



# THE BANBURY EVERGREENS LINK

## Keeping You In Touch

Issue 103 1st February 2026

Email: [evergreensbanbury@gmail.com](mailto:evergreensbanbury@gmail.com)

### POTTERS HOPTON ON SEA. 9th MAR. 4 Nts £565.00 all inclusive

I am aiming for 1000hrs departure from the Cross but are waiting for confirmation from Dunwoods. Please bear in mind that on the return journey from this holiday we are making a three hour stop at The Imperial War Museum Duxford which has plenty of restaurants, loos, indoor interest if the day is gloomy and this is being heavily subsidised.. If you have a preference for table seating in the dining room (4 or 6s) or on the coach (for medical reasons) then please contact me on receipt of this as I have to submit a table and seating plan to Dunwoods who may try to sell the remaining seats. For those joining us recently I can request rooms if you are interested in joining us but would need to do so ASAP. We will return home late afternoon but will have clearer times by the March newsletter, Quick tip. Only wine is served at the table but the bar is close so order other drinks before you go in.

### SIDMOUTH. ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL 25th Jun 4 nt. w/ender £545.00

24 of you signed up for this already & have first choice of rooms you requested as you have paid your deposits. It includes transport there and back, trips to Killerton, Exeter, the observatory and Bicton park as well as B,B & EM. There will be entertainment on 2 evenings leaving a chance to explore the local pubs, clubs, theatres and sea front walk. There is a twin, a double and some additional rooms available still if anyone else is interested and a £40 deposit will secure this.

Please let Lynette know if you wish to go ([lynette1951@live.co.uk](mailto:lynette1951@live.co.uk).) All single rooms have been sold so would be a double for single occupancy which would carry a supplement agreeable at the time of booking.



### Fab 5 Package

- Admission Ticket
- Race Programme
- Burger and Fries
- One Drink (Pint, Soft Drink or Small Wine)
- £2 Tote Bet

### OXFORD STADIUM GREYHOUND RACING 28TH MAR £35.00 Coach from Banbury Cross at 17.45 tbc

We will be laying on transport for this event which includes a burger and chips, a drink, entry fee and first bet but we need to know numbers so we can ensure a seat for everyone whether it be the community coach alone or additional cars. Please put full payment into the account to secure a place for this. Lynette is overall in charge of this event but you can contact me or tell me when you see me at sports. Bank account 20434140 sort code 20-03-84 The Banbury Evergreens. Its a business account. You will be notified if there is availability as it will be first come first served until we run out.



20 members played and some just came to watch and laugh. This photo successfully caught most of you busy playing watching and chatting.



Surely this isn't our camera shy Shirley? I think this was her celebration of her strike.



Its always lovely to see new members at events. Welcome to Ann and Roxy and well done Roxy for winning



Grateful thanks to John and Val for providing the balloons and streamers at the Christmas party. We all had a great and noisy time with them. Thanks for thinking of us.

It was hard to decide on winners as the top scorers won because someone else played on their behalf. Thanks for being gracious and not taking the prize. Roy came next but wouldn't take the prize as he donated it. So well done to Shirley and Roxy.....enjoy!

## AFTER THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

You may have noticed there was quite a lot of food left over and members were encouraged to help themselves. The remaining food was boxed up and the next morning Mary and Derek delivered it to Polly Preedy who has made it her life's mission to feed people in need. It all started one rainy night in Sept 1988. Just settling down to watch telly with her husband, Polly had the urge to go for a walk. She said "I had no idea where I was heading. I felt like I was being led"

She walked into town and near the Town Hall saw two men sheltering from the rain under the arch next to Littlewoods (as it was then). Polly spoke to the men who said they were homeless.

Back home she told her husband about the men and what she believed to be her 'calling'. Since then, for the last 37 years, Polly has taken food, every single night, to St Mary Church Yard. She says it's not only for homeless people, it's for anyone who needs it. She has noticed that many more people are struggling to make ends meet. She gets food donated (like that left from our Christmas party and from The Barn Dance) and asks people who want to make a contribution to give her Tesco tokens - Tesco's is her nearest supermarket.

Polly also runs a bingo club for older people in her local community hall, and when she saw the Evergreens' Christmas cakes, she said "I'll take some to the bingo Christmas Party". Mary spoke to Polly a few days later. She said the food from the Evergreens was greatly appreciated.

## RUMOURS - surely not!

There seems to be some rumour and confusion about membership and status in Evergreens so let me try to clear this up. Ordinary membership costs £10 a year or £5 for half year starting in July. There are absolutely no free members any more. Honorary members are those who already held Honorary status and have elected to pay their reduced membership of £5. No more members will qualify for the Honorary status. Any Honorary members who have not paid their membership will simply not be on the mailing or delivery lists for the magazine but are very welcome to join in activities, day trips and holidays but will have to access the information from the website. They will, of course, have to pay to attend these events unless it is free tea and coffee at the sports centre where they are always welcome. If in doubt ring me Chris 07971 144 416 and I will explain it and help where I can. They will also have to sign a GDP form so we can use any photographs etc. Please do not believe all you hear - ask a committee member and they will gladly clarify.

## KNIFE AMNESTY (Excess knives forks and spoons wanted please)

Thank you to Annette who has sorted her cutlery and sent in her spares so we can have it for future use. Thank you also to Honorary member Pam Williams who has been raiding the charity shops and bought in some lovely cutlery at a very reasonable price. By Christmas we will have enough for everyone at the party - 1 problem solved. Thank you.

## EARLY INTEREST CRUISE from £449

Many of you have asked for a cruise so we have looked for a short break. It's been difficult as we need an idea of numbers before we can hold a price. You must have a passport and insurance to book this and if you want to avoid double charge for single people you need to double up to a twin. If this would be of some interest please make contact with Chris 07971 144 416 to say what type of room so we can get prices for you (eg balcony, inside, dbl, twn or sgl) We will get a price and get back to you. We will arrange transport to the dock but can't do this until we know numbers but it will be an additional charge. No money until we give a proper price.



Rotterdam And Zeebrugge  
Short Break, 4 Nights

9 Oct 2026 - 13 Oct 2026

Be captivated by the charm of Zeebrugge, and Rotterdam's fascinating seafaring history, on this 4-night roundtrip voyage which includes a luxurious sea day to relax on Queen Anne.

Britannia Inside Staterooms

Banbury Folk Club - weekly on a Weds at The Cromwell Lodge Hotel. Artists as advertised on the folk club website with admission cost. Chris Kay attends

Diamond Spur Line dancing- weekly beginners lessons Tues 7-8pm Hardwick Community Centre. £6. New dances are taught every 12 weeks, giving the chance to join the class throughout the year.

Weekly Over 50s Ballroom and Latin Dancing lessons at The Mill, £7 a class, starting at 1145am, from 7th January- 25th March. No partner needed. Full details on The Mill Website. Chris and Roy attending

Health Walks with walk leaders. Adderbury - weekly gentle 3 mile country walk in Adderbury areal Every Monday, leaving Adderbury Library at 1030am ( meet at 1015 to register). Also a 5 mile walk for those wanting a bit longer walk

Grimsbury. meeting at the Mill 1030 every Tuesday. Speak to Anne or Shirley

Easington Every Weds 1030 meeting at Sainsburys Speak to Shirley or Anne

Walking shoes/ boots recommended. Normally followed by coffee.

Regular shows of various kinds at The Mill Theatre. See The Mill Website for details. It is common to see Banbury Evergreen members there and it is generally a friendly atmosphere.

Country & Western at Banbury Borough Bowls club last Sunday in the month ring Chris 07971 144 416 for details

Free Fish and chip lunch. 1st Friday of each month at Glebefields Drayton. 07971144416

**SILVER SCREEN**

Every Thursday @The light Cinema

**Social meeting**

How about coffee or tea at The Cromwell lodge on a weds PM.

Keep your eye on this space in the next magazine.

**BANBURY HISTORY WALK with local historian, STEVE KILSBY**  
Saturday 21 March, 11am at The Cross

Join Steve for a fascinating walk around Banbury's Town Centre, looking at some of the town's ancient buildings, and hearing anecdotes and interesting facts about them and Banbury's history. He will point out things you have walked past all your life and not spotted. We are lucky to get this chance.

The walk is specially for EVERGREENS and will last approximately 90 minutes. There will be several opportunities to sit down if required.

Many of the group are going to GF afterwards for a pay for your own meal. Always wholesome, hot and inexpensive. Come and join us. Names to Mary Evans Young. 01295 268 676 or Chris 07971 144 416

### MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 125 members for 2026 with many others "still getting round to it" If you know of anyone still planning to join please chivvy them as it makes on going work for me when I have to enter and then transfer details to a very temperamental phone. All of the existing entries can be done as one movement any new ones have to be done as 3 movements. If you know anyone who is struggling please tell them to resort to snail mail if they wish 15 Nursery Drive OX16 2NE and a cheque for £10

Can you guess who is our most senior Honorary member. I think it is Pam Williams a former Aux Nurse in maternity for many years and still a regular attendee at the gym and other activities. A lovely lady. Am I right or do we have anyone who beats this?

### Your Committee 2025

**Chairperson.** Chris Bemand    **Secretary.** Mary Evans Young    **Treasurer.** (Temp) Chris Bemand  
**Greeter** Shirley Bygrave    **Raffles** Anne Jackson    **Catering** Carol Duncan  
**Trips** Lynette Langley    **IT** Roy Beckham    **Honorary** Chris Wood    **Member** Derek Evans

**February 28th 1745 pm**

**Dog Racing @ Oxford**

**Potters March 9th**

**4 Nights 5 Days**

**Including subsidised DUXFORD Air Museum**

**March 21st History Walk & Eat**

**April 15th 7pm**

**Call my Bluff**

**St Hughs Church  
Ruskin Rd OX16 9HU**

**No Experience needed only a sense of humour**

**MAY TBA**

**Let me entertain you**

**What can you do sing, play an instrument, tell jokes, blah blah blah.**

**Please contact Chris . It will be followed by musical bingo by popular demand**

**June 25th**

**Sidmouth seaside 4 night 5 day holiday £545.00 per person including trips, transport and 2 nights entertainment Bed Breakfast and Evening meal**