



THE BANBURY EVERGREENS LINK

Keeping You In Touch

Issue 109 1st August 2026

Email: evergreensbanbury@gmail.



TWIXMAS MYSTERY BREAK 27TH DEC

3 NIGHTS £229pp

This is a chance to get away after the madness of Christmas or even the loneliness of Christmas but if you are planning to go we need your £40 deposit in the account by 4th AUG. (If there are insufficient people wanting to go we will have to cancel and will of course refund your deposit.) We have 5 single rooms and plenty of standard twins and doubles but we dont know where we are going as its a mystery! The cost includes half board, excursion and the coach there and back. (We have requested that it isn't too far away as its only 3 nights). We can't plan the excursion as we don't know the location so we will be in the capable hands of our trusty driver to research this. Money into account 20.03.84 20434140 ref TWI and your name. If you need a single please phone me first on 07971144416 to reserve. Thank you, Chris.

BBQ, SCAVENGE HUNT and FUN DAY

22nd AUG 11.00 till whenever OX17 1SU £10

Once again Roy has kindly offered the use of his kitchen, games room, swimming pool and garden for a relaxed day of fun and activity as well as that good old Evergreens favourite - a chance to have a natter! You will be able to have a go on the bbq and burn your own food or you can let someone else do it for you. The pizza oven will also be available with bases and lots of toppings available. Tea and cake will be served in the afternoon (providing we have some volunteers to make cakes)and there will be plenty of activities on the lawn from archery to lawn darts, axe throwing to hoopla, jenga to croquet and many more. If transport to Wardington is a problem or if you have spare seats in your car please let me know. There is plenty of parking space available and we have wet weather alternatives just in case my request for good weather doesn't materialise. Tickets available now. Money into account ref: BBQ and your name.



SKITTLES AND FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

RVS centre 9th Sept. doors open 1845. £10

We have the very popular skittles night returning to the RVS Centre so you need to bring your own alcoholic beverages and glasses as we will only provide tea and coffee. We have 2 sets of skittles now and they are both very similar in size this year thanks to Bella donating a set. You do not need to be proficient at all as it is just a fun game with a small prize (no holiday in Las Vegas I'm afraid). We do need to know numbers as I have to order and pay for the fish and chips in advance and I do not waste money ordering spares. Tickets are available now until 1st Sept with money in the bank or call me now before you forget. Ref : SKI and your name please.



60s FESTIVAL EVENT at LAKESIDE HAYLING ISLAND

Only 42 sleeps to go and then 24 of us are off for a trip back to the 60s. We don't have the departure times yet or the excursions but we will keep you informed in the next newsletter. As well as Eddison Lighthouse and other Live acts there will be 60s disco with footage from Ready Steady Go and other programmes of the time. There are 60s quizzes and of course the usual activities such as axe throwing, archery, rifle range, swimming, singing etc etc. It is half board basis and you are in chalets so don't expect a posh hotel room please.



CRUISE CREW 9th Oct



Only 70 sleeps left before we set sail. Roy has offered to have the pick up point at his house where you can leave your vehicles and stay in the warm and have access to a loo until the bus arrives if that helps. Let us know. Also do you want to get together soon to look at the excursions and book them or are you happy to do this yourselves?



Ed and Win enjoying the sea view from outside the hotel



Penny, Lynette, Jayne, Margaret and Jane enjoying the cool of the evening.



Stan tripping the light fantastic with Chris. Jim and Pauline giving it their best.



Chris and Lynette out for a stroll...hats a must in this heat!



Carole, Jayne and Penny on the garden visit



Is that Margaret and Stan hiding under those peaks?



I think Mike had a reserved sign on this bench



Hats confuse the hell out of me. Is it Annette and Jenny?



Still confused! Its Margaret for sure but who with?



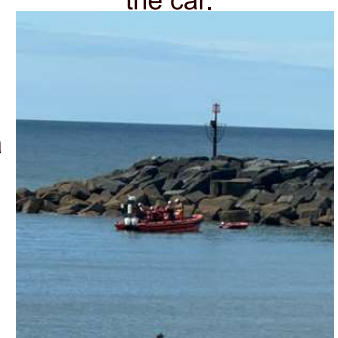
Pauline and Jim accompanied by Margaret



Chris seems to have shrunk after 6 1/2 hours in the car.



Well done Lynette and Shirley for all your plotting and planning as it made for a fantastic break for everyone - a real seaside holiday. Everyone seemed to love Sidmouth with its sea front, shops, museums, markets and live performances on the promenade. What more could you want! I know lots of you thought the fish and chip lunch and the ice cream parlour were pretty good as well. There was a bit of excitement (and Chris W. insisted this picture should go in the newsletter) as there was a rock fall whilst we were there. Thankfully no one was hurt as it happened on a closed section of the beach. The reports about the trips were excellent and although many didn't go it seems that the observatory was a very informative and enjoyable trip. There was a second incident whilst we were there as there was a call out for the life guards following a report that a man had gone into the water but not come out. Glad to say no one was hurt and the helicopter and boats kept us all interested till late into the night.



Search and rescue in action



Pete & Sue at breakfast with Norma. All served at the table and to your liking.



Its the hat gang again, Norma, Pete and Sue under those brims



As always the evening brought out the dancers. Chris, Jane, Shirley and Lynette.



Lynette gets John onto the floor for a dance and even though the dance floor was minute.....



...it didn't stop The Evergreens . Keith and Pam, John and Val, Jim and Pauline, Stan and Chris and a late entry by Ed and Win.



Chris Wood gets a chain going relieving the pressure on the dance floor. Well done Chris

IMPORTANT FOR THE NEXT HOLIDAYS

I don't want to spoil anything but when signing up for holidays anytime I know that you appreciate the hard work, money and effort that goes into planning the whole event and advertising it with as much detail as we are able. We want you to be able to opt in or out of parts of the holiday so you can tailor it to suit you. There is no chance despite all the plans to give an exact time for arrival home. Where possible there will be a comfort break, a visit of potential interest to break the journey and legal rest time for the driver. If we don't plan this then we would arrive home early and loose the last day of the holiday which people have commented on in the past. If there was an absolute emergency we would give consideration to safe changes to plans but we would go with what the majority want. Sorry if people hadn't realised the home journey stop which was planned and paid for you as a freebie. In future allow for the holiday to be over around tea time or if in doubt talk to me before signing up for the holiday. Heres looking forward to the next one.



Part timers Roy and Chris stepping it out around town. Sorry we could only do the 2 days.



Sue, Stan, Sheila and Jenny taking a well earned break.



Pauline and Jim chillaxing together.



Steve & Carole on a coffee break. They did a lot of walking!

SPICEBALL MEETING 4th June

You should all have been aware that Derek, Roy and myself had a meeting with Graham and the duty manager at Spiceball to try to address some of your concerns about how valued Evergreens are at Spiceball. I felt it was a productive meeting with many positives to be recorded. As chairwoman I do need to remind you all that we cannot recapture the past as the facilities there are not the same now as in the original building and therefore exclude some things.

Graham made the situation very clear that he does not recognise Evergreens as he can only show attendance etc for the larger over 50s group of which Evergreens is a part. As such we are important to him as he has targets to achieve and has a responsibility to provide activities and opportunities for the over 50s section. Like us ickleball, Spin, Sauna and exercise bike groups. We are having another meeting on 6th August where we hope he will be able to report back on these.

Chris explained the impact of not having a ground floor location to call home as the notice board is too cumbersome to move around. She asked about using the smaller function room on the 2nd floor as this seems to be the only space available. Graham agreed that we could do this on Thursday but thought there was another paying group using it on Tuesday but has since confirmed we can use it on Tues and Thurs from 1530 to 1700. If there is a paying event in the room he will notify us in advance and we will use the dance studio or the cafe. Please remember to bring your own mug the uptake from activities from the younger over 50s has reduced as many people are still working and if not they have grandparent duties which means they are not available for sports at the times allowed. We agreed that the best policy could be that we work together at advertising the over 50s sessions and the additional benefits of joining The Banbury Evergreens rather than working in isolation. Graham is happy to produce posters and run taster days for the over 50s and we are happy to provide flyers with our additional cost and opportunities. There is also an open day in September when he is happy for us to advertise Evergreens. Who knows we might gain more members as a result of this. As sports players you are our best advert for Evergreens so please encourage where appropriate and invite non members as guests to the sporting activities if they show an interest.

Graham has gone away to look into other activities which might be incorporated into the over 50s timetable and these would include squash, gym and also the chance of Pay to Play the 10p penalty to borrow one so that we can continue to provide the tea etc

Regarding the provision of sporting equipment he confirmed that he can and always has had sports equipment available for all of the activities and we just have to ask for them. Particularly with short tennis he pointed out that they are unable to provide the brand of balls preferred by Evergreens as the company isn't on their purchasing list as it is abroad but balls are still available. Evergreens have a quantity of balls still in stock and these are replenished from time to time as balls deteriorate.

Tea and coffee on Thursdays will continue to be provided by Evergreens made in the kitchen next to the function room. On days when we have to use the cafe you can take your own cup and use the sugar, milk and hot water from the machine and whenever I am there I will have coffee and tea available so your drink will be free again. I cannot however carry cups for everyone so you must provide your own please.

We asked about the Boost group being in the swimming lane sometimes preventing the less confident swimmers from completing circuits and he is sure that this can be avoided now he is aware of it. He did however remind us of the very low numbers for swimming and table tennis so we need to do what we can to keep these areas in use. Use it or lose it!!! Graham has target figures and at the moment his goal is to have 400+ over 50 participants in a month to keep all of the facilities available.

OVER 50s TIMETABLE

Mondays £3.95

1100-1145 Fit and Fifty

Tuesdays 34.30

1400-1545 swimming within a public swim session

1330-1415 Fit and fifty

1400-1600 badminton, squash and short tennis also the gym is available

Thursdays £5.10

1230-1325 Pilates (Need to book)

1330-1415 Fit and fifty

1400-1600 short tennis, table tennis, squash and badminton also the gym is available

15.05 - 1530 Swimming for over 50s (one lane only during school holidays)

Tues we have half the main sports hall and on Thursdays we have it all

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. We now have a small nucleus of Evergreens going but more are welcome. You can sing your heart out or dance your socks off for only £4 for the evening. Arrival 7.30 onwards

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

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SILVER SCREEN Every Thursday @The light Cinema

AUG 22ND.

BBQ & SCAVENGE HUNT. £10 at ROYS OX17 1SU. 1100hrs til tea time. At Roys Wardington. Afternoon of games and natter

SEPT. 9TH

SKITTLES & FISH N CHIP SUPPER. 9 RVS CENTRE Doors open 1845 for 1900. £10

11th SEPT.

60s FESTIVAL WEEKEND. HAYLING ISLAND 3 NIGHTS sold out

OCT. 7TH

BARN

DANCE at The Freemasons Marlborough Rd. 1845 for 1900 £15 Live band and caller

OCT. 9TH til 13TH CUNARD CRUISE to Zeebrugger and Amsterdam sold out

NOV. 13th. AGM at The Chestnuts 1900hrs. Free entry and nibbles

**GEOLOGY WINTER WALK
and SUNDAY ROAST**

Watch this space

DEC 4th CHRISTMAS TOP HATS AND TIARRA'S PARTY

Doors open at 1830 for early entry
£15

DEC 17th OXFORD WAITES

An extra special night out with wonderful musicians, rare instruments and seasonal humour and cheer. With light refreshments

Your Committee 2025

Chairperson. Chris Bemand **Secretary.** Mary Evans Young **Treasurer.** (Temp) Chris Bemand
Greeter Shirley Bygrave **Raffles** Anne Jackson **Catering** Chris Bemand (Temp)
Trips Lynette Langley **IT** Roy Beckham **Honorary** Chris Wood **Website** Derek Evans
Co-opt Annette Murphy



Maria and Li with swan lake behind them



Margaret on the boulders at the back of the lake



The longer walk group including Anne, Ann, Geraldine, Margaret, Ed, Win, Chris, Li, Maria, Shirley, Penny, Sue and Pete

NOV 13TH AGM AT THE CHESTNUTS **FREE ENTRY AND SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT**

Is it too soon to be thinking about the AGM. No of course not. As you probably know the committee was running with 2 empty seats until we coopted Annette to the committee. She doesn't have a specific role yet but has taken some of the workload from me by looking after the membership. She may well become membership secretary with your vote at the AGM. Its a difficult time of year for planning as if there was a coup your existing committee would be agreeing work for the next committee to undertake. The AGM is your chance to nominate who you would like to have in post from November through next year. Its a chance for existing members to decide to stand down - although we hope not. Its a chance for new blood to be nominated onto this friendly popular committee. Speak to each other and to us and let us have your thoughts and more importantly put the date in your diary and come and have your say.

There are no press gangs (even though some of the existing committee were press ganged to keep your group functioning and events happening) - they have all risen to the challenge and they are a joy to work with.



Coach parking

Progress on this is unbelievably slow but Im not giving up and have developed a good relationship with the police and the council about this. I also need to add that the likelihood of us getting into trouble about this is next to nothing so don't worry about it. Lets just watch as it slowly unravels.



Coaches now parking outside Morrisons in the temporarily unused bus park.

Before she was going now Chrissy is hand jiving - go girl!

A Message the Cooks have asked if members would like to get in touch with them as they are struggling with mobility and finding it difficult to get to events. In particular they would like contact with The Edes and Holloway families. If you do not know how to make contact please ring me Chris

We had a response from the councils to say that OCC are looking for a new site for the coach parking and BCC are going to look at the signage which sounds ok but they have had this reply from me

Hi Helen. Thanks for getting back to me about the coach parking. Why is Oxfordshire council having to look at this when the ideal site is in place at the Cross complete with all of our requirements (toilets, taxis and space to drop off and congregate). It sounds as though they don't want the coach park there. All that needs to happen is for the 2 signs to be amended by Cherwell District Council and someone with a tin of paint to mark off a "No Parking. drop off for coach passengers". We eagerly await the outcome. Thanks again. Sent from my phone I have sent another email asking if I can attend the next meeting