concord Oddfellows to be part of their Macmillan 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. There is free car parking on site and a free car park opposite the hall. Cake donations will be gratefully accepted from 8am on the day, or contact Sharon 07825 266377 to arrange drop off. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

Introducing our Social Organiser Tracey Lawson

Hi everyone, some of you will have met me already. I started my role as Social Organiser with Concord Oddfellows in October 2025. I live in Fleet and I've been really enjoying getting settled in and meeting lots of you at our events.

When I'm not organising or attending events, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, getting out and about with my dogs, and travelling in my Campervan whenever I can.

I also love music, especially soul and 80's, I enjoy going to live music venues and I always have a playlist on in the background.

I have enjoyed planning our forthcoming events, I hope there is

something for everyone and they will help people to connect, relax and have a good time. I'm always open to new ideas and suggestions, so if there's

something you'd like to see happening socially, I'd love to hear from you. Please look out for my regular weekly email with all the latest updates.

I'm really excited to be part of Concord Oddfellows, to meet everyone and help create some great memories together. Here's to an exciting 2026!



Message from your Secretary

Hello Everyone,

The last six months have flown by and I am so pleased to be able to share with you our events for the next six. With an average of twenty events a month our latest edition is packed with lots of regular catch ups as well as interesting talks, evenings out and, of course, our annual Afternoon Tea returns to Guildford Cathedral in September. The volunteers in the Social Sub Group have helped us considerably by suggesting, and hosting, new events. I am particularly excited to see a “Sea Shanty” evening on the Basingstoke Canal make an appearance.

I am so pleased that Tracey Lawson joined us in October as our Social Organiser. She has hit the ground running and has proven to be a fantastic addition to our team. Between us, we keep our Facebook page updated and scored an “excellent” for Concord in feedback from head office! There has been lots of marketing, both local and national, resulting in so many enquirers reaching out to us. In turn, we have increased our membership numbers with over 70 joining since our last Out and About was published. Many new members came along because a friend had told them about us. The Oddfellows run a “Refer a Friend” scheme to thank you for telling others about us. For more information, please contact me or visit the website. Remember, more members mean more events can be run, so do tell your friends and family about us. All ages welcome.

Bruce, Dawn and I have continued our welfare work to members including phone calls, home and hospital visits. I



am looking forward to having the time to develop these important roles so we can reach out to more members and provide the welfare element we are known for. Some of you may have seen the national Friendship Month Prize Draw and one of our new members won the gift voucher having completed the card at her first visit. Very exciting to see a Concord member benefit in this way.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the running of Concord, then please do consider joining our Committee of Management. Those of you with two years of membership are eligible. If you would like more information about this and other volunteer roles within Concord, please do get it touch with me.

Occasionally we may add events that have not been published in the Out and About. We do publicise these on the website and our Facebook page, as well as within the WhatsApp group. If you do not have access to the internet, then please reach out to me (see page 2) and I can contact you if any additional events are organised once the magazine has been sent to you. Also, please do contact us to book into any event, in case something outside our control happens and we have to cancel at short notice. This is a very rare occurrence but, for example, the loss of heating in a hall we have booked can force us to cancel a planned event. It is so much better if we know you are coming along – I promise you that a warm welcome awaits. I look forward to seeing you at an event soon

In friendship
Steph

The last six months have been busy and exciting, here's a snapshot of what we have been up to.



Oddfellows Teams at Dave's Quiz.



Christmas Coffee in The Oatsheaf.



Coffee Morning at the West End Centre.



Our District secretary and Social Organiser singing Christmas Carols.



Fleet Dine Around.

Please check our website for latest events listings and call or email to confirm attendance. Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support.



Wreath Making at Rowhills Nature Reserve.

New District Chairman Report

I am looking forward to my year as Chairman of the Concord branch of the Oddfellows. Being the daughter of two very keen Oddfellows, I have been a member since birth. My mother served on the Committee of Management for many years and was appointed Chairman of the Godalming District (the predecessor of Concord Branch) in 1989 and my father was District Secretary from 1955 until his death in 1991. During my membership, there have been many changes but the important ethos of friendship and mutual support continues. The Care and Welfare benefits continue to support Members in need.



I hope that with the continuing hard work of Steph and Tracey and all of the Committee of Management we can continue the amazing growth of Concord that we have experienced over the last couple of years. It is amazing to see so many you at our many and varied social events. If you have been a member for many years or plucking up the courage to attend for the first time, please be assured you will be warmly welcomed. We cover a

large geographical area and we are trying to expand our event offerings to our more outlying areas. Tracey and the Social Sub-Group are always looking for new ideas for events or locations so please contact them if there is something you would like to do.

I am delighted that we have decided to work with Sasha's Project as my charity for the year. The charity was set up in memory of a 20 year old who took her own life. They provide help and support to young people aged 13 to 25 years experiencing a period of crisis in their mental health. There is an ever-increasing need for support in these times and the waste of young lives is truly shocking. They operate a Drop-In Centre in the centre of Fleet from 8pm to 6am every Friday and Saturday and have Listening Volunteers, trained in outreach work, who walk around the local community chatting to young people who are out and about. They are looking to expand their telephone helpline and also purchase an outreach vehicle to offer help where required.

I hope you are as pleased as I am to see the varied events for the next six months included in this edition of Out and About and I look forward to meeting friends old and new at them.

Lynn Harmer

Music Lovers

If you are a music lover, Boogaloo Promotions run regular live Blues events at Crookham War Memorial Hall, Fleet. See the website for details www.boogaloopromotions.com or contact Steph Hopes on 07312 115323 for more information.

District Chairman Report

I'm coming towards the end of my year as your District Chairman, and a busy year it has been for many of us, especially for Steph, our District Secretary. A big shout out of thanks to Steph for coping so amazingly well during a gap between Social Organisers. As well as doing her own work, Steph also put her all into ensuring that our social offering would not suffer during the Social Organiser vacancy – very well done indeed Steph!

Another big shout out of thanks to our wonderful volunteers. Without your help we could not hold as many social gatherings as we do – you have been a vital component of Concord's successful recruitment and retention over the past year. It's dangerous to try to name everyone for fear of unintentionally missing someone out – but you know who you are! I'm delighted to inform you that 2025 has seen Concord achieve a positive numerical result in membership – that is, we've had more members join during 2025, even considering deaths and lapses. We have not seen this since pre-COVID – Concord is truly rising from the ashes.

It has been good to welcome Tracey as Concord's Social Organiser, it's still early days for Tracey, but the indications are that we are now in for a period of stability in terms of recruitment. Steph and Tracey make a great team, and I am so thankful to them for their enthusiasm and determination to not only support our current members but to encourage those



who enquire about membership to join us. Of course, it's not just down to Steph and Tracey to do this – we all have a part to play in helping newcomers feel welcomed when they first attend a social event.

As you know, I have been busy knitting for much of my year in office. I am so grateful to those who have made generous donations for my knitted goods. I have been overwhelmed at how much we have managed to raise for the Ezra Trust through these knitted goods.

By the time you are reading this, our Dinner Dance raffle and the Charity Quiz will have been and gone, so we should have considerably more than £2,000 to donate to the Ezra Trust – well done everyone!

The next 'District Chairman's Report' you read will be from Lynn, our current Deputy Chairman. I wish Lynn every success during her year in office – I'm sure we will all be as supportive as we can be in helping to raise funds for the Charity that Lynn chooses for the 25-26 year.

Jane Nicole

Meet your Concord Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



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



Bruce Nicole
Welfare Visitor



Steph Hopes
Welfare Visitor



Dawn Spikesman
Welfare Visitor

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

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!

Our Welfare team 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.

To arrange for a member of the Welfare team to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Steph Hopes on **07312 115323** or email **steph.hopes@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Telephone: 0800 0149 822

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*

Telephone: 0800 0149 821

Email:

oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

**Citizens Advice is an independent advice agency and is solely responsible for all advice they provide.*

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

Thousands raised for Hurricane Melissa relief efforts by Oddfellows branches

The Oddfellows has donated £10,000 to support the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of Oddfellows branches across the UK, and with additional support from central funds, the donation will help communities affected by the devastating storm rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 hurricane, made landfall in Jamaica on 28 October 2025. The strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, it caused catastrophic damage and impacted nearly 1.9 million people.

Essential supplies

The funds have been sent to the Jamaica Red Cross, via the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to support ongoing emergency relief and recovery efforts. This includes providing essential supplies, shelter, and longer-term assistance to those whose homes and livelihoods were affected.

Pam Casey, spokesperson for the Oddfellows, said: "When communities are devastated by disasters of this scale, the need for swift and compassionate support is critical. We are incredibly proud of our branches for coming together to raise these funds.

"Every contribution helps people to access shelter, food, and vital services as they begin the long process of rebuilding.



"Supporting this appeal reflects the very best of Oddfellowship – standing alongside others in times of greatest need."

The Oddfellows extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the appeal and helped make this support possible.

Find out more

Further information about the Jamaica Red Cross' Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal can be found at www.ifrc.org/emergency/jamaica-hurricane-melissa

You can also learn more about how the Oddfellows raises money for good causes on our website at www.oddfellows.co.uk/about/giving-back

To find out how you can get involved with fundraising initiatives Oddfellows branches are conducting locally, speak to your Branch Secretary.

Talented trio win Educational Awards

We're proud to announce our 2025 First Degree Course Educational Award winners: Melanie Healy (Humber Wolds Oddfellows), Will Stevenson (Pride of Woolwich Oddfellows) and Emma Corbin (Worcester Oddfellows).

Each winner will receive a non-repayable bursary worth £900 per year for the duration of their studies, which can go towards anything from text books and vital equipment to helping out with rent, bills and other practical items.

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

It fills me with pride each year when we announce the winners of the First Degree Course Educational Awards, and I'm sure that Melanie, Will and Emma will work hard and have a wonderful university experience.

University is an exciting time, but it can also be quite stressful. I hope this money will go some way to help reduce some of the financial pressures that are a reality of being a student.

Melanie Healey, Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge. The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

She says she is hoping to put the money towards travelling to French and Arabic-speaking countries for internships and exchanges to help sharpen these skills.

Melanie said: "I was delighted when I found out that I'd been chosen to receive the funding, and I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the grant."

Although unsure what her career plans are at this stage, Melanie says she "would definitely like to work in a role that allows me to use my language skills".



Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover



topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.

The money, he says, will go towards the social aspects that university life has to offer, such as the Durham University Big Band.

Will said: "Hearing I was a recipient of the award was incredibly exciting, and I am extremely thankful to the Oddfellows for the trust and generosity they have offered me."

Will also hasn't mapped out his career plans at this stage, but says that's one of the reasons the course appealed to him, given "the breadth of Geography and its wide application".

Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

Unbeknownst to either, Emma and Will have ended up on the same Geography course at the University of Durham.



Emma plans to put the money towards learning materials and field trips.

"I felt extremely grateful and lucky when I was picked as one of the successful candidates from what would have been many amazing applications," she said. "I would like to say how thankful I am. It is a great opportunity to have an award like this available."

Emma too hasn't decided which direction she wants her career to take, but thinks her chosen course will provide her with a range of opportunities.

"It's an increasingly relevant subject, considering topics such as climate change and geopolitics," Emma added.

More about our Educational Awards

Each year, our Fraternal Board chooses who will receive the Educational Awards funding, based on the applications received from members. To learn more about the awards, including the Apprenticeship Educational Award, eligibility and how to apply, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/benefits/care/educational-awards.

2026: Time to make a financial plan



a proud part of the Oddfellows

The year might have only just started, but we all know how quickly the calendar can flip. One minute it's spring, and the next we're wondering where the mince pies have gone.

Taking a little time now to think about your finances before the new tax year starts in April can make life feel calmer and more organised.

Where to start?

A financial plan doesn't have to involve spreadsheets or complicated formulas. It can simply start with a few questions, like: 'What do I want to save for? Am I prepared for life's surprises? Could my money be working harder for me?'

For some Oddfellows members, the focus might be on simply enjoying life or planning for the future. Others may also be thinking about the younger people in their lives – children, grandchildren, or that teenager who changes career ambitions daily.

Small, regular contributions now could grow into something meaningful later.

Start saving

Lucky for Oddfellows members, our financial services arm, Unity Mutual, is close at hand.

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment

products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

Unity Mutual's Guaranteed Investment Bonds, including two, three and five year terms, offer fixed-rates for savers with a lump sum to invest, and Oddfellow members can benefit from preferential rates.

Alternatively, ISAs are a tax-efficient way to save or invest, whether you're building up funds to enjoy retirement or looking to help give your child a confident step into adulthood.

ISA Products available from Unity Mutual for Oddfellow members include a Lifetime ISA, a Flexible ISA and a Junior ISA, and you can also make the most of the Adult and Child Tax-Exempt Savings Plans.

Get in touch

And the good news? You don't have to figure it all out by yourself. Unity Mutual is happy to chat with you about your goals, big, small, or somewhere in between.

Our friendly staff can provide information on what is available to you. They'll talk through things in plain English, not financial jargon, so you can make decisions confidently and comfortably.

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

Visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call us for a chat on 0161 214 4650.

At a glance

Every Thursday

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers

9am

April 2026

Wed 1	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 1	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 2	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 2	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Wed 8	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The Kara Mediterranean	12.30pm
Sat 11	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Mon 13	Guest Speaker: Commonwealth War Graves Commission	11.30am
Wed 15	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 17	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Parkside	7.30pm
Sat 18	Camberley Dine Around at Wagamama	7pm
Mon 20	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Fri 24	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Mon 27	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 28	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Cote	1pm
Wed 29	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 30	Aldershot Walk at Wellesley Woodlands	10.15am

May

Fri 1	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 2	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Wed 6	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 6	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 7	Brookwood Military Cemetery Guided Tour	11am
Thurs 7	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Fri 8	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Parity for Disability	7.30pm
Sun 10	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4pm
Mon 11	Beetle Drive with Fish and Chips Lunch in Farnborough	11.30am
Wed 13	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The Fox and Hounds Pub	12.30pm
Fri 15	Ten Pin Bowling - Camberley	7pm
Mon 18	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 20	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am

At a glance

May

Sat 23	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Frimley Lodge	10.30am
Mon 25	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 26	Farnham Dine Around - Afternoon Tea at Squires	2.30pm
Wed 27	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 28	Farnborough Dine Around at Tattva Indian Restaurant	7pm
Fri 29	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am

June

Mon 1	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 3	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 3	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 4	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Fri 5	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 5	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Hand in Hand Ethiopia	7.30pm
Mon 8	Guest Speaker: Blackbushe Heritage Trust	11.30am
Wed 10	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The Station Ember Inn	12.30pm
Thurs 11	Aldershot Military Museum Visit	11am
Mon 15	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 17	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 17	Operation Mincemeat: New Victoria Theatre, Woking	2.30pm
Wed 17	Watercress Steam Railway	6.45pm
Mon 22	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Wed 24	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Fri 26	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Fri 26	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Frimley Health Charity	7.30pm
Sat 27	Oddfellows Brass Band Concert	2pm
Sat 27	Camberley Dine Around at Dynasty Fusion	7pm
Tues 30	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Giggling Squid	1pm

July

Wed 1	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 1	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 2	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Fri 3	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 4	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Mytchett Canal Centre	10.30am

At a glance

July

Sun 5	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4pm
Mon 6	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 8	Fleet Dine Around - Evening Meal at El Castello	6.30pm
Thurs 9	Brooklands Motor Museum	10.30am
Sat 11	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Mon 13	Guest Speaker: St Mark's Church Warden	11.30am
Wed 15	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 17	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Samaritans	7.30pm
Mon 20	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 22	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 23	Farnborough Dine Around at Prezzo	7pm
Fri 24	Sea Shanty Evening Cruise on the Basingstoke Canal	7pm
Mon 27	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 28	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Zizzi	1pm
Fri 31	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am

August

Mon 3	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 5	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 5	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 6	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Fri 7	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 7	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Ash Tennis Club	7.30pm
Mon 10	Oddfellows Bingo	11.30am
Wed 12	Fleet Dine Around - Evening Meal at Swaad	6.30pm
Thurs 13	Rural Life Living Museum, Farnham	11am
Mon 17	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 19	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 24	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 25	Farnham Dine Around - Brunch at Megan's	10.30am
Wed 26	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 27	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Fri 28	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Bells Piece	7.30pm
Sat 29	Camberley Dine Around at Mimosa	7pm

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Wed 2	Weybridge Garden Centre Coffee Mornings	11am
Wed 2	Book Club and Lunch Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 3	Pub Quiz Nights in Frimley	7.30pm
Fri 4	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 5	Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Heather Farm near Woking	10.30am
Mon 7	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 9	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The Tweseldown	12.30pm
Thurs 10	Milestones Living History Museum - Basingstoke	1.30pm
Sat 12	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Sun 13	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4pm
Mon 14	Guest Speaker: Hampshire Police - Online Safety and Scams	11.30am
Wed 16	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Sun 20	Friendship Afternoon Tea at Guildford Cathedral Refectory	2.30pm
Mon 21	Macmillan Coffee and Cake Fundraising Event and Craft Fair	10am
Mon 21	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Tues 22	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Bills	1pm
Wed 23	Book Group (with a difference) Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 24	Farnborough Dine Around at Beefeater	7pm
Mon 28	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

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.

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

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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