

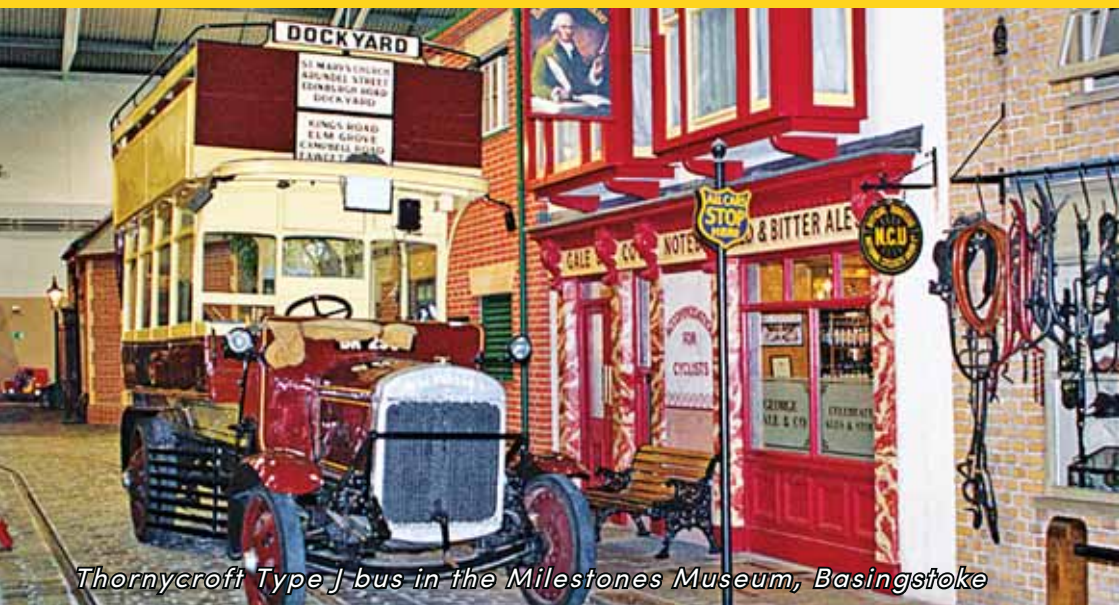
October 2026 – March 2027
Issue 15



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

out & about

Concord Branch



Thornycroft Type J bus in the Milestones Museum, Basingstoke

Covering West Surrey and North East Hampshire



Book Club



Bowling



Travel



Shopping



Crafts



Theatre



Social



Dining Out



Quizzes



Talks



Coffee Morning/
Afternoon Tea



Concord's Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 6 March 2027 at The Hogs Back Hotel & Spa, Farnham. We hope to see you there.

Welcome to the 15th edition of our combined Out and About Events Diary and Newsletter for Concord Branch

As a local Branch of a national membership organisation called The Oddfellows, we offer you a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities. We also provide our members with a range of advice and support services when you need them. We are a group of people brought together through a shared interest in socialising, making friends and helping people. This issue features details of all our upcoming events, from coffee mornings to interesting trips out, plus lots of other activities.

Everyone is welcome at Oddfellows' events, even if you are not a member. We extend an invitation to you and your friends to attend any of our events that take your fancy. We know

Contact Details

Social Organiser: Tracey Lawson

Tracey is responsible for planning and coordinating our events.

Telephone: 07388 871260

Email: concord@oddfellows.co.uk

Normal working hours:

Wednesday 9am–1pm, Thursday and Friday 9am–3pm

District Secretary: Steph Hopes

Steph is responsible for the day-to-day running of our Branch, monthly accounts, Care and Welfare claims, minuting meetings and administration.

Address: 4 Montrose Close, Fleet GU51 3XB

Telephone: 07312 115323

Email:

steph.hopes@oddfellows.co.uk

Normal Working Hours: Monday to Wednesday 8am – 4pm

We are both flexible workers: if there is no reply, please do leave your name, number and a short message.

Find us on Facebook:

f Concord Oddfellows

you will have a good time. Let us know you are coming and we'll look out for you. We hope that after attending our events you will see the benefits of joining our caring organisation.

Find out more at www.oddfellows.co.uk or call 0800 028 1810.

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

Regular Events

Aldershot Coffee Mornings



**First Monday
of the Month**

We are very excited to have the West End Centre as one of our regular venues. It has been billed as the creative heart of Aldershot for more than 45 years, so please join us here for coffee and conversation at 10.30am on the first Monday of every month (except bank holidays). Not only will we make new friends, but we can become familiar with all the exciting activities this centre has to offer. To find us, we will be just inside the door in the main bar area. Plenty of free parking – don't forget to put your car registration at the bar on arrival. West End Centre, 48 Queen's Road, Aldershot GU11 3JD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

**5 October
2 November**

**7 December
4 January 2027**

**1 February
1 March**

Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club



**Third Monday
of the month**

Come along and join fellow members, including Lynda and Anne, who will be hosting this regular 'Cuppa Club' on the third Monday of the month. Enjoy the company and a chat over some wonderful home-made treats and a cuppa for just £3. Please let us know if you are coming, so we can save you a space. Rowhill Nature Reserve, Rowhill Field Centre, 120 Cranmore Lane, Aldershot, Surrey GU11 3BD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

**19 October
16 November**

**21 December
18 January 2027**

**15 February
15 March**

Fleet Coffee and Conversation



**Fourth Monday
of the Month**

Come and join us at our popular regular event at this iconic pub in the heart of Fleet town. In this relaxed environment, catch up with old friends and welcome some new ones. To find us, look for the yellow Oddfellows table sign and listen for the buzz of conversation! Plenty of free parking – don't forget to log your car registration at the bar on arrival. Bus stop right outside (Number 10, Number 7). Do let us know if you are coming along and we will know to look out for you. Always the fourth Monday of the month. Do check with us if it is a bank holiday! The Oatsheaf, 2 Crookham Road, Fleet GU51 5DR. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

**26 October
23 November**

**28 December
25 January 2027**

**22 February
22 March**

Regular Events

Farnham Dine Around



Fourth Tuesday of
the month

Join your host Nick for brunch or lunch at our new regular Dine Around in Farnham. On the last Tuesday of the month we will meet in a local establishment for a bite to eat and a natter. Booking essential so the table can be organised. Book at least five days in advance. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

27 October, 12.30pm - Daniele Sicilian Restaurant, Lower Hale, Farnham, Surrey GU9 9RP.

23 February, 1pm - The Lost Boy Pub, 3 Downing Street, Farnham GU9 7NX.

24 November, 1pm - The Castle, 5 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7HR.

23 March, 10.30am - Bill's, 6-7 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7HR.

26 January, 1pm - Pizza Express, 74 Castle Street, Farnham GU9 7LS.

Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking



First Wednesday
of the Month

Come and enjoy a leisurely cuppa and good conversation in the calm, welcoming atmosphere of this lovely garden centre. Look out for the yellow and blue Oddfellows table cloth; your host Tracey will be there to welcome you. Squires Garden Centre, Littlewick Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4XR. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

7 October

2 December

3 February

4 November

6 January 2027

3 March

Book Club and Lunch



First Wednesday
of the Month

Are you a book lover? You are welcome to join us at our monthly book club accompanied by a light lunch. This is a bookable event which costs £10 for members and £12 for guests. There is a WhatsApp group set up to liaise with book club regulars - if you wish to be added, please ask your host, Bruce. Crookham War Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet GU52 8LD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

7 October

2 December

3 February

4 November

6 January 2027

3 March

Regular Events

Fleet Dine Around



**Second Wednesday
of the month**

Join us for lunch as we continue on our regular Dine Arouns in Fleet and the local area. On the second Wednesday of the month we will meet in a local establishment for a bite to eat and a natter. Booking essential so the table can be organised. Book at least five days in advance. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

14 October, 12.30pm – Sorrento
Restaurant, 33 Reading Road South,
Fleet GU52 7UP.

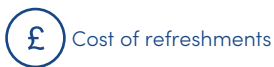
11 November, 12.30pm – The Kara
Lounge and Grill, 335 Fleet Road, Fleet
GU51 3NT.

13 January, 12.30pm – Station Ember
Inn Pub, 1 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3QJ.

10 February, 12.30pm – Fox and
Hounds, 71 Crookham Road, Church
Crookham, Fleet GU51 5NP.

10 March, 12.30pm – The White Lion,
104–108 Reading Road, Yateley,
Hampshire GU46 7RX.

Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning



**Third Wednesday
of the Month**

Why not come and make new friends and have a natter in the lovely Bush Hotel at Farnham? Come when you can, go when you must. The Bush Hotel, The Borough, Farnham GU9 7NN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

21 October
18 November

16 December
20 January 2027

17 February
17 March

Book Group (with a difference)



**Fourth Wednesday
of the Month**

Come along and join your host Trish for this new monthly book group with a difference! The difference? We will read one (or maybe two) short stories every month, instead of a novel. We will therefore have time to talk about not only the plot, characters and themes, but to consider the ways in which the authors had decided to organise the structure of their stories. After, say, a year of sessions, you may even be inspired to write your own short story! Station Ember Inn Pub, 1 Fleet Road, Fleet GU51 3QJ. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

28 October
25 November

27 January 2027
24 February

24 March

Regular Events

Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers



9am



£12



Every Thursday

Join us and make something beautiful! Please join our member Sharon at this regular weekly event. There is embroidery, traditional needle crafts and chat. All abilities are welcome. Sessions run from 9am to 3pm and are held at Victoria Hall. For just £12 a session, refreshments and cakes are provided. Please either bring a packed lunch with you or you can order sandwiches from the local bakery on the day. There is free car parking on site and a free car park opposite the hall. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. To book your place please contact Sharon on 07825 266377. A list of class requirements will be sent to you upon booking.

Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up



10.30am



Cost of refreshments



Second Thursday
of the month

Pop along and join us at this new relaxed get-together over a cuppa at the Tesco Café. It's a great chance to catch up, have a chat and enjoy good company. Look out for the yellow and blue Oddfellows table cloth; your host Tracey will be there to welcome you. Tesco Café, The Meadows, Marshall Road, College Town, Sandhurst GU47 0FD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

8 October
12 November

10 December
14 January 2027

11 February
11 March

Dave's Charity Quiz



7.30pm



£5 cash on the door



Various Fridays

Join our team and help us win first place, at the same time as raising lots of money for various charities. Quiz costs £5 per person, plus raffle money - cash only please. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please let us know by the Wednesday before if you are coming so we can reserve enough spaces. Victoria Hall, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Aldershot GU12 5DN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

16 October - RSPCA
13 November - Royal British Legion
18 December - Mencap
8 January - Local Food Bank

29 January - Local Citizens Advice
19 February - British Heart Foundation
12 March - Sasha's Project

Regular Events

Basingstoke Coffee Morning



**First Friday
of the month
Not Bank Holidays**

Come and join us at this new regular coffee morning in Basingstoke, make new friends and have a natter. Parking is free for two hours and it's only a short walk from the bus stops and train station. Tracey will be your host. Let us know if you are coming, so that we can look out for you. Waitrose Café, Waitrose and Partners, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4YY. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

**2 October
6 November**

**4 December
8 January 2027**

**5 February
5 March**

Alton Coffee and Cakes



**Third Thursday
of the month**

Join Bruce at Alton Community Centre, where we will meet in the café and sample the excellent value drinks and food over a catch up! Whether you want just a drink, or a full meal, the chef is very friendly and the fare is fantastic! Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can book enough table space. Regency Café, Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

**15 October
19 November**

**17 December
21 January 2027**

**18 February
18 March**

Sound Bath with Lotus Moon



Various Sundays

Have you ever been to a sound bath? It's a fabulous form of relaxation and rebalances the body. It works on vibration at a cellular level, as the body is made up of 70% water (think of ripples on a pond). Do wear comfortable clothes. Spaces are limited, so please let Steph know as soon as possible if you would like to come or need any help to get there. Sound bath lasts for approximately one hour. Book at least 12 days in advance. The Coach House Café and Coffee Shop, The Street, Crookham Village GU51 5SJ. Contact Steph on 07312 115323.

**4 October
15 November**

**13 December
31 January 2027**

**28 February
14 March**

October 2026

MON
12

Guest Speaker: Home Fire Safety Talk

L 11.30am

£ Members £1,
Guests £3



Join us at 11.30am for tea and coffee followed by a talk from a Community Safety Officer, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



THURS
22

Farnborough Airport Tour

L 10am

£ Free



Join fellow Oddfellows members for a free tour of Farnborough Airport, including a



presentation about the history, current operations, a tour of one of the hangars and the terminal. Due to the nature of the operations at the airport, aspects of the tour may be different on the day. Refreshments will also be provided during the presentation. Free parking is available. We require a minimum of 15 members for the tour to take place. Book by Thursday 8 October 2026. Farnborough Airport, Business Aviation Centre, Farnborough GU14 6XA. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

FRI
23

Comedy Night in Yateley

L 7.30pm

£ £16



You are promised a top line-up of fabulous comedians from the UK comedy circuit for an evening filled with fun and laughter. Get those chuckle muscles warmed up for a wonderful night of entertainment. 16+ only. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature. Doors and bar at 7pm. Show at 8pm. Please contact us for more information and keep any eye out for future dates! Book by Tuesday 20 October 2026. Starburst Studios, Yateley Village Hall, Old School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NG. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

October

SAT 24 Dinner Dance (with Reading District)

 6.30pm  Members £33, Guests £35 

In addition to our own dinner dance in March, Concord Branch is joining up with Reading for their annual dinner dance at the Holiday Inn, Reading in October. We will enjoy a three course meal followed by freshly brewed tea or coffee. Put your gladrags on and enjoy an evening amidst friends.

After the meal dance the night away with our friendly DJ. Please book directly by Friday 25 September 2026. Rooms can be booked via the hotel or online. Please note payments are non-refundable. Holiday Inn Reading South, M4 Junction 11, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0SL.

Please contact Karen Dyke on 0118 959 4073 or email karen.dyke@oddfellows.co.uk.

THURS 29 TenPin Bowling - Camberley

 7pm  £10 

Join us for a couple of games of tenpin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and prepayment is required by Wednesday 21 October 2026. Hosted by Nick, Thursday's deal will include two games and a burger meal. Tenpin, No 8, The Atrium, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



November

MON 09 Guest Speaker: Blue Lamp Trust

 11.30am  Members £1, Guests £3 

Join us at 11.30am for tea and coffee followed by a talk from the Blue Lamp Trust who work hand in hand with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, local councils, health professionals and community partners to deliver free home and internet safety services - Safe Home and Safe Online. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

THURS 19 An Introduction to Chair Yoga in aid of our Charity of the Year

 12.15pm  Members £5, Guests £8 

Join us for a relaxed one-hour introduction to chair yoga with a qualified instructor, supporting Sasha's Project, our charity of the year. Suitable for all abilities, this gentle session can help improve flexibility, balance and wellbeing. Afterwards, enjoy tea, coffee and friendly conversation. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring water. Nearest parking in The Meads Shopping Centre car park. Parking is free if you bring your ticket to the yoga studio. Hosted by Nick. Book by Thursday 5 November 2026. Love Your Studio, Unit 60-62 Kingsmead, Farnborough GU14 7SL. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

November

FRI
20

The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery Basingstoke



11am



Cost of
refreshments



Come and join us for a stroll around The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery which is housed in this impressive building that was once Basingstoke's Town Hall. Explore the local history of Basingstoke and browse the regularly changing exhibits in the Sainsbury Gallery. Entry is free and we can finish off our morning with refreshments in the museum café. Tracey will be your host. Book by Friday 13 November 2026. The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery, Market Place, Basingstoke RG21 7QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



Image by Sebastian Ballard, ShareAlike 4.0 International

WED
25

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and Lunch, Rowhill



10.30am



Members £15,
Guests £18



If you are feeling crafty this Christmas, come along and make a beautiful wreath for your door at Rowhill Nature Reserve, which is set in 55 acres of beautiful ancient woodland and is the source of the River Blackwater. Jackie will keep us warm and toasty with mid morning tea and coffee and a hearty home-made soup, roll and cake for lunch. Cost includes all materials, wreath and hot lunch. Do let us know if you want us to save you a spot. Minimum of 10 people required (20 places maximum). Book by Sunday 25 October 2026. Rowhill Nature Reserve, Cranmore Lane, Farnham/Aldershot, Surrey GU11 3BD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

December



TUES
08

Concord Christmas Lunch at The Gallery Restaurant, Farnborough



12 noon



£24



Celebrate the festive season with us at Farnborough Tech's own Gallery Restaurant, for a delicious Christmas lunch in a warm and welcoming atmosphere (please note 12 noon start time). Enjoy a fantastic festive menu, great company, and plenty of Christmas cheer. Places are limited, so please don't miss out, book early to avoid disappointment. Book by Friday 23 October 2026. The Gallery Restaurant, Farnborough College of Technology, Boundary Road, Farnborough GU14 6SB. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

December



FRI
11

Sleeping Beauty Christmas Panto, Aldershot

1.30pm

£16



Get into the Christmas mood and step into a world of magic, laughter and fairytale charm with Sleeping Beauty at the Princes Hall. With fabulous sets, stunning costumes, fantastic dancers, a great script and excellent songs and music! We have 16 terrace seats reserved, so please don't miss out on this popular event. Everyone is warmly welcome to gather in the The Queen Hotel, Aldershot for refreshments after the pantomime. Book by Monday 21 September 2026. Princes Hall, Aldershot GU11 1NX. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

January 2027

SUN
17

Skittles Afternoon in aid of our Charity of the Year, Fleet

12.30pm

Members £15,
Guests £18



Join us for a fun-filled skittles afternoon in aid of Sasha's Project, our charity of the year. Enjoy a friendly game of skittles, plenty of laughter and great company. A delicious hot meal is included, and there will be a licensed bar where drinks can be purchased. Friends and family are very welcome! We look forward to seeing you for an enjoyable afternoon, whilst raising money for a worthy cause. Book by Friday 18 December 2026. Fleet Social and Bowling Club, 6 Clarence Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 3RZ. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

January 2027

MON
11

Beetle Drive and Fish and Chips Lunch, Farnborough

11.30am

Cost of fish and
chips



An opportunity to have some fun and play some games in a relaxed environment. We'll be playing the ever-popular beetle drive, so do come along and join in. At 12.45pm we'll break and have a fish and chips lunch. Payment for fish and chips on the day, cash only please. Book by Wednesday 6 January 2027. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

February

FRI
05

Comedy Night in Yateley

7.30pm

£16



You are promised a top line-up of fabulous comedians from the UK comedy circuit. Show may contain themes and language of an adult nature. Doors and bar at 7pm. Show at 8pm. Please contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323 for more information and keep any eye out for future dates! Book by Tuesday 2 February 2027. Starburst Studios, Yateley Village Hall, Old School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NG.

February

MON
08

Guest Speaker: Fleet Pond Society - The History of Fleet Pond

L 11.30am

£ Members £1,
Guests £3



Join us at 11.30am for tea or coffee followed by a talk from a member of the Fleet Pond Society telling us about the history of Fleet Pond. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

SAT
13

Drumming Circle, Farnborough

L 10.15am

£ Members £8,
Guests £10



Come along and experience the uplifting power of rhythm at our friendly Drumming



Circle! Whether you are a complete beginner, or have drummed before, everyone is welcome. It will be a fun and relaxing session where you'll learn simple rhythms, make music together and discover how drumming can boost wellbeing, reduce and bring people together. The session will run for one hour, followed by refreshments. Booking and payment required by Friday 8 January 2027. All Saints Church Hall, 128 Chapel Lane, Farnborough GU14 9BL. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

THURS
18

Ten-Pin Bowling - Camberley

L 7pm

£ £10



Join us for a couple of games of ten-pin bowling at Tenpin in Camberley. Booking and prepayment is required by Wednesday 10 February 2027. Hosted by Nick, Thursday's deal will include two games and a burger meal. Tenpin, No 8, The Atrium, Camberley GU15 3GP. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

FRI
19

Visit to Chawton House, Alton

L 11am

£ £12.50



Step back in time and join us for a wonderful visit to the beautiful Chawton House and Gardens. February is an ideal time to enjoy the breathtaking display of snowdrops, a beautiful early sign of spring. Children are welcome. Cost: £12.50 for adults, £6 for children 6-16 and free for under 6 (other concessions are available, please see website for details). Payment to be made on the day at Chawton House. Tracey will be your host. Chawton House, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SJ. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.



March

SAT
06

Annual Dinner Dance at The Hog's Back Hotel & Spa near Farnham



6.30pm



Members £38,
Guests £45



Come and join us at our annual celebration dinner dance at this stunning hotel and spa. Enjoy a delicious three course meal and fabulous live entertainment. We are delighted that our guest speaker is Immediate Past Chairman of the Society, John Mann. Plenty of parking. Cash raffle: we will be raising money for Sasha's Project on the night. Accommodation: Double room, bed and breakfast only £89 and single room, bed and breakfast £79 – please ask us for the code so you can book directly with the hotel. The evening will start at 6.30pm with dinner served at 7.15pm. Carriages at midnight. Book by Friday 5 February 2027. Hog's Back Hotel & Spa, Seale, Tongham, Farnham GU10 1EX. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260 or Steph on 07312 115323.

MON
08

Guest Speaker: Local Beekeeper



11.30am



Members £1,
Guests £3



Join us at
11.30am
for tea
and coffee
followed
by a talk
from local



beekeeper and small holding owner, Carly. She'll be sharing her knowledge and experiences and will also be bringing along a selection of her home-made products, which will be available to purchase. St Mark's Church Hall, Guildford Road East/ Junction with Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6QD. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

TUES
09

The Spike Heritage Centre, Guildford



11am



£10 for adults, £8 for
concessions (over 60)



The Spike Heritage Centre tells the tale of a 'time best forgotten'. The Guildford Spike is one of the last remaining Vagrants and Casuals Ward and was part of the Guildford Union Workhouse. Join us for a tour of the heritage area of the building. The tour usually starts in the car park, where the origin of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act is discussed. It also gives the visitor an opportunity to take in the vastness of the Guildford Poor Law site which eventually extended to some 9½ acres. Tour times vary from one hour to one and half hours depending on interest after which there is an opportunity for a closer look around the building. Book by Wednesday 3 March 2027. The Spike Heritage Centre, Warren Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3JH. Contact Tracey on 07388 871260.

Discovering Ash Creative Stitchers

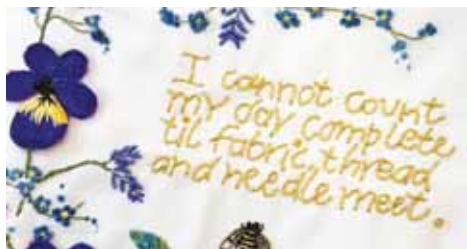
On joining The Oddfellows Concord Branch almost two years ago, I was introduced to Ash Creative Stitchers – a welcoming and inspiring group of people who share a love of stitching regardless of experience or ability.

Participants bring along their own projects and enjoy spending the day stitching in the company of others. The wealth of knowledge within the group and the willingness to share ideas and techniques makes every session enjoyable and rewarding. I have yet to come away without learning something new.

Attendance each week ranges from six to fifteen people. Some have been attending for more than five years, while others are taking their first steps into the world of embroidery and needlecraft. Whatever your level of experience there is a warm welcome.

The variety of work undertaken is vast. Participants' projects include exquisite embroidery, ribbon work, stumpwork and silk shading, alongside lace making, crochet, patchwork (my own favourite), cross stitch, tapestry and other textile crafts. It's inspiring to see the creativity of fellow stitchers.

From time to time, the group welcomes specialist tutors, including those trained at the Royal School of Needlework, to teach techniques such as goldwork, whitework and bead embroidery. These workshops are offered at an additional cost, although there is no obligation to participate. Those who prefer may simply continue working on their own projects while enjoying the usual Thursday session.



Tea and coffee are provided throughout the day, and birthdays are invariably marked with a generous supply of cake. Participants simply bring their own lunch.

The group, owned and facilitated by Sharon, meets every Thursday from 9am to 3pm at Ash Victoria Halls Ash Hill Road, Ash GU12 5DN. The fee is £12 per session, payable on the day.

Please contact Sharon before your first visit if you would like to attend. Please note the group will not be meeting on 24 and 31 December.

Telephone: 07825 266377

Article by Penny, member from Fleet

Music Lovers

If you are a music lover, Boogaloo Promotions run regular live Blues events at Crookham War Memorial Hall, Fleet. See the website for details www.boogaloopromotions.com or contact Steph Hopes on 07312 115323 for more information.

DISCLAIMER: Links to third-party sites do not constitute an endorsement by the Oddfellows and use of the advertised products and services is entirely at your risk. The Oddfellows does not accept any liability or responsibility for any third party material on other websites.

Message from your Secretary

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to your October to March Events Diary.

It has been particularly bizarre planning

Christmas in the middle

of this heat wave! I am so pleased to see the amazing ideas taking shape, thanks to Tracey and our volunteer social sub-group members.

Concord covers such a wide area (West Surrey and North East Hampshire) and we would

love to be able to run more events that can be local to each of you, but we need your help to

do that. Tracey and I work part time, and we have only a few volunteers coming forward

to host. However, if there is somewhere you would like us to have an event, maybe you

could help us set it up? Please do get in touch! We have more members joining from Yateley,

for example, so I am sure it would not take long to grow a new social group.

I was delighted that Concord was awarded two cups in the Southern Group's informal recruitment of members competition. We

won the highest % increase of new members in a District for Concord's impressive

18.5% during 2025. We came second to Southampton in the overall number

increase, with 78 compared to their 87. This competition includes all branches in the

Southern Region from Kent to Cornwall and even South Wales.

I would also like to take this chance to say thank you to those members that nominated me for the national "Making A Difference"

award. Every year, members are encouraged to vote for those in branch that they feel are

making a difference and deserve recognition for it. Although I did not win, I did receive a

Certificate of Special Mention in the category of "Enriching Lives Socially". I was able to



read the anonymised comments submitted by our members and was extremely touched by the words written down. I love being part of Oddfellows, and knowing that I make a difference to some of you is so important to me. I could not do this without the support of the local active members. Thank you to each of you. For details of the Making A Difference award – please just ask or you can visit Oddfellows' website.

Please consider following us on Facebook for more pictures of our events. Also, there is a WhatsApp Concord Community for local members to get updates on the various events happening nearby. If you would like to join the group, then please let me or Tracey know.

Speaking of technology, it would be marvellous if you would consider arranging to pay your membership fee by direct debit. This is a far more efficient and cost-saving method of renewing your membership. It is easy to set up, but please get in touch with me if you need help to do it.

I hope to see you at the Dinner Dance next year; we are delighted that Immediate Past Grand Master, John Mann, will be our guest speaker, and we will have some interesting live music along with the great food and company that you have come to expect at the Hogs Back Hotel. We have kept the price the same, so please do come along. Everyone is welcome.

The Dinner Dance usually marks the end of our fundraising year and Sarah from Ezra was delighted that Concord members raised £3,300 for Jane's chosen charity.

If you enjoy our events, please tell your friends; if something is not quite right, then please tell us.

In friendship **Steph**

A year as your Social Organiser

It's hard to believe that I've now been in the role of Social Organiser for a whole year! Time has flown by, and it has been a real pleasure getting to know so many of you and sharing such a wonderful variety of events together.

Over the past six months we have enjoyed everything from coffee mornings and talks, to cemetery tours, Dinner Dance, Quiz and Comedy Nights.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us, supported our activities and helped us make each event so enjoyable. It's your friendship, enthusiasm and company that make them such a success.

Behind the scenes, it has been a busy time planning for the next six months of events. I'm especially delighted that our new Basingstoke coffee morning at Waitrose is continuing to grow, and I hope we can continue to expand the range of activities available in the Basingstoke area.

I am also pleased that we are able to offer a regular monthly coffee morning in the Camberley and Woking areas. These relaxed get-togethers are a great way to catch up, meet new people and find out what's coming up.

We are delighted that two of our young Oddfellows members will be performing in Frozen, The Musical at the Princes Hall Theatre, Aldershot on Saturday 23 January. We hope you'll join us in supporting them and we'll let you know as soon as tickets become available.



Also, a group of Oddfellows visited 'Lighting the Graves' event at Aldershot Military Cemetery last year, we are hoping to arrange this again on Sunday 8 November. Full details for both events will be shared in my regular email update, so please keep an eye on your inbox for all the latest information about these and all our upcoming events.

Thank you to all those members who have supported me in my first year. I'm looking forward to another six months filled with friendship, laughter and memorable experiences.

I hope you'll be able to join us at the many events ahead.

With very best wishes,
Tracey

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  Concord Oddfellows

Thinking about booking events?

We have some great events coming up, but please remember that the diary is prepared well in advance, so events may change or new ones may be added.

For the latest information, please check www.oddfellows.co.uk/events/ or our Facebook page, **Concord Oddfellows**.

Some events may sell out before the booking deadline, so please book early to avoid disappointment or cancellation due to low numbers.

If an event is full, we operate a waiting list, so it is still worth asking if you are interested. Your place is only confirmed once payment has been received. If you cannot attend and we can resell your place, we will provide a full refund.

Need transport? We try to arrange car sharing where possible. If you need a lift, please let us know. If you can offer a spare seat, please tell the host when booking or contact Tracey.

If you cannot get out and about, there are also many virtual events run by Oddfellows branches across the country via Zoom and Facebook. Find the latest information at www.oddfellows.co.uk/online-events

District Chairman Report

Hello All

The last six months have gone by so fast and it is time for a new Out & About giving details of a varied and busy social programme ahead.

Tracey, Steph and the Social Sub-Group have tried to include some new events together with the old favourites, where people can catch up with old friends and make new ones. Please do let us know if there is something you would like included or if you would like to get more involved in the running of Concord branch – it is run for the benefit of its members, so we are grateful to know what we are doing right (or wrong)!

Thank you to all of you who have helped to support my charity of the year, Sasha's Project who provide support to young people aged 13 to 25 years experiencing a period of crisis in their mental health.



Congratulations to Steph, whose hard work resulted in Concord Branch winning 2 recruitment trophies for 2025 at the Southern Group Conference in April. It is wonderful to see us becoming such a vibrant Branch.

I hope you are aware of all the benefits of your membership, not just the social events but help in times of need. There is a National Care and Welfare Helpline available together with access to a Citizens Advice Line that is just for Oddfellows and support from our Branch Care & Welfare Team. There is Oddfellows Extras, accessible through the website, giving access to various discounts.

I am looking forward to our Annual Dinner Dance at The Hogs Back Hotel on the 6th March 2027. We have a live singer this year, as well as a disco, so it should be a good night to bring the curtain down on my year of office. I hope many of you will be able to attend to join in the fun.

Lynn Harmer

Our Chairman's charity of the year 2026 Sasha's Project

Sasha's Project is a charity founded in memory of Sasha, a much-loved young woman from Fleet, who tragically died



by suicide at just 20 years old. When she was feeling suicidal, what she needed most was understanding, kindness and a safe place. Determined that other young people should not face the same barriers, her family established Sasha's Project.

Today, the charity runs a late-night drop-in centre open every Friday and Saturday from 8pm to 6am for young people aged 13–25, providing a confidential, non-clinical and welcoming space where young people can talk openly and be truly heard. It offers immediate support during times of crisis, helping to reduce the risk of self-harm and suicide. As well as listening and supporting, the team equips young people with practical self-help tools and helps them develop personalised crisis plans for the future. For those unable to attend in person —



or who feel more comfortable reaching out by phone or text — the charity also operates a telephone support service every evening from 9pm to midnight.

Beyond its direct services, Sasha's Project plays an active role in promoting suicide prevention across the local community. The charity provides care bags for young people admitted to Accident and Emergency (A&E) or Intensive Care Unit (ICU) following a suicide attempt, offering comfort at an incredibly vulnerable time. It also delivers Christmas gift boxes to those spending Christmas Day on a mental health unit, ensuring they feel remembered and cared for during what can be a particularly difficult season.

Throughout 2026, we have been fundraising for our outreach vehicle, which would allow the team to extend support into more rural areas and connect with young people who may otherwise struggle to access help. We are hoping we will have it on the road by early next year.

Sasha's Project remains committed to building a future where no young person faces a mental health crisis alone.

Please Note: Photography will take place at each of our events to be used across Oddfellows' website, social media platforms, adverts and promotional material. Please let a member of the social team or the photographer know if you would prefer not to be in any of these images.

Memories made together in the last six months



Our previous Chairman, Jane Nicole, and Steph presenting a cheque for £3,300 to Sarah Shearer, of the Ezra Trust.



Coffee Morning at Waitrose Café, Basingstoke



Fleet Dine Around, The Kara



Walk 'n' Talk or Sit 'n' Sip at Frimley Lodge



Sea Shanty Evening Cruise on the Basingstoke Canal



Visit to Commonwealth War Graves, Brookwood

Meet your Concord Care and Welfare Team

The Oddfellows looking after you
Care, Advice and Support



We would like to introduce you to our friendly Care and Welfare team who are here to help you.



Bruce Nicole
Welfare Visitor



Steph Hopes
Welfare Visitor



Dawn Spikesman
Welfare Visitor

Have you been unwell or in hospital, or find it difficult to get out to Oddfellows meetings?

Are you living on your own and would like someone to keep in touch through a chat on the phone? Or do you just need a friendly 'listening ear' to offer a bit of support in a difficult situation?

You may just want to ask a simple question about any help available to you through the Oddfellows. Whatever your situation, our care and welfare team are here to do what they can to help – or to point you in the right direction – so do get in touch!

Our Welfare team receive induction training and ongoing support, as well as regular care and welfare information updates. They undergo screening appropriate to their role and carry a photo ID badge, so you can be reassured about who they are.

To arrange for a member of the Welfare team to contact you, or for local help and information about Branch benefits or benevolence support, please ring Steph Hopes on **07312 115323** or email **steph.hopes@oddfellows.co.uk**.

Care and Welfare Helpline

Telephone: 0800 0149 822

Email: care@oddfellows.co.uk

Oddfellows Citizens Advice Line*

Telephone: 0800 0149 821

Email:

oddfellows@citizensadvicemanchester.org.uk

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

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

Members take centre stage

Look out for some familiar faces this autumn!

Throughout October and November, the Oddfellows is running an upbeat new advertising campaign across the UK aimed at reaching the nation's retirees.

Built around the theme of 'real people, real joy, real experiences', the campaign shines a spotlight on the authentic friendships and shared laughter found within our local groups.

Member models

Members from Leeds, Derbyshire Peak, Mersey, Handforth and Altrincham, Mid-Staffordshire, Nottingham Trent, and Ormskirk and Southport Oddfellows all stepped forward to help.

They spent an exciting day at a professional studio shoot in Manchester working alongside an experienced production crew.

"It was such a fun day," said Andrea Jenner from Derbyshire Peak Oddfellows. "There was lots of laughter and interaction with Oddfellows from other areas."

Carol Pitchford from Leeds Oddfellows agreed, adding: "It was lovely to meet up with a crowd of strangers who then became friends."



Spreading the word

The adverts will be appearing on Facebook and Instagram, online via Rest Less and in upcoming print editions of Saga Magazine, Yours, and Woman's Weekly.

Spokesperson for the Oddfellows, Pam Casey, said: "We wanted the campaign to reflect the real people at the heart of our Society. Our groups are places where people can simply be themselves, enjoy real companionship, and feel genuinely supported."

How you can help

While we hope this campaign inspires more retirees to give us a try, as members, you're our best ambassadors. If you know someone who would benefit from our social events, travel opportunities or welfare support, please encourage them to head to www.oddfellows.co.uk/retirement to find out more.

Celebrating our 2026 Making a Difference Award winners

We are thrilled to announce this year's incredible Making a Difference Awards winners: Richard West of the Royal Berkshire Branch in the Reading District, and husband-and-wife duo Roger and Susan Williamson of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.

The Awards highlight the wonderful ways our members go above and beyond to ensure their branches are the best they can be for their fellow members.

Richard West: Reading's 'guardian angel'



Debbie Jex and Richard West

Presented with the 'Enriching Lives Socially' Award by Deputy Grand Master (Deputy Chair) Debbie Jex, 88-year-old Richard West helps to bring joy and positivity to his fellow members in all he does in organising and hosting social events.



Since joining the Reading District in 1992, Richard has worked tirelessly to build a varied and exciting social programme for his fellow members.

Alongside his late friend Doug Walters, Richard helped establish popular singing and exercise groups, and even relaunched a folded group in the nearby village of Pangbourne, which is now in its tenth year.

From coordinating monthly quizzes to organising glamorous annual trips to the Ascot Races, Richard pours his heart into everything he does.

For many, his efforts have been transformative. "We have a number of ladies who say the choir has become a lifeline for them," Richard shared. "I like seeing them enjoy themselves. You can see how it benefits them individually."

Debbie Jex is also Reading Oddfellows' Branch Secretary. She added: "I don't know where we'd be without Richard. His energy is boundless and his enthusiasm even more so. One member has even described him as a 'guardian angel'."

Roger and Susan Williamson: A wonderful team



(L to R) Roger Williamson,
Susan Williamson, John Mann
and Alison Schultz

The Oddfellows' Grand Master (Chair), John Mann, presented the 'Achieving Together' Award to Roger and Susan Williamson. Both in their 80s and Oddfellows members since 2008, the couple's commitment and kindness are renowned at their Branch.

Both take a seat on the King's Lynn Oddfellows' Committee of Management, ensuring members' voices are always at the heart of decision-making.

Roger, a Trustee and three-time Past Provincial Grand Master, hosts walks,

bingo sessions for up to 40 members, and a popular monthly quiz.

Meanwhile, Susan coordinates the kitchen, manages supplies, and runs the raffles.

The couple were incredibly modest about their win. "Initially, I thought it was a joke because the letter turned up on the first of April," laughed Roger.

Susan added: "We're only doing what anybody else would do, but it's nice to know that people appreciate it. To win the award together is special."

Branch Secretary Alison Schultz praised their selflessness, saying: "They offer friendship to so many in the way Oddfellows should, and treat everyone with consideration, kindness and compassion."

Shining examples

Richard, Roger and Susan are proof that our Society thrives because of the generosity and warmth of our members.

Thank you to all who go above and beyond to help and support others within their Branch.

You can find out more about
our Making a Difference Awards,
including previous years'
winners, at [www.oddfellows.co.uk/
makingadifference](http://www.oddfellows.co.uk/makingadifference).

It's never too early to talk about money

At Unity Mutual, the Oddfellows' financial services brand, we believe it's never too early to talk to the young people in our lives about their finances.



Today's younger generations have a lot to consider, with rising costs, student debt and spending temptations online. Simple chats about saving, budgeting and planning ahead can help young people feel more confident about money as they grow and become more independent.

Passing on more than money

Helping younger family members financially is wonderful, but sharing knowledge can be even more valuable.

Explaining different saving tips, how debt works, or pensions and retirement, gives younger generations practical lessons they may not hear elsewhere. Even small conversations can leave a lasting impression.



Don't wait to save

One way to encourage good saving habits is through a Unity Mutual Junior ISA*, which allows children to start saving and is a great way to introduce them to finances and investment.

Opened by a parent or guardian, family and friends can contribute up to £9,000 per tax year, with any growth free from UK tax. All the money saved belongs to them and once they reach the age of 18 can be put towards things like university costs, driving lessons, or even a deposit on their first home.

Making money conversations normal

The best financial lessons are often the simplest ones. Talking openly about saving for goals, comparing prices, or handling debt helps children develop healthy habits. Younger family members are more likely to feel confident about money if the adults around them discuss it calmly and honestly.



To find out more about Unity Mutual and the products we offer, visit www.unitymutual.co.uk or call 0161 214 4650.

*Terms and conditions apply to all our products. Capital at risk with investment products.

At a glance

Every Thursday Weekly Craft Days with Ash Creative Stitchers 9am

October 2026

Fri 2	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sun 4	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm
Mon 5	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 7	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 7	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Thurs 8	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Mon 12	Guest Speaker: Home Fire Safety Talk	11.30am
Wed 14	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at Sorrento	12.30pm
Thurs 15	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Fri 16	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of RSPCA	7.30pm
Mon 19	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 21	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 22	Farnborough Airport Tour	10am
Fri 23	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Sat 24	Dinner Dance (with Reading District)	6.30pm
Mon 26	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 27	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Daniele Sicilian	12.30pm
Wed 28	Book Group with A Difference - Station, Ember Inn, Fleet	2.30pm
Thurs 29	Ten-Pin Bowling - Camberley	7pm

November

Mon 2	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 4	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 4	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Fri 6	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 9	Guest Speaker: Blue Lamp Trust	11.30am
Wed 11	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at Kara	12.30pm
Thurs 12	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Fri 13	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Royal British Legion	7.30pm
Sun 15	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm
Mon 16	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm

At a glance

November

Wed 18	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 19	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Thurs 19	Introduction to Chair Yoga, Farnborough	12.15pm
Fri 20	The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery, Basingstoke	11am
Mon 23	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 24	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at The Castle	1pm
Wed 25	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop and Lunch, Rowhill	10.30am
Wed 25	Book Group with A Difference - Station, Ember Inn, Fleet	2.30pm

December

Wed 2	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 2	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Fri 4	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 7	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Tues 8	Concord Christmas Lunch at The Gallery Restaurant	12 noon
Thurs 10	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Fri 11	Sleeping Beauty Christmas Panto, Aldershot	1.30pm
Sun 13	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm
Wed 16	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 17	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Fri 18	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Mencap	7.30pm
Mon 21	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Mon 28	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm

January 2027

Mon 4	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 6	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 6	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Fri 8	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 8	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of the local food bank	7.30pm
Mon 11	Beetle Drive and Fish and Chips Lunch, Farnborough	11.30am
Wed 13	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The Station, Ember Inn	12.30pm
Thurs 14	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Sun 17	Skittles Afternoon - fundraiser in Fleet	12.30pm
Mon 18	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm

At a glance

January

Wed 20	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 21	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Mon 25	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 26	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at Pizza Express	1pm
Wed 27	Book Group with A Difference - Station, Ember Inn, Fleet	2.30pm
Fri 29	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of the local Citizens Advice	7.30pm
Sun 31	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm

February

Mon 1	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 3	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 3	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Fri 5	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Fri 5	Comedy Night in Yateley	7.30pm
Mon 8	Guest Speaker: Fleet Pond Society - The History of Fleet Pond	11.30am
Wed 10	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at the Fox and Hounds Pub	12.30pm
Thurs 11	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Sat 13	Drumming Circle, Farnborough	10.15am
Mon 15	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 17	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 18	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Thurs 18	Ten-Pin Bowling - Camberley	7pm
Fri 19	Visit to Chawton House, Alton	11am
Fri 19	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of British Heart Foundation	7.30pm
Mon 22	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 23	Farnham Dine Around - Lunch at The Lost Boy Pub	1pm
Wed 24	Book Group with A Difference - Station, Ember Inn, Fleet	2.30pm
Sun 28	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm

March

Mon 1	Aldershot Coffee Mornings at the West End Centre	10.30am
Wed 3	Morning Coffee at Squires, Woking	10.30am
Wed 3	Book Club and Lunch, Church Crookham	1pm
Fri 5	Basingstoke Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sat 6	Annual Dinner Dance at Hog's Back Hotel with Live Music	6.30pm

At a glance

March

Mon 8	Guest Speaker: Local Beekeeper	11.30am
Tues 9	The Spike Heritage Centre, Guildford	11am
Wed 10	Fleet Dine Around - Lunch at The White Lion Pub, Yateley	12.30pm
Thurs 11	Camberley Cuppa and Catch Up	10.30am
Fri 12	Dave's Charity Quiz: on behalf of Sasha's Project	7.30pm
Sun 14	Sound Bath with Lotus Moon in Crookham Village	4.30pm
Mon 15	Aldershot Rowhill Cuppa Club	2pm
Wed 17	Farnham Friends Casual Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 18	Alton Coffee and Cakes	10.30am
Mon 22	Fleet Coffee and Conversation at The Oatsheaf	2.30pm
Tues 23	Farnham Dine Around - Brunch at Bill's	10.30am
Wed 24	Book Group with A Difference - Station, Ember Inn, Fleet	2.30pm

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

OEW/1024SMALL

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.

Keeping in touch...

Communication is important to us, we would be grateful if you could get in touch with your Branch Secretary to ensure that we have all your up to date contact details so that we can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

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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