



THE BANBURY EVERGREENS LINK

Keeping You In Touch

Issue 105 1st April 2026 Email: evergreensbanbury@gmail.com

SIDMOUTH HOLIDAY June 25th 4 nights £545 pp

Surprise, surprise there is a single room now available if there are any singles still dithering on the side lines. First come first served and a call to Lynette and payment of £545 will secure this. We have a twin and a single available also. Plans for this are going well and the money is rolling in. Full payment is due on or before 1st April so by the time you read this it is possibly overdue if you haven't paid up already. If you have paid then thank you so much as it does make planning easier and we can see how we are able to help out subsidising trips etc. Don't forget it is a weekend break for those of you who still have to go to work. Lynette 07907 986 268 or Chris 07971 144 416. Bank details ; sort code 20-03-84 act no 20434140 The Banbury Evergreens. its a business account. (Ref:SID) Only 90 sleeps to go



CALL MY BLUFF 15th April St. Hughs Hall

This is planned as a fun night out and not to be taken at all seriously. Last months newsletter said it was £10 but in fact it will only be £5 and the tickets are available now. Put the money in the account (Ref: BLUFF) or get it to me at the sports centre on Tues or Thurs. It is a bring your own nibbles night so if you want get a table together and plan what you are bringing as a bring and share or just bring what you like and decide if you are sharing or just eating. There will be plenty of chance for a good old natter in between the @bluffing@ so come along and do some catching up. There is some parking at the rear and roadside parking outside.



LET US ENTERTAIN YOU 11th May RVS centre Cornhill 1900-2200 £10 Inc supper

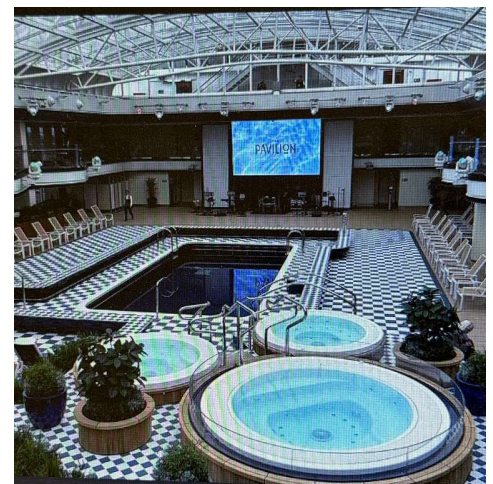
Another opportunity for a catch up in between acts and a chance to demonstrate your skills or even just make a fool of yourself to get a laugh. We have several people with a little plan up their sleeves so it will be a good laugh. After the supper break we will be doing some musical bingo if time allows. We are repeating this as those who took part at the AGM really enjoyed it and those who didn't go mostly said they had no idea what it was. Well come along and find out especially if you like 50s 60s 70s type music. No prizes, just a good time. Parking available in the castle Street car park which I believe is free after 1800



CUNARD QUEEN ANNE 4 NIGHT CRUISE

Not much to add but you do need to complete the documents that we sent or delivered to you and if you haven't got your passport and insurance you need to get on top of this. So far all 12 have opted for the bus to the port so we can go ahead and book this.

A few people have commented that they were told that the cruise was just for one night. Please don't listen to what others say but get the information from the newsletter or from the committee. If tis stopped you booking or for those of you still interested but not signed up you can book independantly and be ad hocked onto our group so all is not lost. As I have explained before the cost is variable so if you are interested we will have to apply for a price but if you do it yourselves and monitor the price if you are looking for a bargain or we can help you.



GREYHOUND RACING > OXFORD STADIUM



Fred gets serious and studies form before placing his bet with his hard earned money. It paid off!



Margaret strikes it lucky too and celebrates in the best way.



Margaret and David with the race programme at the ready. Did you have a win? We hope so!



Jane and Lynette doing what Evergreens do best. A good old natter - or are they comparing winnings



Shirley watches on as Margaret places her next bet - or maybe she is after a tip.

Only 11 of us braved the February dark night and headed off to the races. There were definitely a few 'dark horses' on the winnings front with some not disclosing their luck - or not but most people seem to have had a little bit extra to take home or just broke even. It was a lovely sociable evening with burger and chips to take away the hunger pangs and a drink to wash it down as well as the first bet being free. We stood to make a minor loss but the coach cost a little less than planned so the event covered itself which is what we prefer to do.



It looks a close run thing between them all



Anne watching the racing

SEASONAL HOLIDAYS

We are being offered two holidays by Dunwoods. The first is a Tinsel and Turkey on 2nd November at The Headland Hotel Torquay for 4 nights £385.00pp or a betwixmas Mystery tour (but much nearer) on 27th Dec 3 nights for £229 pp. If you are interested in either / or can you please just let us know which so we can gauge if it would be worth doing Chris 07971144416.



Thai & crystal bowl therapy

Yes this was Potters too. Roy says it looks like a load of dead bodies but it was actually a wonderful experience savoured by many Evergreens at Potters Hopton on sea but it didn't fit on the other page.

AT LAST - POTTERS HOPTON ON SEA



Part of the sports hall - and is that Roy having a game of badminton? Defector! Sue, Laura and Peter teaching him how

Phil and Angie having a table tennis knockabout. Apparently Angie used to play regularly - perhaps when she stops working we can get her back to the sports centre



As always Evergreens are very present on the dance floor after the evening entertainment. Maria, Chris, Shirley, Laura, Jane and Angie hiding.



Keith and Pam checking out the menu or was it free wine list!



Chris on stage during the Potterators competition putting chocolates somewhere that chocolates shouldn't go and dropping them into a bucket



Evergreens Morris dancers with bells and hankies. Well done all.



Anne, Sue, Margaret & Janet playing bowls



Chris Under arrest by security



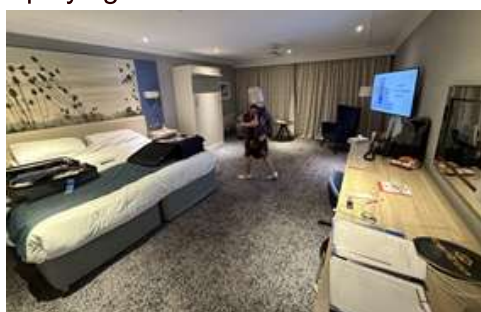
Nice sunset for Hopton



Keith playing Hotshots



John & Annette



Potter Hotel Room - upgrade

Hoptons downfall - if at all - was that the rooms weren't as good as Warners but perhaps the solution is to spend some of the money saved on drinks and use it to pay for an upgrade which offered ample space, large bathroom, (see left) additional single bed if you fall out and a better quality of decor. For most it didn't matter too much as they didn't spend long in their rooms



Dining Room at Potters all seated together



John & Jane take to the floor



Evergreens sequence team a bit out of step - but who cares!



Chris receiving her medal beating Roy at Shooting



Phil & Angie enjoying the all Inclusive Drinks



Roy & Shirley having a slow dance

Its always heartwarming to see the group up dancing together having a thoroughly good times as a bunch of mates should be able to do but to see Shirley having an "in hold" dance was a first time we had seen that - shes usually freestyling it. I asked if she was in the Morris dancing lesson and got a resounding No! Maybe we will get her to a formal dance lesson one day!



Chris dancing with Stan in the small theatre



Dave & Barbara in the Potters Tunnel



Shirley & Jane chatting in the Late night Room

For some reason, getting the Potters holiday into our programme was a bit of a battle but we managed it. Once we got to Hopton it became a bit of a boxing match.....I always associate boxing with 3 falls, 1 submission or a knockout - Potters was just 3 falls, one admission and a flat out. For those who went can you identify with any of this. We seemed to have more than our fair share of health issues but in true Evergreens style most seemed to bounce back quite quickly and enjoy the rest of the holiday. I'm sure that the falls weren't connected to the amount of free drink consumed and although we stay up late to make sure everyone is ok we didn't have to pour anyone into bed during the whole stay. When it comes to quick recoveries, well done Keith for getting back safely, going back into hospital at home and getting out again in time for the Evergreens History walk. We hope you all had a fantastic time on holiday and thanks for the good reports.



Ann and Chris sharing their packed lunch with Paddington in Norwich



Jane and Maria at Norwich cathedral



Where's the sea. Jayne and Annette taking in the fresh air



The Font came from a chocolate factory and was used for caramel



Chris close up to a working Spitfire



Chris looking at Concorde. This one never flew.



Sue, Keith, Pam & Norma at Duxford air museum



Savino - boarding Concorde if I'm not mistaken



The ops room just as you have seen it in all of the good old war time films.



The group receiving a talk on the Lancaster bomber

Evergreens Sports Events at Spiceball 2026

MONDAY - £3.95

11.00am - 11.45am Fit 'n' Fifty

TUESDAY - £4.30

2.00pm - 3.45pm Swimming (within public swim session)

1.30pm - 2.15pm Fit 'n' Fifty

2.00pm - 4.00pm Badminton

2.00pm - 4.00pm Short Tennis

THURSDAY - £5.10

12.30pm - 1.25pm Pilates

1.30pm - 2.15pm Fit 'n' Fifty

2.00pm - 4.00pm Badminton

2.00pm - 4.00pm Short Tennis

2.00pm - 4.00pm Gym

3.05pm - 3.50pm Swimming (one lane during school holidays)

Prices from 1st April 2026

cont back page for terms and conditions

BANBURY HISTORY WALK

What a lovely day we had. I booked some good weather for us so it wasn't too hot but it was bright and sunny. Steve manages to make history so interesting and is still managing to show me things I have never noticed before. We had a full compliment of 30 as he is limited to the number of people he can parade around town in one go without blocking paths etc. Sue admitted that she had been a little unsure if it was her cup of tea but owned up to having really enjoyed it. 28 went to GF for lunch and although the service was a little slow for some it was all freshly cooked, good value and hot. Check your bank statements to see if you were the one who forgot to pay whilst rushing to get to your taxi etc. We will get this right next time by tweeking the system. Once again no loss was made on this event. I have already asked for another walk when Steve is free as there is a lot more to Banbury than we covered this time.



1st stop on the Banbury Walk with Steve Kilsby

An appraisal from Chris Kay of the Evergreens on Potters :

Initial impression was a bit disappointing; as you know we had not been given the Bungalow 'type' we had booked and Ann Mason and I were given a shared room instead of separate rooms with a shared bathroom. The staff however were excellent and sorted us out. The bungalows were a bit 'shabby' especially the radiators which were dirty and rusty! The wardrobe was also poor/ rickety... you couldn't open the top drawer without opening the wardrobe door due to it catching. The bed was uncomfortable... no support and probably the worst hotel bed I had experienced for years.

Putting the accommodation aside, everything else was generally excellent. The staff: happy, extremely helpful and ALL really good at their roles!! A special acknowledgment has to go to the 'exercise/ dance instructor' who was incredibly good, and of course our waiter Jo.

The classes: were very varied (something for everyone) and of a 'professional' standard with professional people (better than Warners!... not just taken by the entertainment team). The food: excellent efficient table service ... in a lovely restaurant (and we were all sat in the same area which was nice!) Quality of the food I thought was on par with most of the Warners we have been to (also good!). Obviously there was the opportunity for lunch, which was a luxury!!

Communal Hygiene: wow... toilets were incredibly clean, and I was very impressed with the automatic door openings or hand sanitizer door handles where this wasn't possible!! (they could teach hospitals a thing or two!!!!)

The sports and pool/ gym facilities were excellent: a lovely sports hall, excellent swimming pools (warm, and a great size, with great 5 star changing rooms!) excellent steam room and sauna.

The evening entertainment: I missed the opportunity for dancing earlier in the evening, compared to warners. The main shows were excellent (especially the last 2!), but there was alot of sitting around. The late night dancing opportunity in the garden bar was a bit too late for some, so we missed out a bit on our communal' Evergreen bopping!! ' As we all got used to the schedule, more of us stayed up late and danced!! 😊 😊

Hotel layout: excellent; everything was easy to get to.

A big potential bonus was a bus stop right outside the resort, which is something you never seem to get at Warners!

It was a lovely break, and personally I would love to try Five Lakes! Looking online, the 'standard' accommodation looks a better quality. Also it would be less dominated by bowling no doubt.

The Coach travel: it was a treat to have the lovely Chris driving us again, so thank you for requesting him. He an excellent driver, and along with his incredibly personable nature is a pleasure to have on our holidays!! All the drivers have been good, but none go the extra mile like him (especially the generosity of his hot drink alcohol measures ... don't report that back to Dunwoods!! 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌 🙌

cont. from previos page.

On Tuesdays you have half the main sports hall

On Thursdays you have the whole of the main sports hall during term time and half during school holidays

Teas and coffees provided by the Evergreens. If an Evergreen wishes to attend the tea/coffee session only a cost of £1.40 will need to be paid at reception

I am still waiting for more information but there are some benefits coming our way and clarity on more of the rules and regs so we can show them to prospective sports members.

Members news

Get well to anyone who has been unwell but particularly

Sara Carter, Keith, Janet, (who is bored and her kettle is still working) Mervyn, Anne Q. Gina and Annette.

New members - We now have 144 members and a warm welcome to

Janet and Graham Chapman, Gina Coyne, Jan Knowles,

Roy Clements, Janice and Paul Rowan, Sandra Drage and Geraldine Thabet. Look forward to seeing you at events

Your Committee 2025

Chairperson. Chris Bemand **Secretary.** Mary Evans Young **Treasurer.** (Temp) Chris Bemand

Greeter Shirley Bygrave **Raffles** Anne Jackson **Catering** TBA

Trips Lynette Langley **IT** Roy Beckham **Honorary** Chris Wood **Website** Derek Evans

April 15th 7pm £5

**Call my Bluff
St Hughs Church
Ruskin Rd OX16 9HU
No Experience
needed only a sense
of humour**

MAY 11th 7pm

**Let me entertain you &
Music Bingo**

**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**

JUNE

Walk and Eat

**details to follow but
possibly at the flood
defences**

**October 9th to 13th
Cunard Cruise 4
night Zeebrugge &
Rotterdam**

**Possible Future event
Potters Five Lakes -
May 24th all inclusive
£619 put your name in the
interested list.**