

March - December 2026



O^{the} Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Acorn Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Knowlton, Wimborne - image by Carl Jacolette

March - December 2026



the ODDfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Bournemouth Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

River Stour Boat Trip – image by Edna Daniels

March - December 2026



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

out & about

Brownsea Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Customs House – image by Julian White

March - December 2026



O^{the} Oddfellows SINCE 1810
making friends, helping people

out & about

Hand in Hand Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Snowdrops – image by Paul Brewer photography

March - December 2026



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

out & about

Phoenix Branch - Everyone Welcome



Music



Games



Sports



Quizzes



Social



Talks



Walks



Dining Out



Travel



Friendship
Month



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



District Lunch and Optional Weekend – Sunday 25 October

Welcome to the latest edition of your Events Diary for the Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District, 'Out & About'.

Each of our local Branches is part of a national membership organisation called the Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities.

We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are basically a group of friends brought together through shared interests in socialising, making friends and helping people.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows events, even if you are not a member.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember that it is essential to book for all the events in the current diary to avoid disappointment. Also please let us know if you are unable to attend once you have booked, as you may still have to pay if there is a cost involved.

Please advise of any mobility or dietary needs on booking.

Some of our more established events have proved to be so popular that they are often oversubscribed, so please remember to book early if you can – if numbers are

limited places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Unfortunately, events sometimes have to be cancelled or amended during the period of the current diary so please always check.

Outdoor Events

Please be aware that some events may be held on uneven ground. Any event which is taking place outside will be weather dependent. Therefore it is essential that you provide us with an up to date contact number when booking so that we can advise of any changes or cancellations.

Contact Details

For more details about any of the events listed, please call:

District Social Secretary:

Andrew Hampton

Telephone: 07806 378989

Email:

andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

Email:

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Acorn Branch Social Secretary

Alice Setchfield

Telephone: 07712 340269

Email: alice.setchfield@oddfellows.co.uk

Browsea Branch Social Secretary

Margaret White

Telephone: 01202 775122

Email:

margaret.white@oddfellows.co.uk

Andrew Hampton

Telephone: 07806 378989

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andrew.hampton@oddfellows.co.uk

Hand-in-Hand Branch

Social Secretary

Rosemary Rogers

Telephone: 07788 436797

Email: rosemarywdt2@gmail.com

Social Secretary

Mary Brewer

Telephone: 01305 853125

Email: andrew.brewer@oddfellows.co.uk

Phoenix and Blackmore Vale Branches Social Secretary

Judy Penfold

Telephone: 01963 363119

Email:

judy.penfold@oddfellows.co.uk

Bournemouth Branch Social Secretary

Wendy Hopper

Telephone: 07921 391696

Email:

wendy.hopper@oddfellows.co.uk

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 your Branch Secretary. Details of our Business Meetings can be found on pages 38 and 39. 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.

March 2026

WED 04 Breakfast at The Spire Brownsea Branch



Please join us for breakfast, or coffee and cake, at The Spire in Poole High Street. They do lovely bacon sandwiches, cake, etc to go with your tea or coffee. We don't have a raffle, just a natter with our friends. Either before or after your breakfast you could have some retail therapy in Poole, or a walk along the quay. Book by Friday 27 February. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you are coming so that we can arrange to all sit together.

THURS 05 Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



Only a few days after St David's Day so maybe Welsh cakes and daffodils at our 'Early Spring' coffee morning? Definitely tea, coffee, cakes, savouries and lots of conversation. We will, of course, have a raffle, bring and buy stall for Julia's House, so a raffle prize would be very much appreciated. You are welcome to bring things for the bring and buy stall, but please be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 by Tuesday 3 March to book.

FRI 06 Rod Brewer Quiz Challenge Hand-in-Hand Branch



Meet at 7pm for 7.30pm start, teams of four at £20 per team to include a ploughmans type supper. Why not come and test your grey cells and join in the fun? Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Andrew or Mike on 01305 260081 to book by Monday 2 March.

MON 09 Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch



A Monday afternoon of tabletop games. Come and join us for our monthly games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event to include tea or coffee and cake. Book by Wednesday 4 March. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

March 2026

TUES
10

Seaside Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch



2pm



£5



We do like to be beside the seaside! Do you remember having sand in your sandwiches as you sat with a soggy bottom on the beach? Or trying to dig to Australia with your siblings? Join us for our seaside themed afternoon tea, where we invite you to share your childhood memories of being at the seaside. We will be joined by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for a talk on the history of local lifeboats, whilst enjoying a selection of traditional seaside picnic treats. Of course, we will have the usual table quiz and raffle. Come prepared for a good sing song! Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 3 March.



TUES
10

Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

FRI
13

Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Donations



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



March 2026

TUES
17

District Charity Lunch at The Carpenter's Arms



12.30pm



As per
menu



This will be our first charity event in support of our new District Chairman, Margaret White and we hope you will want to join us to help raise funds for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital. Meet at 12.30pm for lunch at 1pm, the menu choices at the Carpenter's Arms are always very good - everything from a jacket potato to their famous pies - something for everyone. We will have a raffle, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be brilliant. Everyone is welcome. Book by Saturday 14 March. The Carpenter's Arms, 103 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch BH23 8BA. Please let Andrew know on 07806 378989 if you would like to come, so that he can send you a menu as we have to pre-order our choices.

WED
18

Tapas and Cocktails Hand-in-Hand Branch



7pm



Per person:
Members £15
Guests £20



Join us for an evening of tapas and cocktails at the Crossroads in Poundbury. There is a £5 subsidy for members. Crossroads, 1 Crown Street, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 3JH. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 to book your place by Tuesday 10 March.

THURS
19

Coffee Morning at The Grasshopper Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Our regular coffee mornings are a nice way of keeping in touch with our friends and enjoying a relaxing time together. This time we are back at The Grasshopper, in the Library, so we will be able to have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group and we hope you will come and join us. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 17 March.

SAT
21

Afternoon Tea, Crafts and Quiz Bournemouth Branch



2pm



£5



Amanda Dale has agreed to help us make some Easter Crafts to take home. There will be a table-quiz for those not feeling crafty, plus our charity raffle, bring and buy stall, so it should be a fun afternoon for all. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Tuesday 17 March, so that we can organise enough craft supplies and of course, we need to make sure there is enough afternoon tea for everyone!



March 2026

TUES
24 **Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch**



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first two teas and coffees are free. Refreshments available to buy as per menu. Book by Wednesday 18 March. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

THURS
26 **Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses Brownsea Branch**



12.30pm



As per menu



We always enjoy meeting up with our friends and having a chat! We are returning to



The Coach & Horses in Wimborne this time and hope you will want to join us. Our new Chairman, Edna Daniels, will be raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group, so we hope you will support the raffle by donating a prize. The Coach & Horses, Wimborne Road, Poole BH21 1QB. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 23 March.

April

THURS
02 **Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch**



10.30am



£3



Maundy Thursday: Spring is in the air - hopefully time for Easter bonnets, bunnies and eggs. Our coffee mornings are a really nice way to keep in touch with friends, both old and new, chat over tea or coffee and enjoy a cake or savoury. There will be a raffle in aid of our Chairperson's charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so a prize would be greatly appreciated. You are, of course, welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but please be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. We are also hoping to have a short talk from one of our regular members. Book by Monday 30 March. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

Join the conversation @OddfellowsUK

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

f www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows

/Poole and Bournemouth

/Acorn Lodge

/Dorchester (Hand in Hand)

/Blackmore Vale (Phoenix Lodge)

April

WED
08 **Coffee and Cake at**
Blooms Café
Brownsea Branch

 10.30am  As per menu 

We always enjoy visiting Blooms Café – they have an amazing choice of cakes and savouries and of course, you could indulge in one of their lovely breakfasts. Hopefully, we will be able to have a raffle, so if you could bring a prize that would be great. Blooms Café, Basket & Blooms Garden Centre, 392 Christchurch Road, West Parley BH22 8SW. Please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, so we can arrange to all sit together by Monday 6 April.

SAT
11 **Spring Buffet Lunch**
Acorn Branch

 12 noon  £6 

Spring has sprung and to celebrate we invite you to join our annual spring buffet lunch. Come along in your most colourful attire and try your hand at a Spring themed crafting session with Amanda. Whether the sun is shining down on us or not, the hall will be bursting with colour as we welcome the change in seasons with themed music, table quizzes and our spring raffle. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Saturday 4 April.

FRI
10 **That'll Be The**
Day at Weymouth
Pavilion
Hand-in-Hand Branch

 7.30pm  From £22.50 

Join us at Weymouth Pavilion for an evening of music from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Ticket prices from £22.50. There is a subsidy of £10 for members. There is also an opportunity to enjoy a pre-theatre supper for approximately £25 per head in the pavilion's own restaurant. Book by Tuesday 10 March. Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth DT4 8ED. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

SUN
12 **Carvery Lunch at The**
New Inn
Hand-in-Hand Branch

 12.30pm  Small £11.95
Large £17.95 

Meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm at The New Inn for carvery lunch. Voted third best carvery in Dorset (2025). Small plate £11.95 and large plate £17.95. There is a £5 subsidy for members. Book by Sunday 5 April. The New Inn, Highgate Lane, West Knighton, Dorchester DT2 8PE. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.



April

MON 13 Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for our monthly games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event. All welcome. Tea, coffee and cakes available. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES 14 Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



THURS 16 Coffee Morning at The Pilot Brownsea Branch



We are back at The Pilot this month for our regular coffee get-together. If you would like to join us we can guarantee a brilliant choice of cake and a good natter with your friends. The Pilot, 1 Adastral Road, Poole BH17 8SA. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 14 April.

FRI 17 Otter Nurseries of Lymington Bournemouth Branch



The Otter Nursery is near Lymington and is on a bus route. Recommended



by some of our members for a nice afternoon out, a chance to wander around the plants and enjoy the food in the café. We hope you can join us. To book please call Wendy by Tuesday 14 April. Otter Nurseries of Lymington, Milford Road, Everton, Lymington SO41 0JD. Please let Wendy know on 07921 391696 if you would like to come, as we might be able to organise a car-share again this year.

April

SUN
19

Spring Lunch Brownsea Branch



12.30pm



Two courses
£27, Three
courses £32



Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch, we are returning to the Riviera once again for our spring lunch. As the lunches have to be pre-ordered please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come and we will send you the menu choices. As usual we have negotiated a two or three course menu. A raffle in support of our Chairman's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, will be held and it would be much appreciated if you are able to donate a prize. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Saturday 11 April.



TUES
28

Craft Morning with Amanda Brownsea Branch



10am



£2



Amanda has invited us to join her for another 'crafty' morning. This time we will be attempting 'Iris Folding Cards'. We always have a laughter filled morning with Amanda as we do our best to learn a new skill. Light refreshments will be included. Please be aware that the date of this event might change. Book by Friday 24 April. 30 Corbiere Avenue, Alderney, Poole BH12 4JN. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to join us - numbers are very limited so early booking is advised. Please note that the date has changed for this event.



SAT
25

Spring Prize Bingo Hand-in-Hand Branch



7pm



Buy books on arrival



Come and join us for a night of prize bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm. No need to book, you can buy your books at the door. Refreshments will be available and a raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be appreciated. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



May

WED
06

The Lake House, Sculpture by the Lakes Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 10am

£ £40



Sculptures by the Lake is located in 26 acres of glorious countryside, home of renowned sculptor, Simon Gudgen. Hire of this venue will allow us to explore the lakes and sculpture park at our leisure and to enjoy a picnic lunch on our own private island whilst taking in the views of the surrounding countryside. Cost is £40 per person with a discount of £15 for members. Book by Monday 6 April. Sculptures by the Lake, Pallington DT2 8QU. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details to book your place and to discuss a plan for a picnic.

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WED
06

Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Brownslea Branch

L 10am

£ As per menu



We always enjoy meeting up for breakfast and Bulbury Woods Golf Club is a lovely venue. You can go for a full English, but vegetarian options or just a piece of cake are also available. Why not join us for great food and a chat with friends? We will have a raffle for Edna's charity which is the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you can donate a prize that would be much appreciated. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Monday 4 May.

THURS
07

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch

L 10.30am

£ £3



It would be lovely to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Tuckton Social Club. We have a relaxing time, meet and chat with friends and enjoy a cake or savoury with our coffee, there is always the chance to win a prize in the raffle, which this year is raising money for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes. You are of course, welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please book with Wendy on 07921 391696 by Monday 4 May.

May

FRI **08** **Coffee and Get Together** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 10.30am  Free 

We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

MON **11** **Table Top Games at the** **Pavilion in the Park** **Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 2pm  Free 

Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES **12** **Coffee Morning at** **Thyme After Time** **Phoenix Branch**

 10.30am  As per menu 

Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES **12** **May Day** **Afternoon Tea** **Acorn Branch**

 2pm  £5 

As the evenings start to lengthen, we invite you to join us for our May Day themed



afternoon tea with musical entertainment to enjoy. We will take the opportunity to reflect on our fundraising over the previous 12 months and enjoy the music provided by Julia. We will be making our 2025 - 2026 annual charity cheque to the MS Centre Dorset and the University Hospitals Dorset Charity in aid of the Breast Unit. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Thursday 5 May.



May

THURS
14 **Coffee Morning at the
Tennis and Croquet Club
Bournemouth Branch**



Join us for our regular coffee morning at the tennis club for a relaxing morning and maybe enjoy a cake, savoury, or a breakfast. Your first coffee will be free this time, so do come along and meet us all. Book by Tuesday 12 May. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

WED
20 **Afternoon Tea
Phoenix Branch**



Help us to celebrate British Sandwich Week with a bring and share afternoon tea at the RAOB Club in Yeovil. Bring your favourite sandwich, cake or biscuits to share. Unlimited tea or coffee will be available. Book by Friday 15 May. RAOB Club, Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



SAT
23 **Bring and Share
Supper with Bingo
Bournemouth Branch**



We hope you will join us for our bingo night with bring and share supper at Tuckton Social Club. This is always a popular fun evening so please book early. We will have our usual raffle for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes which is our Chairperson's charity this year, so if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 by Wednesday 13 May to book.



TUES
26 **Coffee and Chat at the
Kings Arms
Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first two teas and coffees are free. Refreshments available to buy as per menu. Book by Tuesday 19 May. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

May

WED
27

District Charity Lunch at Bridge House Hotel



12.30pm



As per
menu



Please join us for a delicious carvery lunch at the Bridge House, when we will be having a fundraising raffle for the Ladybird Breast Unit which is part of the Dorset Breast Screening Unit in Poole Hospital. This charity was chosen by Margaret as many of our members have been affected by Breast Cancer in recent years. The Bridge House always look after us very well, so we hope you will be able to come along and donate a prize for the raffle if you are able to. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 25 May.

June

THURS
04

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



This morning Edna Daniels will be presenting our 2025 charity fundraising cheque to a representative of Julia's House, who will then give us a brief update on their work. Thank you all so much for your generosity. We will have our usual charity raffle which this year is for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring a prize that would be much appreciated. You are, of course, welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Book by Tuesday 2 June. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

FRI
05

Day Trip to Weymouth Phoenix Branch



TBC



As per menu



We are planning a trip to Weymouth via train from Pen Mill Station, Yeovil. If you don't want to travel by train, please meet us at Weymouth Station at a time yet to be arranged. Today is 'National Fish and Chips Day'. We will enjoy fish and chips together and maybe an ice-cream on the beach. A walk along the shore to help the digestion is a must. Buckets and spades optional. King Edwards looks likely to be the destination for the fish and chips, which is on the esplanade and is a short walk from the station. More details will be available nearer the time. If wet, we'll probably go to a pub/café in Yeovil. Book by Friday 29 May. Weymouth Railway Station, off King Street DT4 7JD. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

June

SAT
06

ABBA Arrival, Weymouth Pavilion Hand-in-Hand Branch

 7.30pm

 From £30 with
a £10 discount
for members



Come and join us to see ABBA Arrival, the tribute band that was voted 'Best ABBA Show' and 'Most authentic ABBA Show 2024'. Ticket costs from £30. There is also an opportunity to enjoy a pre-theatre supper for approximately £25 per head in the pavilion's own restaurant. Book by Friday 1 May. Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth DT4 8ED. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

MON
08

Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch

 2pm

 Free



It's that time again for an afternoon of games. You can either come to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event to include tea or coffee and cake. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES
09

Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch

 10.30am

 As per menu



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES
09

Midsummer's Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch

 2pm

 £5



If music be the food of love, play on 'Twelfth Night'. To celebrate the coming of midsummer, join us for a Shakespearean themed 'Midsummer's Afternoon Tea'. With a selection of the finest sweet and savoury delights. Enjoy a renaissance of famous Shakespeare sonnets and quotes from his plays through a themed team based quiz. Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity of the year - Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 2 June.

June

THURS
11

Lunch Club at Bridge House Hotel Bournemouth Branch



12.30pm



As per menu



Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch, we are returning to the The Bridge House Hotel for our lunch this time. The carvery is always good value, but other options are available. We will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 8 June. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

FRI
12

Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Free



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

FRI
19

Boat Trip from Poole Quay to Wareham Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



TBC



We hope to travel from Poole to Wareham (and back), but as this is tide dependent, we will confirm arrangements closer to the time. Book by Friday 12 June. Poole Quay, Poole BH15. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

THURS
18

District Charity Cream Tea



3pm



£5



Edna has invited us to her wonderful garden for a cream



tea, raising funds for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital. Edna is very kindly hosting our 'District Charity Cream Tea' again and our District Chairman, Margaret White, would be delighted to welcome members and friends who are able to join us. We will be offering tea, coffee, scones, cakes and savouries. Please come along and enjoy a relaxing time with friends in lovely surroundings. It is worth coming, just to see Edna's beautiful garden! Book by Tuesday 16 June. Edna's House, 49 Warburton Road, Poole BH17. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

June

SUN 21 District Annual Church Service

 2.30pm

 Free



Margaret White will be our District Chairman in 2026 and she has chosen



to return to St Mark's Church, Talbot Village for our annual church service. The service will be followed by refreshments in the church hall, so please let Andrew or Margaret know if you would like to come as this will help us with the catering. Everyone would be very welcome. Book by Thursday 18 June. St Mark's Church, Talbot Village, Wallisdown Road, Bournemouth BH10 4HY. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

WED 24 Carvery at The Sun Inn Hand-in-Hand Branch

 12 noon

 £16.50 with £5 discount for members



Join us for a lovely carvery lunch and chat at The Sun Inn, meet at 12 noon for 12.30pm. The midweek carvery is £16.50 per person with a £5 discount for members. The Sun Inn, Lower Burton, Dorchester DT2 7RZ. To book your place please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 by Wednesday 17 June.

THURS 25 Afternoon Tea and Bingo Brownsea Branch

 2.30pm

 £5



Sandra and Nigel have invited us back to their beautiful garden to enjoy afternoon tea and bingo. It is always nice to relax in a lovely venue, enjoy each other's company and maybe win a prize on the bingo or on the raffle! Come and relax in the sunshine (hopefully), enjoy good company, good food and a natter. We will be raising funds for Edna's charity - The Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to bring a raffle prize that would be brilliant. Book by Tuesday 23 June. Sandra and Nigel's house, 176 Verity Crescent, Poole BH17 8TZ. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122.

July

THURS 02 Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch

 10.30am

 £3



As usual we will be at Tuckton Social Club for coffee, please join us for a chance to put the world to rights while enjoying a selection of cakes and snacks. We will have our charity raffle for SERV Wessex Blood Bike, so if you could bring a prize that would be much appreciated. You are of course welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Book by Tuesday 30 June. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

July

MON
06

Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

FRI
10

Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

TUES
07

Music Quiz and Supper Brownsea Branch



We hope you will come and join in the fun as we have another music quiz and supper at the tennis club. As we have to pre-order our supper, please contact Andrew or Margaret for the menu choices and prices. As always, we will have a raffle for our Chairman's charity which is the Poole Heart Support Group this time, if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Friday 3 July.



SAT
11

Pool to Swanage Sightseeing Cruise Hand-in-Hand Branch



Join us for a summer cruise to Swanage, via the Sandbank Peninsula, Old Harry Rocks and Swanage Bay. Live commentary and full bar on board. Meet on Poole Quay at 10am to 10.15am to catch the boat which leaves Poole Quay at 10.30am. The cruise takes approximately one hour, giving you plenty of free time to wander around Swanage, build a sandcastle or go for a paddle in the sea, before returning from Swanage Pier to Poole Quay at 2.30pm. Tickets cost: £22 per adult and £16 for children, but for members there will be a discount of £10. Book by Monday 1 June. Poole Quay, Poole BH15. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

July

TUES 14 Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch

🕒 10.30am 💷 As per menu ☕

Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

THURS 16 Coffee Morning at the Tennis and Croquet Club Brownsea Branch

🕒 10.30am 💷 As per menu ☕

Our regular coffee mornings are a great way to keep in touch with our friends, have a chat over our coffee and enjoy a piece of cake, a 'Full English', or a breakfast bap - the choices are many and varied. No raffle, just an opportunity to get together and have a lovely relaxing morning. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 14 July.

TUES 14 Summer French Buffet with Music Acorn Branch

🕒 12 noon 💷 £6 🍴

Summer is here and many of you will be departing on your travels soon! Shall we take a mini break to France for the afternoon? Join us on our French themed buffet this July and enjoy a selection of traditional French pastries and savouries with musical entertainment from Julia.

Come dressed for the occasion and immerse yourself in the French culture for a few hours. Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received to support our chosen charity - Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Wednesday 8 July.



July

SUN
19

Church Service Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 3pm

£ Free



We hope you can join us for our church service at St Mary's Church, Bradford Peverell, followed by a cream tea. St Mary's Church, Bradford Peverell DT2 9SB. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

TUES
21

Craft Morning with Amanda Brownsea Branch

L 10.30am

£ £3



We always have an amazing time with Amanda. We've done such lovely things in the past and this time we will be trying our best with Mandala painting. All equipment and light refreshments will be provided. 30 Corbiere Avenue, Alderney, Poole BH12 4JN. Numbers are very limited as Amanda holds these events at her home, so if you would like to join us please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Thursday 16 July.

THURS
23

Mystery Garden Party Bournemouth Branch

L 2pm

£ £4



We will be meeting for afternoon tea at a mystery location - in a lovely garden, somewhere in BH7, belonging to one of our members. You will be given the exact location when you book, and of course there will be a charity raffle for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes. Venue to be confirmed. Please contact Wendy on 07921 391696 by Monday 20 July for further details and to book.

SUN
26

Sunday Lunch at Halsey Arms Phoenix Branch

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



We are opting for a change of venue for our annual lunch, this time at the Halsey Arms in Pulham. Book by Sunday 12 July. Halsey Arms, Pulham DT2 7DZ. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

July

TUES
28 **Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 10am  As per menu 

Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at the Kings Arms Hotel. The first two teas and coffees are free. Refreshments available as per menu. Book by Tuesday 21 July. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.



August

SUN
02 **Cream Tea Brownssea Branch**

 2.30pm  £5 

This year, Edna has very kindly invited us to her beautiful garden for our cream tea. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and a selection of scones, including cheese for those who prefer a savoury option. Please book well in advance and if you could please bring a chair in case we don't have enough that would be great. We will have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group, which is our charity this year. If you can donate a prize that would be amazing. Edna's House, 49 Warburton Road, Poole BH17. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Thursday 30 July.

WED
29 **District Charity Carvery Lunch**

 12.30pm  As per menu 

Please join our District Chairman, Margaret White, for a carvery lunch at the Bridge House Hotel once again. They do a lovely carvery, but other options are available. We will be raising funds for the Ladybird Unit in Poole Hospital, so if you are able to donate a prize for the raffle that would be very much appreciated. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Saturday 25 July.



August

THURS 06 Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch

🕒 10.30am 🧾 £3



Join us for coffee and a chat, a chance to put the world to rights while enjoying a selection of cakes and snacks. We will have our charity raffle for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring a prize that would be much appreciated. You are of course, welcome to bring things for a bring and buy stall, but be prepared to take them home if they don't sell. Book by Monday 3 August. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



MON 10 Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch

🕒 2pm 🧾 Free



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

TUES 11 Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch

🕒 10.30am 🧾 As per menu



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES 11 Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch

🕒 2pm 🧾 £5



Come along to our August afternoon tea and cool off with a delightful selection of picnic themed sandwiches and cake, all washed down with a very British cup of tea. We will have a guest speaker to accompany our popular table quizzes and an update on our fundraising achievements through the year so far. Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269.

August

THURS
13

Southbourne Cliff Top Walk Bournemouth Branch



11am



As per menu



Meet at the Spyglass & Kettle for coffee and cake, then a wander along the clifftop, ending at the Boscombe Cliff Bowling Club for lunch at 12.30pm. If the weather is unkind, then we will meet at the bowling club for lunch. Book by Monday 10 August. Boscombe Cliff Bowling Club, Woodland Avenue, Boscombe BH5 2DJ. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



FRI
14

Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch



10.30am



Free



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

WED
19

Silly Games Phoenix Branch



12 noon



Free



Join us for a fun afternoon of silly games such as mini pig racing, tiny skittles, etc... Refreshments available. Raffle in aid of the Chairman's charity. Book by Wednesday 12 August. RAOB Club, Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.



THURS
20

Coffee and Cake at The Grasshopper Brownsea Branch



10.30am



As per menu



We love going to The Grasshopper - we meet in the library area and enjoy a relaxing time together. They have two large car parks and they are also on a bus route. Enjoy the opportunity to have a good chat and put the world to rights with your friends. We are able to have a raffle at The Grasshopper, so if you can donate a prize that would be wonderful - we are raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group this year. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Tuesday 18 August.

August

WED 26 District Charity Lunch
at The Coach & Horses

 12.30pm  As per menu 



This time we are going to The Coach & Horses once again. We hope you will want to come and join in the fun at this lovely pub - they do really nice, affordable lunches. The raffle will be for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital, so if you are able to support us by donating a prize that would be amazing. Book by Saturday 22 August. The Coach & Horses, Wimborne Road, Poole BH21 1QB. We will have to pre-order, so please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 for the menu.

September

WED 02 A Guided Tour of Shepton
Mallet Prison
Hand-in-Hand Branch

 12.30pm  £25 per person discount
£10 for members 



For those who like something different, come and join us for a guided tour of Shepton Mallet Prison. Find out what life was really like for prisoners, officers and visitors. The tour costs £25 per person, but there will be a discount of £10 for members. Please don't let the journey put you off as lifts with other members will be available. Shepton Mallet Prison, Frithfield Lane, Shepton Mallet BA4 5FQ. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further information and for booking a place by Saturday 1 August.

THURS 03 Friendship Coffee
Morning
Bournemouth Branch

 10.30am  Free 

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



September is Oddfellows Friendship Month! This is a free event for members and friends to join us for a chat and cuppa with a cake or two. Find out a bit more about the Oddfellows. We will have a raffle, bring and buy stall for our charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 31 August. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
08 **Coffee Morning at
Thyme After Time
Phoenix Branch**



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

FRI
11 **Coffee and Get Together
Hand-in-Hand Branch**



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



THURS
10 **Friendship Cream Tea
Brownsea Branch**



It's Friendship Month! We hope you will invite family and friends who are not yet members to come and enjoy a tasty cream tea with us (cheese scones will also be available). We will explain about the wonderful benefits of being an Oddfellow and the many ways in which we can help and support our members. As usual the refreshments will be supplied by Sam and her team.



Please come and have a relaxing afternoon with good company in a lovely venue. The raffle will be raising funds for the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. As this is always a popular event please book early with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 by Tuesday 8 September.

FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

September

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON
14

Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES
15

Friendship Afternoon Tea Acorn Branch



Friendship Month returns and we are having a party! Bring your nearest and dearest friends, or even the neighbour you chat to over the fence, to celebrate sharing our lives with those who we love during Friendship Month. It is time to share interests, hobbies and stories with people we know and people we don't know yet. Party games, quizzes and special prizes are to be won during today's event! You will also learn about what's new in Oddfellows, how your membership benefits you and others, and how our friendly society reaches far and wide. Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 8 September.

SAT
19

Friendship Fish and Chips Evening with Bingo Bournemouth Branch



Our second Friendship Month event will be our very popular fish and chips evening with bingo. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Tea or coffee will be provided, but if you would like something stronger or cold drinks, you are welcome to bring your own. We will, of course, have a raffle for our charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 14 September. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SUN
20

Celebration Harvest Lunch at Crossways Village Hall Hand-in-Hand Branch



12.30pm



£10



Join us for a celebration harvest lunch at Crossways Village Hall. Meet at 12.30pm for 1pm lunch. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Please contact Mary on 01305 853125 to book your place by Tuesday 1 September.

TUES
22

Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at The Kings Arms Hotel. The first two teas and coffees are free. Refreshments available to buy from the menu. Book by Tuesday 15 September. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.

WED
23

Bacon Butties at Bell Inn Phoenix Branch



10am



As per menu



Today is 'National Bacon Butty Day', so we've decided to have breakfast at the Bell Inn, Yeovil to help celebrate



FRIENDSHIP MONTH EVENT
Join the fun

this prestigious event. As this is Friendship Month, there may even be a special deal... watch this space. Book by Wednesday 16 September. Bell Inn, 207 Preston Road, Yeovil BA20 2EW. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

October

THURS
01

Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



10.30am



£3



We hope you will come and join us for our regular coffee morning at Tuckton Social Club - meet new friends, have a chat over your coffee, all in a lovely venue. There will also be our usual raffle for our charity, which this year is for SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could donate a prize that would be wonderful - the bring and buy stall is always popular. Book by Monday 28 September. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

October

SUN
04

Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 10am

£ Free



After a successful event last year we are again going to Muckleford Farm Apple Picking. Come and join us to harvest eight varieties of heritage apples from 120 trees. Ploughmans lunch provided. 10am start. This is a free event. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

THURS
08

Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses Brownsea Branch

L 12.30pm

£ As per menu



The Coach & Horses is a lovely venue and we hope you will want to join us again for a very reasonably priced lunch - you can order one or two courses and they need our choices in advance, so please contact Andrew or Margaret for the menu. As usual we will have a raffle for our charity - the Poole Heart Support Group, so if you can bring along a prize that would be wonderful. The Coach & Horses, Wimborne Road, Poole BH21 1QB. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Monday 5 October.



FRI
09

Coffee and Get Together Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 10.30am

£ Free



We would love to welcome you to our regular coffee morning at Crossways, with our usual bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations towards the costs. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

MON
12

Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch

L 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

October

TUES
13 **Coffee Morning at**
Thyme After Time
Phoenix Branch



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

THURS
15 **Coffee Morning at**
The Spire
Brownsea Branch



This month we are returning to The Spire for our regular coffee get-together. Enjoy a relaxing hour or so, chatting over your coffee and cake or breakfast. Everyone is welcome - why not bring along a friend to meet us? We love supporting this community café and when you've had your coffee you could go for a walk on the quay or enjoy some retail therapy in the High Street. The Spire, High Street, Poole BH15 1DF. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122, so that we can arrange to all sit together by Tuesday 13 October.

TUES
13 **Harvest Buffet**
Acorn Branch



"With every deed you are sowing a seed, although you may not see it" - Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The nights are drawing in and the time has come to reflect upon the year at our harvest buffet lunch. We will give thanks for what we are grateful for and celebrate the friendships we have made in the Acorn Branch. As is traditional for us at this event, we will have a voluntary collection for the local food bank at the door - please donate if you are able. October also sees the launch of our Christmas sale as part of our bring and buy corner. Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting our chosen charity of the year. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 6 October.

October

SUN
18 **Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch**

 10am

 Free



Come and join us to harvest eight varieties of heritage apples from 120 trees. A ploughman's lunch will be provided. 10am start. This is a free event. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.

THURS
22 **Afternoon Tea Bournemouth Branch**

 2pm

 £5



Join us at Tuckton Social Club for a lovely afternoon tea with cakes and savouries. Brenda Coockey-Leeks will be giving a short talk, illustrated with some slides - subject to be confirmed. We will, of course have a raffle for our charity, so if you could bring along a prize that would be fantastic. Book by Monday 19 October. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

WED
21 **District Charity Carvery at The Bridge House Hotel**

 12.30pm

 As per menu



Another fundraising lunch for our District Chairman's charity - the Ladybird Breast Unit. Margaret would love to welcome you to the Bridge House Hotel once again. We will be having a raffle, so if you are able to bring a prize that would be much appreciated. Bridge House Hotel, 2 Ringwood Road, Ferndown BH22 9AN. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Wednesday 14 October.

SUN
25 **District Lunch and Optional Weekend**

 12.30pm

 TBC



We will be returning to the Riviera Hotel, Alum Chine for our Annual District Lunch, meet at 12.30pm for 1pm. Our Chairperson, Margaret White would be pleased to welcome you. We have also arranged a weekend stay for those who would like to join us from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October. The cost is yet to be confirmed for DBB on both Friday and Saturday night with the annual lunch on the Sunday. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. If you are interested in booking a room please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 as availability will be limited. Book by Sunday 4 October.

October

FRI **30** Breakfast at Bulbury Woods Brownsea Branch



The food is amazing at Bulbury Woods and they have always looked after us



very well indeed, so we hope you will want to get up early and have your breakfast with us! We will have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group and of course, if you are able to bring along a prize it would be much appreciated. Book by Wednesday 28 October. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please let Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 know if you would like to come so that we can arrange to all sit together.

November

THURS **05** Coffee at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



No fireworks, but a great selection of cake, tea, coffee, savouries, in a lovely venue - what could be better? We hope you will join us for our regular coffee morning, a chance to meet new friends and chat over coffee. We will have a raffle, bring and buy stall in support of SERV Wessex Blood Bikes. Might be a chance to get some early Christmas presents. A prize is always much appreciated, as are items for the bring and buy table, but as we have nowhere to store anything please remember to take things home if they don't sell. Book by Monday 2 November. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

November

THURS **05** Bonfire Party at Lower Muckleford Farm Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us to watch the fireworks at Muckleford Farm. There will be refreshments including a filled roll and something to drink. Book by Thursday 29 October. Lower Muckleford Farm, Muckleford, Dorchester DT2 9SW. Please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 for catering purposes.



November

MON
09 **Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch**



Come and join us for our games afternoon to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES
10 **Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch**



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES
10 **Remembrance Coffee Morning Acorn Branch**



We will remember them. This remembrance week, we invite you to bring and share your wartime stories. We will create a display of our Acorn Branch's extended family tree as we reminisce and fondly reflect on the sacrifices made by our armed forces.



A moment of reflection will be followed by red, white and blue themed cakes and pastries as we share our memories over a warming cup of tea. Our Christmas sale will of course continue to run through the rest of the year and donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Tuesday 3 November.

November

FRI 13 Coffee and Together with Bring and Buy Hand-in-Hand Branch

 10.30am  Donations 

Come and join us for our regular coffee morning with bring and buy stalls. The coffee mornings are free, but we welcome donations. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.



THURS 19 Coffee and Cake at The Grasshopper Brownsea Branch

 10.30am  As per menu 

It's time for another coffee get together at The Grasshopper! An opportunity to meet up, catch up with our friends and enjoy a lovely coffee and maybe a piece of cake. Hopefully, we will be in the library again, so we can have a raffle for the Poole Heart Support Group. There are two large car parks and the venue is on a bus route, so we hope you will be able to join us. The Grasshopper, 139-141 Bournemouth Road, Poole BH14 9HT. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Monday 16 November.

WED 18 Bring and Share Afternoon Tea and Table Top Games Bournemouth Branch

 2pm  £5 

Join us at Tuckton Social Club for a lovely afternoon tea with a selection of cakes and savouries. We hope you will want to join us again, play some games, maybe, win a prize in the raffle and have a relaxing fun afternoon with us in a lovely venue. There will be our usual raffle for our Chairperson's charity - SERV Wessex Blood Bikes, so if you could donate a prize that would be great. Book by Saturday 14 November. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.



November

SUN
22

Christmas Lunch at The Riviera Hotel Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches



12.30pm



TBC



Meet at 12 noon for a 12.30pm start, Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches will be joining forces for their Christmas Lunch once again this year. Everyone is of course very welcome to join us and enjoy an excellent meal in beautiful surroundings. Our Christmas lunch is a brilliant way to start your Christmas celebrations and spend time with like-minded friends. The raffle will be divided equally between the two Branches' charities as usual, which this year are the Poole Heart Support Group and the Blood Bikes. It would be appreciated if you could please book early as we have to pre-order our menu choices. Riviera Hotel, Burnaby Road, Alum Chine BH4 8JF. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book your place by Friday 13 November.

TUES
24

Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms Hand-in-Hand Branch



10am



As per menu



Come and join us for our regular bi-monthly coffee morning at The Kings Arms Hotel. The first two teas and coffees are free. Refreshments available as per the menu. Book by Tuesday 17 November. Kings Arms, High East Street, Dorchester DT1 1HF. Please call Rosemary on 07788 436797 for further details.



WED
25

District Charity Breakfast at Bulbury Woods



10am



As per
menu

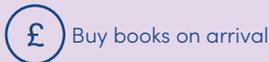


You have probably guessed that we love going to Bulbury for our Breakfast! This time it is a fundraising event for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital, which is Margaret's charity this year. We hope you will come and join us for a relaxing morning, a chat over your breakfast and a chance to win a prize in the raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be wonderful. Bulbury Woods Golf Club, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset BH16 6HR. Please contact Andrew on 07806 378989 or Margaret on 01202 775122 to book by Saturday 21 November, so that we can arrange to all sit together.

November

SAT
28

Christmas Prize Bingo Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for an evening of Christmas prize bingo at Crossways Village Hall. No need to book, buy your bingo books at the door. Starting at 7pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments during the evening and a raffle. If you are able to donate a prize that would be much appreciated. Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

December

THURS
03

Christmas Coffee Morning at Tuckton Bournemouth Branch



It's Christmas Jumper time again - dig out your seasonal jumper, earrings, hat or socks! Join us for mince pie, cake, savouries and coffee or tea; and maybe bring your favourite Christmas CD. Our Christmas coffee morning should be a lot of fun and we hope you will be able to come along, meet up with friends, maybe bring someone with you. Hopefully there will be a chance to make a Christmas decoration to take home with you, there might be some festive goodies on the bring and buy stall and raffle. This is a very popular event, so please book early to avoid disappointment by Monday 23 November. Tuckton Social Club, Tuckton Road, Bournemouth BH6 3AA. Contact Wendy on 07921 391696.

SUN
06

Carol Service at St Nicholas Church Hand-in-Hand Branch



Come and join us for a carol service at St Nicholas Church, Moreton followed by mince pies and tea or coffee. St Nicholas Church, Moreton DT2 8RH. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

December

MON 07 Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park Hand-in-Hand Branch



2pm



Free



Come and join us for our last games afternoon of 2026 to play or learn to play: Backgammon, Scrabble, Rummikub, Mahjong and much more. This is a free event, no need to book. Tea or coffee and cake available. All welcome. PIP Café Poundbury, St John Way, Poundbury, Dorchester DT1 2FG. Contact Rosemary on 07788 436797.



TUES 08 Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time Phoenix Branch



10.30am



As per menu



Come along and join us for a coffee or tea and maybe a cake. Have a chat and meet new friends. Don't worry if you are coming alone, there will always be a friendly face to welcome you and you will soon be part of a group. Call to say you are coming and we will look out for you, or just turn up on the day, that will be fine too. We meet here once a month. Thyme After Time, The Sidings, Station Road, Stalbridge DT10 2SS. Contact Judy on 01963 363119.

TUES 08 Christmas Buffet and Party Acorn Branch



12 noon



£6



It's party time and you are invited to our traditional Acorn Branch Christmas buffet and party! Games, quizzes, music and special prizes for the best seasonal outfit are back for another year! Come dressed for the occasion and pull a cracker with your Oddfellows family.

Today is the last day to grab your stocking fillers from our bring and buy corner! Donations towards the raffle, bring and buy stall are gratefully received and they go a long way to supporting Sturts Community Farm. Three Cross Village Hall, Village Hall Lane, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne BH21 6SG. To book call Alice on 07712 340269 by Wednesday 2 December.



December

FRI
11

Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy Hand-in-Hand Branch

🕒 10.30am 💷 Free



Come and join us for our Christmas coffee morning with bring and buy stalls. As this is the last coffee morning of the



year, come and have some festive fun. There will be a prize for the best Christmas jumper or hat! Crossways Village Hall, Moigne Combe Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8JA. Contact Mary on 01305 853125.

THURS
17

Christmas Evening Outing to the Iford Bridge Bournemouth Branch

🕒 7pm 💷 As per menu



We are hoping to organise an evening out at the Iford Bridge if there is enough interest.



The Iford Bridge, Old Bridge Road, Iford, Christchurch BH6 5RG. Please let Wendy on 07921 391696 know by Wednesday 30 September if you would like to join us, so that we can book the room.

THURS
17

Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies Brownsea Branch

🕒 10.30am 💷 Free



We hope you can join us for our last coffee morning of 2026! This is a free event and we hope there will be lots of mince pies on offer - we would love to welcome you if you can make it. Come and enjoy a chat over your



coffee or tea, spend the morning with us and forget the Christmas madness for a little while! East Dorset Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Salterns Road, Poole BH14 8BL. Please book with Andrew on 07806 378989 as early as possible as places will be limited. Book by Monday 14 December.

Hand in Hand are hoping to organise a cruise from Weymouth to Portland in August and a trip to Salisbury Cathedral in October. For more information please contact Rosemary on 07788 436797 or email rosemarywdt2@gmail.com.

Business Meetings

We 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 meetings are rounded off with light refreshments and a chance to socialise.

Acorn Branch

Secretary: Nicky Hankins, 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG
Telephone: 07523 758275 **Email:** nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Monday of each month, 2pm at the United Church, 505 Wimborne Road East, Ferndown BH22 9NF. Dates as follows:

16 March	20 July	19 October
20 April	17 August	14 December
15 June	21 September	

Brownsea Branch

Secretary: Nicky Hankins, 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG
Telephone: 07523 758275 **Email:** nicky.hankins@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:

17 March	21 July	20 October
21 April	18 August	17 November
16 June	15 September	15 December

Hand-in-Hand Branch

Secretary: Mike Clarke, 21 Great Western Road, Dorchester DT1 1UF
Telephone: 01305 260081 **Mobile:** 07397 241794
Email: mike.clarke@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at The Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester DT1 1RR. Dates as follows:

10 March	9 June	13 October*
14 April	14 July	10 November*
12 May	8 September	

*Location for October and November meetings to be confirmed.

Business Meetings

Phoenix Branch (Incorporating Blackmore Vale)

Secretary: Velletta Cracknell, Golden Meadow, Kings Mill Lane, Marnhull DT10 2HH

Telephone: 07515 417076 **Email:** velleta.cracknell@oddfellows.co.uk

Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, 7pm at the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Hall, Southville, Yeovil BA21 4JA. Dates as follows:

18 March

15 April

20 May

17 June

15 July

19 August

16 September

21 October

18 November

16 December

Pride of Bournemouth Branch

Secretary: Wendy Hopper, 6 Southlea Avenue, Bournemouth BH6 3AB

Telephone: 07921 391696 **Email:** wendy.hopper@oddfellows.co.uk

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

24 March

28 April

26 May

28 July

25 August

22 September

27 October

24 November

At a glance

March 2026

Wed 4	Breakfast at The Spire (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 5	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 6	Rod Brewer Quiz Challenge (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Mon 9	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 10	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 10	Seaside Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Fri 13	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Tues 17	District Charity Lunch at The Carpenter's Arms	12.30pm
Wed 18	Tapas and Cocktails (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Thurs 19	Coffee Morning at The Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am

At a glance

March 2026

Sat 21	Afternoon Tea, Crafts and Quiz (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Tues 24	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Thurs 26	Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm

April

Thurs 2	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Wed 8	Coffee and Cake at Blooms Café (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Fri 10	That'll Be The Day at Weymouth Pavilion (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm
Sat 11	Spring Buffet Lunch (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Sun 12	Carvery Lunch at The New Inn (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Mon 13	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 14	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 16	Coffee Morning at The Pilot (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Fri 17	Otter Nurseries of Lyminster (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Sun 19	Spring Lunch (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Sat 25	Spring Prize Bingo (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Tues 28	Craft Morning with Amanda (Brownsea Branch)	10am

May

Wed 6	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods (Brownsea Branch)	10am
Wed 6	The Lake House, Sculpture by the Lakes (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Thurs 7	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 8	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Mon 11	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 12	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 12	May Day Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Thurs 14	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Wed 20	Afternoon Tea (Phoenix Branch)	2.30pm

At a glance

May

Sat 23	Bring and Share Supper with Bingo (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm
Tues 26	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 27	District Charity Lunch at Bridge House Hotel	12.30pm

June

Thurs 4	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Fri 5	Day Trip to Weymouth (Phoenix Branch)	TBC
Sat 6	ABBA Arrival, Weymouth Pavilion (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7.30pm
Mon 8	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 9	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 9	Midsummer's Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Thurs 11	Lunch Club at Bridge House Hotel (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Fri 12	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 18	District Charity Cream Tea	3pm
Fri 19	Boat Trip from Poole Quay to Wareham (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Sun 21	District Annual Church Service	2.30pm
Wed 24	Carvery at The Sun Inn (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 25	Afternoon Tea and Bingo (Brownsea Branch)	2.30pm

July

Thurs 2	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Mon 6	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 7	Music Quiz and Supper (Brownsea Branch)	7pm
Fri 10	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Sat 11	Poole to Swanage Sightseeing Cruise (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Tues 14	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 14	Summer French Buffet with Music (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 16	Coffee Morning (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am

At a glance

July

Sun 19	Church Service (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	3pm
Tues 21	Craft Morning with Amanda (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 23	Mystery Garden Party (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Sun 26	Sunday Lunch at Halsey Arms (Phoenix Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 28	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 29	District Charity Carvery Lunch	12.30pm

August

Sun 2	Cream Tea (Brownsea Branch)	2.30pm
Thurs 6	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Mon 10	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 11	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 11	Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Thurs 13	Southbourne Cliff Top Walk (Bournemouth Branch)	11am
Fri 14	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Wed 19	Silly Games (Phoenix Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 20	Coffee and Cake at The Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Wed 26	District Charity Lunch at The Coach & Horses	12.30pm

September - Friendship Month

Wed 2	A Guided Tour of Shepton Mallet Prison (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Thurs 3	Friendship Coffee Morning (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Tues 8	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 10	Friendship Cream Tea (Brownsea Branch)	3pm
Fri 11	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Mon 14	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 15	Friendship Afternoon Tea (Acorn Branch)	2pm
Sat 19	Friendship Fish and Chips Evening with Bingo (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm

At a glance

September - Friendship Month

Sun 20	Celebration Harvest Lunch at Crossways Village Hall (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	12.30pm
Tues 22	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 23	Bacon Butties at Bell Inn (Phoenix Branch)	10am

October

Thurs 1	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Sun 4	Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Thurs 8	Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses (Brownsea Branch)	12.30pm
Fri 9	Coffee and Get Together (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Mon 12	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 13	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 13	Harvest Buffet (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Thurs 15	Coffee Morning at The Spire (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Sun 18	Apple Picking at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 21	District Charity Carvery at The Bridge House Hotel	12.30pm
Thurs 22	Afternoon Tea (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Sun 25	District Lunch and Optional Weekend	12.30pm
Fri 30	Breakfast at Bulbury Woods (Brownsea Branch)	10am

November

Thurs 5	Coffee at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 5	Bonfire Party at Lower Muckleford Farm (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm
Mon 9	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 10	Remembrance Coffee Morning (Acorn Branch)	10am
Tues 10	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am

At a glance

November

Fri 13	Coffee and Together with Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Wed 18	Bring and Share Afternoon Tea and Table Top Games (Bournemouth Branch)	2pm
Thurs 19	Coffee and Cake at The Grasshopper (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Sun 22	Christmas Lunch at The Riviera Hotel (Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches)	12.30pm
Tues 24	Coffee and Chat at the Kings Arms (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10am
Wed 25	District Charity Breakfast at Bulbury Woods	10am
Sat 28	Christmas Prize Bingo (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	7pm

December

Thurs 3	Christmas Coffee Morning at Tuckton (Bournemouth Branch)	10.30am
Sun 6	Carol Service at St Nicholas Church (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	3pm
Mon 7	Table Top Games at the Pavilion in the Park (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	2pm
Tues 8	Coffee Morning at Thyme After Time (Phoenix Branch)	10.30am
Tues 8	Christmas Buffet and Party (Acorn Branch)	12 noon
Fri 11	Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy (Hand-in-Hand Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 17	Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies (Brownsea Branch)	10.30am
Thurs 17	Christmas Evening Outing to the Iford Bridge (Bournemouth Branch)	7pm

Learn, have fun, and stay in touch from home

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



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

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Wessex Wanderer

News and views from your local friendship group

A message from our District Chairman, Margaret White

It is amazing to realize that the first edition of the *Wessex Wanderer* was issued in the Spring of 2006 – where have those 20 years gone?? The front cover of the very first edition had an article about a wonderful Disneyland Garden Party held in Ron and Flo Munro's garden, and the picture shows us dressed in 'Disney' themed outfits including the Ugly Sisters, Snow White, Prince Charming and the Fairy Godmother!! It was all great fun!! Over the years all the branches have continued to do their very best for their members, not only in organising brilliant social events but also caring for our members in times of need. That's what we, as Oddfellows, are all about. Each month we enjoy each other's company, have loads of fun and laughter and hopefully make new friends along the way.

Please can I emphasise how important our volunteers are? It is important to remember how much we rely on them - whether it is being on our Management Committees, giving your time to attend business meetings, preparing the refreshments at our events, making tea and coffee, doing the washing up, putting up and taking down tables and chairs, selling raffle tickets, being a telephone befriender or a welfare officer – the list is endless. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to run our branches. So I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to you all.

By the time you read this *Wessex Wanderer* we will be well into 2026 and I hope it will be a happy and healthy year for you all. Our District events will be raising funds for the Ladybird Breast Unit at Poole Hospital this year. I chose this charity as some of our members have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer in the last few years. It has been lovely



that, as friends, we have been supporting each other through our treatment.

As a District we work together to help and support all of our members, both at branch and District level. Please remember that the District is able to match any grant that your branch awards to a member but if we don't know about it we are unable to help, so do please get in touch with our District Secretary, Nicky Hankins, if you or any of your members might need our help.

I am honoured and proud to be your Chairman and I hope that Julian and I will be able to visit all the branches during my year in office, and come along to as many events as we can. I hope that we will all continue to do our best to work together in Friendship, Love and Truth for the benefit of all the members within the Poole, Bridport & Yeovil District.

Sending you all my best wishes and lots of love

Margaret White

Welcome to the 41st 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: Nicky Hankins

Address: 4 Summerlands, Princes Road, Ferndown BH22 9JG

Telephone: 07523 758275

Email:

nicky.hankins@oddfellows.co.uk

Join the conversation

f www.facebook.com/dorset-yeovil-oddfellows

/Poole and Bournemouth

/Acorn Lodge

/Dorchester (Hand in Hand)

/Blackmore Vale (Phoenix Lodge)

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

Brownsea Branch Music Quiz and Supper

We held a very enjoyable Brownsea Music Quiz and Supper at the Tennis Club in July. Our huge thanks must go to Dave Calvert for running the evening and putting the quiz together. There was lots of humming and singing

as everyone tried to guess the artists and songs. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we are going to do in again this year, so we hope you will want to come along and join in the fun.



District Charity Lunch at The Gamekeeper

In July our District Chairman, Keith Quinton, was delighted to welcome members and friends to a delicious Carvery Lunch at The Gamekeeper in Charminster near Dorchester. It was a lovely sunny day and we were able to enjoy a wander down

to the river – some of us even had a paddle! The food was excellent, as was the company, and Keith thanked all those who joined him, supported the raffle for Macmillan Nurses and made the lunch so successful.



Acorn Branch Afternoon Tea with a Yellow Theme!

A huge thank you to Hannah Bird from the Dorset Police Cyber Safety Team for joining the Acorn Oddfellows' Sunshine Yellow Afternoon Tea in July.



Hannah gave an incredibly helpful and easy to understand talk on how to stay safe online and over the phone. We picked up some really useful tips – including one many of us hadn't heard of before: Dial 159 from any phone to be connected directly to your bank. A quick, safe way to make sure you're speaking to the real thing – not a scammer.

We also raised £78 on the raffle and had a wonderful yellow themed tea party with lemon tarts, scones and lots of sunshine on our plates.

Thank you everyone who wore yellow, brought the good vibes and made the day such a lovely success.

Would you be interested in a Walking Group?

Several members of the Brownsea Branch have suggested that we organise some walks and we would like to know if you would be interested? We have thought about meeting at Whitecliff and walking into Poole for a coffee, or maybe meet at the RNLI car park, have a walk along the Quay and go back to the RNLI restaurant for

a coffee. Upton House would be another idea. If you are interested, or have ideas about where we could meet, please let either Andrew or Margaret know. We need to bear in mind that the walk should be level and easily accessible, no big hills etc, no stiles to climb over, basically easy walking.

Thank you from Alice, Social Secretary, Acorn Branch

As the new Social Secretary for Acorn Branch, from the moment I stepped into the role, you welcomed me with such warmth that I felt part of the branch straight away. It's been a joy getting to know you all, and I've already made friends I know I'll treasure for years. Each of you – our brilliant members –keep this branch strong, steady, and full of character.

One of the things that has struck me most is your generosity. Every month I find myself amazed at the raffle prizes you bring in – everything from homemade jams to books, chocolates, ornaments, and the occasional surprise that makes us all laugh. And then there's our bring-and-buy table, which has taken on a life of its own. Together, these little acts of giving, raise a fantastic amount for our annual charities. In a year when times have been tight for many, seeing our members gather together to help local causes has been heart-warming.

The Harvest Buffet was one of the highlights of my year. We added a donation box for the Food Bank, and I'll admit, I thought we might only get a few bits and pieces since everyone is always so generous with the raffle. But how wrong I was! The table practically disappeared under the piles of tins, packets, and treats you brought in. I was completely overwhelmed, not just

by the sheer amount, but by the thoughtfulness behind every item. It was community spirit in its purest form, and it truly touched my heart.

Our Remembrance Day event was another very special moment. With the beautiful and heartfelt music from Lisa Locarno, singing wartime classics that had many of us humming along, the room felt full of stories. Several of you shared memories; some from the battlefields, some from childhood homes, some passed down through families. I was honoured to listen to them. The photographs you brought in added an extra layer of meaning, capturing moments from decades gone by. When we stood together for the two-minute silence, it felt as though time itself paused. It was a deeply moving day that I will not forget.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to bring you even more events in 2026. We have themed buffets on the horizon, as well as afternoon teas and a few new ideas I'm hoping to try out with your help. I can already picture us gathered together, laughing, chatting, and creating even more memories.

Thank you, truly, for making my first year such a warm, welcoming, and uplifting one. I feel very lucky to be part of this branch, and even luckier to call many of you friends.

Post Heatwave Picnic with Phoenix Branch

The annual Blackmore Vale Lodge Walk took place at Sutton Bingham Reservoir near Yeovil in July. The walk was reasonably short across a newly mown hay meadow, although the grass was more like straw due to the drought. The reservoir was low but there was plenty of trainee sailors having a go in their sailing dinghies on the water. Horses sheltered under the trees on the opposite bank and a couple of cormorants opened their wings to dry.

After the walk, we all settled around a large picnic table for lunch. The atmosphere was peaceful with a fair amount of cloud to keep off the sun, and only a few drops of rain at the end of the picnic, but not enough to make us run for shelter! Sutton Bingham



Reservoir is a beautiful site and the picnic area is well kept and has a brick toilet block and a fresh water tap for drinking.



Bournemouth Branch Bring and Share with Board Games

Members of Bournemouth Oddfellows enjoyed a lovely evening at our August Bring and Share Supper with Board Games. A wide selection of games were available to try, with some pleasant rivalry and laughter. Plenty of delicious food to enjoy and we raised £59 for Julia's House.



Browsea Branch Cream Tea with Julie and Andrew

In August Julie and Andrew invited us to their beautiful garden once again for a lovely Cream Tea. The weather was excellent, we enjoyed a selection of scones, cakes and savouries and we would like to thank everyone who came and made the afternoon such a success. The raffle for Forest Holme was very well supported and we must give an enormous thank you to Julie and Andrew for allowing us to meet in their garden.

District Charity Lunch at The Bridge House

We returned to The Bridge House in August for another fundraising event for Macmillan Nurses. We were able to have our lunch in their Club Room, which was just about big enough for us!! The Carvery was, as always, really good and many of us also enjoyed a delicious pudding. Our District Chairman, Keith Quinton, thanked us all for supporting his efforts for Macmillan Nurses – we raised an amazing £111 on the raffle – thanks so much to everyone who came and helped make the day so enjoyable.

Hand-in-Hand Branch Games Afternoon

Monday 4 August was our first afternoon of table top games held at The Pavilion in The Park Café, Poundbury. This event is held regularly on a Monday afternoon and has increased in popularity since it began. Members and guests enjoy playing Mahjong, Scrabble, Crib, Upwards and much more. A young family have attended and Snakes and Ladders has been introduced.



Browsea Branch Coffee at The Spire

In August we visited The Spire in Poole High Street for our Coffee Morning. The Spire is a very welcoming location within the Methodist Church, and we always enjoy supporting this lovely community venue. We enjoyed everything from a 'Full English' to a toasted tea cake, or just a cup of coffee - but the main thing was to enjoy having a chat with our friends!



Congratulations to Janice Ovens



At our Half Yearly District Meeting in August, we were very proud to present Janice Ovens with a District Merit Jewel. This was in recognition of all the dedicated work that Janice has been involved with over many years of service to our District.

Not only has Janice been a member of the District Committee of Management for many years and been our District Chairman several times, but she has served on the Unity Investigation Committee for 8 years and the Unity Benevolence Committee for a further 8 years. Janice also served on the Southern Group Conference and became President in 2004. Throughout all Janice's years of service, she has been encouraged and supported by her husband Don (also a member of the DCOM for many years and a Past Chairman of the District several times). Janice would not have been able to do all she has done for Oddfellowship without Don's unwavering love and support.

Our picture shows Keith Quinton, District Chairman, presenting Janice with her District Merit Jewel - well done Janice - we are so proud of you.



Browsea Branch Coffee Mornings

Our regular coffee mornings continue to be well supported and as we are beginning to outgrow the Tennis Club we are trying new venues. The Grasshopper has proved to be very popular as we are able to have exclusive use of the Library area and

the parking there is excellent. We also still go to the Spire and The Pilot. If any of our members or friends can recommend other venues that would be big enough to welcome us, please let either Andrew or Margaret know and we can give them a try.

Membership and Recruitment Awards

It was our Chairman's great pleasure to present the Recruitment Shield to the Chairman of the Hand-in-Hand Branch, Mary Brewer, and the Membership Shield to Judy Penfold of the Phoenix Branch at our Half-Yearly District Meeting in August. The Recruitment Shield goes to the

branch that have made the most members in the previous year, and the Membership Shield is awarded to the branch that achieves the highest percentage increase. Well done to both the Hand-in-Hand and Phoenix Branches for all their hard work.



Hand-in-Hand Branch Coffee Mornings at The Kings Arms

Our Kings Arms coffee mornings that take place bi-monthly on the fourth Tuesday morning have become very popular with regular members and we see new faces each time. We have successfully advertised the

Coffee Mornings on social media and people have popped in off the street, joined in with future events and have become active members of Hand-in-Hand Branch.

Brownsea Branch Friendship Month Cream Tea at the Tennis Club

Our Friendship Month event was very successful, with many new faces joining us for a lovely Cream Tea at the Tennis Club. As usual Sam and her team produced a great array of scones, cakes and savouries for us to enjoy, with as many cups of tea or coffee as we could manage.

Our new Branch Secretary, Nicky, welcomed everyone and gave a short presentation for the non-members about the benefits of becoming an Oddfellow. This was a free event and it was a pleasure to see so many members and non-members enjoying the afternoon.



A very friendly buffet

At the end of September Phoenix branch ventured out to the far reaches of their branch and enjoyed a wonderful all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet at Mei's in Taunton. Joining the regulars were members and friends from Taunton. As you can see from the pictures, Mei's is a popular place and we were limited to a one-and-a-half-hour stay, although we managed to stretch it out to two hours. The food was hot, tasty and fresh. The wide range of deserts also proved popular, even if they were a bit of a squeeze after two or three courses...



Hand-in-Hand Branch's Evening of Jazz

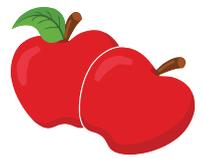
In September a small group attended Tincton Gallery for an evening of jazz music with Roger Beaujolis on vibraphone and Rob Palmer on guitar. The event was attended by members from across the District. We all enjoyed the delicious refreshments in the interval.



Hand-in-Hand Branch take a walk at Blue Pool

In September 19 people including three new members, Derek, Susan and Pauline, enjoyed a walk at Blue Pool near Wareham. It was quite uneven in places. Rosemary Rogers, Social Organiser said 'Three of us walked across the rope bridge the wrong way!! We all had a lovely day' After exploring the reserve, good coffee and scones were enjoyed in our own area of the café.

Hand-in-Hand Branch - Apple Picking



One of our members has an orchard of 120 heritage apple trees. Each year they hold an 'apple picking' day when friends and family come to harvest the fruit. We were joined by members from Wareham and Bournemouth and helped

to pick 2,000kgs of apples which have been pressed, bottled and pasteurised. A ploughman's lunch was provided, and our welfare officer Mel supplied a delicious Dorset apple cake.

Bournemouth Branch Longham Lakes

Members from Bournemouth Oddfellows had lovely weather for their morning escape to Longham Lakes. It was very interesting to learn about the different wildlife that visit the area. This was followed by a gentle stroll around one of the lakes to work up an appetite for lunch at the Bridge House.



Brownsea Branch Craft Session with Amanda

We had an amazing time with Amanda learning how to do Mandala painting. We all took a pebble to decorate, but first Amanda showed us how to practice on 'tiles' that she had prepared for us. As you can see from the pictures, we actually managed some really good final products and the 'tiles' were also pretty impressive.

These craft sessions are so enjoyable - we have a wonderful laugh together and enjoy each other's company. I am sure that most of us think there is no way that we will be able to achieve anything 'arty or crafty', but Amanda is a brilliant, patient teacher and we were all so pleased with what we managed to create. If you look closely at the pictures of the pebbles you will see that Sue's is a lovely elephant!

A huge thank you to Amanda for having us at her house, for her hospitality and of course for her expert tuition. If you would like



to join in the fun please get in touch as we have more sessions planned for 2026 but the spaces are limited as we meet at Amanda's house - please see the Events Diary for details.



Annual District Lunch/Weekend Break

Our Annual District Lunch was held at the Riviera Hotel in October and was very well supported. As well as members from all our local lodges we had visitors from the following Districts – Reading, Coventry, Southampton, Bristol, Brighton, North London and Heart of England District. Our Chairman had invited our retiring District Secretary, Andrew Hampton, to be his guest of honour, accompanied by his wife Julie, and Past Grand Master, Brother Clive Tayler was pleased to respond to the toast to Unity. Gifts were presented to Andrew, Clive and Keith, and to their ladies. It was wonderful to see so many prizes donated to the raffle and an amazing £305 was raised for Macmillan Nurses.

In addition to the Annual District Lunch, we had organised a weekend stay for those who wished to have a weekend break. The weekend, which was arranged on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis, began on the Friday afternoon, on the Saturday afternoon we held a ritual lodge where Nicky Hankins, our new District Secretary, received her Purple Degree. The ritual lodge was manned by our own District Officers but we were helped by



the visiting officers from the other Districts - we couldn't have managed without them.

The weekend culminated with the very successful Annual Lunch on the Sunday. On the Saturday evening, we had a couple of Andrew's quizzes which were good fun, but difficult (as usual) and there was a lot of friendly banter regarding 'cheating'.

Keith would like to thank everyone who supported him, and the District, either by coming for the weekend, or to the District Lunch.



Browsea Branch Lunch Club at The Coach & Horses

October saw us try a new venue for our Lunch Club - The Coach and Horses near Wimborne. The staff were extremely helpful and the food was excellent value. We were in their restaurant area so we were able to have a raffle for Forest Holme - thanks so much to everyone

who donated prizes and bought the raffle tickets. Julian was unable to join us so of course we forgot to take any pictures!!! We plan to visit the Coach & Horses again this year and hope you will be able to come and join us for a lovely meal in a super venue.

Acorn Branch Harvest Tea – October Gathering

When Acorn Branch held their Harvest Tea what a celebration it was! Our October Harvest Feast was overflowing with people – familiar faces and plenty of new ones too. We enjoyed our biggest raffle of the year, a fantastic display of generosity with food bank donations, and of course, the much-loved return

of the Christmas Market Bring & Buy. Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm, we raised a brilliant £93 from the raffle and £27 from the Bring and Buy. The hall was absolutely buzzing with nearly 50 attendees, all treated to a delicious afternoon tea. And as always – those cheese scones were worth fighting for!



Bournemouth Branch Supports Hengistbury Outdoors

Edna Daniels, Chairman of the Bournemouth Branch welcomed Bill Howlett from Hengistbury Outdoors to their October Coffee Morning where Sister Walker presented him with a charity cheque for over £1,000. Bill gave a very interesting update on progress at the centre and members are looking forward to visiting once the work is completed and the centre opens.



Bournemouth Branch Afternoon Tea with Dorset Air Ambulance

Bournemouth Oddfellows welcomed Josie Dear from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance to their October Afternoon Tea. Josie gave an interesting presentation about

their work and Edna was delighted to present Josie with our donation cheque. Thank you to Josie for coming and to everyone who came and made the afternoon such a success.



Hand-in-Hand Branch Lunch at the Countryman

Hand-in-Hand members enjoyed an excellent carvery lunch at The Countryman in East Knighten at the end of October. Carvery lunches are very much enjoyed and to this end you will see more being arranged for 2026!

Bulbury Breakfast with Brownsea Branch Another Breakfast at Bulbury Woods? Oh yes!

As usual we had a fantastic breakfast at Bulbury - and yes, Margaret had the Bubble and Squeak again - it would have been rude not to!! We had a raffle this time for Forest Holme - thanks so much for your support! We

always have a brilliant time at Bulbury - lots of chatting and laughter and generally putting the world to rights. We'll be breakfasting again soon, so why not come and join us?

Acorn Branch Coffee Morning – ‘Lest We Forget’

Many members and friends joined Acorn Branch for a special coffee morning on Tuesday 11 November, as we came together to remember, reflect, and honour those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom. Our Poppy Display was created to mark this season of remembrance – each poppy symbolising gratitude, respect, and hope for peace.

Miss Lisa Locarno, a local jazz and vintage singer provided the music entertainment with war time songs and some of our members danced to the lively tunes. There was memorabilia to look at and a poem of remembrance. A big thank you goes to Robert Wickson who donated copies of his book ‘The Forgotten Tommy Poets of WW1’ which raised £34.50 towards our charities, the Local NHS Breast Units and the MS Centre for Dorset.



On a Very Rainy Day at the End of November

Phoenix members enjoyed an early Christmas lunch at our old haunt, the Pen Mill Hotel in Yeovil. The food was delicious and the staff polite and welcoming. A big prize for the raffle was squeezed in for the Air Ambulance (we did have permission!). See if you can spot him.



Hand-in-Hand Branch Bonfire Night

On 5th November several of us attended and helped out at a bonfire party in Muckleford which our host holds each year for neighbours and friends. The evening began with an enormous bonfire and a few ‘vintage’ fireworks which our host had found in the back of the garage! A few puffs, the odd flash and a bang and it was over! We then had a terrific display of modern-day fireworks with sparklers for anyone who wanted! We had mulled wine, mulled apple juice, hot dogs and pulled pork rolls. A lovely clear mild evening. Rosemary Rogers, Social Organiser said ‘it was not freezing cold as I remember bonfire night as a child!’

Hand-in-Hand Branch Martin Clunes at the Bridport and Dorchester Literary Festival

October and November saw Hand-in-Hand members attend both The Bridport and Dorchester Literary Festivals to listen to actor Martin Clunes discuss his latest book ‘Meetings with Remarkable Animals’ it was both very entertaining and enlightening.

Hand-in-Hand Branch Lunch at The Poet Laureate

In November a number of us enjoyed a carvery lunch at The Poet Laureate which was both delicious and the tables were decorated for Christmas!

Brownsea Branch Coffee at The Grasshopper

It was time for another coffee get-together in November - this time at The Grasshopper in Bournemouth Road in Poole. They allow us exclusive use of their 'Library' area which is lovely and cosy and means that we can have a little raffle to support our charity which this year is Forest Holme. The Grasshopper has two large car parks and is on a bus route so it is an ideal venue for us. We will be

going there more often in the future and hope you will be able to come and join in the fun.

We really must try and get our act together regarding taking pictures - we failed miserably once again - our only excuse was that we were having such a great time, chatting with our friends and enjoying our coffee and cake!

District Charity Carvery at The Bridge House

We all had a wonderful time at another fundraising lunch for our Chairman's charity - Macmillan Nurses which was held at The Bridge House in October. Once again Keith welcomed members and friends to a

successful lunch which was followed by a very well supported raffle. Keith would like to thank everyone who supported him at the lunch and helped to raise such a good amount for the charity. Thank you everyone!



Bournemouth Branch Lunch at Southbourne Bowling Club

20 members and friends invaded the Bowling Club and enjoyed a very nice, freshly cooked lunch, some even had space for a pudding, which all looked lovely. Definitely somewhere to return to, maybe an afternoon pudding club? The raffle raised £39 for our Chairman's charity Julia's House.



Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches Christmas Lunch at the Riviera

Bournemouth and Brownsea Branches joined forces for their Christmas lunch in late November. The hotel was beautifully decorated ready for Christmas and the staff were excellent as always. Once again this was a very well supported event and the raffle table was heavily laden with amazing prizes, generously donated by our guests and we even had a contribution of two bottles of wine from the hotel!!!

An amazing £240 was raised which will be split equally between Forest Holme



and Julia's House - our charities this year. Julian and Edna would like to thank everyone for their support - they have both raised well over £1,000 for these very worthy causes so far.



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 Nicky on **07523 758275** or email nicky.hankins@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@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

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.

Brownsea Branch Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies at the Tennis Club

Our free Christmas Coffee Morning, complete with mince pies, was a lovely event this year. It was brilliant to see so many members and friends having a good natter over their coffee and enjoying each other's company.



Hand-in-Hand Branch Christmas Wreath Making



On Saturday 13 December 14 members of the Hand-in-Hand Branch and guests attended a Christmas Wreath workshop which was run by local florist, Denise Jones who exhibited at Chelsea for the first time in 2025 where she attained a gold medal and praise from King Charles. Denise arrived with an amazing selection of foliage to include; eucalyptus, various firs, ivies and holly together with an impressive selection of decorations allowing for different styles and colour preferences from very rustic to spray-on glitter. The



demonstration, description and support that Denise gave us allowed us all to enjoy creating our own wreaths. In the main we chose more



rustic and less sparkle with colours ranging from a blue hue to orange and rust. We hope to hold this event again in 2026.

Acorn Branch Christmas Party – A Wonderful Success!

An amazing time was had by all at our Christmas Party on Saturday 6 December! Over 40 members and friends joined us for an afternoon full of festive fun. Our wonderful Kitchen Crew prepared a delicious buffet of party food. Everyone received individual presents.

We enjoyed three quizzes, pass the parcel, and judged the best outfit! Plus a free raffle. Thank you to everyone who brought items for the Bring & Buy stall, and brought tickets for the charity raffle. We raised £127 for our charity. There was plenty of fun and laughter to kick off the festive season in style. A huge thank you to all our kind volunteers who made it all possible.



Bournemouth Branch Christmas Party

We had a lovely evening at Tuckton Social Club on Saturday 13 December, played some amusing games and shared a great buffet supper. Lots of laughter, plenty of Christmas jumpers and sparkly jewellery. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it such a fun evening.



Bournemouth Branch Christmas Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy Sale

Bournemouth Oddfellows final coffee morning for 2025 was a lovely social morning that involved extra concentration as we attempted to make some lovely Christmas Angels to take home. We would like to send

special thanks to Marion Walker for devising the DIY angel kits, we were all very pleased with the end results. The Bring and Buy stall had a Christmas theme and, along with the raffle, raised over £100 for Julia's House.



District Breakfast at Bulbury Woods

We tried something different for our last District fundraising event of the year – a Breakfast at Bulbury Woods. The food was amazing, the company was fantastic, the raffle was excellent – an all-round lovely morning enjoying each other's company and having a good natter over our breakfast. The staff always look after us so well at Bulbury Woods - we had everything from a toasted tea-cake to a Full English - and everything in between. The bubble and squeak was the best yet (Margaret always has the bubble if it is available). We look forward to going to Bulbury again soon.



Friendship: the constant that carries us forward - a message from our CEO, Jane Nelson

Another year has passed by so quickly at the Oddfellows, and it reminds me how fast life moves. However, in a hurried world, friendships really do slow the pace and bring us back to what truly matters.

Life for each and every one of us feels richer in good company. Even between get-togethers, friendships keep us hopeful. They anchor us through life's ebb and flow – deepening our joy in good times and supporting us in challenging ones. True friends celebrate our successes, steady us when we falter, and offer a sense of belonging.

Life may change, but lasting friendship remains a constant that grounds us, making everything a little brighter. And whether near or far, genuine connections help

us navigate life with resilience, laughter, and warmth.

Remember every friendship begins with a simple moment of connection, and we all have the power to create new ones or welcome others into our community who seek companionship.

Please always stay open to new friendships in 2026 and nurture the ones you treasure.

If you're a member and see a new face at one of our social events, offer that warm welcome we're known for. A friendly chat, a check-in, or an introduction can ease first-visit nerves and help turn a new space into a familiar one. These small acts show that we want people with us for the long run.

Throughout 2026, let's hold on to what gives our Society its strength – the belief that shared friendship creates a place where people feel supported, valued, and at home.

Friendship is the bedrock of our Society. So together, let's continue building a welcoming community where every friendship can begin.

This will be my last turn of year message to you all as of course I retire in May. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and friendship over the years and I wish you, your friends and your families a very happy and healthy 2026.

Yours in friendship,

Jane Nelson, CEO, the Oddfellows

A warm welcome to Simon, our CEO Designate

In October 2025, the Society appointed Simon Gallimore as Chief Executive Officer Designate. He's currently working alongside Jane Nelson, our CEO, ahead of assuming full responsibilities in May 2026. Read more at: www.oddfellows.co.uk/news/welcoming-our-new-ceo-designate



2026: Time to make a financial plan

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

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

Where to start?

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

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

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

Start saving

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

Unity Mutual is a regulated provider of ISAs and other savings and investment products, which means they follow strict rules designed to protect our members.

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

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



a proud part of the Oddfellows

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

Get in touch

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

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

Terms and conditions apply to all products.

Find out more

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

Talented trio win Educational Awards

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

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

Jane Nelson, CEO of the Oddfellows, said:

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

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

Melanie Healey Humber Wolds Branch

In October 2025, Melanie began her Asian and Middle Eastern Studies course at the University of Cambridge.



The four-year course will begin with learning Arabic language skills from scratch, building up her existing French language skills and looking at French Literature.

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

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

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

Will Stevenson Pride of Woolwich Branch

Will started reading Geography at the University of Durham's Trevelyan College in Autumn 2025, where modules cover topics such as climate change, physical geography, human geography, geographical research and geographies in crisis.



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

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

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

Emma Corbin Worcester Branch

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



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

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

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

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

More about our Educational Awards

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