

April – September 2024
Issue 17



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

out & about

Reading District



Henley Royal Regatta, Henley-on-Thames

Reading District (covering Reading, Maidenhead, Thatcham, Henley, Woodley, Pangbourne and Tilehurst)



Online



**Music/
Concert**



Travel



Games



Crafts



**Walk/
Activities**



Social



Food and Drink



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea



Taking a moment during Southern Group Conference, Bournemouth, April 2023.

Welcome to the Reading District of the Oddfellows. The Branches in the District have organised an exciting and varied programme of events for you all. This Events Diary is a handy guide for you to keep so that you know what is happening in your area.

Everybody welcome

Unless indicated otherwise, everybody is welcome at Oddfellows events. Even if you are not a member, we want to extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any events that take your fancy – all are welcome and we like to think that we can guarantee you a good time. Let us know you're coming and we'll look out for you and greet you at the door, hopefully after attending a few events you will see the benefits of joining our caring organisation.

Remember!

Put dates of interest in your personal diary. Alternatively, keep this Events Diary in a

handy place – by the phone, fixed to the fridge or pinned to your notice board.

Want to get involved?

Looking for something to do? If so, there is plenty for you to get involved in with the Oddfellows. We are always looking for people to help with care support, social events or writing articles for the Branch Newsletter. If you are interested, please call your District Secretary, Debbie Jex today!

Is there an activity you want to do with friends we are not currently running? We encourage all our members to put on events for other members and friends to join them on, from cinema nights, to a pub social, walk in the country or anything else you can think of – if you are able to run a social activity for us please contact your local secretary (see page 3) for support, encouragement and to have your events listed in our social programme. Still not sure who to call? Contact the District Secretary Debbie Jex, to be pointed in the right direction.

Booking and Cancellations

Please remember the importance of early booking for all events to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to lack of support. Please note that a place is not guaranteed at any event until full payment has been received if applicable.

Branch and Event Contacts

For more information on our events, and for encouragement and support if attending an event for the first time, please contact your local Social Branch contact:

Reading District ●

District Secretary: Debbie Jex **Email:** debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk

Assistant Secretary: Nicky Jex **Email:** nicky.jex@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.

Telephone: 0118 957 3354

Reading District Social Secretary - Karen Dyke on 0118 959 4073

Reading Art and Craft Group: Debbie Jex on 0118 957 3354

Thames and Kennet Branch ●

Covering Reading, Woodley Afternoon Group, Maidenhead and Thatcham:

Secretary: Karen Dyke, Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ.

Telephone: 0118 9594073 **Email:** karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk

Britons Pride (Thatcham) - Joyce Lewis on 07483 119404

Jubilee (Maidenhead) - Debbie Jex on 0118 957 3354

Reading Abbey (Reading) - Fiona Vince on 0118 954 8454

Woodley Afternoon Group - Karen Dyke on 0118 9594073

Royal Berkshire Branch ●

Covering Reading and Pangbourne:

Secretary: Lynn Harrison, 16 Ash Road, Tring, Herts HP23 4JB

Telephone: 01442 823195 **Email:** lynn.harrison@oddfellows.co.uk

Crown of England (Reading) - Tony Bonnett on 0118 987 1488

Pangbourne - Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Singing Together - Richard West on 0118 945 5831 and 07702 713288

Gentle Exercise Class - Russell Vince on 0118 954 8454

Three Counties Branch ●

Covering Reading, Tilehurst and Henley:

Secretary: Lynda Edwards

Durlston Cottage, High Street, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon RG8 9BA

Telephone: 01491 871054 **Email:** lynda.edwards@oddfellows.co.uk

Good Samaritan (Henley) - Tony Bonnett on 0118 987 1488

Princess Alexandra and Reading Get Together Social - Christine Foyle on 0118 978 3919

Henley Get Together Social - Lynda Edwards on 01491 871054

Tilehurst Social Group - Mike Scott on 0118 907 1497 and 07792 959022

Weekly Events

Singing Together

🕒 10.30am

💷 Members £2
Guests £3



Every Tuesday

Join us at our fun and relaxed singing group; no experience necessary. If you can talk you can sing and will be more than welcome! The hall will be open at 10am for tea and coffee beforehand. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated

🕒 11.15am

💷 Members £2
Guests £3



Every Thursday

Join us for some gentle exercise suitable for those from 50+; all exercises can be enjoyed seated if preferred. The hall will be open from 10.30am beforehand for tea, coffee and chat. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Russell on 0118 954 8454 for more information.



Regular Events

Art and Craft Group



10am



Members £2
Guests £3



**First and Third
Wednesday of
each month**

Please come along and join our friendly art and craft group; whether you paint, sew or craft you are welcome along. Bring your own project and materials and enjoy some like minded company and refreshments while you create. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



**3 April
17 April
1 May
15 May**

**5 June
19 June
3 July
17 July**

**7 August
21 August
4 September
18 September**

Monthly Zoom Quiz



3pm



Free



**Second
Wednesday of
each month**

Please join us for our Monthly Zoom Quiz, we can only run it with your support. Zoom Meeting ID: 854 7692 3503, hope to see you on screen. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



**10 April
8 May**

**12 June
10 July**

**14 August
11 September**

April 2024

TUES
02

Summoned Meeting & British Artisan Cheese Reading Abbey

2pm



£ Members Free, Guests £3

Come and join us for a talk by Christine Foyle with her years of experience working in the cheese making and selling industry. Please note booking is essential. Come along and sample various cheeses and meet your District Officers. Refreshments provided along with a monthly raffle. **The meeting will also be followed by the Thames and Kennet Annual Summoned Meeting, starting around 4.30pm.** All are welcome. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



WED
03

Colour Brain Pangbourne

7.30pm

£ Members £2
Guests £3



An ever popular quiz hosted by the even more popular Sue Mullard. You will be surprised how many colours you actually remember, be it a famous logo, the Olympic rings and many more! We are surrounded by colour. Come and join us for a fun evening. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

THURS
04

Meal Out Jubilee

7.30pm

£ TBC



Join the members of the Jubilee Branch for a meal out. Venue to be confirmed. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

MON
08

Quiz Night Princess Alexandra

7.30pm

£ Free



Following a business meeting we will be hosting a fun quiz game of Higher and Lower. All welcome. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES
09

Reading Concert Band Crown of England

2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Join us when we welcome back the very talented Reading Concert Band under the musical direction of Stewart Lewins. This is a very prestigious booking and an afternoon of entertainment not to be missed. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

April 2024

FRI
12

Stories Are Not Just For Children Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Locally based storyteller Fionnaghall will be coming to tell some Traditional English Tales, including some from Berkshire. You will be able to ask about the tales or the art of storytelling at the end. **Please note the change of room for this event.** Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

MON
15

Our Holiday Trip Down Under Tilehurst Social Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



Come and join us when we welcome our fellow member, Lee Waite, who will give us a presentation on her and her husband's adventures in Australia and New Zealand last year. Slides will include beaches, lakes, mountains, farming and vineyards. All welcome. Includes light refreshments and a monthly raffle. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

TUES
16

Curiosities and Memorabilia Get Together Henley

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us when we are happy to welcome back David for another talk on his many collections. This is always an interesting, fun and informative afternoon. Refreshments provided. Monthly raffle held. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

THURS
25

My First Job Get Together Reading

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us for a discussion group about your first job or career. We would like to hear about your earlier life, what did you do after leaving school? What opportunities were available to you etc? Participation not essential. Light refreshments provided along with the regular monthly raffle. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

THURS
25

Creative Crafting Britons Pride

L 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Join us for a creative evening. Let's see what creativity we have amidst our group whilst enjoying a fun, social evening. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



May

WED
01

Words and Music Pangbourne

L 7.30pm

£ Members £2
Guests £3



From poetry to panto, from Mozart to Motown, there's something for everyone in this quiz. Come along and see how you fare. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

TUES
07

Luck of the Draw Reading Abbey



L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



A game of chance - will you be a winner? A novel game of chance using cards. For a bit of fun, join us to learn to play. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

THURS
09

The Great Train Robbery Talk Jubilee

L 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Please note this is the second Thursday of May due to the hall being unavailable on Thursday 2 May. Join us when we welcome Tony Keep, a volunteer at the Thames Valley Police Museum for a talk on a crime that rocked Britain 60 years ago. The Great Train Robbery was the robbery of £2.61 million from a Royal Mail train heading from Glasgow to London when it was ambushed in Buckinghamshire. This is one not to be missed. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

FRI
10

Beekeeping Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come along and hear all about Matt McTernan's Beekeeping in Earley. Join us for this fascinating talk, see some bee related items which you can touch and smell and also join in with the honey challenge. One not to be missed! The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

MON
13

Treasure Hunt with Mike Princess Alexandra

L 7.30pm

£ Free



The business meeting will be followed by a challenging Treasure Hunt. All welcome. Refreshments provided plus monthly raffle.

Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



May

TUES
14

Carol of the Bells Crown of England



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Carol Wheeler will be entertaining us with her musical repertoire on her selection of hand bells. Please come along and join us for an afternoon of music. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



MON
20

Heritage Too Tilehurst Social Group



2pm



Members Free
Guests £2



Join us when we are pleased to welcome Kevin and Allan who make up the talented duo Heritage Too, for the first time to the Tilehurst Group. They play the guitar, fiddle and mandolin between them and guarantee a foot tapping afternoon; there will also be an opportunity to have a sing along as well. All welcome. Light refreshments included, along with the regular monthly raffle. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



TUES
21

Legacy Fortress For Generations Get Together Henley



2pm



Free



This afternoon we are pleased to welcome a speaker from Silvertime Legal who will give us a talk on Estate Planning, highlighting the importance of having both a Will and Lasting Powers of Attorney in place, Inheritance Tax Planning and Long-Term Care considerations. Following the talk there will be an opportunity for questions and answers. This will be a very interesting and informative talk to help those of us that need to plan for the future. All welcome. Light refreshments and monthly raffle included. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

THURS
23

Board Games Britons Pride



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



This evening we will be participating in some fun board games. Will you be a winner on the night? Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



May

THURS
30

Get Together Reading

L 2pm

£ Free



Due to the fact that a significant number of our organisers will be attending the Oddfellows Annual Movable Conference (AMC) we have reluctantly decided to cancel this meeting.

June

TUES
04

About the Multiple Sclerosis Centre Reading Abbey

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Tracy Watkins will be visiting us to give a talk on the benefits of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre based on the Oxford Road, Reading. Please join us to support Tracy and find out, more about this important centre based in our community and how it helps people living with this condition. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

WED
05

Around the World in 80 Questions Pangbourne

L 7.30pm

£ Members £2
Guests £3



We'll take you around the world in just two hours, join us to test your worldly knowledge.

The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



June

THURS
06

Supper with the District Officers Jubilee

L 7.30pm

£ Free



You are welcome to join us as we receive a visit from the District Chairman and other officers. They will each give us a brief talk on an interesting subject and we will provide everyone with supper and an evening of fun. Please come along and swell our numbers. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

MON
10

Around the World with Jean Shepherd Princess Alexandra

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us for a social evening when we are pleased to welcome back Jean Shepherd who will be giving one of her slideshow talks on her diverse travels around the world. All welcome. Refreshments included along with a monthly raffle. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

June

TUES
11

Curiosities in the Cotswolds Part 2 Crown of England



Join us when Alan Copeland entertains us with the second half of his entertaining talk on the Cotswolds, don't worry if you did not hear part one, it will not matter. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



FRI
14

The Crimes of Amelia Dyer Woodley Afternoon Group



Come along and join us when we welcome Ken Wells, a volunteer at the Thames Valley Police Museum along for a fascinating talk. Learn all about



the history of Amelia Dyer and the awful crimes she committed in Reading. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

MON
17

Hearing Dogs For The Deaf Tilehurst Social Group



Join us when we are pleased to welcome Rosemary Edginton and her Hearing Dog. Learn all about their life together and the importance and benefits of having a hearing dog. All welcome. Light refreshments provided along with the regular monthly raffle. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



TUES
18

Julia's Charity Bingo Get Together Henley



This will be a special afternoon hosted by Julia and Barbara, which will include games of bingo raising money for a nominated charity. This will be followed by a delicious afternoon tea, with lots of home-made goodies. An afternoon not to be missed. All welcome. Monthly raffle included. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.



June

THURS
27

Fish and Chips Lunch Get Together Reading



Join us when we will be holding a summer fish and chips lunch followed by light entertainment. Lunch will be served at 1pm. The regular monthly raffle will also be held. **Please book by Thursday 20 June as places are limited.** The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054 or Christine on 0118 978 3919.

July

TUES
02

Deuce at Wimbledon! Reading Abbey



It's that time of year again when the tennis greats step onto some of the most famous grass in the world. Celebrate Wimbledon with the delights of an English Cream Tea followed by indoor games. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



WED
03

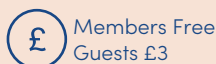
My Top Ten Pangbourne



Come prepared to find out more on the night. This could be a night to remember. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

THURS
27

Cream Tea Britons Pride



Nothing beats a good old fashioned cream tea in the summer. Are you a 'jam first' or 'cream first' kind of person? Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



July

THURS
04

Reading District Annual Charity Bowls Night

L 5.30pm

£ Bowlers £6
Guests £4



Do come along to our annual evening of bowling, followed by supper and a raffle. All proceeds made on the evening will go to our Chairman's chosen charity for the year: Camp Mowhawk-The Woodland Trust Centre. Booking is essential for catering purposes and arranging teams. Spectators and players are all welcome.

Book by Thursday 20 June. We are delighted to be attending Wokingham Bowls Club once again. Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EG. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



MON
08

District Officers Visit Princess Alexandra

L 7.30pm

£ Free



We are pleased to welcome our District Officers for their annual visit. This evening will include a formal business meeting followed by a relax and chat. Refreshments will be provided and a monthly raffle held. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

TUES
09

Travelling with a Camera Crown of England

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



You are welcome to join us when Norman Horsham entertains us with more tales about his travels with his camera. You will enjoy an interesting array of photos. Please come along, the more the merrier. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



FRI
12

Birds of Prey Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members £2
Guests £4



Come along and join us for an afternoon in the company of some magnificent birds of prey with the small family run firm who provide hands on and up close experiences with these wonderful birds. A small charge will be made for this event. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

July

MON
15

The Rhyme of Our Lives Tilehurst Social Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



We are pleased to welcome Jean Hill, a local poet and author, who will give poetry readings to make you laugh and cry; she will also prove that poetry need not be too serious or highbrow! There will also be an opportunity to purchase some of her work. All welcome. Light refreshments provided and a monthly raffle held. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



TUES
16

Play Your Cards Right Get Together Henley

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us and enjoy a game of Play Your Cards Right, a team game with a difference.



If you are unfamiliar with this game, we will be happy to teach you. Refreshments provided plus a monthly raffle held. All welcome. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

THURS
18

Picnic On The Thames Jubilee

L 7pm

£ Free



Please come along and join us as we picnic on the banks of the River Thames at Hurley. We will meet in the car park by the church at 7pm and move onto the island for our picnic, let's hope the weather is kind to us. If you have an outdoor activity you would like to bring and share with us all, please bring it along. If it is raining we can meet at the pub instead! **Please note change of date and time.** Hurley Car Park by church, High Street, Hurley SL6 5NB. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.

THURS
25

Who Said That? Get Together Reading

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us to test your knowledge of quotations. Can you remember who said what? This will be an afternoon to look back into the past and challenge your memory. Light refreshments and monthly raffle included. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

July

THURS
25

Walk and Picnic Britons Pride



7pm



Free



Location to be confirmed for this and **please note the change of time.** Put on your comfy shoes and pack yourself a delicious picnic. We are hoping the summer will be kind to us this evening for a lovely evening stroll amongst friends. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



August

TUES
06

Beetle Drive Reading Abbey



2pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Join us for this fun game, not sure how to play? Don't worry we are happy to show you. Light refreshments provided along with a monthly raffle. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.



August

THURS
01

An Evening of Fun and Games Jubilee



7.30pm



Members Free
Guests £3



Join us for the evening when fun and games will be organised for your enjoyment. Please come

along and swell our numbers, the more the merrier. St Peters Church, St Peter's Road, Furze Platt, Maidenhead SL6 7QU. Contact Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



WED
07

Table Top Car Rally Pangbourne



7.30pm



Members £2
Guests £3



Help your team follow the clues as you drive around the country in search of your final destination. Where might you end up from the comfort of your chair? The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.

August

FRI **09** **Tom Way Photography** **Woodley Afternoon Group**

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come and join us when we welcome along Tom Way for an afternoon of Wildlife around the World. See and hear all about Tom's experiences and see his photography. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.

MON **12** **Clive's Pub Quiz** **Princess Alexandra**

L 7.30pm

£ Free



For those who enjoy a challenging quiz this is a team game not to be missed, join us and test yourself. All are welcome. Refreshments provided along with the regular monthly raffle. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.



TUES **13** **Annual Pub Quiz** **Crown of England**

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us for a fun afternoon at our annual pub quiz, don't worry we will get our heads together and play in teams. The quiz will be prepared and presented by our very own Terry Butcher and we promise it will not be too hard! Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.

MON **19** **Who Said That?** **Tilehurst Social Group**

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £2



How good are you at remembering famous catch phrases? Come along and find out how many catch phrases and historical inspirational words you can put a name to, in a friendly fun packed quiz. All welcome, Light refreshments provided. Monthly raffle held. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.

“Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn.”

Clark Gable

TUES **20** **Get Together Henley**

L 2pm

£ Free



Join us for our regular monthly meeting. Further details to follow. Refreshments provided plus a monthly raffle. All welcome. The Christ Church United Reformed Church, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1AG. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

August

THURS
22

Holiday Memories Britons Pride

7.30pm

Members Free
Guests £3



Join us to share holiday experiences, be they in Devon, the Cotswolds, Blackpool or far flung places like New Zealand, Thailand or Oman? We would love to hear about your adventures, feel free to bring along a photo or two. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.



THURS
29

Table Top Games Get Together Reading

2pm

Free



Come and test your skills this afternoon with a variety of table top games. All welcome. Light refreshments provided. Monthly raffle. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

September

ODDFELLOWS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



TUES
03

Kennet and Avon Canal Talk Reading Abbey

2pm

Members Free
Guests £3



Jean Sheppard returns to give us another talk. This time on the local Kennet and Avon Canal, which has been an integral part of this area for so many years. There is bound to be something new to learn. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Fiona on 0118 954 8454.

WED
04

Mexican Train Pangbourne

7.30pm

Members £2
Guests £3



A fun table top game of Mexican Train returns by popular request, come along and join us for a fun evening. The Elephant Hotel, Church Road, Pangbourne RG8 7AR. Contact Richard on 0118 945 5831.



September

**ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH**
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



MON
09

Antiques World
Princess Alexandra

L 7.30pm

£ Free



Join us for a social evening when we are pleased to be able to once again welcome



David who will be giving us one of his very interesting and informative talks on antiques. This will be followed by a relax and chat. Refreshments provided along with the monthly raffle. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Christine on 0118 978 3919.

FRI
13

My Alan Titchmarsh
Experience
Woodley Afternoon Group

L 2pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



Come and join us when we welcome back Jean Sheppard. This time she will be talking about her experiences of appearing live on the Alan Titchmarsh show.

Photographs and mementoes illustrate this

'Behind the scenes' look at how a TV programme is planned, produced and transmitted. The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road (Opposite the Shopping Precinct), Woodley, Reading, Berkshire RG5 4JZ. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073.



Image by Tattyblack and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

TUES
10

Friendship Month Annual Afternoon Tea
Crown of England

L 2pm

£ £3



Join us for an afternoon of fun and food as we celebrate Friendship Month. We will also be welcoming our District Chairman and other officers along so please help make this event a success. Book by Tuesday 3 September. Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Tony on 0118 987 1488.



**FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT**
Invite a friend

September

ODDFELLOWS

FRIENDSHIP MONTH

1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



SAT
14

Annual Dinner Dance



6.30pm



Members £30
Guests £32



Why not come along to our Annual Dinner Dance. It's a great evening out, with good food and music, along with great company! An opportunity to dress up and join in a fun evening.

Please book by Monday 19 August with Karen.

Event to be held at the Holiday Inn Reading South, M4 Junction 11, Basingstoke Road, Reading RG2 0SL. Rooms can be booked using the **Block Code G1N**. £95 per person B&B and £105 twin occupancy B&B. **Please note payments are non-refundable.** Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073 for details.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Invite a friend

MON
16

The History of The Oddfellows Tilehurst Social Group



2pm



Free



Come along and learn about the history of the oldest and largest non-political, non-religious friendly society in the United Kingdom.

Where did the name originate from; what are the benefits of being a member and how many new friends can you make? We can answer all your questions. All welcome. Light refreshments provided and a monthly raffle held. Free to everyone. United Reformed Church, Armour Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 6HN. Contact Mike on 0118 907 1497.



TUES
17

Friendship Month Sing Along Concert



10.30am



Free



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT
Join the fun

Open to all. Please come along and support this morning as our Singing Group will perform a selection of their current songs plus a few for you to join in and sing along with if you fancy. With light refreshments to follow. Why not bring along a friend or two? Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact District on 0118 957 3354.

September

TUES
17

Cruise On The Thames Get Together Henley

L 2pm

£ TBC



We are hoping to arrange a one hour cruise on the River Thames from Hobbs of Henley Boat House.



Costs and timings to be confirmed when further information is available. **Book by Tuesday 10 September.** Hobbs of Henley, The Boat Yard, Station Road, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1AS. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054.

THURS
26

Taste Challenge Britons Pride

L 7.30pm

£ Members Free
Guests £3



How good are your tastebuds? Come along and join in the taste challenge... it can often



be surprising how good you are at this. Thatcham Memorial Hall, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham RG18 3HF. Contact Joyce on 07483 119404.

THURS
26

Friendship Month Beetle Drive Get Together Reading

L 2pm

£ Free



Come and join us for a quick and quirky beetle drive. Not sure how to play, we can teach you.

Bring a friend along too. All welcome. Light refreshments and monthly raffle included. The Oddfellows Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Contact Lynda on 01491 871054 or Christine on 0118 978 3919.



FRIENDSHIP
MONTH
EVENT

Invite a friend

Join the fun in Friendship Month

Make someone's day and invite them along to share the friendship fun

All welcome

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



To see what's on and find out more about Friendship Month visit www.friendshipmonth.com

Reading News

Annual Dinner Dance

September is always a busy month! We hold a few events for new and prospective members. It is also time for our annual Dinner Dance. It was held at the Mercure Grange Hotel, Thatcham on 9 September and proved to be a great evening. 56 members attended and we enjoyed being entertained by the talented Iain Bailey, who some of you might have seen at our Woodley event previously. He intrigued us with some very close up magic.

This was followed by a delicious three course meal and then Stuart Wright from The Events Lounge had many of us dancing the night away. Those who were not up for a dance enjoyed the evening catching up with friends from both within our District and beyond. We were delighted that Andrew Pooley the President of Southern Group Conference and his wife Jennifer were able to join us, it was great to catch up with them.



Kim Facer attended representing the Motor Neurone Disease Association, Reading and West Berkshire, our Chairman Fiona Vince's nominated charity for this year. She emphasised what amazing people she has met, both volunteers and families living with MND, and what a support the local charity is for them. We were pleased that our raffle raised £280 for the charity. Many thanks to those who contributed to raise this amount, and brought along raffle prizes. Thank you to all involved and to Karen for organising the evening, and to our stand in toast master Jean Baldwin.

A Helping Hand...

Interested in helping at any of the events offered by the Oddfellows?

It takes a team to arrange and manage all of the Oddfellows events: From booking speakers and musicians, to supplying refreshments, running the raffle and

even those attending to help make our event a success. Any support is gratefully received. Please speak to your event organiser or call Debbie on 0118 957 3354.



Friendship Month

Wednesday 20 September – a successful day introducing new and prospective members to Oddfellows events.



Chairman's Nominated Charity



Camp Mohawk

The Woodland Centre Trust

Registered charity no. 1202580

Our Chairman for the year, 2024–2025, Marilyn Hayward has named Camp Mowhawk, The Woodland Centre Trust as her nominated charity for the year ahead.

This charity is set in five acres of beautiful countryside just outside Wargrave in Berkshire. Throughout the year the centre provides a range of activities and facilities (both inside and out), and a secure natural space to encourage children with special needs to play, socialise and learn, in a caring environment. Their vision is for children

and young people with special needs arising from physical or developmental disability to receive the support necessary to realise their full potential as valued individuals.

To be openly accepted without prejudice or judgement. Children, young people and their families are welcomed to a positive and uplifting environment that accepts and welcomes them all.

Marilyn would be delighted if you are able to support this worthy cause, either by donating or having a collection box or participating in our raffles. Please contact us here at Reading District Oddfellows 0118 9573354 with any queries. For more details about this charity take a look at their website www.campmohawk.org.uk.

Trip to Torquay, Devon



On Monday 23 October 50 members boarded a coach at the usual pick-up points (Oddfellows Hall or Woodley) and set off to Torquay. They arrived safely and settled into their very comfortable surroundings.

The forecast that week had promised rain but thankfully it came mostly when they were safely in the dry! The sun came out often and made it a very enjoyable trip. The South Devon Railway train ride was a highlight with a very bubbly man running the buffet car to provide entertainment along the way. The boat trip from Exmouth on the River Exe also proved very popular. They also had the option to

visit Buckfast Abbey and Plymouth and once again both outings were popular.

Their evenings were spent being entertained by singers and comedians, with some bingo thrown in. All too soon it was time to head home. If you haven't been on one of our holidays, think about joining us for our trip to Llandrindod Wells from 29 September to 3 October. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073 for more details.



Shillingford Bridge Christmas Lunch

Sunday 3 December on the banks of the River Thames, Three Counties Branch hosted their Christmas Lunch at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel. Traditionally held here so its easy for any ex Thames Valley Lodge members to attend-it provides a lovely setting.

Everyone was welcomed with a glass of mulled wine, and proceeded to sit down together and enjoy a three course meal. It proved to be a most successful afternoon



and the great offerings from the raffle raised £105 towards our Chairman's charity MNDA. Many thanks to David and Pat Lang for organising this popular event.

Children's Christmas Party

On Saturday 2 December many members enjoyed yet another great Christmas Party with Silly Scott's entertainment. As usual all the decorations were up in time for our favourite attendee of the day, and everyone's favourite-Father Christmas!

22 children joined in this year, with a few new faces which is always good to see. If you have any grandchildren that might like to attend later this year, please let them know. The party will take place on 7 December. The children and adults alike enjoyed Silly Scott's magic and games. His rabbit is always a big hit with the children. Thank you to all those who contributed to the raffle, this year it raised an amazing



£64.70 towards our Chairman's charity, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Reading and West Berkshire. The party is free for all members and £15 for any friends they might want to bring along. Children of all ages are welcome and it's always a fun afternoon. Contact Karen on 0118 959 4073 for details.

Royal Albert Hall Carols Trip

On Thursday 21 December 50 members boarded a coach to the Royal Albert Hall to attend the Friendship Matinee of Carols. It was the perfect performance just before Christmas to get everyone in a festive mood.

The trip proved to be popular and tickets went quickly. It seems that everyone

thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The trip was finished off with a most enjoyable lunch at the Toby Carvery in Langley. A delicious roast dinner followed by a selection of desserts. Thanks to Karen, our social organiser for all her organising to get everyone there at such a busy time and to all those who joined us to make it such a successful trip.



Society-funded cancer research on track

The Centre for Cancer Immunology, current beneficiaries of the Society's HA Andrews Memorial Fund, recently received its second donation instalment.



Nur updating AMC last year

The Centre, based at the University of Southampton, was chosen as the recipient of the £100,000 grant, split over three years, in 2022. The money is sponsoring the PhD studies of Nur Zainal, who is looking into a specific gene which it is believed can be manipulated to target cancer cells in a new vaccine.

Nur's first year

The first year of Nur's studies has been spent preparing for the execution of her PhD project over the next three years. She has been learning appropriate techniques, skills and procedures, as well as being introduced to theories and connecting with relevant research groups.

Nur, who travelled to the UK from Malaysia with her family to undertake the PhD, said: "I believe the invaluable experiences and knowledge I have acquired over the past year have equipped me to be a more productive and capable student.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Oddfellows for their support in making my studies possible."

On the right path

Some of Nur's work on 3D cell culture – growing cancer cells in a way that more closely resembles the environment they experience in our bodies than traditional 2D cell culture – is included in a manuscript which will be published in a major international journal, for which she will be listed as a co-author.

Dr Tim Fenton, Associate Professor in Cancer Biology, says Nur has "excelled during her first year", adding: "We hope that Nur's studies will lead to improvements in the design of cancer



Dr Tim Fenton

vaccines, which is a key theme in the work being undertaken at the Centre for Cancer Immunology here in Southampton."

HA Andrews Memorial Fund

The Fund provides financial support to UK-based medical research projects or organisations. For more information about the Fund, and how you can donate, go to www.oddfellows.co.uk/ha-andrews

Our fantastic four

Congratulations to 2023's First Degree Course Educational Awards winners. George, Benedict, Jamie and Charlotte will each receive £3,600 over the next four years of their respective university courses to help ease the financial pressures of student life and create opportunities.

George LeBon

Heart of Norfolk
Branch member

George began his studies at the University of Southampton in September 2023 – a four-year course in Computer Science with Cybersecurity.



His dream job is to become a “white hat hacker”, which he explained is someone who is “hired by companies to try and hack into their databases and report back the vulnerabilities”.

He says he and his family were overjoyed to discover he'd be receiving the funding and has thanked the Society, adding: “It will go towards buying textbooks so I can enhance my knowledge further and better understand the industry that I want to work in.”

Benedict Weis

Leodis Branch member

Benedict hasn't yet decided what his ideal future job role might be. He is studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen's University Belfast and hopes a career path might become clearer over the next few years.

Since starting in September 2023, Benedict has joined the University's rowing club and the money will help him pay for training camps and trips, which he says will allow him to study more effectively without worrying as much about his finances.



“I would like to thank the Oddfellows for the award and just to say how grateful I am for it,” he said.

Jamie Messett

Loyal Lord Byron
Branch member

Jamie started his first of four years of Chemistry at the University of Oxford's Balliol College in October 2023, and will put the money towards



learning materials. He would like his future to be in the pharmaceutical industry, but a PhD and a career in research is also a potential avenue.

He said: "Nobody should underestimate how valuable funding can be towards determining how well a student performs.

"I would like to thank everyone involved in helping me with this award, and also everyone involved with providing the funding."

Charlotte Stevenson,

Pride of Woolwich
Branch member

Charlotte started her four-year course in Physics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford's Brasenose College in October 2023.

She is hoping to do a PhD in astrophysics and then continue researching within the field beyond that.



The funding will allow her to take part in unpaid research programmes during university holidays, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and food, as well as contributing to the cost of textbooks and other resources. She said: "This award will be an immense help throughout my degree and I'm so, so grateful to have received it."

Grand Master (Chairman) of the Society, Barbara Needham, said: "Ordinarily, we hand out three First Degree Course Educational Awards each year, but such was the strength of the applications of this year's winners that we felt they all deserved the financial boost. "I'm delighted for all four of them, and I wish them every success over the next few years at university and beyond."

For more information and T&Cs, visit www.oddfellows.co.uk/educational-awards

Striving for a greener future

The Oddfellows is committed to being as green as possible. That's why we've been calculating and offsetting our annual carbon footprint since 1 April 2020.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 106.38 tonnes of CO₂e was recorded as being produced through the operations of our Liverpool and Manchester offices and associated transport activities, which includes our financial services brand, Unity Mutual.

Although this figure is up 5.4% on the previous year, benchmarked against employee numbers, carbon emissions have remained almost constant (up 0.2%).



The Oddfellows' CEO, Jane Nelson, said: "Our focus is to keep learning through our assessments and to make incremental changes to the way we operate so we can bring our greenhouse gas emissions down and play our part in tackling climate change."

The Society's aim is to be Net Zero, where our carbon emissions are as low as possible. As a last resort, we have offset our 2022-23 carbon footprint by funding carbon dioxide-saving initiatives, including in Eritrea, Cambodia, Brazil, Bulgaria and India.

Jane added: "Climate change is real. It's the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced. But there is hope, because we can all do something about it."

Investing in futures

Unity Mutual discovered a genuine interest in its children's savings accounts – a topic many grandparents and parents hadn't considered before – while at the 2023 Baby and Toddler Show in Manchester.

The Junior ISA (JISA), offered in partnership with Mini First Aid to include a free paediatric first aid course*, turned heads, especially when parents realised once they'd set it up, anyone could contribute.



Unity Mutual at the Baby and Toddler show

Unity Mutual's Head of Sales and Marketing, Abi Jones, said: "No more brainstorming gift ideas for that first birthday or Christmas – a shared investment in a secure future sparked enthusiasm. Because, sometimes, the best gifts are the ones that grow over time."

*T&Cs apply.

Oddfellows Members

Do you need help?



None of us know what is around the corner...

Local Care and Welfare Support

To request contact from a Welfare Visitor and for local help and information about Branch benefits and benevolence contact Debbie on **0118 957 3354** or email **debbie.jex@oddfellows.co.uk**

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line

Call 0800 0149 821*

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Email: oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk



Run by Citizens Advice for Oddfellows members, you can access free, confidential, independent advice on welfare benefits, money and debt issues, consumer problems, housing, fuel bills, employment issues and many other issues.

*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.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Call 0800 0149 822

(free to callers from any landline or mobile number)

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

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

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

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

EDCWA50223

At a glance

Regular Events

Every Tuesday	Singing Together	10.30am
Every Thursday	Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am

April 2024

Tues 2	Summoned Meeting & British Artisan Cheese (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 3	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 3	Colour Brain (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Thurs 4	Meal Out (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Mon 8	Quiz Night (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 9	Reading Concert Band (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 10	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Fri 12	Stories Are Not Just For Children (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 15	Our Holiday Trip Down Under (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 16	Curiosities and Memorabilia (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 17	Art and Craft Group	10am
Thurs 25	My First Job (Get Together Reading)	2pm
Thurs 25	Creative Crafting (Britons Pride)	7.30pm

May

Wed 1	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 1	Words and Music (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Tues 7	Luck of the Draw (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 8	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Thurs 9	The Great Train Robbery Talk (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Fri 10	Beekeeping (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 13	Treasure Hunt with Mike (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 14	Carol of the Bells (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 15	Art and Craft Group	10am
Mon 20	Heritage Too (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 21	Legacy Fortress For Generations (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Thurs 23	Board Games (Britons Pride)	7.30pm

June

Tues 4	About the Multiple Sclerosis Centre (Reading Abbey)	2pm
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At a glance

Regular Events

Every Tuesday	Singing Together	10.30am
Every Thursday	Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am

June

Wed 5	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 5	Around the World in 80 Questions (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Thurs 6	Supper with the District Officers (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Mon 10	Around the World with Jean Shepherd (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 11	Curiosities in the Cotswolds Part 2 (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 12	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Fri 14	The Crimes of Amelia Dyer (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 17	Hearing Dogs For The Deaf (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 18	Julia's Charity Bingo (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 19	Art and Craft Group	10am
Thurs 27	Fish and Chips Lunch (Get Together Reading)	1pm
Thurs 27	Cream Tea (Britons Pride)	7.30pm

July

Tues 2	Deuce at Wimbledon! (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 3	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 3	My Top Ten (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Thurs 4	Reading District Annual Charity Bowls Evening	5.30pm
Mon 8	District Officers Visit (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 9	Travelling with a Camera (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 10	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Fri 12	Birds of Prey (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 15	The Rhyme of Our Lives (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 16	Play Your Cards Right (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 17	Art and Craft Group	10am
Thurs 18	Picnic On The Thames (Jubilee)	7pm
Thurs 25	Who Said That? (Get Together Reading)	2pm
Thurs 25	Walk and Picnic (Britons Pride)	7pm

At a glance

Regular Events

Every Tuesday	Singing Together	10.30am
Every Thursday	Gentle Exercise Class, Standing and Seated	11.15am

August

Thurs 1	An Evening of Fun and Games (Jubilee)	7.30pm
Tues 6	Beetle Drive (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 7	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 7	Table Top Car Rally (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Fri 9	Tom Way Photography (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Mon 12	Clive's Pub Quiz (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 13	Annual Pub Quiz (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 14	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Mon 19	Who Said That? (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 20	Get Together Henley (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 21	Art and Craft Group	10am
Thurs 22	Holiday Memories (Britons Pride)	7.30pm
Thurs 29	Table Top Games (Get Together Reading)	2pm

September - Friendship Month

Tues 3	Kennet and Avon Canal Talk (Reading Abbey)	2pm
Wed 4	Art and Craft Group	10am
Wed 4	Mexican Train (Pangbourne)	7.30pm
Mon 9	Antiques World (Princess Alexandra)	7.30pm
Tues 10	Friendship Month Annual Afternoon Tea (Crown of England)	2pm
Wed 11	Monthly Zoom Quiz	3pm
Fri 13	My Alan Titchmarsh Experience (Woodley Afternoon Group)	2pm
Sat 14	Annual Dinner Dance	6.30pm
Mon 16	The History of The Oddfellows (Tilehurst Social Group)	2pm
Tues 17	Friendship Month Sing Along Concert	10.30am
Tues 17	Cruise On The Thames (Get Together Henley)	2pm
Wed 18	Art and Craft Group	10am
Thurs 26	Friendship Month Beetle Drive (Get Together Reading)	2pm
Thurs 26	Taste Challenge (Britons Pride)	7.30pm

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated and registered in England and Wales No. 223F.
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