



The Banbury Evergreens Link

Keeping You in Touch

Issue 67 May 2021

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May 2021 and another update

Can you believe that it is already the end of May in another year of restrictions? We had no idea when we sent out last May's newsletter that we would still be unable to return to enjoy our sporting activities at Spiceball and social cuppa a whole year later. However, undaunted, your committee has drawn up plans for some events beginning in July. We must make it clear that everything is provisional at this stage but you will see that we have tried to give you a varied programme to anticipate. Here is a resumé of ideas at present:

- **July 14th:** A bring-your-own picnic in Spiceball Park combined with an optional short Treasure Hunt round the nearby town centre, weather permitting! Meet at 2.30pm just beyond the canal side car park.
- **August 16th:** Day trip to Windsor, fare £11.00 Names and payment at the picnic, or contact Janet on 01295 263304.
- **September:** Evening walk followed by drinks at a local hostelry.
- **October:** Tenpin bowling afternoon. Also the holiday to the Isle of Wight from 25th - 29th.
- **November 26th:** AGM and entertainment.
- **December:** Carols at either The Royal Albert Hall or the Birmingham Symphony Hall (subject to availability) and maybe even a Party!

We would like to thank you for the suggestions you sent to us for activities. We are keeping these in mind for what we hope will be a more normal year in 2022. Further details will be provided for all our planned activities as soon as possible.

Diary!

Wed. 14th July: Treasure Hunt and 'Bring your own Picnic' in Spiceball Park.

Mon. 16th August : Day trip to Windsor. Coach fare £11.00.

September: Evening walk (no more than 3 miles)

October: Tenpin Bowling afternoon. (date to follow)

25th - 29th Isle of Wight Holiday. Fully booked.

Fri. 26th November. AGM

December: Carols and Party. To be arranged.

Spring in bloom

We really have enjoyed some spectacular displays this spring and whether you looked up or down there has always been something to please the eye and gladden the heart.



Playing with words

1. The restaurant burned my Hawaiian pizza last night. I told them they should have put it on an aloha setting.
2. My friend's cat just got sick on the carpet. I don't think she is feline well.
3. What did the plant say when it woke up on Earth Day? Thistle be the best day ever!
4. I went to see a mime improvisation show the other day and the performance was spectacular, it goes without saying.
5. I thought about taking up archery but there were just too many drawbacks.

Boom, boom! Thank you Stan.

Introducing Gerry Bernardo

Dear Members,

Following Linda's very interesting introduction to herself as a new Committee Member, Janet asked me to do the same, so here goes:

My wife, Heather, and I, with our two children and two dogs, moved to Banbury in 1981. This was our third move with Alcan over a period of just ten years. By that time, our children were at school and we felt they needed more stability in their lives, which would not happen whilst I was working for Alcan.

Accordingly, in 1984 we started our engineering consultancy business, which continued through to our retirement in 2011. From early childhood, I was always interested in engineering and, after enjoying an apprenticeship, gaining a master's degree, and becoming a Chartered Engineer, it was the right time for me to take on the problem-solving and expert witness work required in my new career.

Unfortunately, in 2016 Heather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. We were advised at that time to join as many social groups as we could, with one of them being The Banbury Evergreens. All the members we met (normally on a Thursday at Spiceball) were so welcoming and understanding of Heather's illness, and we so much enjoyed the events and holidays arranged by the membership. Inevitably, Heather's condition worsened and in September 2019, sadly she died.

Our children are both married; each with their own two children and all now live in Yorkshire, but we do see each other on 'Zoom' every week.

Like Linda, I am hoping to get to know more of the members when we are free to meet up again; shortly, I hope

Meanwhile, Zoom meetings, exercising and volunteering for Dogs for Good are keeping me busy.

Gerry Bernardo

Obituaries

Many of us will have happy memories of time spent with Archie Buzzard, a long term member who died suddenly on March 9th. A native of Banbury he knew the area well and enthusiastically organised our treasure hunts around the town for several years, always with a twinkle in his eye and many a cryptic clue. We have sent our condolences to his family on behalf of all his friends in the Evergreens.

We have also sent our condolences to Lynette Langley whose husband Mike died on 24th of April following a long illness which he fought with great determination.

Two more good reads

The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

This historical novel, written over 30 years ago, has become a literary classic and having recently read it for the first time I can understand why.

Set in 12th century England it weaves a complex and compelling story of love, intrigue, pride, ambition, vision and revenge, against a backdrop of power struggles between earls, bishops and kings. There are a dozen or so individuals whose stories are told, but the main characters are really the fictional priory of Kingsbridge, its church which eventually becomes a great cathedral and the master masons who design and build it.

I found some of the descriptions of rape and pillage too graphic for my liking, but it was one of those books that I just couldn't put down.

Barrie Wood



Dear Mrs Bird by A.J Pearce

Set in 1941 when Emmeline Lake dreams of becoming a war correspondent and applies for a post with a publishing company. Once appointed she discovers that she will be vetting letters sent to a very unsympathetic Agony Aunt at an associated women's magazine. Any questions other than simple household matters are considered 'Unpleasantness' and have to be destroyed. This is too much for Emmeline who unofficially starts to reply to the letters herself and the ensuing mayhem begins once she is discovered.

A charming book to read with laughter, tears, pathos and above all, friendship.

Janet Harral

Your Committee 2021

Chairman: Janet Harral

Treasurer: Geoff Jones

Secretary: Christine Wood.

Gerry Bernardo, Patricia Fenner, Billy McIlroy, Adrian Silman, Julia Turner, Linda Young