

April – September 2022  
Issue 6



*O*<sup>the</sup> **DDfELLOWS** SINCE 1810  
*making friends, helping people*

# *out & about*

**Concord Branch**



**Old ruins in Farnham**

**Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire**



Book Club



Music/  
Concert



Travel



Games



Crafts



Walk/  
Activities



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/  
Afternoon Tea



*Shaparak Khorsandi: 'It was the 90s Comedy' - Saturday 9 July*

## **Hello, and welcome to our sixth edition of our Out & About Events Diary and Newsletter for Concord Branch.**

It's good to be moving into the time of year when our days become increasingly longer, and the success of the vaccination programme means that we can mix socially without too great a risk from Covid. You will see that we are continuing with our monthly coffee mornings in Farnham and Fleet, and from April onwards there will also be monthly coffee mornings in Woking and Basingstoke. Katrina has organised some great sounding activities, including an Alpaca Experience, visit to Jane Austin's house in Chawton and The Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. Please make sure to book in for everything – just so we can let venues know numbers.

**Jane and Katrina**

## **Contact Details**

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

**For any queries regarding membership, payments and claiming benefits please contact our Branch Secretary: Jane Nicole.**



**Telephone:** 07312 115323  
**Email:** jane.nicole@oddfellows.co.uk

**Address:** 20 Greenfields Avenue,  
Alton, Hampshire GU34 2ED.

**For anything regarding the social events e.g confirming attendance, offering event suggestions or providing feedback please contact our Social Event Co-Ordinator, Katrina Carmichael-Jack**



**Telephone:** 07388 871260  
**Email:** katrina.carmichael-jack@oddfellows.co.uk

**Address:** Rose Cottage, Crondall Road, Crookham Village, Fleet GU51 5SU.

# Regular Event

## Bear's Brunch



10am



£10 or items ordered



Last Monday  
of the Month

A delightful restaurant in the quaint town of Farnham, Bear's Restaurant offer a special breakfast/brunch menu to choose from including orange juice and the choice of tea/coffee for just £10 per person. Bears offers a modern, family-friendly menu and is one of the most popular destinations for breakfast providing vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options on the menu. Best car parks to use are either the Central Car Park or the Waggoners Yard Car Park. This event repeats on the last Monday of each month. Bear's Restaurant, 24-25 Downing Street, Farnham GU9 7PD. Please book with Katrina on 07388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) at least one week before the event.



## Book Club and Buffet Lunch



1pm



Members £6  
Guests £8



First Wednesday  
of the Month

You are welcome to join us at our monthly Book Club accompanied by a light lunch. There is easy parking at the Crookham War Memorial – why not bring a friend or two along? Please book by one week before, so we can provide enough lunch. For details of the book of the month please contact Hannah Appleby at [hannahbappleby@gmail.com](mailto:hannahbappleby@gmail.com) or call Bruce on 07974 021764. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD.



## Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet



10.30am



As per menu



Second Wednesday  
of the Month

Come and join us for a wonderful brunch at this venue and catch up with friends old and new. Varied options to meet a variety of dietary preferences. Generous portions, great prices, delicious food and fantastic service. This event repeats on the second Thursday of each month. Two Spoons Bistro & Bar, 259-261 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3BN. Please book with Katrina on 07388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk).



# Regular Event

## Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning

Third Wednesday  
of the Month



An opportunity for those living in and around Farnham to see old friends, make new friends and have a natter, in the lovely Bush Hotel at Farnham. We meet from 10.30am – the exact location in the hotel varies depending upon what other functions are taking place, so just ask at reception. If you use the hotel car park don't forget to register your car at reception to avoid a parking fine. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Please book with Katrina on 07388 871260 one week before, so that we can give the hotel the numbers to expect.



## The Ely Pub Quiz

Third Thursday  
of the Month



All are welcome for this fun pub style quiz, whilst you also enjoy good food and great company. Teams made on the night. Please confirm attendance and your menu choices if wishing to eat by one week before the event. Everyone goes away with a bar of chocolate! This event repeats on the third Thursday of each month. The Ely, London Road, Blackwater GU17 9LJ. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



## Coffee and Cake at The Lightbox

First Friday  
1 April, 6 May, 3 June and 1 July



The Cannon Café at The Lightbox Museum at Woking is a great place to meet, with convenient parking nearby and a few disabled spaces on site. We hope you will join us when you can. In fine weather you'll find us on the patio at the rear of the museum. The Lightbox, Woking, Chobham Road, Woking GU21 4AA. Please book in with Katrina on 07388 871260 one week before, so we can reserve enough spaces.



# Regular Event

## The Café Project Basingstoke

Third Friday  
22 April, 20 May and 17 June



10am



As per  
menu



At last we are reaching out to our members living in and around Basingstoke! The Dome Café is an amazing place - a catering facility to provide supported training and employment for people with learning disabilities. The value is fantastic at £3.95 for a small all day breakfast and there are plenty of other choices; special dietary needs are catered for. There is parking on site, or if that is full there is an ASDA's a very short walk away. This event repeats on the 3rd Friday of April, May and June. The Café Project Basingstoke, Brighton Hill Parade, Basingstoke RG22 4EH. Please book in with Katrina on 07388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) one week before the event.

## Brunch at Bill's

Last Friday of  
the Month



10.30am



Cost of  
refreshments



No longer 'Noontime Natters' but 'Brunch at Bill's' as we move to a new venue for our monthly get-together in Camberley. We do hope you can join us sometimes. Come for just a morning coffee, or treat yourself to something delicious from the Breakfast/Brunch menu. Nearest car park is The Atrium Car Park. Bill's, The Atrium, 42 Park Street, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3PL. Please be in touch with Katrina or Jane a week before so that we can reserve the right number of places. Email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) or call Katrina on 07388 871260.



## Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

Find us at  ConcordOddfellows



OddfellowsUK

# April 2022

MON  
04

## Charity Spring Fair



12 noon



£2 entry fee



Treat yourself to a trip out to the pretty village of Hartley Wintney where you will have a wonderful opportunity to browse through over 30 different stalls ranging from home-made fudge, jewellery, bags, knitted baby blankets, gloves, cushions, a taste of Provence to name but a few. All profit is going to our Chairman's charity The Alzheimer's Society. Food and drink available to purchase throughout the afternoon. £2 entry, or purchase your tickets now: [www.eventbrite.com/e/oddfellows-spring-fair-for-the-alzheimers-society-tickets-254564919527](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/oddfellows-spring-fair-for-the-alzheimers-society-tickets-254564919527). Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney, West Green Road, Hartley Wintney, Hook RG27 8RQ. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



THURS  
07

## Dinner at The Gallery Restaurant



6pm



£22



Come and experience fine dining produced by the chefs of tomorrow. This award winning restaurant is run by the catering students at Farnborough College of Technology with the assistance of professional chefs, which means your experience will be similar to visiting a high-end restaurant. This will be a tasting menu of about six courses. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited by Tuesday 28 March. The Gallery, Farnborough College of Technology, Boundary Road, Farnborough GU14 6SB. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.

TUES  
12

## Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea



10.30am



As per menu



Skip breakfast and come and enjoy a delicious brunch followed by a browse around this amazing garden centre. You can create your own brunch choosing from three, six or nine cooked breakfast items, or why not try their buttermilk pancakes with maple syrup or fruit compote. All dietary requirements catered for. Book by Monday 4 April. Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea, Badshot Lea Road, Badshot Lea, Farnham GU9 9JX. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.





# May

TUES  
17

## The Greenhouse, Fleet



The Greenhouse' restaurant opened in October 2019 as an independent restaurant, owned by Colm McCarthy, who has a passion for creating stimulating dishes for everyone to enjoy and also catering for all dietary needs. By night The Greenhouse transforms into a cosy restaurant, serving firm favourites of freshly rolled stone-baked pizzas, a variety of burgers with mouth-watering triple cooked gourmet chunky chips, alongside a range of other dishes including Katsu curry and a succulent Seitan steak. Book by Monday 9 May. The Greenhouse, 4 Falkner's Close, Fleet GU51 2XF. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.

TUES  
31

## Milestones Living History Museum



From cobbled streets to vintage vehicles, there is so much for everyone to see, do and enjoy at Milestones, Hampshire's Museum of Living History.

Explore the museum's streets, shop and buildings to discover how people used to live. Buy a ration of sweets from a 1940s sweet shop and have a go in the penny arcade. The ticket price covers unlimited visits for 12 months. Adults £16.50, senior citizens 66+ £13.25. Free car parking in front of the museum. Book by Tuesday 17 May. Milestones, Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke RG22 6PG. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



# June

WED  
15

## Quiz, Pie and Mash at Guildford



Fancy yourself as one of the Eggheads? Fed up of always winning your lockdown Zoom quizzes? Maybe it's time you booked in to take on the Pie, Mash and Quiz. Have a drink, dig into the best pie 'n' mash in town and enjoy an evening of hardcore quizzing to win prizes, including a £50 Live Gift voucher. Ages 18+. Please book in promptly with Katrina by Monday 30 May. G Live, London Road, Guildford GU1 2AA. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



# June

FRI  
24

## Alpaca Experience



12.30pm



Members £10, Guests £12, plus cost of lunch



Join us for lunch if you wish at 12.30pm prior to our Alpaca Experience, which is booked for 2.30pm to 4pm. Pennybridge Alpacas was one of the first alpaca herds in Southern England. Alpacas are delightful creatures – the Andes equivalent to our deer. Timid yet inquisitive, unable to cope for long without other alpacas and all so very individual in character. Book by Monday 13 June. Pennybridge Farm, Greywell Road, Up Nately, Hook RG27 9GT. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



# July

SAT  
09

## Shaparak Khorsandi: It was the 90s Comedy



8pm



£16.50



An evening of comedy with Shaparak – the decade where Shaparak left an important part of her brain somewhere in a field in Hampshire. From indie discos to unflattering crop tops... A trip down memory lane to the decade where 'kinky' was a nurse role-play and whipped cream. How does the decade of binge drinking and walks of shame look now without snakebites and black tinted specs? "She has plenty to say and says it with pointedness and potency" – Guardian. Age 14+. Tickets for this will sell out fast so please book as soon as possible with Katrina on 07388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk). West End Centre, 48 Queen's Road, Aldershot GU11 3JD. Book by Monday 9 May.



## 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.



# July

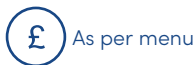
SAT

23

## The Tally Ho Bramhill and Blackwater Trail



11am



As per menu



Please come and join us for this circular walk from The Tally Ho Pub on the border between Berkshire and Hampshire. The Tally Ho Pub was a classic Hampshire farmhouse and has been lovingly converted to a characterful pub restaurant, so a great place to have a bite to eat after our ramble.

The walk follows a section of the Blackwater Valley Path, a long-distance path which meanders along the River Blackwater, then continues through Bramshill Forest, before returning via an old fort, weir and mill at Lower Common. Please liaise with Katrina for further details. Book by Monday 11 July. The Tally Ho Pub, Fleet Hill, Eversley RG27 0RR. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



# August

FRI

05

## Heather Farm Walk



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



Come and join us for a walk, as short or as long as you like, followed by refreshments in the Heather Farm Café. Please let us know you are coming a week prior to the event, so that we can book to sit together in the café. The What3Words address is Asserts Pods Hoot. Book by Friday 29 July. Heather Farm, Horsell Common Road, Woking GU21 4XY. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.

TUES

09

## Skittles and Supper



6.30pm



Approximately £12



Come and join us for a fun game of skittles and supper at The Jolly Farmer, where we will have sole use of their private traditional wooden skittle alley. The Jolly Farmer, Binsted Road, Blacknest, Alton GU34 4QD. Details of cost and menu options will be available from Katrina on 08388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk). Book by Monday 1 August.



# September – Friendship Month

FRI  
02

## 'Kitty' Canal Boat Trip



10.30am



Members £7, Guests £10



A postponed event from during lockdown, we've commissioned 'Kitty', a small canal boat owned by the John Pinkerton company, to take a group of up to 12 on a 75 minute cruise on the Basingstoke Canal from the wharf in Woking. As we will be so close to The Lightbox, members may choose to stay on for a light lunch in the Cannons Café after our boat trip. Only 12 places, so book your tickets soon to avoid disappointment. Woking Town Wharf, Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LJ. Please book with Katrina or Jane at [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) or call Katrina on 07388 871260. Book by Friday 26 August.



SAT  
10

## Garden Party at Bruce and Jane's



2.30pm



Members £5  
Guests £7



Let's hope the weather stays fine for this outdoor event kindly hosted by Bruce and Jane Nicole in their back garden. There will be gazebos and/or small marquee, so shelter from full sun or the forbidden rain will be available. Sandwiches/scones and cakes will be available – offers of help with baking kindly accepted! All proceeds to our Chairman's charity – The Hope Hub in Camberley. Bruce and Jane Nicole, 20 Greenfields Avenue, Alton GU34 2ED. Booking essential with Jane on 07312 115323 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) by Friday 2 September.

SUN  
18

## Friendship Month Tea-Party



2.30pm



Members IRO £8  
Guests IRO £12



One of our most popular events of the year, we will once again be hosting our Friendship

Month Afternoon Tea Party – venue details are currently being arranged, but please put this date in your diary and contact Katrina on 07388 871260 or email [concord@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:concord@oddfellows.co.uk) for further information nearer the time. Book by Thursday 8 September.

**ODDFELLOWS**  
**FRIENDSHIP MONTH**  
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



# September – Friendship Month

TUES

20

## Lunch and Tour of Jane Austen House



12.30pm



£12 for tour plus lunch cost



Join us for lunch at The Greyfriar Pub followed by a tour of Jane Austen's House in Chawton, which is opposite the pub. It was in this pretty Hampshire cottage that Jane Austen wrote, revised and published all six of her treasured novels. Step back in time and see the rooms where she composed her books and created her timeless characters and enjoy the beautiful cottage garden. Book by Friday 9 September. The Greyfriar Pub, Winchester Road, Chawton, Alton GU34 1SB. Contact Katrina on 07388 871260.



# London Theatre Break

Come along and join us for the sights and sounds of London.

We'll be staying at the 3\* St Giles Hotel, located in central London.

**Friday 17 June 2022**  
**2 nights**

£245 per person<sup>†</sup> includes breakfast and theatre ticket to see **Wicked**, at the Victoria Apollo Theatre.

<sup>†</sup>Based on 2 people sharing.



For further information and to book contact Mike Hall  
0161 832 9361 (Ext 2224) [travel@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:travel@oddfellows.co.uk)

# The Last Six Months...



*Coffee mornings at Daisy's Tea Room at Fleet.*



*Just one of three Christmas lunches in December 2021 – this one was our favourite – The Princess Royal at Farnham!*



*Members and guests 'hard at work' at the 'Writing the Self' Workshop with Melanie Whipman.*



*Brunch at Bill's Camberley.*



*Friendship Month Garden Party 2021 – having had to postpone due to torrential rain and wind, it was good to finally be able to host Afternoon Tea at the home of Bruce and Jane Nicole.*





*Salsa dancing.*



## Fundraising Swimathon for the Alzheimer's Society



**We are very grateful to enthusiastic Concord member, Hannah Appleby, and her daughter Lizzie Appleby for their sterling efforts in raising funds for The Alzheimer's Society, our charity for 2021.**

Hannah initially aimed at completing five miles within the thirty day deadline, knowing that she had not been swimming in a number of years. However, once she got into a regular rhythm of swimming for a

couple of hours five days a week, she realised that she would easily complete her five mile challenge, so doubled her target to ten miles instead! Her daughter, and junior member Lizzie decided to join in, and despite battling Covid and only being able to swim one evening a week, Lizzie completed one mile.

Hannah finished the thirty day challenge with a grand total of eleven miles completed and we are extremely proud and grateful to them both for the determination and commitment to see the challenge through. They both reported fighting fatigue and facing some swims when already aching was tough, but the sense of accomplishment they both felt after pushing on was well worth it. A big thank you to our members who so generously sponsored raising well over £800 – some monies were Gift Aided and went direct to The Alzheimer's Society so we cannot give a precise amount raised.

# District Chairman's Charity 2022-2023 – The Hope Hub, Camberley

**Editor: Our new Provincial Grand Master (District Chairman) has chosen 'The Hope Hub, Camberley' as his Charity of the Year. Bruce writes as follows:**



During the coming year I would like to raise funds for the work of the Hope Hub. This is a charity working to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Surrey Heath and the surrounding areas. I was a vicar in Camberley for 25 years. One of my major concerns during that time was that there existed pockets of financial hardship, even in an area of the country that appears to be affluent. Living on the A30, I was also a port of call for “men of the road” looking for accommodation. My aspiration throughout that time was to find practical ways to help people.

I was therefore delighted to become a founding trustee of the Hope Hub. This was a joint initiative of Surrey Heath Borough Council and Churches Together in Camberley. After a period of research, the charity was founded in 2018, and straight away demonstrated that there was a great need. One attractive aspect was that the charity was not bound by the constraints of the statutory agencies to only help people in Surrey Heath, but

could have some flexibility about who could be supported.

The charity is called the Hope Hub. The vision is to bring together under one roof a range of services and tailor them to meet the needs of each individual. Clients might be at risk of homelessness for a variety of reasons. Obviously, they are short of money or are in debt; they may also have problems of mental health, ability to mix socially or drug abuse. They need more than a roof over their head. They may need debt advice, help applying for jobs, new clothes to wear at an interview, classes in computing or cooking.

The Hope Hub has assembled an impressive group of case workers and professionals who gather round a client to help them. The latest part of the vision is the opening of a new Emergency Accommodation Service. The fully refurbished house in Camberley will be used to offer overnight accommodation for six people affected by issues of homelessness. They will engage with the day services team to help them find more permanent accommodation and assistance to search for employment.

The charity receives some help from statutory services but needs to raise funds from the wider community. It was my great privilege to be in at the start and to help with this when I was living in Camberley. I hope that my year as District Chair of Concord District will enable us to raise a significant amount which will



help the charity to grow. I also hope that the Hope Hub will be a good example of best practice that can spread to other areas covered by Concord District.

“...I think on reflection, one of the most significant aspects of the morning (with you) and indeed The Hope Hub, is the fact that you have tied in with so many commercial organisations, charities, the church and volunteers. As a result, The Hope Hub really is giving people less fortunate than ourselves hope for the future...”

**Michael More-Molyneux,  
Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey  
(September 2019)**

“...What you (The Hope Hub) are doing is such incredible and critical work, without it the lives of those who benefit from it would be massively poorer. The Hope Hub is an inspiration and model of what can be done from a standing start. Thank you for all you are doing to make Surrey's communities better places. ....”

**Mrs Bridget Biddell,  
The High Sheriff of Surrey  
(September 2019)**

**Editor:** As is our usual custom, there will be various opportunities over the coming year to raise funds for The Hope Hub, including raffles and specific fundraising events. Over the past year some members have chosen to donate a small amount each month by standing order. If this is something that you would like to do, please liaise with Jane Nicole on 07312 115323 for details.

## New to the Oddfellows?



### Join us at one of our new member welcome events

Wed 16 March, 7pm  
Thurs 17 March, 1.30pm  
Tues 12 July, 7pm  
Wed 13 July, 1.30pm  
Tues 18 October, 7pm  
Wed 19 October, 1.30pm

For further information visit:  
[www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/welcome)

# 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 Jane Nicole on **07312 115323** or email **jane.nicole@oddfellows.co.uk**.

# National Oddfellows Helplines



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

## Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line\*



**Call 0800 0149 821**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: [oddfellows@manchestercab.org](mailto:oddfellows@manchestercab.org)

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

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

## Care and Welfare Helpline\*



**Call 0800 0149 822**

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)



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

Email: [care@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto: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/](http://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](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/member-tcs)

## A message from Jane Nelson, the Oddfellows CEO

### Dear friends

**For me, two things really stood out in 2021 – how resilient everyone has been, and how well we’ve adapted to so much change.**

It’s been a tough 12 months on top of a previous tough nine months, and who knows how many more? However, as Oddfellows, you’ve looked out for one another, stayed open to doing things differently, and it’s getting us through. Your actions have made an amazing difference to so many of our members’ lives.

### Gratitude

I want to thank you all for everything you have done. When speaking with our members and volunteers, and working alongside our Branches and staff in Manchester and Liverpool, I have felt immense pride – about our Society, everyone involved, and in Oddfellowship. By working together, we’ve shown that Oddfellows do what we say we do, no matter what challenges are thrown at us.

“Being there for our members continues to be our priority.”



At the start of 2021, we had hoped that by the end of the year things would feel a little brighter. We’ve made huge strides in our understanding of Covid, but the landscape is still very unpredictable. And when faced with uncertainty over a sustained period, it can make us feel overwhelmed and anxious.

One thing I’ve been doing to try and manage these feelings is to focus on what I can control, and acknowledging what I cannot. It’s not always easy, but it really has helped. Sitting with your thoughts or worries and working out what you can influence is time well spent. You can then identify the bits you can take action to change, which puts you in a more positive frame of mind. Covid is here to stay and the challenge for us all now is learning to live alongside it.

If you’ve needed support from us, I hope we’ve been able to help you where we can. Being there for our members continues to be our priority.

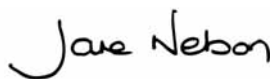
Online events are here to stay for as long as there is a need to keep people in touch with others from the comfort of their home. And our local and national care and welfare teams, and advice lines, will always be there for anyone who needs help to work through a problem or worry.

We sadly lost many people we cared about in 2021. To those that passed, we will always remember you. Our condolences go out to family and friends, and rest assured they'll always be in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

We are having to cope with higher levels of uncertainty and worry at the moment, so we must make sure we rest well, smile as often as we can and be kind to ourselves and others. These are all totally within our control.

On behalf of the Society and my family, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

Stay safe and well. Yours always in friendship



**Jane Nelson**  
CEO, the Oddfellows

## Lupus research team skills up for the future

**In November we visited Guy's Hospital to see members of the Lupus Trust research team who have been the recipients of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund since 2019. Lockdown had the unintended consequence of sending the research in a new direction.**

The restrictions meant they had to abandon the laboratory to work from home but this gave them time to focus on learning how to analyse big data, a skill that will benefit the research well into the future.

Pictured is the Oddfellows' CEO Jane Nelson and Grand Master David Ogden handing over a cheque of £29,000



to Professor Jo Spencer and PHD student Bekki Velounias.

The donation marks the final instalment of a major three-year funding partnership, which totalled £85,000.

# Oddfellows Travel – travel with confidence and in great company in 2022

We can't wait to get members and guests together for an exciting range of holidays in 2022. There's such a selection, something is sure to float your boat. Here's what's on offer...

## London Theatre Weekend

17–19 June 2022

(2 nights. Bed and breakfast)

£245 per person



*For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email [mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk)*

We kick off the season with a trip to London to enjoy restaurants, shopping and musical theatre. We couldn't get closer to the buzzing West End than the 3\* St Giles Hotel, located just yards from Oxford Street and Leicester Square. Join us for welcome drinks on Friday with our host, member Debra Haley. On Saturday, we head to the Victoria Apollo Theatre to see highly acclaimed musical, **Wicked**. On Sunday, we will make the most of the location with a shopping trip, ending our weekend with lunch before the journey home.

## An unforgettable cruise exploring Norway and the Arctic Circle

22 June–7 July 2022

(15 nights. Full board)

From £2,899 per person

All aboard the Fred. Olsen cruise ship Balmoral on this exploration of Norway's northernmost reaches – an unforgettable journey of a lifetime. Setting off from Newcastle, join Oddfellows host Wendy Atkins as we journey to the Arctic Circle to the famous island of Spitsbergen, just 700 nautical miles from the North Pole. We will experience the remote beauty and eerie silence of distant towns situated in the stunning Arctic landscape. Our magical journey continues to the Norwegian mainland, to the 'top of Europe', the North Cape plateau and Tromsø, taking in stunning sights of lakes, mountains and glaciers on a journey that's unforgettable.



*For more information, contact host Wendy Atkins at [wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:wendy.atkins@oddfellows.co.uk) or call 01437 251 867*



## Oddfellows Summer Holiday 4–8 July 2022

(4 nights. Half board)

Warner Leisure Hotel's Nidd Hall, Harrogate. From £351 per person for a Standard room or £381 per person for a Signature room

**Treat yourself to a break in a Grade II listed Georgian mansion in the Yorkshire countryside on our annual hosted summer getaway. Oddfellows Travel summer holidays are legendary and this year promises to be no exception. Set in 45 acres of award-winning gardens in the North Yorkshire countryside, we will be staying at Nidd Hall Hotel – where rumour has it Edward VIII met Wallis Simpson at a party.**

*For further information and to book contact Oddfellows Travel's Mike Hall on 0161 832 9361 or email [mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:mike.hall@oddfellows.co.uk)*

## Unwind with friends

The group holiday, which will be hosted by David Ogden, our Grand Master, is open to any members and their guests from across the UK. Together we'll be enjoying drinks, mouth-watering meals and superb live evening entertainment. You'll be free to choose how to spend your day – exploring the stunning location, sharing a game of bowls in the glorious gardens or relaxing in the swimming pool and spa. There's a host of activities to entertain you. Join us – bring a friend – and enjoy this beautiful 18th century mansion near Harrogate.



*The spectacular grounds at Nidd Hall, Harrogate*

# At a glance

## April 2022

|                 |                                       |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Fri 1</b>    | Coffee and Cake at The Lightbox       | 10.30am |
| <b>Mon 4</b>    | Charity Spring Fair                   | 12 noon |
| <b>Wed 6</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch            | 1pm     |
| <b>Thurs 7</b>  | Dinner at The Gallery Restaurant      | 6pm     |
| <b>Tues 12</b>  | Squire's Garden Centre, Badshot Lea   | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 13</b>   | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet      | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 20</b>   | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 21</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                      | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Fri 22</b>   | The Cafe Project Basingstoke          | 10am    |
| <b>Mon 25</b>   | Bear's Brunch                         | 10am    |
| <b>Fri 29</b>   | Brunch at Bill's                      | 10.30am |

## May

|                 |                                       |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Wed 4</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch            | 1pm     |
| <b>Fri 6</b>    | Coffee and Cake at The Lightbox       | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 11</b>   | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet      | 10.30am |
| <b>Tues 17</b>  | The Greenhouse, Fleet                 | 7pm     |
| <b>Wed 18</b>   | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 19</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                      | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Fri 20</b>   | The Café Project Basingstoke          | 10am    |
| <b>Fri 27</b>   | Brunch at Bill's                      | 10.30am |
| <b>Mon 30</b>   | Bear's Brunch                         | 10am    |
| <b>Tues 31</b>  | Milestones Living History Museum      | 11am    |

## June

|                 |                                       |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Wed 1</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch            | 1pm     |
| <b>Fri 3</b>    | Coffee and Cake at The Lightbox       | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 8</b>    | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet      | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 15</b>   | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 15</b>   | Quiz, Pie and Mash at Guildford       | 6.30pm  |
| <b>Thurs 16</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                      | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Fri 17</b>   | The Café Project Basingstoke          | 10am    |

# At a glance

## June

|               |                   |         |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| <b>Fri 24</b> | Brunch at Bill's  | 10.30am |
| <b>Fri 24</b> | Alpaca Experience | 12.30pm |
| <b>Mon 27</b> | Bear's Brunch     | 10am    |

## July

|                 |  |         |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| <b>Fri 1</b>    | Coffee and Cake at The Lightbox            | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 6</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch                 | 1pm     |
| <b>Sat 9</b>    | Shaparak Khorsandi: It was the 90s Comedy  | 8pm     |
| <b>Wed 13</b>   | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet           | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 20</b>   | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning      | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 21</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                           | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Sat 23</b>   | The Tally Ho Bramhill and Blackwater Trail | 11am    |
| <b>Mon 25</b>   | Bear's Brunch                              | 10am    |
| <b>Fri 29</b>   | Brunch at Bill's                           | 10.30am |

## August

|                 |                                       |         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Wed 3</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch            | 1pm     |
| <b>Fri 5</b>    | Heather Farm Walk                     | 10.30am |
| <b>Tues 9</b>   | Skittles and Supper                   | 6.30pm  |
| <b>Wed 10</b>   | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet      | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 17</b>   | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 18</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                      | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Fri 26</b>   | Brunch at Bill's                      | 10.30am |
| <b>Mon 29</b>   | Bear's Brunch                         | 10am    |

## September - Friendship Month

|                 |                                  |         |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Fri 2</b>    | 'Kitty' Canal Boat Trip          | 10.30am |
| <b>Wed 7</b>    | Book Club and Buffet Lunch       | 1pm     |
| <b>Sat 10</b>   | Garden Party at Bruce and Jane's | 2.30pm  |
| <b>Wed 14</b>   | Two Spoons Bistro and Bar, Fleet | 10.30am |
| <b>Thurs 15</b> | The Ely Pub Quiz                 | 7.30pm  |
| <b>Sun 18</b>   | Friendship Month Tea-Party       | 2.30pm  |

# At a glance

## September – Friendship Month

|                |                                       |         |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Tues 20</b> | Lunch and Tour of Jane Austen House   | 12.30pm |
| <b>Wed 21</b>  | Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning | 10.30am |
| <b>Mon 26</b>  | Bear's Brunch                         | 10am    |
| <b>Fri 30</b>  | Brunch at Bill's                      | 10.30am |



**Online events you can enjoy**  
from the comfort of your own home...

**Talks, coffee mornings, exercise classes,  
quizzes, fun & games and much more**

**Visit [oddfellows.co.uk/events](https://oddfellows.co.uk/events)  
and enter 'Kelso' in the place name box**

Need help to attend an online event? Just give your local Social Organiser  
or Branch Secretary a call or email [events@oddfellows.co.uk](mailto:events@oddfellows.co.uk)

OE/0122A5 V2

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