

Spring 2021



the ODDfeLLows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Poole Bridport and Yeovil District - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Tasting



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Image by Colin Wright



Annual District Lunch – Sunday 31 October

Welcome to the new edition of the events diary of the Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District, 'Out & About'

As we go to press this January, the whole country is in lockdown. Whilst everyone is welcome to all Oddfellows events our Branches are mindful of the Covid-19 regulations and keeping everyone safe is our priority. When we are able to hold events again it will be likely that we have to reduce the numbers that can be accommodated accordingly. During the pandemic there have been long periods of time when we were unable to hold any events at all. We have tried to be optimistic about the future, and we've organised the usual mix of events starting from the beginning of March

for everyone to enjoy, but in the knowledge that many might have to be cancelled or postponed.

Booking is essential for all the events, especially in these strange times. In addition some of our well-loved events have proved to be so popular that they are frequently oversubscribed, so please remember to book early to avoid disappointment. Also, in the present climate of uncertainty events may have to be cancelled or amended, so please always check with the organiser.

We have an excellent variety of events and the 'At a Glance' section on pages 26 to 28 will enable you to make a note of all the things you would like to go to. The contact details for booking are given with each event.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember that it is essential to book for all the events in the current diary due to the reduced numbers that we can accommodate during the pandemic. Booking early for all the events will avoid disappointment and lack of bookings may lead to cancellations. Of course, all our events are subject to change, including our venues, food etc, due to Covid-19 and may be cancelled at short notice.

Please Note

The members of each Branch are responsible for their own administration and the organising of events. If you are already a member and would like to become more involved please contact Andrew on 01202 743910, or your own Branch Secretary. Details of our Business Meetings can be found on pages 24 and 25.

Please remember that it is through friendship and social events that we try to help our members to get more out of life, and we offer care, advice and support in times of need.

A bit about us ...

The Oddfellows is a not for profit Friendly Society that's been around for over 200 years. Our aim is to bring people together through our social events, as well as support our members with a range of benefits and services. The Society is run by our members, for the members. For more information visit www.oddfellows.co.uk or call our District Secretary on 01202 743910.

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, membership and the wide range of benefits available, please call:

District Secretary

Andrew Hampton

Telephone: 01202 743910

Email:

andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Acorn Branch Social Secretary

Flo Munro

Telephone: 01202 820965

Secretary: Charlotte Bulloch

Telephone: 07708 402707, to be the contact from 1 April 2021.

Brownsea Branch Social Secretary

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

Email:

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Hand-in-Hand Branch

Social Secretary

Stephen Slade

Telephone: 01305 260081

Email: mike.clarke@oddfellows.co.uk

Phoenix and Blackmore Vale

Branches Social Secretary

Judy Penfold

Telephone: 01963 363119

Email:

judy.penfold@oddfellows.co.uk

Pride of Bournemouth Branch

Social Secretary

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

Email:

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

March 2021

THURS 04 Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

 10.30am

 Members £2
Guests £2.50



Regulations permitting - tea, coffee, biscuits, cake, savouries, a raffle for Julia's House and good company will be the order of the day. Come and join in the fun, have a natter over your coffee and meet friends old and new. A raffle prize would be very much appreciated. Please book by Tuesday 2 March. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 to let us know you will be coming. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



MON 08 Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch

 2pm

 £3.50



It is sincerely hoped by now that we are able to continue our social events. Never-the-less, please make sure you book as we may still have to complete risk assessments for you and numbers could be limited. But to be positive we will hold a fun afternoon with the theme of forms of transport, trains, boats and planes. Did you ever fly Concorde, ride on The Flying Scotsman, or cruise on the large liners? If possible, we will serve refreshments and a cuppa. Raffle prizes gratefully accepted as always. If any of these arrangements need to be changed we will inform you as soon as possible. Contact Flo on 01202 820965 by Friday 5 March. If possible please park in the Tesco's car park as hall parking is limited. Ferndown Guide Hall, Entrance to Tesco's Car Park, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.

SAT 06 Rod Brewer Quiz Hand-in-Hand Branch

 7.30pm

 TBC



Starting at 7.30pm, with all profits going to the Village Hall funds, we hope you will join us for our annual Rod Brewer Quiz evening. This event was great fun last year so why not come and join in the fun? Contact Stephen on 01305 260081 for more details of price etc and to book your place. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways DT2 8JA.

March 2021

SAT
13

Bingo Mania Pride of Bournemouth Branch



7.30pm



TBC



It's Bingo Mania time once again! We will have conventional Bingo, Irish Bingo and maybe Card Bingo too! We will provide the tea and coffee but if you would prefer an alcoholic drink then please bring your own. As bring and share may not be possible, we will decide nearer the date regarding what food will be available and this will affect the cost of the event. The raffle will raise funds for Julia's House once again and so prizes would be very welcome. Why not come and join in the bingo fun! Please book by Thursday 11 March with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

WED
17

Lunch Club Brownsea Branch



12 noon



As per
menu



We never made it to our lunch club at the Shah of Persia last year due to the pandemic, so we are hoping for better luck this time! Meeting at 12 noon for 12.30pm, please join us for what we hope will be a lovely meal. An opportunity to meet like minded people in friendly surroundings. We hope to have a raffle for Forest Holme. Please book by Monday 15 March with Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122. Shah of Persia, 173 Longfleet Road, Poole BH15 2HS.

WED
24

Lunch Club Pride of Bournemouth Branch



12 noon



As per
menu



Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm, it would be lovely to welcome you to the Bailey Bridge Table Table for lunch. We're hoping for a relaxing time again this year, meeting up with friends and enjoying each other's company. We hope to be able to hold a raffle for our Chairman's charity, Julia's House, as usual. Please book by Monday 22 March with Margaret on 01202 775122 so that she can arrange for us all to sit in the same area - socially distanced if necessary of course. Bailey Bridge Table Table, Barrack Road, Christchurch BH23 2BN.

April

THURS
01

Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £2.50



Our regular Coffee Mornings are always a nice way to spend an hour or so, enjoying good company, a chat over tea or coffee, lovely cakes and savouries. As usual we will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - Julia's House - so raffle prizes would be very much appreciated. If you would like to come along and join in the fun, please give Margaret a call on 01202 775122 - why not a bring a friend to meet us - the more the merrier! Please book by Tuesday 30 March. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



THURS
08

Coffee Morning for Julia's House Pride of Bournemouth Branch

L 10.30am

£ Free



Our Chairman Edna and her husband, Norman, would like to welcome you to their home for a Coffee Morning in aid of Julia's House. Please come and enjoy the coffee and cake, the stalls, the raffle and the fun! We'll have a relaxing morning in good company, everyone is welcome, so why not bring a friend along to meet us? Space is limited, unless the sun shines of course when we will also enjoy their beautiful garden, so please book in plenty of time. Cost: Free, but donations to Julia's House please. Contact Edna on 01202 677101 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book. Book by Tuesday 6 April. Edna and Norman's House, 49 Warburton Road, Canford Heath, Poole BH17 8SD.

SAT
10

Lunch and Entertainment by Ukulele Band Acorn Branch

L 12 noon

£ £6



We do hope this event can be held as it is a new venture, an afternoon with a Ukulele Band. This has kindly been arranged by Anne, one of our members. We believe it will be good music and we can stamp our feet, clap and join in the fun. Please make sure you book with Charlotte, the Acorn Branch Secretary as we may still have to complete risk assessments with limited numbers attending. If we can serve food it will be a salad lunch with a dessert. Raffle prizes greatly appreciated. Please contact Charlotte on 07708 402707. Book by Wednesday 7 April. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG.

April

WED **21** **Coffee Morning at** **The Spire** **Browsea Branch**

 10.30am  As per menu 

It would be lovely to see you for our Coffee Morning at The Spire. They do a lovely selection of cakes and sandwiches, so why not bring a friend along to meet us? Have a chat over your coffee, put the world to rights and enjoy a relaxing morning in lovely surroundings. After your coffee you could enjoy some retail therapy in the High Street shops, or a walk down to the Quay to look at the views. We hope you can make it! Please book by Monday 19 April with Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF.

May


THURS **06** **Coffee Morning** **Pride of Bournemouth Branch**

 10.30am  Members £2
Guests £2.50 

We hope you will come and join us at our regular Coffee Morning. Tea, coffee, cake and savouries to enjoy and the chance to have a chat and enjoy each other's company - what could be better? As always prizes would be very welcome for the raffle as we are raising money for Julia's House. Please book by Tuesday 4 May by contacting Marion on 01202 484427 or Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



THURS **29** **Lunch at the Carpenter's Arms** **Browsea Branch**

 12 noon  As per menu 

We're trying a new venue for lunch - The Carpenter's Arms at Bransgore, which comes very well recommended - why not bring a friend along to meet us? We hope to be able to have a raffle for our Chairman's charity, so if you could bring a prize that would be lovely. Please book by Tuesday 27 April so that we can arrange to sit together. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. The Carpenter's Arms, 103 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch BH23 8BA.



May

MON
10

All the Fun of the Fair Tea Party Acorn Branch

L 2pm

£ £3.50



All the Fun of the Fair Tea Party'. History of the Fun Fair Quiz. Hopefully we can hold this event. Please book by Wednesday 5 May with Charlotte on 07708 402707. We can recall the rides we had, win a coconut, the dodgems, swing boats and many others. Hopefully we can serve you with refreshments and a cuppa. We are looking forward to being able (we hope) to have the bring and buy, books and puzzles for you to browse. We will still be supporting Macmillan Caring Locally with the raffle. Hopefully, a sunny summer afternoon to get together for a natter and cuppa. West Moors Memorial Hall, Station Road, West Moors, Dorset BH22 0HS.

WED
19

Afternoon Tea at Julie and Andrew's Brownsea Branch

L 2.30pm

£ £4.50



We hope you can come and join us for a lovely Afternoon Tea at Julie and Andrew's House. We will be hoping for fine weather so that we can enjoy their beautiful garden, but if it's a bit chilly we will be indoors. We will be raising funds for our Chairman's charity once again by having a raffle, so prizes would be gratefully received and we may have a quiz or two. Please contact Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 17 May. Julie and Andrew's House, 105 Sandbanks Road, Poole BH14 8BT.

June

THURS
03

Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

L 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £2.50



Our Coffee Mornings are a really nice way to keep in touch with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a cake or two. We always have savoury alternatives because we understand that not all our members and friends have a sweet tooth! Our Chairman, Edna Daniels, is raising money for Julia's House this year and as usual we will have a little raffle, so prizes would be much appreciated as always. Please book by Tuesday 2 June with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

June

SUN
06

Sunday Lunch Brownsea Branch



12 noon



£22



Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm, we are trying a Sunday Lunch at the lovely Remedy Oak Golf Club. The District held their Annual Lunch at the Remedy Oak in 2019 and we all had a wonderful time. The food and setting are both fantastic and we hope you will want to join us - enjoy watching the experts on the golf course and spend time in good company. We realise this is quite a way to travel from Poole, but we hope you will agree with us that the journey is worth it. Please book by Monday 31 May. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Remedy Oak Golf Club, Horton Road, Woodlands, Wimborne BH21 8ND.

THURS
10

Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We are returning to The Spire for another Coffee Morning and hope you will want to join us. Why not join us for a chat over your coffee and enjoy good company with like minded people. After your coffee you could enjoy a stroll to the Quay, or enjoy a bit of retail therapy in the shops. Please book your place with Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122. Book by Tuesday 8 June. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF.



MON
07

Toys I Remember Tea Party Acorn Branch



2pm



£3.50



The theme will be 'Toys I Remember'. Do you still have some toys from years ago? If so, please bring them along and maybe others will recall once playing with them. There will be a themed toy quiz, refreshments and hopefully some goodies to purchase. We will still be supporting Macmillan Caring Locally, so raffle prizes would be gratefully appreciated. Please remember you must book with Charlotte on 07708 402707. The venue is Ferndown Guide Hall, so please park in Tesco's car park if possible as parking is limited at the hall. Book by Friday 4 June. Ferndown Guide Hall, Entrance to Tesco Car Park, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.



June

SUN
13

District Annual Church Service



2.30pm



Free



Our Annual Church Service will be held at St Mark's Church, Talbot Village, followed by refreshments in the church hall. Members and friends are invited to join us at this beautiful church, but please let the District Secretary know that you are coming to ensure that we cater for everyone. Keith Quinton, our District Chairman looks forward to welcoming you all to the service and hopes that everyone will have an enjoyable afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with friends from across the District and of course neighbouring Districts, that we don't see very often, so do please come along and make it a special day for Keith. Everybody is very welcome. Book by Friday 11 June. Contact Andrew on 01202 743910. St Mark's Church, Talbot Village, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth BH10 4HY.

THURS
17

Afternoon Tea and Musical Entertainment from Julia

Pride of Bournemouth Branch



2.30pm



Members £4
Guests £5



We would like to invite you to join us for an afternoon of Musical Entertainment from Julia, who is a member of our Branch and a professional musician. We will enjoy a lovely afternoon tea of sandwiches, cake and savouries, a raffle for our Chairman's charity and hopefully be able to sing-along with Julia. We hope you will be able to join us and maybe bring a friend or neighbour along too - everyone's welcome. Please book by Tuesday 15 June with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

THURS
24

Afternoon Tea and Bingo

Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



£5



Sandra and Nigel have kindly invited us back to their lovely garden for Afternoon Tea and to enjoy a game or two of bingo. Come and relax in the sunshine (hopefully), enjoy good company, good food, a good natter and hopefully win a prize on the bingo or the raffle. We will be raising funds for our Chairman's charity once again so a raffle prize would be much appreciated - thank you. Please book with Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Tuesday 22 June. Sandra and Nigel's House, 176 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TZ.

June

SAT
26

Quiz Night Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 7.30pm

£ TBC



We hope you can join us for our Quiz Night. We may have a fish and chip supper, or a Ploughman's – it will depend on the restrictions at the time if there are any, but please bring your own alcoholic drinks – tea and coffee will be provided as usual. Come and test your 'grey cells' and have fun with friends old and new. There will be prizes for the top scorers on the quizzes and a raffle for Julia's House. Please book by Thursday 24 June with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

July

THURS
01

Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £2.50



It would be lovely to welcome you to our regular Coffee Morning and have a relaxing time, meet some new friends, enjoy a cake with your coffee and hopefully win a raffle prize. We do savouries for those who do not have a sweet tooth! Everyone is welcome, so please bring a friend along too! Please book by Tuesday 29 June with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

THURS
08

Boat Trip on the River Stour Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 10.30am

£ TBC



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We had planned to go on a boat trip last year but of course it had to be cancelled, so we will try again this summer. We hope to organise a boat trip on the River Stour, leaving from Tuckton, followed by lunch or a snack at Tuckton Tea Rooms. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we will all have an enjoyable trip! Why not have a coffee at the Tea Rooms first, join us on the trip and then finish off with a nice lunch? Please book by Thursday 1 July with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Tea Rooms, 323 Belle Vue Road, Bournemouth BH6 3BA.

SAT
10

Summer Songs and Tunes with Julia at the Keyboard Acorn Branch

⌚ 2pm

£ £3.50



An afternoon of music with Julia, who has entertained us before and it was such a good afternoon. We are sure she will soon have us guessing tunes and singing along with lots of summer favourite melodies. Refreshments, a raffle, and hopefully goodies and books to purchase. Please book as soon as possible with Charlotte and certainly by Monday 5 July. Raffle prizes much appreciated. Let's hope it will be summer, please wear your summer hat or boater if you wish, which will add a colour to the afternoon as we sing along. Contact Charlotte on 07708 402707. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG.

SUN
18

Early Evening BBQ Brownsea Branch

⌚ 4pm

£ £6.50



We are hoping for nice weather again so that we can enjoy Sandra and Nigel's beautiful garden, the good food, good company and maybe have a quiz. Please bring your own alcoholic drinks - tea and coffee will be provided. There will be the usual raffle for our Chairman's charity, so a raffle prize would be very much appreciated. Please book by Friday 16 July. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Sandra and Nigel's House, 176 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TZ.



SUN
25

Annual Garden Party Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 12.30pm

£ Members £6
Guests £7



Edna and Norman are our hosts once again for our Annual Garden Party. Please come and enjoy their beautiful garden, the flowers, the food, the stalls and the fun! We will have a buffet lunch followed by sweets - tea and coffee will be provided, but if you would like something stronger please bring your own. Please bring a chair and hope for fine weather! Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in good company, join in the raffle for Julia's House and have a wonderful time with us all. Everyone is very welcome. Please book by Thursday 22 July. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Edna on 01202 677101. Edna and Norman's House, 49 Warburton Road, Canford Heath, Poole BH17 8SD.

July

THURS
29

Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch



11am



£3.50



We are going back to The Pilot for our July Coffee Morning and hope that you will want to join us for a coffee and a teacake. Why not come along and enjoy a natter over your coffee and hopefully win a prize on the raffle. Please contact Andrew on 01202 743910 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Tuesday 20 July. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA.

August

TUES
03

Coffee Morning Phoenix Branch



10.30am



Free



Please join us for a Coffee Morning - all welcome. Donations towards the refreshments would be appreciated. Book by Saturday 31 July. Contact Judy on 01963 363119. The Gugg, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2RQ.



August

THURS
05

Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £2.50



What could be better than tea, cake, coffee, savouries, a lovely venue and good company? Why not join us for our regular Coffee Morning at Tuckton Social Club, meet new friends, have a chat over your coffee and generally put the world to rights - we're good at that! We will have a raffle for Julia's House as usual, so a prize would be very much appreciated. Please book by Tuesday 3 August with Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

MON
09

Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We are going to try a new venue - Compton Acres Cafe and Tea Rooms. This was in the diary for last year but of course it didn't happen due to the pandemic so we are hoping for better luck this year. Come and join us for a chat over coffee and enjoy a cake, or one of their homemade soups or quiches. They also do lovely breakfast options if you prefer. After your coffee you could have a browse in the Gift Shop, look round the Plant Centre or even tour the world famous gardens. Book by Friday 6 August. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Compton Acres Café and Tea Rooms, 164 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole BH13 7ES.

August

MON
09 **August Tea Party - The
Animal World and Others**
Acorn Branch



2pm



£3.50



Please join us for the August tea party when the theme will be 'The Animal World and Others'. Which part of the world do the animals come from, what do they eat, what is their abode like? Maybe some pictures to identify also. Hopefully we can serve refreshments and drinks. Our usual raffle income will still be going to Macmillan Caring Locally. Please contact Charlotte if you would like to attend, by Friday 6 August. Contact Charlotte on 07708 402707. West Moors Memorial Hall, Station Road, West Moors, Dorset BH22 0HS.



SUN
15 **Buffet Lunch**
Brownsea Branch



12 noon



£6.50



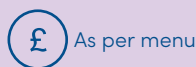
Our Annual Buffet Lunch will be held in Julie and Andrew's lovely garden once again this year and of course we will be hoping for good weather. Tea and coffee will be provided but if you would like something stronger please bring your own. Why not bring a friend along to find out about the benefits of being a member? We will have our usual raffle for our Chairman's charity so a prize would be very much appreciated. Book by Friday 13 August. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Julie and Andrew's House, 105 Sandbanks Road, Poole BH14 8BT.



THURS
19 **Southbourne Clifftop Walk**
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



As per menu



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Why not join us once again for our Clifftop Walk? We meet at Café Riva for a coffee, ready to start off at 10.30am for our walk along the cliffs and finally we enjoy lunch at the Boscombe Cliff Bowling Club. We are hoping for fine weather again this year. If you can't manage the walk, the food at the bowling club is really good and it is fine if you just want to join us for lunch at noon, or just for coffee at Café Riva - either way it will be lovely to welcome you. Please let Margaret know if you would like to come on 01202 775122, so that we can arrange to have lunch together. Book by Tuesday 17 August. Café Riva, Boscombe Overcliff Drive, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH5 2EL.

September - Friendship Month

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



THURS
02

Coffee Morning
Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



Free



September is Friendship Month! This is a free event and everyone is welcome, so we hope you will bring along a friend for a chat and a cuppa, enjoy homemade cakes, savouries, tea and coffee. Maybe we will have a few stalls for you to browse and of course we will have a raffle for Julia's House, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Please give Margaret a call on 01202 775122 to let her know you will be coming - we don't want to run out of cake! Please book by Tuesday 31 August. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

WED
08

District Friendship
Charity Cream Tea



2.30pm



Free



September is our Society's Friendship Month so we hope you will join us for a



chat during your Cream Tea and maybe bring a friend along. There will be a chance to win a prize on the raffle and everyone is very welcome to come and join in the fun. A raffle prize would be lovely. This is a free event but donations for Dementia UK Admiral Nurses would be very welcome. Please contact Andrew on 01202 743910 or Keith on 01305 780823 to book your place by Monday 6 September at the latest, as numbers are limited. The Community Room, Fairfield, Chickerell, Weymouth DT3 4AU.

TUES
07

Afternoon Tea
Phoenix Branch



2.30pm



Free



Please join us for our Friendship Month event, bring along a friend and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with us. Donations on the day towards refreshments would be appreciated. Book by Saturday 4 September. Contact Judy on 01963 363119. The Gugg, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2RQ.



September - Friendship Month

SAT
11

Hawaiian Themed Lunch Acorn Branch



12 noon



£4.50



We look forward to seeing you at our Hawaiian Themed Lunch. 'Fancy dress optional'. A relaxing laid back afternoon as we imagine we are on some desert island in the sunshine with refreshing drinks to hand. Suitable food for lunch, cold drinks and of course a cuppa.

Later on in the afternoon we can have either lemon drizzle cake or chocolate gateaux. Please book with Charlotte on 07708 402707. We can decorate the tables with the theme and have a fun afternoon. This will also be the Society's Friendship Month event, when we hope to be able to say hello to new folk who may be interested to come along. Book by Wednesday 8 September. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG.

SAT
18

Bingo with Fish and Chip Supper Pride of Bournemouth Branch



7.30pm



£6.50



Eyes down and look in for our second Friendship Month event - please bring a friend if you can.

Our bingo evenings are always good fun - why not come and join in and try to win a prize. Soft drinks will be provided, but if you would like something stronger please bring your own. We will also have a raffle for Julia's House, so prizes would be very welcome please. This is a popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Book by Saturday 11 September. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



WED
15

Friendship Cheese and Wine Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



£3



We are trying something new this year for our Friendship Month event - a Cheese and Wine Afternoon at the Oakdale Conservative Club! Please bring your friends along to meet us, hear about our Society and enjoy a wonderful afternoon in good company in a lovely venue. There will be wine and cheeses to try, possibly a cheesy quiz and the opportunity to meet new friends. This event is very reasonably priced to encourage new folk to come along and give us a try. Please book by Monday 13 September. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Oakdale Conservative Club, 92 Derbys Lane, Poole BH15 3EU.



WED
22

Friendship Afternoon Tea Brownsea Branch



2.30pm



Free



We are returning to the East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club for our Friendship Afternoon Tea. We expect that the new caterers will be able to put on a fantastic spread for us when lovely sandwiches, cakes and savouries will be available to try, so we hope you will come and join in the fun. Please bring a friend with you who might benefit from joining us – learn more about what we have to offer our members and have a relaxing afternoon together. Please book early as this is a free event and places are limited. There will be a raffle for our Chairman's charity, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 20 September please. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL.

October

MON
04

Autumn Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch



2pm



£3.50



Please join us for an autumn afternoon event when we will be having a



couple of 'Who, What and When?' quizzes. A small prize for an Autumn Photograph, leaves, flowers and others. The usual refreshments, tea or coffee and hopefully some paperbacks and puzzles ready for the darker evenings for you to purchase towards our charity – Macmillan Caring Locally. Please book as soon as possible with Charlotte on 07708 402707. Book by Friday 1 October. Ferndown Guide Hall, Entrance to Tesco's Car Park, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9TH.

THURS
07

Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



Members £2
Guests £2.50



What could be better than coffee or tea, cake, savouries, a lovely venue and good company? Please come and join us for our regular Coffee Morning at Tuckton Social Club, meet new friends, have a chat over your coffee and generally put the world to rights. Contact Edna on 01202 677101. Book by Tuesday 5 October. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

October

WED
13

District Charity Coffee Morning



10.30am



£2.50



We hope you would like to join us for our Coffee Morning supporting our Chairman, Keith Quinton in The Community Room at Fairfield. Have a chat over your tea or coffee, put the world to rights and enjoy some lovely cakes. A raffle prize would be very much appreciated as Keith continues to raise money for his charity. Please contact Keith on 01305 780823 to book your place by Monday 11 October. The Community Room, Fairfield, Chickerell, Weymouth DT3 4AU.

WED
20

Afternoon Tea Brownsea Branch



3pm



£7.50 per person



We are returning to The Pilot once again for our October Afternoon Tea. We hope you will want to come and enjoy a chat over your tea and cakes, and enjoy good company with friends old and new. Please book by Monday 18 October. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA.

SAT
23

Ploughman's Supper with Beetle and Quiz Pride of Bournemouth Branch



7.30pm



Members £3.50
Guests £4.50



We hope you will join us for our Ploughman's Supper, enjoy a game of beetle and a quiz or two. As usual we will hold a raffle for Julia's House, so if you can donate a prize that would be wonderful. Tea and coffee will be provided but if you would like something stronger please bring your own. Book by Thursday 21 October. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

WED
27

Lunch Club at The Bridge House Brownsea Branch



12 noon



As per menu



We haven't been to the Bridge House Hotel for a while, so we've decided to go back to this lovely venue. The views over the river are stunning and the carvery is always excellent. It would be lovely to welcome you for lunch, have a chat with friends, join in the raffle and generally put the world to rights. Book by Monday 25 October please. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN.

October

SUN
31

Annual District Lunch



12.30pm



See below



This year our Annual District Lunch will be held at a new venue for us - The Elstead Hotel in Bournemouth. We hope that many members and friends will be able to join us. The price for the lunch will be £20 per person to include a glass of wine or a soft drink. Our Chairman this year is Keith Quinton and after lunch we will have a raffle to support his charity - Dementia UK Admiral Nurses, so raffle prizes would be very much appreciated as always. Keith looks forward to welcoming you to the Elstead Hotel - numbers are limited and booking is essential so please contact Andrew on 01202 743910 to book your place.

In addition, we have arranged a weekend deal with the hotel, arriving on the Friday afternoon including DBB on the Friday and Saturday and to include the lunch on Sunday - all for an amazing £120 per person. There will be entertainment on both evenings. It is possible to also stay on the Sunday evening, bed and breakfast at an additional cost. Please contact Andrew as soon as possible if you are interested in the weekend deal. Please book by Monday 25 October for the lunch. The Elstead Hotel, 12-14 Knyveton Road, Bournemouth BH1 3QP.

November

TUES
02

Supper and Bingo Brownsea Branch



7pm



£11 for Bingo, Supper
and a Drink



It's been a long time since we've been able to have our Supper and Bingo event again. We hope you will come and join in the fun, buy some raffle tickets for our Chairman's charity and maybe win a cash prize or two on the bingo. We're hoping Andrew, our bingo caller, will have got the hang of the job by now! We will have our supper at 7pm, followed by the bingo at about 8pm. Please book early with either Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910 as we have to pre-order our supper. The price includes five games of bingo, your supper and a drink, but if you prefer not to have supper then it's absolutely fine to come along and just join in the bingo fun with us for just £5. Book by Friday 29 October. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA.

November

THURS 04 Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 10.30am

£ Members £2
Guests £2.50



Our regular Coffee Mornings are a lovely opportunity to meet up with friends old and new, enjoy a chat over our coffee and cake, and hopefully win a prize in the raffle. We meet in a lovely venue and you can be sure of a warm welcome – why not bring a friend along to meet us? Book by Tuesday 2 November. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



WED 10 District Charity Coffee Morning

⌚ 10.30am

£ £2.50



Keith Quinton, our Chairman, would like to welcome you back to Fairfield to enjoy his last Coffee Morning of the year! We hope you will want to come and join in the fun, chat over your tea, coffee and cakes, and spend a relaxing morning with us in The Community Room. The raffle will be for Dementia UK Admiral Nurses as usual and of course if you could bring along a raffle prize that would be wonderful. Please book by Monday 8 November. Contact Keith on 01305 780823 or Andrew on 01202 743910. The Community Room, Fairfield, Chickerell, Weymouth DT3 4AU.

THURS 11 Afternoon Tea with Musical Entertainment from Julia Pride of Bournemouth Branch

⌚ 2.30pm

£ Members £4, Guests £5



We would love to welcome you to our Afternoon Tea – sandwiches, cake, savouries, tea and coffee. Julia will be entertaining us once again and as today is Remembrance Day, we will have some suitable music to celebrate this special day. We will be raising money for Julia's House, so if you could bring along a raffle prize that would be very much appreciated. Why not come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in good company and hopefully meet some new friends. Book by Tuesday 9 November. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.



November

THURS 18 Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch

10.30am £ £3



We are going back to The Pilot for our Coffee Morning in November. Have a relaxing morning with friends old and new, and have a chat over your coffee and teacake. What more could you ask for? We hope you can come and join us. Book by Monday 15 November. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA.

MON 22 Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning Acorn Branch

10am £ Free



As usual we will be holding our pre-Christmas Coffee Morning with festive refreshments. Further details in the September 2021 Events Diary. Please keep the date. Contact Charlotte on 07708 402707. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG.



December

THURS 02 Christmas Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

10.30am £ Members £2
Guests £2.50



What better way to start your Christmas festivities than by joining us for a mince pie, cakes and a coffee? Our Christmas Coffee Morning should be great fun and we hope you will be able to come along, meet up with friends old and new, try to win a prize in our raffle and enjoy a relaxing morning with us. This is always a popular event, so please book early with Margaret to avoid disappointment. Book by 30 November 2021. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

SUN 05 Christmas Lunch with Brownsea Branch Pride of Bournemouth Branch

12.30pm £ TBC



We are hoping to join together again this year with our friends from Brownsea Branch for our



Christmas festivities. There will be more details in the autumn diary and please be aware that the venue may change. Book by Saturday 27 November. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF.

December

TUES
07

Christmas Party Pride of Bournemouth Branch



7.30pm



Free



Our Christmas parties are always an excellent excuse to have a really good time! We have a bring and share supper, a game or two, sometimes a Christmas quiz. As always this is a very popular free event, so please contact Margaret on 01202 775122 as soon as possible to book your place to avoid disappointment. We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - Julia's House, so if you could bring a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Tuesday 30 November. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA.

WED
08

Christmas Coffee Morning Brownsea Branch



10.30am



£3.50



Come and join in the festivities at our Christmas Coffee Morning at The Elstead Hotel. Enjoy a mince pie or two with your coffee and have a relaxing morning with us in their beautiful conservatory. Have a chat over your coffee and catch up with friends. We may even have crackers and a quiz. We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity so prizes would be welcome. Book by Monday 6 December. Contact Margaret on 01202 775122 or Andrew on 01202 743910. The Elstead Hotel, 12-14 Knyveton Road, Bournemouth BH1 3QP.



SAT
11

Christmas Event Acorn Branch



1.30pm



TBC



Please keep the date. All details in the September 2021 Events Diary. Contact Charlotte on 07708 402707. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG.



An Invitation to join in our fun online events

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

*Why not
join in?*

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

Just email andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk
for the Zoom links, event diary and passwords
or visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/events

Business Meetings

Please contact your Branch Secretary to ensure your business meeting is taking place, and whilst the pandemic continues it is essential to let your secretary know that you will be coming due to track and trace requirements. We share and discuss the business of the branch including social events, finance, care, development, publicity and promotion. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know other members as well as making new friends. Most evenings are rounded off with light refreshments and a chance to socialise.

Acorn Branch

Secretary: Charlotte Bulloch, Wisteria Corner, 23 Bader Road, Canford Heath, Poole BH17 8PN

Telephone: 07708 402707 **Email:** charlotte.bulloch@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7.30pm at Ferndown United Church, 505 Wimborne Road, East Ferndown BH22 9NF. Dates as follows:

Monday 15 March

Monday 19 April

Monday 17 May

Monday 21 June

Monday 19 July

Monday 16 August

Monday 20 September

Brownsea Branch

Secretary: Andrew Hampton, 105 Sandbanks Road, Poole BH14 8BT

Telephone: 01202 743910 **Email:** andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm at East Dorset Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Dates as follows:

Tuesday 16 March

Tuesday 20 April

Tuesday 18 May

Tuesday 15 June

Tuesday 20 July

Tuesday 17 August

Tuesday 21 September

Hand-in-Hand Branch

Secretary: Stephen Slade, 21 Great Western Road, Dorchester DT1 1UF

Telephone: 01305 260081 **Email:** mike.clarke@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at Wessex Royale Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1UP. Dates as follows:

Tuesday 9 March

Tuesday 13 April

Tuesday 11 May

Tuesday 8 June

Tuesday 13 July

Tuesday 10 August

Tuesday 14 September

Business Meetings

Phoenix Branch (Incorporating Blackmore Vale)

Secretary: Judy Penfold, 39 Grosvenor Road, Stalbridge DT10 2PL

Telephone: 01963 363119 **Email:** judy.penfold@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at Holy Trinity Church, Lysander Road, Yeovil BA20 2BU. Dates as follows:

Tuesday 16 March

Tuesday 20 April

Tuesday 18 May

Tuesday 15 June

Tuesday 20 July

Tuesday 17 August

Tuesday 21 September

Pride of Bournemouth Branch

Secretary: Margaret White, 15 Playfields Drive, Poole, BH12 2EG

Telephone: 01202 775122 **Email:** margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Dates as follows:

Tuesday 23 March

Tuesday 27 April

No meeting in May

Tuesday 22 June

Tuesday 27 July

Tuesday 24 August

Tuesday 28 September

Traditional Meetings

Wessex Provincial Branch of Past Grands

Secretary: Robert Southam

Address Flat 4, 24-28 Sea View Road, Parkstone, Poole BH12 3JY.

Telephone: 01202 734705

This is a ritual Branch and all members who have taken their Purple Degree are welcome to attend. Please contact Robert for venue and date details.

Bournemouth and District Minor Degree Branch

Secretary: Robert Southam

Address: Flat 4, 24-28 Sea View Road, Parkstone, Poole BH12 3JY.

Telephone: 01202 734705

This is a ritual Branch and the taking of the Minor Degrees is a prerequisite for being Noble Grand (Chairman) of one's Branch. Please contact Robert for venue and date details.

At a glance

March 2021

Thurs 4	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Sat 6	Rod Brewer Quiz (Hand-in-Hand)	7.30pm
Mon 8	Afternoon Tea (Acorn)	2pm
Sat 13	Bingo Mania (Pride of Bournemouth)	7.30pm
Wed 17	Lunch Club (Brownsea)	12 noon
Wed 24	Lunch Club (Pride of Bournemouth)	12 noon

April

Thurs 1	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Thurs 8	Coffee Morning for Julia's House (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Sat 10	Lunch and Entertainment by Ukulele Band (Acorn)	12 noon
Wed 21	Coffee Morning at The Spire (Brownsea)	10.30am
Thurs 29	Lunch at the Carpenter's Arms (Brownsea)	12 noon

May

Thurs 6	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Mon 10	All the Fun of the Fair Tea Party (Acorn)	2pm
Wed 19	Afternoon Tea at Julie and Andrew's (Brownsea)	2.30pm

June

Thurs 3	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Sun 6	Sunday Lunch (Brownsea)	12 noon
Mon 7	Toys I Remember Tea Party (Acorn)	2pm
Thurs 10	Coffee Morning (Brownsea)	10.30am
Sun 13	District Annual Church Service	2.30pm
Thurs 17	Afternoon Tea and Musical Entertainment from Julia (Pride of Bournemouth)	2.30pm
Thurs 24	Afternoon Tea and Bingo (Brownsea)	2.30pm
Sat 26	Quiz Night (Pride of Bournemouth)	7.30pm

At a glance

July

Thurs 1	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Thurs 8	Boat Trip on the River Stour (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Sat 10	Summer Songs and Tunes with Julia at the Keyboard (Acorn)	2pm
Sun 18	Early Evening BBQ (Brownsea)	4pm
Sun 25	Annual Garden Party (Pride of Bournemouth)	12.30pm
Thurs 29	Coffee Morning (Brownsea)	11am

August

Tues 3	Coffee Morning (Phoenix)	10.30am
Thurs 5	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Mon 9	Coffee Morning (Brownsea)	10.30am
Mon 9	August Tea Party - The Animal World and Others (Acorn)	2pm
Sun 15	Buffet Lunch (Brownsea)	12 noon
Thurs 19	Southbourne Clifftop Walk (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am

September - Friendship Month

Thurs 2	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Tues 7	Afternoon Tea (Phoenix)	2.30pm
Wed 8	District Friendship Charity Cream Tea	2.30pm
Sat 11	Hawaiian Themed Lunch (Acorn)	12 noon
Wed 15	Friendship Cheese and Wine (Brownsea)	2.30pm
Sat 18	Bingo with Fish and Chip Supper (Pride of Bournemouth)	7.30pm
Wed 22	Friendship Afternoon Tea (Brownsea)	2.30pm

October

Mon 4	Autumn Afternoon Tea (Acorn)	2pm
Thurs 7	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Wed 13	District Charity Coffee Morning	10.30am
Wed 20	Afternoon Tea (Brownsea)	3pm
Sat 23	Ploughman's Supper with Beetle and Quiz (Pride of Bournemouth)	7.30pm

At a glance

October

Wed 27	Lunch Club at The Bridge House (Brownsea)	12 noon
Sun 31	Annual District Lunch	12.30pm

November

Tues 2	Supper and Bingo (Brownsea)	7pm
Thurs 4	Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Wed 10	District Charity Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 11	Afternoon Tea with Musical Entertainment from Julia (Pride of Bournemouth)	2.30pm
Thurs 18	Coffee Morning (Brownsea)	10.30am
Mon 22	Pre-Christmas Coffee Morning (Acorn)	10am

December

Thurs 2	Christmas Coffee Morning (Pride of Bournemouth)	10.30am
Sun 5	Christmas Lunch with Brownsea Branch (Pride of Bournemouth)	12.30pm
Tues 7	Christmas Party (Pride of Bournemouth)	7.30pm
Wed 8	Christmas Coffee Morning (Brownsea)	10.30am
Sat 11	Christmas Event (Acorn)	1.30pm

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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.

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Wessex Wanderer

News and views from your local friendship group

A Message from our District Chairman

As we move in to 2021 and start another lockdown, we try, yet again, to contain the Coronavirus which is spreading so quickly throughout the country. I hope you have all been able to keep safe and have looked out for each other in these difficult times.

But this year is going to be far more positive with the introduction of the various vaccines that our scientists have worked so hard to formulate, test and make available. I think we can actually see the light at the end of the tunnel!! As the various sectors of the community receive their vaccines, the effect on our everyday lives will be tremendous.

The most important of which, for me, will be the ability to meet face to face with you, the members and friends of our District. To enjoy the company of others that we have missed for so long.

For you ladies, the opportunity for some retail therapy and a cup of coffee and a chat. For the men, to talk football in some one's man-cave over a pint, to go out for a meal or to the pub, to pop in for a cuppa, all the things we have missed for so long. And holidays – remember them? But the good times WILL return and it will be down to all of us to make the most of them. One thing this has highlighted is that none of us know what is round the corner.

A couple of the stories in this issue are about our members and their efforts to raise money for charity, using the humble pickled onion. Mary Brewer from the Hand-in-Hand Branch and Bill Coombes from the Brownsea Branch are both to be congratulated on their efforts. A fantastic result for both of you and the charities you support.

When I wrote my message for the front of the Autumn 2020 issue, I mentioned

that we were introducing 'Penfellows' for members to write real letters to each other. I understand that this has now been taken up by some of our members and they are in regular contact with people in other parts of the country. Long may this continue.

I hope that when we are producing our next issue of the Wessex Wanderer we will be able to report on all the events that have taken place and how much we have been able to return to normal. Until then, please look after each other, stay in-doors as much as you can, follow the guide lines, even if they do change frequently, keep safe and well. We are here to help - but if you don't tell us, we don't know.

On a very personal note, you will see we have an obituary for my wife Sister Muriel Quinton on the front cover. Can I just express my thanks to all of you that sent cards, emails, letters and made phone calls. Thank you so much.

Sister Muriel Quinton, Past Provincial Grand Master 12 July 1937 – 27 December 2020

Sister Muriel Quinton, with her husband Keith, our present District Chairman, moved to Dorset in 1998 from the Woolwich area of South East London. Oddfellowship has always been an important part of both their lives and they very quickly started to play an active role in the Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District and the Hand-in-Hand Branch.

Muriel was Chairman of our District in 2006, having already served as Chairman in the Woolwich District previously, and served on the District Committee for a number of years. Muriel always gave sound advice and could be relied upon to get straight to the heart of any problem or

issue that the committee had to deal with. She was extremely proud to be able to support Keith when he served as President of the Southern Group Conference in 2014. Sadly, in more recent times, Muriel's health started to decline and her ability to take part was severely restricted.

Muriel never lost her sense of humour or her wit despite her difficulties and she kept Keith on his toes throughout. Muriel was a very special, wise and courageous lady and a great friend to us all.

The picture of Muriel was taken on Muriel and Keith's first date when he took her out for dinner one evening on a cruise up the Thames – old softy or what.



Muriel will be loved and missed by many, but never forgotten.

Acorn Annual Picnic

The August Acorn picnic was the first event that could be safely held since the Coronavirus. It was perfect weather and we were able to place ourselves on a patch of Wilverley Plain on our own and socially distanced.

It was good to see members and catch up with those we had not seen since March. We had our picnics before folk formed into two teams to play the game of smite. Everyone was given disposable gloves and all antibacterial equipment was to hand.

Thanks to Pat the game proved to be great fun, even though half way through we had a visit from the New Forest ponies. The team of "chuckers" won both games and there were several throws when all 10 of the "smites" went down in one throw.



Acorn Afternoon Tea

It was good news that Acorn were able to hold the September tea party in spite of Covid 19. The social distancing obligations were upheld and thanks go to those who did the necessary sanitation prior to and after the event. The quiz with only the initials of the first lines of nursery

rhymes caused much laughter and everyone had to cast their minds back a long time. This was the Friendship Month event which was free, but a box was put out for any donations to Macmillan Caring Locally which raised £77. A happy afternoon enjoyed by all.



Welcome to the 31st edition of the Wessex Wanderer

We hope you will enjoy reading the articles that have been submitted for inclusion in this issue.

How to contact your District

District Secretary: Andrew Hampton
Address: 105 Sandbanks Road, Poole, Dorset BH14 8BT

Telephone: 01202 743910
Email: andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation

 www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows

Friendship Afternoon Tea Brownsea Branch

We had to relocate our Friendship Afternoon Tea due to the Coronavirus regulations at our usual venue, but nevertheless we had a wonderful time at The Pilot on Canford Heath who agreed to do us an Afternoon Tea or Coffee and Teacakes. Andrew had arranged for us all to sit in the same area but socially distanced and we all enjoyed our tea or coffee and a chat over our teacakes. We had bottomless cups of tea or coffee which were well received and the teacakes went down well. The raffle (all Covid secure) for Forest Holme was well supported and Margaret would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets or donated prizes for the next event.

Traditional Terms

Grand Master (GM): Chairman

Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM): District Chairman

Provincial Deputy Grand Master (Prov DGM): District Deputy Chairman

Provincial Corresponding Secretary (Prov CS):

District Secretary - responsible for administering Branches

Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master (IPPGM): Immediate Past District Chairman

Past Provincial Grand Master (PPGM): Past District Chairman

Lodge: Branch

Brother and Sister: Traditional term used in Unions, Guilds and Fraternal organisations to suggest mutual support and family

Southbourne Clifftop Walk – Pride of Bournemouth

It was fantastic to be able to meet up for our walk along the cliffs in August. We had done the necessary risk assessments and we all kept socially distanced during our stroll. We started from Café Riva where some of us enjoyed a coffee before our walk. The sun shone and we all had a good natter as we walked. Julia brought her

lovely dog, Teddy, to keep us company. Due to the rules at the time it was decided not to organise a venue for lunch and we all went our separate ways. We would like to thank Gerald for being our guide as usual, and everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable morning.

Thank you Judith!

During the Summer of 2020 the members of the Acorn Branch were very sorry to hear from their Secretary, Judith Parkin, that she was wishing to resign. Judith had been the secretary for over eleven years and had been dedicated, supportive, informative and very much forward thinking. Her financial skills were very much appreciated by the members, and Judith was always willing to impart all necessary information to them. Her support of the Branch Committee of Management never wavered and her willingness to seek out answers to all needs and queries was always taken on board with good humour and sincerity.

Judith was always there to listen whenever a member needed assurance or help with finance, welfare or just to chat.

Although holding down a full time job, whenever time permitted Judith would



attend the socials and we are sure the cooking of 90 eggs and bacon together with Derek will be long remembered by her! Thank you Judith for everything you did for the members of Acorn Branch. Your smile and personality will be remembered with great affection by us all. The photograph is of Judith's last meeting as secretary when she was presented with a cheque and bouquet of flowers.

Brownsea Coffee Morning

Everyone enjoyed the Friendship Afternoon at the Pilot so much that we decided to go back in October for a Coffee Morning! We had tea or coffee and teacakes once again and enjoyed a relaxing morning putting the world to rights over our

refreshments and appreciating each other's company – all socially distanced of course. The raffle for Forest Holme was successful once again – thanks so much to all who attended both the events at The Pilot and to Lisa for her hospitality.

Trauma During Lockdown Acorn Branch

It was a very traumatic time during lockdown for one of the Acorn members who woke one morning to find boiling water cascading through the hall and lounge ceilings. This resulted in weeks of drying out, then re-plastering and decorating. After the basics were

completed then the new carpets and furniture were eventually put into place to make it feel like home again. The member gives her sincere thanks to the Acorn Branch and the District for all the support that was received during the ordeal.

Oddfellows Members: Do you need help?

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Andrew on **01202 743910** or email andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk or contact your Branch Secretary.

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

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

*The Oddfellows cannot provide legal advice and accepts no liability whatsoever for advice provided by Citizens Advice, which is an independent advice agency. If you have any queries about the advice you have received or wish to make a complaint then you should contact Citizens Advice directly. Citizens Advice operate a formal complaints process.

'Sweet William's Pickled Onions' Brownsea Branch



Bill began pickling his onions in September 2020 and completed the 140 jars he produced this year by the end of October. In Early December we advertised for the yearly 'Sweet William Pickled Onion Raffle' as well as asking for donations of jars.

In 2019 we raised £700 and we agreed for 2020 that we did not expect to raise as much, due to the situation with the pandemic, but anything raised we would be happy with. We started selling raffle tickets in early December and taking donations for jars, we had a fantastic response. Throughout December we

were sending out jars of pickled onions to people making donations, we sent out 11 boxes to Oddfellow members in the UK and we even sent some of the pickled onions abroad to Germany this year.

On the 20th December we held the raffle and Bill chose the six winning tickets! We finally decided it was time to count all the monies received from the raffle and donations made and were absolutely thrilled to have raised £2,000 in total! This just exceeded any expectations and Bill was overcome with emotion at the response. We will donate the monies to Forest Holme, Macmillan Cancer Care and to Poole Hospital Cancer Department, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy - all worthy causes close to our heart. Thank you to everyone who donated money toward the Sweet William Pickled Onions 2020.

Michelle Coombes



Crochet for beginners

During the lockdown a member of the Acorn Branch looked for something different to do. It boiled down to learning Italian or learning to crochet.

Crochet came out on top, the other sounded a bit too much for the elderly brain!! A very kind next door neighbour who is an expert gave lots and lots of assistance. This was done properly distanced, the neighbour in her porch and the Acorn member in hers. Good job the houses were in a cul-de-sac as otherwise the info that went backwards and forwards may well have sounded peculiar to others!

After several aborted attempts the first blanket was achieved, not marvellous, the second a lot better and to date the third one is coming along nicely. Great fun and it sometimes included a glass of wine in each other's porch.



A Treat for Acorn Members

Just after the first lockdown two Acorn members were very pleased to use a gift of a cream tea at the Bartley Lodge Hotel just outside of Lyndhurst. The hotel is approached down a woodland drive and is a grade two listed building. It was originally owned by Charles Lyell the "Father of Geology", which is the history of the structure and substance of the earth.

Outside is a large stone terrace where the members had a glass of wine before the tea. There are 40 rooms in the hotel which are in several groups named in association with the New Forest. Cosy Keepers, Classic Agisters, Superior Crowns and Family Verderers.

The tea took place in the conservatory where other folk were also partaking of the delicious scones, sandwiches, cakes and as much tea and coffee as required. A happy afternoon in pleasant surroundings.

And it's 7!

The seventh Great Grandchild for an Acorn member was born during September 2020. The new born little boy brought a ray of sunshine to all the family during the difficult year everyone was experiencing.

Watercress Line Steam Railway Trip

During 2020 two of the Acorn members were fortunate enough to have a voucher for a trip on the Watercress Line Steam Railway. In 1865 it was called the Mid-Hants Railway and was operated by London and Scottish West. However in 1884 they purchased The Mid Hants railway and it was used to carry the watercress grown in the area to London for distribution. The steam railway today is run by a superb unit of volunteers and the trains run from New Alresford to Alton a distance of 10 miles.



The day that the members went was one of the last days of summer and on arriving at the station they were able to purchase coffee and a sandwich from the Station Buffet where all the paintwork was all in the railway's original colours.

All were suitably distanced on boarding the train and it was a superb ride through the rolling countryside. On the way back the train stopped for 45 minutes at Ropley where the engine sheds are, and it was interesting to be able to appreciate all the hard work that goes into keeping the engines running. Again there was a pleasant picnic area and refreshments.

Also there, is the Kings Cross Bridge featured in the Harry Potter films. Most of the engines come from a scrapyards



in Barry. The trip also included a cream tea. Superb.

Under normal circumstances some special trips can be undertaken. These include Santa Specials, Fine Dining, Day out with Thomas the Tank Engine and others. A very happy afternoon and a lovely gift.

Barbara's 'Encaustic Art'

During 2020 when folk were at home a great deal, Barbara from the Acorn Branch began a new hobby called "ENCAUSTIC ART". This entails using a small iron to heat wax. As you can see from the picture of the Birthday card, Barbara used a stamp of a tree, then used the iron to heat the

wax on the background, dabbing and drawing the iron across the card. We are sure you will agree that the photographs of samples which Barbara gave us are quite wonderful. Congratulations Barbara, and we are sure you enjoyed your new hobby.



A New Lawn for Acorn Gardeners



After several years of "shall we, shall we not" the back lawn of two Acorn members was erased and the ground prepared for artificial grass. To get a digger down the side of the house proved to be a challenge.

Numerous cups of tea were made for the two landscape gardeners, together with lemon drizzle cakes and chocolate sponge. However, after two days the project was completed together with the laying of an oval corner stone feature. When completed the usual words were said, "Why did we not do it before?"

Memories of Oddfellowship by Philip Rodney (Rod) Wallis



I was born on 10 December 1930 in Ringwood and my grandmother, Mrs Emily Wallis, joined me into the Loyal Bud of Hope, Juvenile Lodge on 1 January 1932.

I have had to put my thinking cap on to recall nearly 90 years of my life as an Oddfellow. I remember, as a young member being taken by my grandfather, Albert Henry Wallis, to the Lecture Hall in Ringwood, which is now demolished, holding his hand and on entering a very loud, resounding voice from the interior came through, "Good evening Mr Wallis". My grandfather had come to pay the family dues!

In later years I used to walk from my grandparents' home, at The Furlong, Ringwood to a very small office in Hightown Road, to pay the family subscriptions. The office was around six feet square, heating in winter was a "valor"



oil stove and the secretary was Doug Harper, son of Brother W E Harper.

After that I was admitted to the "Loyal Manuels Lodge" as an adult member. Meetings, which were held in an office behind one of the Co-Op Stores in Ringwood, were usually attended by Brothers D Harper, E Colborne, W Corbin, B Melbourne and R Melbourne. The Melbourne brothers were both sick visitors and there were several others also in attendance.

I did my National Service and I guess I was lucky, serving only eighteen months from March 1949 to September 1950. I did not volunteer for another three years which could have meant "Korea" – not a lot of survivors. I was in the last group to serve eighteen months, after that National Service was for two years, owing to the Cold War.

After my demob from National Service the Noble Grand asked if anyone would take on the work as Elective Secretary – no response! Brother R Melbourne, looked across at me! "How about you Rod? I will assist you, and keep you up to date etc". Little did I know that I would still be Elective Secretary approximately thirty years later! At the same time I was also Treasurer for a sea angling club at Ringwood named "Bisterne Sea Anglers" (also being one of my main hobbies) So you can see these two "extras" took up a lot of my time, plus the fact that I liked to be as accurate as possible in both roles.

I was employed by a large quality caravan builders on the electrical "gang". It is hard to look back and to think that my weekly wage for approximately fifty hours was about five pounds! But like many others at that time we managed. I should also mention that I was married to Carol, another Oddfellow, incidentally 1953 the same year as the coronation of our Queen – 67 years, where have they all gone? I still have a copy of "The Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Society Coronation Souvenir Booklet"!

There is so much more that I could write about The Oddfellows (all good) – it would fill a book! I was admitted to the



Purple Degree on 21st January 1977 when Brother H Stratton was Provincial Grand Master, Brother E W House was Deputy and Brother Ernie Fage was the Corresponding Secretary.

One of the pictures was taken at the Loyal Acorn Annual Dinner Dance on 26th March 2004 the Guest of Honour was Brother Keith Quinton, Provincial Grand Master, also in the picture are Brother Pete Rogers PNG, Brother Ron Munro, Grand Master, Brother Colin Colebrook, and myself. Over the years there have been so many Oddfellows who have given me support and help. It would need a large book to include them all.

Just a few out of the many who have assisted me are as follows – Brothers Pete Rogers, Colin Colebrook, Ron (Lofty) Melbourne and Ron Munro and Sisters Flo Munro and Judith Parkin.

I retired as Elective Secretary at the Annual Dinner Dance on 26th March 2004 on advice from my GP after suffering an angina attack – note Brother Colin Colebrook retired on the same date.

The other photographs include my admission certificate to the Bud of Hope Junior Lodge, a picture taken during my National Service, and a picture of Carol and I taken in 1999. I hope you have enjoyed sharing my memories.'



Friendship Month Coffee Mornings

Pride of Bournemouth Branch

During the easing of lockdown we were able to hold two Friendship Month Coffee Mornings, with all Covid-19 restrictions in place. Due to the restrictions we were only able to welcome very reduced numbers to both events, but a happy time was enjoyed by all. It was so lovely to see our



friends once again and enjoy each other's company. There were no cakes but we still managed to have a wonderful time together and we raised £75 for Edna's charity – Julia's House – which was fantastic. We would like to thank everyone who came along and joined in the fun.



Puzzle Time

We would like to thank Paul Fitton for allowing us to use these puzzles from his E-Magazines which he publishes each week for the North London District. Answers on the back page.

Dance Anagrams

Unscramble the 25 Anagrams. This week's topic is dance styles. Here's an anagram solver's top tip. Write the consonants in a circle randomly and scatter the vowels in the middle. The word may just jump out at you!

1. ISTTW
2. EFFHLSU
3. ACRY
4. AGNOT
5. ACGNO
6. ACH ACH
7. CILMNOOOOT
8. ADHN EIJV
9. ENIL ACEDN
10. AALSS
11. AAGGMNN ELSTY
12. AACEIMNR HMOOST
13. CEIKPQSTU
14. EHKOY CEKOY
15. EMNORST AHMS
16. EIJV
17. MPOST
18. ADEHMS AOOPTT
19. ACN CAN
20. AABMS
21. BMPU
22. EEEINNSV ALTWZ
23. AOPS BDELO
24. DILNY PHO
25. ABELLT

Wordygrams

Unscramble the 20 Anagrams. This time the topic is television programmes, old and new.

1. RD AFILNSY
ABCEKOOS
2. AACLTUY
3. ENSW TA ENT
4. EHMOS DENRU
EHT AEHMMR
5. BELU EEPRT
6. ADEEELMMR
7. AGINV AND
ACESTY
8. EHT AINST
9. AAAMNOPR
10. EHT AEEGINNORT
AEGM
11. TSRIF ADEST
12. AADLLS
13. AEINQSTU
ADHOORSW
14. RD HOW
15. EHT CEIOV
16. INOOPRRTTUY
CKKNOS
17. DEFINRS
18. EHT AEEGNRSV
19. OPT FO EHT OPPS
20. AHMS
21. AEKT ORUY CIKP

Word Puzzle

Answer the clues by joining two sets of three letters taken from anywhere in the grid below. When all the gridwords are used, the initial letters of the answers reading downwards will reveal the written answer!

Grid

SEL	GER	PAM	SES	ITY	ODD	ILS	ENE	ION	LON	PER	LOT
NUR	EMA	FIN	LLS	RGY	WEA	GER	SKI				

Clues

To indulge with kindness	
Electronic messages	
Medics	
Fish, chocolate, or ring!	
Vitality	

Sun cream	
Lengthened	
David Bowie's space	
UK's smallest mammal	
Abilities	

Christmas Letter from Anne-Marie Gilbert

Pride of Bournemouth Branch

I was delighted to receive a lovely letter just before Christmas from one of our members, Anne-Marie Gilbert. Anne-Marie's letter really cheered me up and she has given me permission to reproduce parts of it in our Newsletter. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Margaret.

"Ooooooh! Hurray! At last! – it must be Christmas! Anne-Marie's Christmas letter has just plopped through our letter-box, all bacterial scrubbed and virus-free! So, come on – get the kettle on, put a slug of whiskey in the tea, crack open a packet of mince-pies, and let's sit down and see what the old girl's got to say for herself this year."

Well, there isn't a lot to say, is there? Except to wish you all and those you love, a wonderful Christmas to make up for all the angst of 2020 – a couple of lockdowns, with everyone hiding behind face-masks and not being able to get close enough for a hug, never mind a kiss. A sad year in many ways, with so many lives lost, and plans for holidays and outings cancelled or put on hold... But are we down-hearted? Are we heck!! No! We're resilient! We're British! We've come through two World Wars and we keep bouncing back, all smiles... In time for the riveting joys of Brexit in 2021, unprecedented unemployment, and struggling to get our economy back on track. We can even enjoy the amusing antics of our American friends from a safe distance as they endeavour to come to terms with life without Trump! – cause for rejoicing all round?!

How have you been coping during the lockdowns? Me? Oh, I've loved it! – in fact life for me and the dogs hasn't been very different – except we can't venture quite so far afield for our walks, and I miss meeting up indoors with my friends for lunches – though we were able to enjoy picnics in the parks during the summer.

I can't begin to image what life would be like without the Internet, can you? I'm forever asking Mr Google about all manner of things – times of trains or buses; how to get to the North Pole, what do reindeer eat? What's my hairdresser's phone number? What's Father Christmas's address? Will it snow? Is Table Table open for lunch today? What's wrong with my leg? How can I treat this ache or that pain? What's a polymath?... Then my old mate Amazon is my "go to" source for everything else – dried egg, dried milk, ointment, tablets for Jodie's arthritis, cream teas, batteries, ultra-sound devices to annoy the rat living in the attic and make him (hopefully him and not her) pack his bags and go (which, thankfully, does work!)... You name it, and Mr Google or Mr Amazon will solve the problem instantly and deliver a solution to your door the very next day. Apart from my weekly trips for food and household items to wonderful Lidl's (where they know me well and I feel they're my friends) I have no need to shop elsewhere – no need to queue up to park, pay parking fees at £1 an hour; then trudge along, often in the rain, to find the shop I think might just sell what I'm after – only to find they haven't got it or if they have, then there's no choice, the price is extortionate, or they've just sold the last one! Then, despondent and empty-handed, getting back to the car to find the locks have been tampered with or there's a bump on the boot that wasn't there

before, or a parking ticket for being five minutes late. Thankfully, that's not for me any more. It's all on-line.

I'm having another passionate love affair – yes, at my age! I've fallen, hook, line and sinker, for a long-haired musician! He's called Andre – Andre Rieu. You may have heard of him?! I heard his life story on TV and instantly fell under the spell of his wonderful music. I just love it! So I asked Mr Amazon what he could find for me, and as a result I am now the proud owner of 10 of Andre's superb CDs, (all very cheap as they are second hand) and they are giving me tremendous joy, morning, noon and night.

This year I suffered from my very first black eye... No, not from Andre's wife! – but I tripped and fell, flat on my face, on Poole Council's newly gravelled path at Upton Park. With two dogs on leads in one hand and my stick in the other, I was trying to get through the awkward gate, when I tripped and fell, face first. I soon gathered a little audience, safely watching from two metres away, while I tried to staunch the flow of blood! One guy took out his phone and said, "I'll get an ambulance! It looks a deep cut!" That did it! "Oh no! Please don't! I'm fine!" I squeaked, hastily leaping to my feet and dragging the dogs back to the car! Thankfully a kind lady called Max came to my rescue and said, "I'll just sit and keep an eye on you while you sit in your car for a while to recover." – and she did. I was so grateful. I managed to get home OK and it was the next day I realised I'd got a real shiner! I felt like a battered wife when I went to Lidl's, and got lots of pitying looks! I'm fine now though.

I (bravely!) went back to the same park the following week; had our walk and got back to the car, got in, turned the engine on, and then, out of the blue, there was an almighty, ear splitting noise! – the sound of an alarm going off, right inside my car!! Lordy! What on earth...? I turned the engine off straightaway, but the alarm still screeched at me. I didn't know what to do! I looked around for help, and grabbed a poor young family man, about to go for a walk with his son and wife. He looked scared and said he really didn't know anything about cars... But then (reluctantly!) he came to have a look. Alarm blaring all the while. Bless him he was superb. He opened up the car bonnet. Unhitched the battery, dismantled all the fuses... Made no difference! Alarm kept going! Another kind couple ambled up to help. She googled Mr Google about it, and he said the alarm would stop in 20 minutes whatever the cause. We pointed out we'd been at it for 40 minutes and counting! Kind friend Max came along too, with her three dogs – she obviously could see I was Trouble, but again, waited around to help!! Guardian Angel No. 1's wife and little son came back from their walk, and it was she who said, "It doesn't sound as though it's coming from the car all the time, does it? It seems to move around a bit". Then she suddenly said to me "Show me your keys!" I did. She said, "That's what it is!" – and what I had thought of as my little torch on my keyring had come apart from its pin – it was a personal alarm!!! I had totally forgotten I'd got it!! So she put the pin back in the torch, and – mercifully – the noise stopped. There was a beautiful silence! Then we all started to laugh! I was SO embarrassed!!! I didn't know how to thank them all! All I'd got in the car was a packet of out of date chocolate

biscuits, so I offered them around as a "Thank you" but there were no takers and Guardian Angel said, "No thanks. We don't want our little boy to know what chocolate is!" What a sensible couple they were! Thankfully everyone was laughing and found it highly amusing – said it was the best giggle they'd had all week! It's taken several weeks for me to go back to that park again.

Have a fun Christmas. Stay safe and keep washing your hands!
You are my friend and you matter to me

Love, hugs and blessings always,

Anne-Marie

Photography in Lockdown

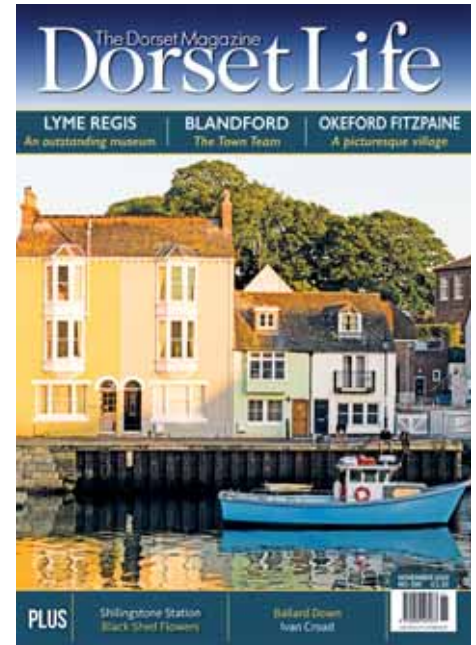
2020 has been a year like no other and I, like other small businesses, have been massively effected. In a normal photographic year I would cover around 10 to 15 weddings, hours of Sports photography for Sherborne Boys' School, and freelance work for companies such as Redrow Homes. I also cover the Hand-in-Hand Branch's annual awards and often take pictures at lodge events such as the Harvest Super - all events that have sadly been cancelled this year.

I took up photography professionally in 2013. Although I originally started up as a landscape photographer, I now cover everything from Christenings, Weddings, to Rugby matches. There just isn't enough work for landscape photographers any more - most landscape photographers are part time, or have additional income from running educational courses, book deals and magazine work. I have been published in Dorset life a few times now and my home town of Weymouth will feature on the front cover twice over the next 10 months. I am asked to submit photos for the front cover and centre spread each year and there is only a small pool of photographers the magazine works with. This year has given me an opportunity to really explore my home town and the surrounding area of Dorset. I have also undertaken some weddings, I covered a little sport for Sherborne School and I have done a little commercial work for Redrow homes, but nothing compared to a usual

year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions most of my work has dried up but 2021 is looking good. Luckily I do have another part time job for Magna Housing as a back-up.

Additionally I have been using the time in lockdown to hone my digital skills, these days digital editing is as important to Photography as pure camera skills. The level of technological sophistication that programs such as Photoshop and Lightroom now contain allow anyone with the right skills to produce magazine worthy images. I will be taking images of Dorset throughout the winter to update my portfolio of images to submit for consideration next year to Dorset Life, to sell as stock images and to sell as wall art. When considering what to shoot for a magazine such as Dorset Life or any other, it's important to remember that the magazine has a target market, for instance magazines such as Dorset life will look for images that reflect the beauty of the county, generally speaking they are not interested in images that are gloomy, include sports or are too modern. I also have to be aware of the way the shots will be used, I have to allow room for the title and leave space at the bottom so the designers can put information about the publication, bar code etc.

As I mentioned next year is looking busy, and I will be looking to upgrade my Cameras at some point. Technology moves fast and some of the latest cameras from Canon, Nikon, Panasonic, Fuji, Olympus



and others offer remarkable usability in low light situations, incredible detail when enlarged, broadcast quality HD video and mirrorless technology, which should make cameras longer lasting.

If I wasn't passionate about photography I wouldn't take it on as a career, the hours are long and unfortunately it is not as lucrative as it once was, but I am passionate about photography and it's humbling to think that my images have been seen and admired by customers all over the world.

Paul Brewer

*Photo reproduced by kind permission of Dorset Life Magazine.
www.dorsetlife.co.uk*

October Coffee Morning Pride of Bournemouth Branch

Unfortunately our usual venue, Tuckton Social Club, was not able to accommodate us for our usual coffee morning in October, but we were able to arrange to meet at The Elstead Hotel. Of course our numbers were very limited due to the pandemic and the hotel had strict Covid-19 rules in place. Nevertheless we had a lovely morning in the hotel's conservatory area

– all socially distanced and well sanitised! We even managed a Covid secure raffle with prizes that had been in isolation for 72 hours before the event! We had hoped to return to The Elstead for our November Coffee Morning but sadly we went back into lockdown and this was not possible.

Oddfellows spirit shines throughout Friendship Month 2020

Friendship Month looked very different this year, with many of our events held online, or restricted to a maximum of six people meeting face-to-face. However, we couldn't be more proud of the way that the Oddfellows spirit shone through, as we once again celebrated the power of friendship.

We saw Branches organising COVID-secure walks and outdoor picnics, making the most of the last bit of sunshine. Lots of Branches also turned their hands to organising virtual

events, Zooming across the country to link up with members and guests all over the UK! We've picked out a selection of our favourite pictures from September, to share with you a little warmth and happiness during these cold and difficult days.

We know how important face-to-face events are to our members and as soon as Branches are able to safely hold these again, we will let you know. If you have any pictures from an Oddfellows event that you'd like to share with us, feel free

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



to tag us in them on Facebook! We're at www.facebook.com/OddfellowsUK



Ipswich Oddfellows celebrate the launch of a new Friendly Bench, Boston and Lincoln Oddfellows plant some seeds of friendship with their potted plants, Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows host a picnic in the park, Stockport and Combermere Oddfellows network with a Zoom guest talk from local radio stars and Bradford Oddfellows enjoy a stroll along the canal.

Lupus research pushes through pandemic

2020 has seen our second instalment of the HA Andrews Memorial Fund given to the research team at the Lupus Trust. The £28,000 donation supports the day to day running of the team, which includes Bekki Velounias, who is currently working towards completing her PhD through her research with the Lupus Trust.

The team is looking into what causes the breakdown of certain cells, triggering the autoimmune reaction in lupus. Throughout lockdown, the team managed to avoid too many significant setbacks, working in the lab when they could, and analysing huge data sets when national lockdown was enforced.



Professor Jo Spencer with Bekki Velounias and our very large cheque!

A year like no other...

2020 has been a year unlike any I've experienced before. In March, we entered our first lockdown. Among many others, it placed restrictions on how we could spend time with friends and family, make visits to loved ones in hospitals and care homes, and even how we all earn our living.

Most devastatingly, many people were held back from saying a proper, supported farewell to those friends and family members who passed. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost someone special in the recent months. I know from personal experience how difficult it is, so if you need any comfort or help please remember to lean on us.

Coming together

It's human nature to come together in a time of crisis – to squeeze a hand, to offer a shoulder to cry on, to hug, or to simply sit side-by-side. However, despite it all, we are finding ways around things, as best we can. Nothing will ever stop us resourceful Oddfellows from giving comfort and support to each other and those in desperate need. This year, I've witnessed compassion and human kindness on a scale I've never known within the Society before, and this has really lifted me on my difficult days.

Being there for each other

I hope that if you needed help this year, you received it. I know that the staff and volunteers in our Branches have worked flat out to make sure members know they have someone to turn to. They've made thousands of calls and sent thousands of emails to check in with members and see if any help is needed. This has meant that many members were able to access critical food and medical supplies, as well as financial and emotional support. So, if anything is troubling you, please make sure you get in touch.

Keeping spirits lifted

I've seen some incredible innovation to keep spirits lifted and people connected. We'd only hosted a few online events here and there before 2020, but we're now broadcasting talks, quizzes, and even fitness sessions, straight into people's front rooms almost daily. I know online events won't ever replace getting together in person, but they're a wonderful way to make sure we can still keep in touch, safely. I do hope you try one if you haven't already. I've also been kept in the loop on so many unexpected acts of kindness from members and Branches, such as quizzes and puzzles being posted through letterboxes, and afternoon tea hampers and flowers being dropped off on members' doorsteps. Such small gestures make a huge difference to people, so if there is anything you can do to keep this going, then please do. Kindness is infectious.

Helping others

Oddfellows have always looked further than their own front door when it comes to charitable giving, and this year was no exception. In spring, a nationwide appeal to raise critical funds for The Silver Line and the National Emergencies Trust resulted in a donation of £19,210. It helped some of those hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. £7,600 was also raised and sent overseas to help Australian people to rebuild their lives following the 2019/2020 bushfires.

We know there have been countless other examples of charitable giving made by members and Branches this year, so thank you for helping where you can, and being wonderful ambassadors for our Society. I would also like to give a special mention to this year's four Making a Difference Award winners, members Margaret Wells, Barry Bedford, Bruce Nicole and our youngest to date, seven-year-old Effie Bowman. Our Society is



powered by the hard work and selflessness of such wonderful members. Huge congratulations to them and all who were nominated. Short listing these awards is such a difficult task, but it's an absolute joy to know that we have so many members out there living and breathing our motto of friendship, love and truth.

A truly special family

Looking forward to 2021, please try and stay positive. We have news of a vaccine, and therefore hope that we can be back together again, and that we can resume our daily lives with less fear, difficulty and uncertainty.

I've always known this, but the events of 2020 have confirmed just how caring, supportive, generous, friendly, and resourceful our Oddfellows family is. I am immensely proud to be a member of something so incredibly special and purposeful. I do hope you feel the same. Please accept my very warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Until we're all able to meet together freely again, let's stay in touch. We're always here if you need us.

Take care, stay safe and stay well.

Yours always in friendship,

Jane Nelson
CEO, the Oddfellows



Member of Ware Branch, Paul, has lupus and inspired our decision to support the Lupus Trust over 3 years.

Professor Jo Spencer, from the Lupus Trust, says, "Bekki has been a fantastic addition to the research team, and her commitment to pushing forward with work throughout lockdown has been commendable. We're pleased with how the research is progressing in the face of so many difficulties."

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, says, "We're so pleased to hear that the

research has been able to move forward despite social restrictions. It's been a difficult year for many, and this research is needed more than ever."

If you would like to find out more about the HA Andrews Memorial Fund, please visit the 'Giving Back' section of our website.

Mary's Pickled Onions – Raising money for the Renal Department, Dorset County Hospital

Sister Mary Brewer from the Hand-in-Hand Branch has been raising money by pickling her onions! Mary let us know that the sales of pickled onions and knitted items had raised £130 by the beginning of January. This is to be donated to the renal department at Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester. It will be added to the money being raised by a Crossways resident's Christmas lights display. Dave Harris' wife Karan has recently started dialysis treatment there. In addition the Loyal Hand in Hand Branch is donating a further £100.

The picture shows Mary handing over the pickled onion proceeds together with the cheque from Hand-in-Hand Branch to Dave Harris with Karan Harris alongside him.

Karan had the idea of raising money for this cause when she learned from the staff treating her that they had no equipment in their kitchen. Things like a fridge, microwave and coffee machine will mean that they will be able to make themselves refreshments and meals during the long shifts they undertake when the patients



are receiving their treatments and cannot be left unattended. Things like being able to keep the milk cool on hot summer days and keep other foods cool, perhaps even store ice creams/cold drinks as well as bringing in food to be heated for their meals.

Acorn members have been busy in the Garden

Two of the Acorn members kept themselves extremely busy throughout 2020 in their garden, which after all the hard work had never looked as good. This included renovating a concrete pig pushing a wheelbarrow. This was scrubbed and newly painted, a great feature for the garden.

A great deal of the work was done during March and April preparing everything for the months ahead. It was all worth it with the enjoyment it gave in the sunny days of summer. Before too long it was getting towards the end of the season and then preparations for Autumn began with cutting down, re-planting and the task of emptying the hanging baskets.

A further job indoors will be sorting the old photographs, putting them in order in new boxes so that all the old envelopes can be discarded.

Apparently the cooking of two apple cakes proved to be not so successful but were eaten anyway! It will be shop bought in the future!!

Wish we had been able to see the lovely garden and we would have also eaten the cake!?

Also lots of knitting of teddy bears was achieved for children who are unwell, plus egg cup cosies for Easter.

Answers to Puzzle Time on page 7

Dance Anagrams

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Twist | 6. Cha Cha | 11. Gangnam Style | 16. Jive | 21. Bump |
| 2. Shuffle | 7. Locomotion | 12. American Smooth | 17. Stomp | 22. Viennese Waltz |
| 3. YMCA | 8. Hand Jive | 13. Quickstep | 18. Mashed Potato | 23. Paso Doble |
| 4. Tango | 9. Line Dance | 14. Hokey Cokey | 19. Can Can | 24. Lindy Hop |
| 5. Conga | 10. Salsa | 15. Monster Mash | 20. Samba | 25. Ballet |

Word Puzzle

The word is Penfellows – made up of Pamper, Emails, Nurses, Finger, Energy, Lotion, Longer, Oddity, Weasel, Skills.

Wordygram

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dr Finlay's Casebook | 6. Emmerdale | 12. Dallas | 18. The Avengers |
| 2. Casualty | 7. Gavin and Stacey | 13. Antiques Roadshow | 19. Top of the Pops |
| 3. News at Ten | 8. The Saint | 14. Dr Who | 20. MASH |
| 4. Homes under the Hammer | 9. Panorama | 15. The Voice | 21. Take Your Pick. |
| 5. Blue Peter | 10. The Generation Game | 16. Opportunity Knocks | |
| | 11. First Dates | 17. Friends | |