

October 2024 - March 2025
Issue 11



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

out & about

Concord Branch



Guildford Cathedral

Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire



Book Club



Bowling



Travel



Shopping



Crafts



Theatre



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



**Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea**



Dinner Dance 2024 – Our next Dinner Dance is on Saturday 15 February 2025.

Welcome to the eleventh 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 Hopes, District Secretary

Regular Events

Aldershot Coffee Mornings



**First Monday
of the Month**

We are very excited to have the West End Centre as one of our new 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. 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 Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

**7 October 2024
4 November 2024**

**2 December 2024
6 January 2025**

**3 February 2025
3 March 2025**

Guest Speaker/Event



**Second Monday
of the Month**

Join us at St Marks Church Hall, once a month, where we will have a different guest speaker/event each time. Refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

**14 October 2024
11 November 2024**

**9 December 2024
13 January 2025**

**10 February 2025
10 March 2025**

Fleet Coffee and Conversation



**Fourth Monday
of the Month**

Come and join us at our new 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). The Oatsheaf, 2 Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5DR. Contact Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

**28 October 2024
25 November 2024**

**23 December 2024
27 January 2025**

**24 February 2025
24 March 2025**

Regular Events

Book Club and Lunch



1pm



Members £10
Guests £12



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 or Laura. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Laura on 07388 871260, Hannah on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

2 October 2024
6 November 2024

4 December 2024
8 January 2025

5 February 2025
5 March 2025



Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



Come and have a natter and make new friends in the gorgeous Bush Hotel in Farnham. Come when you can, go when you must. Dorothy is your host. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Contact Dorothy on 023 9238 2976, Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

Third Wednesday of the Month



16 October 2024
20 November 2024

18 December 2024
15 January 2025

19 February 2025
19 March 2025

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

Regular Events

Pub Quiz Nights

 7.30pm  £2 per person Quiz Fee. Paid direct to the Quiz Master



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 Laura on 07388 871260, Jane on 07951 814860 or Steph on 07312 115323.

3 October 2024
7 November 2024

5 December 2024
2 January 2025

6 February 2025
6 March 2025

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 needlecraft 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. A list of class requirements will be sent to you upon booking.

Dave's Charity Quiz

 7.30pm  £5 plus optional raffle



Friday

Join our team and help us win 1st place, at the same time as raising lots of money for various charities including RSPCA, a Forces Charity, NSPCC and of course, our chosen charity of the year... The Autism Trust. Quiz costs £5 per person, plus raffle money - cash only please. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Laura on 07388 871260, Jane on 07951 814860 or Steph on 07312 115323.



18 October 2024
15 November 2024

6 December 2024
24 January 2025

21 February 2025
21 March 2025

October 2024

SAT 05 Half Yearly Meeting

L 11.30am

£ Free



The Half Yearly Summoned meeting will take place at Ash Victoria Halls. All members are welcome to attend and the meeting will finish by 1pm. This will be followed by a light lunch to celebrate the official retirement of Jane Nicole, our previous District Secretary. Please confirm your attendance for catering purposes by Monday 30 September 2024. Agenda will be posted to all members in advance of the meeting. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

THURS 10 Ten Pin Bowling

L 6pm

£ Members IRO
£10



Join us for a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and prepayment is required by Thursday 3 October 2024. Hosted by Nick, this will include two games of bowling and a burger meal. Tenpin, No8, The Atrium, Park Street, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.



MON 14 Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Guest Speaker

L 11.30am

£ Donations



Join us at St Marks Church Hall, once a month, where we will have a different guest speaker/event each time. October's guest speaker will be a trustee from the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) Museum, presenting a unique insight into Farnborough's rich aviation heritage. Refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.



FRI 25 Camberley Dine Around - The Crabtree

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



Our October Camberley Dine Around is a return visit to The Crabtree on the Frimley Road. There is plenty of parking, and it is on a popular bus route. Please book by Friday 18 October 2024. The Crabtree, 220 Frimley Road, Camberley GU15 2QJ. Contact Laura on 07388 871260, Hannah on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

November

MON
11

The Experience of Ordinary People during WWI through poetry – Guest Speaker



11.30am



Donations



In November, our regular meeting happens to fall on Armistice Day, so we have planned a very appropriate talk for you. Trish Thorns has accepted our invitation to join us that day in order to share some insights to the experience of ordinary people during WWI by reading and discussing a few of the many poems written at the time. You will see, through the poetry, how people's experiences completely changed their view of war in just four years. Join us at St Mark's Church Hall, once a month, where we will have a different guest speaker/event each time. Refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

FRI
29

Camberley Dine Around The Golden Bull



12.30pm



As per menu



This month's Dine Around is at The Golden Bull in Camberley. This gorgeous independent restaurant has a lovely menu and fantastic reviews. Book by Friday 22 November 2024. The Golden Bull, 42 Park Street, Camberley GU15 3PL. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

FRI
22

Christmas Shopping at Milestones Museum Christmas Market



10am



£7.50 – Christmas Market Charge



Join us for the annual Milestones Christmas market. The perfect opportunity to do your Christmas shopping and find that something a little bit different! There will be over 40 stalls selling seasonal gifts and treats throughout the museum and the award-winning Milestones shop to visit, too. With children's entertainment, including a chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto, there's fun for all the family, from live music to enjoying festive refreshments. Pre-booking and payment is essential by the Friday 11 October 2024 (further tickets may be available but not guaranteed). Milestones Museum, Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke RG22 6PG. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

December

MON 09 The History of the Oddfellows - Guest Speaker

🕒 11.30am 📄 Free



Come along and learn about the history of the oldest and largest non-political, non-religious Friendly Society in the United Kingdom. Where did the name originate from; what are the benefits of being a member and how many new friends can you make? We can answer all your questions. All welcome. Free to everyone. Light refreshments will be provided. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6TU. Contact Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.



January 2025

THURS 16 Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!

🕒 6pm 📄 Members IRO £10



Join us for a couple of games of ten pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and prepayment is required by Thursday 9 January 2025. Hosted by Nick, this will include two games of bowling and a burger meal. Tenpin, No8, The Atrium, Park Street, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.



THURS 12 Sleeping Beauty Panto at New Victoria Theatre, Woking

🕒 12.30pm 📄 Members IRO - £30



Join us for this year's panto trip! Leading the cast will be stage, screen and pantomime legend, the one-and-only Christopher Biggins, along with Steps Singer Faye Tozer. Booking and prepayment is essential by Thursday 31 October 2024. Meeting at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. New Victoria Theatre, The Ambassadors, The Peacocks Centre, Woking GU21 6GQ. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.



January 2025

February

FRI 31 Camberley Dine Around - Toby Carvery



12.30pm



As per menu



Join us for this month's Camberley Dine Around at The Toby Carvery. Who doesn't love a weekday roast dinner! Join us and others for a natter whilst enjoying some great value food! Book by Friday 24 January 2025. Toby Carvery Frimley, 114 Portsmouth Road, Frimley, Camberley GU15 1HS. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.



February

SAT 15 Concord District Annual Dinner Dance



6.30pm



Members £30, Guests £35

A return for some to the gorgeous Hogs Back Hotel near Farnham.



A hotel with beautiful countryside views and a spa! Please book by Tuesday 31 December 2024. Rooms available to book on a bed and breakfast basis for a discounted rate of £89 per room. Hog's Back Hotel and Spa, Seale, Tongham, Farnham GU10 1EX. Contact Laura on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

WED 12 Pottery Painting



11am



See below



A new location for our pottery painting trip which is enjoyed by many of our members and their families. There is a £2 studio fee per person, plus the cost of which design you choose to paint - they vary from £10 - £25, plus refreshments. Items will be ready to collect at our Farnham Friends Coffee Morning on Wednesday 19 February. Book by Friday 31 January 2025. Ceramics Café, 13 Downing Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PB. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.



February

SUN 16 Annual Church Service



11am



Free



We make a welcome return to join the congregation at Hale Methodist Church for our Annual Church Service. Our celebrant will be the Reverend Bruce Nicole. A light lunch will be served afterwards for all. Please book for catering purposes by Monday 10 February 2025. Hale Methodist Church, The Green, Upper Hale Road, Farnham GU9 0PA. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

FRI 28 Camberley Dine Around The White Hart, Frimley



12.30pm



As per menu



This month's Camberley Dine Around is at our favourite pub quiz location, The White Hart. Join us for lunch and a chat whilst enjoying some lovely food. Book by Friday 21 February 2025. The White Hart, Frimley High Street, Frimley GU16 7HU. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

March

THURS 13 Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery Tour



12 noon



Members IRO £20



Uncover the secrets of Bombay Sapphire gin on the site of a former paper mill in the Hampshire countryside.



Learn about the rare production processes used to make their world-famous gin and discover the sustainable measures and ecology of the conservation area. Book by Friday 21 February 2025. Bombay Sapphire, Laverstoke Mill, Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7NR. Contact Laura on 07388 871260.

SAT 29 Annual Summoned Meeting



11am



Free



This is your opportunity to share your views and to vote on important decisions such as electing members to the Committee of Management. A light lunch will be shared after the business is over. Please book by Monday 24 March 2025. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

Message from your Secretary

Hi everyone,

My name is Steph and I am Concord's new District Secretary since earlier this year. I am loving every second of this role having spent 33 years working in the NHS; it is truly rewarding to be in a job in which I am still able to help people but is also about having fun.

I have grown up in Hampshire: I was born in Farnborough; went to school in Yateley and Manor Park in Aldershot; trained at Frimley Park Hospital and the University of Surrey. Aside from a short-term contract in Cyprus and some volunteering in Guatemala, I have lived in Fleet since I was 16. So I know the local area very well indeed. I live with my husband, Simon, and our two cats, Dave and Nessa.

In the short time we have been in post, Laura and I have been working hard together to bring some new events to the calendar for our local members. 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.

While I have your attention, I would like to highlight a very special event we have coming up on Saturday 15th February 2025. Our Annual Dinner Dance returns to the Hogs Back Hotel near Farnham with representatives from our Charity of the Year "The Autism Trust" in attendance to tell us all about the amazing work they do. We have special rates available on rooms at the hotel so you can make the most of their spa facilities. This will be my first Oddfellows' Dinner Dance and my aim is to make it a night to remember. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

In the meantime, I would like to thank the current Concord Committee and those members I have already met for their very warm welcome. I really look forward to working with Laura and the committee to increase the membership and develop the activities we can offer.

Steph Hopes, District Secretary

Goodbye from Jane Nicole

When I first started working for Concord Branch, not far short of 25 years ago, Concord had just become a Financial Branch within the auspices of Reading District, having previously been a Financial Branch within the then Godalming District. Some reading this may remember my predecessor, Anne Breeze, who was my mother. I had been working as PA to the Head of Pharmacy at Frimley Park Hospital but wanted to move into accountancy rather than an administrative role. The interviews were arranged – I can remember how odd it felt being interviewed for my mother's job in her home office. Of course Mum was only on the interview panel for the other candidates, and when it was my turn she went to make a round of drinks.



Although I had been a member of The Oddfellows for a few years before becoming Branch Secretary, I knew nothing about the workings of the Branch, so it was a steep learning curve for me. The computerised accounting package, such as it was, was based on the old MS-DOS. The Society has of course tried to move with the times to remain relevant to a modern day culture, and so now most things are done electronically. I've always had the pleasure of a very supportive Committee who have come to my aid in various ways during challenging times, and for that I am enormously grateful.

2023 was one of those challenging times, losing first my father in June, and then a few months later, my mother. The stress of a double bereavement, along with doing both the District Secretary & Social Organiser roles, brought me to the decision to retire from my paid involvement with Concord District. So I planned for a retirement date of 1 October 2023. That was the plan, and we informed all our members once we had appointed a new District Secretary and overseen her training. Sadly it wasn't meant to be, so I picked up the reins again. Sorry for the disappointment that might have caused a few members – I had to inflict myself on you for a further few months to help keep the show on the road!

Now, a year later, I am so thrilled with the wonderful new staff team we have in place. Laura came first taking on the role of Concord Social Organiser. Laura's enthusiasm right from the start has been so very encouraging to me; she really has taken to the job like a duck to water. I know that with Laura heading up our social offering we are in safe hands. Thank you Laura!

Then Steph arrived to take on the definitely more onerous role of Concord District Secretary. It's been my prayer for a while that we would have two new staff members who would work together as a good team, and that has definitely been the experience to date. I am delighted that we have Steph on board – there is a LOT to learn about the work of a District Secretary, with each District having

its' own nuances, so Steph will have to 'summer and winter' her role until she has experienced everything at least once! A BIG thank you to Steph for taking over the reins – I've loved my working life with Oddfellows, but I'm happy to be moving onto a new phase in my life.

This is me now bowing out. I love all that The Oddfellows stands for, and so I am delighted to still be able to serve Concord in my capacity as a Trustee and member of the Management Committee, and of course I'll look forward to seeing many of you at future social events.

Jane Nicole

Letter from



Dear Oddfellow Group,

Thank you so much for choosing Phyllis Tuckwell as your charity of the year and raising a fantastic £1644.50! We're so grateful you chose to support us and have been blown away by the amount of money you have raised.

Our aim is to make every day precious for our patients and their families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness such as cancer, and thanks to your generosity we can make this happen.

"I knew I could call them at any time if I needed to speak to them about his condition or medication. From the moment we were referred, I felt so well supported by them. I couldn't have done it without them."

Wife of a patient cared for by our Hospice Care at Home team

You make it possible for us to continue supporting over 250 patients, relatives and carers every day in their own homes, in the community, at the Hospice and at the Beacon Centre in Guildford.

The Government/NHS only provide 25% of our costs, so we have to raise over £25,000 every single day to offer all our services, and without supporters like you we would not be here.

On a final note, you may have heard about our plans to build a new hospice on our existing site in Farnham. This exciting project will enable us to care for many more people, for years to come. If you would like to find out more, please visit www.pth.org.uk/new-hospice.

Warmest Wishes,

Sam West
Community Fundraiser
01252 729446 sam.west@pth.org.uk





The Autism Trust is a training centre for young people with autism, 16 years and above aiming to create meaningful futures for young adults with autism. We provide a supportive and nurturing environment fostering independence, building life skills, and generating community support and awareness of the capabilities of individuals with autism. Through ASDAN training, and functional work experience we equip young adults to work and enjoy the communities they live in.

Work experience is gained managing 'Polly's Place' gift shop and art gallery selling handcrafted items and art made by people with autism, their families, and supporters. In this environment young adults with autism learn retail, office, manufacturing, photography, social media, hospitality, housekeeping, gardening and independent living skills. The bespoke training is tailored to an individual's needs, delivering specialist support and encouragement to gain skills and grow in confidence.

The Autism Trust also supports the autism community by offering parent to parent support, as well as Coffee and Support Mornings and Lego and Craft clubs during school holidays, for families who find it difficult to access clubs with autism understanding.

As a non-profit charity we provide Bespoke ASD training for adults with autism and our current training centre provides all the employment opportunities needed for those courses. However, having expanded our curriculum to include Life Skills and Independent courses, we have found a need for a living space that an adult might move into i.e. a flat. The charity is unable to fund such a flat, especially one that would not actually be lived in. The plan is to use the old Managers Office at the Railway Station to fulfil this deficit in our current training centre facilities.

To get maximum use of the space, it will be used for several purposes for the charity.

Firstly, as a mock flat, for use for independence training during the day for our trainees on the ASDAN Courses which are bespoke for the adults with autism. The train station will also benefit the trainees from a link to the railway for the travel training course

and could aid towards the employment training that we already provide but could enable this to be expanded to include travel aspects of employment.

The space will also be used to host an evening social and friendship group for adults with autism, who do not like public houses and environments that cause them sensory issues. The social club will not only provide a space for interaction, game play and a chance to meet safely but also social interaction training and mindful opportunities.

Additionally, there is the opportunity to hold sessions for small groups of parents or families to provide behavioural training or support strategies to those who are new to the autistic community and are struggling to find a way forward.

The Autism Trust is transforming the vending kiosk to sell handmade products from Polly's Place. This will provide an opportunity for the services users and autistic volunteers to gain experience of a

real working environment and to be able to interact with the general public. We also hope to obtain a grant for a coffee machine and provide Barista training to the service users, so they can sell hot drinks as well. This will also provide an opportunity for the public to support people with autism, see and purchase products made by them and appreciate what they can do and not what they can't. It is an opportunity for the communities to come together and support diversity and inclusion.

Our current project is to get the above spaces ready and usable for the purposes outlined. The support of Oddfellows will help us towards meeting this goal and supporting the Autism Community in so many ways.

This project will benefit the entire autism community in different ways, whilst supporting, developing and enhancing the role of the Railway station in the local community.

The Autism Trust Building Better Futures.

Photos of Events



WEC Friendship Month.



Coffee at the BUSH.

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



Jane Nicole
Welfare Visitor



Hannah Appleby
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 **concord@oddfellows.co.uk**.

National Oddfellows Helplines



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

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*



Call 0800 0149 821

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

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

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

Care and Welfare Helpline*



Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday to Thursday, 9.30am – 4.30pm, Friday, 9.30am – 4pm

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

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

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. All Oddfellows benefits are non-contractual and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Call 0800 028 1810 for details or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs

Message from your Social Organiser

Hello and Welcome to Our New Edition of Out and About!

I have now been your Social Organiser for seven months and I have enjoyed every second so far! I feel we have come a long way already!

For those of you that I haven't yet met or spoken to, here is a little about me!

I am Mum to Lucie and Nana to Charlotte who is almost 18 months old, and I live in Berkshire with my partner Guy, and our dogs Dexter and Willow. After being made redundant from a corporate role two years ago, I decided that it was time to take some time out for me, and thoroughly enjoyed being a lady of leisure! However, earlier this year, I saw an advert on Facebook, for a Social Organiser Role with a friendship society called the Oddfellows, and I was intrigued to find out more about this group which I had never heard of before! 30 minutes later, after spending some time on the Oddfellows website and reading about the history and also more current information, I was hooked to say the least, so I emailed a lady called Jane, to express my interest in applying for the role (this was something that I absolutely hadn't anticipated would happen that day!).

Anyway, Jane's warmth in her reply, and every moment from there on has been a pleasure, from meeting some of the committee members at my interview and then meeting our lovely members

at our events, I feel privileged to be a part of this amazing group, So a huge thank you for having me!



A few weeks later, Steph joined as our Branch Secretary and together we bring you this Out and About brochure, where you will find some exciting new events, locations and activities but also some favourites from recent months! I am always on the lookout for volunteers to help run these events, and also to provide local information for other events and venues that we could use in the future. Please do let me know if you would like to help or can suggest somewhere we could explore!

Don't forget that as a member of Oddfellows you also have access to a vast programme of online events. I email these lists out every couple of weeks or you can have a look at our website for the latest information.

Anyway, there is lots of exciting information and news for you to read in the next few pages, so I will say goodbye for now, but please do let me know if there is anything you need from me at any time!

Lots of Love,

Laura

Members meet in Llandudno for AMC

The late May Bank Holiday weekend in the beautiful North Wales coastal town of Llandudno was the setting for this year's Annual Movable Conference (AMC).

Hosted by Deeside Oddfellows, members from throughout the UK made the trip to reflect on the previous 12 months and discuss and vote on the course of the next, all presided over by the Grand Master (Chairman), Vale of York Oddfellows' Barbara Needham.



Business conducted, AMC Llandudno

As well as business, attendees enjoyed a range of social activities, with Oddfellows Brass putting on another wonderful performance.



Oddies on the coach to Portmeirion

Members also took part in a ceilidh at the welcome evening, graced the green at the annual Roy Harmer Memorial Bowls Tournament, took a day trip to Portmeirion and got all dressed up for the Farewell Dance.

Who should be our next major Fund recipient?

Our HA Andrews Memorial Fund provides major financial support over a two or three year period to a project or organisation involved in, or conducting, medical research in the UK.



The funding for Southampton University's Centre for Cancer Immunology, which was nominated by a member in Guernsey, is in its final year, so we're now open to suggestions on who to support from 2025.

If you've a suggestion of who we can support next, let us know. Go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews to find out more about the criteria, how to nominate and our deadlines.

Making a Difference Awards 2024

Five members have received national recognition for the brilliant and selfless work they put into making their Branch and the Society as wonderful as they can be.



Terry Rendle, Oswald Branch Enriching Lives Socially

This award celebrates Terry's contributions to the running of Oswald Branch's social events.

He regularly comes up with ideas for events, plans and advertises them, organises and purchases supplies, arranges



catering, sells tickets, physically arranges chairs and tables in the room, taxis people to and from, hosts and clears up after. All this at the age of 84.

"Socialising is so important as you get older," Terry said. "It keeps your brain busy and your body busy which means you might last a bit longer."

He added: "I was flabbergasted. I had to read the letter three times before I realised what I was reading."

Pat and David Lang, Three Counties Branch Achieving Together

The married couple from Didcot, Oxfordshire, joined the Oddfellows over half-a-century



ago, and in that time have taken on many voluntary roles, including serving as Branch Chairman five times between them.

They are Welfare Visitors, regularly checking in on around 50 fellow members, and are well known for providing food for events and meetings. They are also responsible for an annual Christmas lunch event which, since 2009, has raised over £2,100 for the HA Andrews Memorial Fund.

David said: "It has never been about being rewarded. We love what we do, it's as simple as that."

Pat added: "I'm honoured. We have much to thank the Oddfellows for and have met so many lovely people."

Peter Coe, City of Norwich Branch

Working in the Spirit of Mutuality

As a mutual society, the Oddfellows is run by and for our members and this award seeks to recognise those who have gone the extra mile to assist in the running of their Branch and the Society as a whole.

Peter has gone several extra miles, having held a number of voluntary roles, including Branch and District Chairman, and is still a member of the social committee to this day, helping to organise many wonderful events.



Peter said: "The Oddfellows is full of very, very friendly people. We all get on. I've made some very good friends here over the years.

"It's my life. It's what I do. The best thing I did was join the Oddfellows."

Claire Needham, Vale of York District

Giving Something Back

Lifelong member Claire has been recognised for the work she does to raise money and awareness for worthy causes.



She donated nearly £3,000 for Motor Neurone Disease Association and Martins House Children's Hospice having run the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon last year, and has helped raise more than £30,000 through her role as Chairman of her workplace's Charity Committee.

Claire has also held positions on the Oddfellows' Benevolence Committee and Investigations Committee, making a positive difference to the lives of her fellow members.

"I was completely surprised and I feel really honoured," Claire said. "It's a really nice feeling. It's nice that other people think it's making a difference and it's having an impact."

The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Each of the winners are fully deserving of this recognition and I'm very proud of all of them. They typify what it is to be an Oddfellow and the Society and their respective branches are lucky to have them."

Who is your local Branch star? Member nominations are now open for the 2025 awards. To find out more, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference.

Financial worries revealed



Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, recently surveyed 2,000 people throughout the UK to uncover what's keeping them up at night when it comes to their finances. Here's what they discovered. Do any of these resonate with you?

Cost of living

The worry peaks for those aged 40-49, with 63% feeling the pinch, closely followed by those in their 50s and 60s (both at 62%).

Emergency planning

35% of those surveyed worry they don't have enough money set aside for emergencies like car repairs or medical treatments. Additionally, 28% fret about potential home repair costs.

Pension and retirement

Living on a tight pension is a reality for 22% of respondents, and 18% worry they aren't contributing enough to their pension pot. Many in their 60s regret not paying more into their pensions earlier.



Savings and financial planning

Only 39% of people have money in savings or investments, but this number jumps to 61% for those in their 70s. Yet, just a third have a financial life plan.

Stress and anxiety

Financial stress affects 58% of respondents. Those in their 60s and 70s are less worried compared to younger age groups, with only 35% and 27% respectively reporting anxiety.

Financial regrets

Over half (51%) have financial regrets, including not saving enough each month (46%) and spending on pointless things (43%). Interestingly, more than one in 10 (12%) wish they'd married someone with more money.

These findings show that, while financial worries are largely universal, planning and saving can make a significant difference, especially as we age. Whether you're setting up your first financial plan or adjusting your retirement strategy, it's never too late to take control of your financial future.

Go to www.unitymutual.co.uk to find out more.

Oddfellows members have access to a dedicated Citizens Advice Line. Its advisers can help you to find a way forward with any money or debt problems but are unable to give financial advice. Visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/citizens-advice to find out more.

At a glance

Every Thursday

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers

9am

October 2024

Wed 2	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 3	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Sat 5	Half Yearly Meeting	11.30am
Mon 7	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Thurs 10	Ten Pin Bowling	6pm
Mon 14	Farnborough Air Sciences Trust Guest Speaker	11.30am
Wed 16	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 18	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Fri 25	Camberley Dine Around - The Crabtree	12.30pm
Mon 28	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

November

Mon 4	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 6	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 7	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 11	The Experience of Ordinary People during WWI through poetry - Guest Speaker	11.30am
Fri 15	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Wed 20	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 22	Christmas Shopping at Milestones Museum Christmas Market	10am
Mon 25	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Fri 29	Camberley Dine Around - The Golden Bull	12.30pm

December

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	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Mon 9	The History of the Oddfellows - Guest Speaker	11.30am
Thurs 12	Sleeping Beauty Panto at New Victoria Theatre, Woking	12.30pm
Wed 18	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 23	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

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At a glance

January 2025

Thurs 2	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 6	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 8	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Mon 13	Guest Speaker/Event	11.30am
Wed 15	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 16	Ten Pin Bowling and a Burger!	6pm
Fri 24	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Mon 27	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Fri 31	Camberley Dine Around - Toby Carvery	12.30pm

February

Mon 3	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 5	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 6	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 10	Guest Speaker/Event	11.30am
Wed 12	Pottery Painting	11am
Sat 15	Concord District Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm
Sun 16	Annual Church Service	11am
Wed 19	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 21	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Mon 24	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Fri 28	Camberley Dine Around - The White Hart, Frimley	12.30pm

March

Mon 3	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 5	Book Club and Lunch	1pm
Thurs 6	Pub Quiz Nights	7.30pm
Mon 10	Guest Speaker/Event	11.30am
Thurs 13	Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery Tour	12 noon
Wed 19	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 21	Dave's Charity Quiz	7.30pm
Mon 24	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Sat 29	Annual Summoned Meeting	11am