# The Banbury Evergreens Link

**Keeping You In Touch**

**Issue 112 1st November 2026 Email: evergreensbanbury@gmail.**


## AGM and CALL MY BLUFF 13th October 7pm at The Chestnuts

Well! You all know when it is and what your responsibilities are, but at the moment we only have 1 nomination to the committee which means the group would not be able to continue. Can you please tell us who you are nominating and what place you are nominating them for. You can send your nominations to Mary (mlevansyoung@aol.com) or jot them down and give them to any committee member, or hand them in at sports if you are there. Alongside this, we need you to try to come on the evening and, if possible and not outside of your abilities/interests, please bake a cake and bring it. (Let me know so I can decide if I need to do one.) Following the brief meeting there will be a whole evening of frivolity playing Call My Bluff. Some people being more involved than others but a good time should be had by all as there is a bar! Don't forget that we draw the members prize at the AGM but you can only win if you are there and if you have given in your event tickets in advance or at the door on arrival. Good luck - it will be a worthwhile prize.

## TOP HATS AND TIARRAS PARTY 4th DEC 1830 - 1845 early doors

Change of plan. Sorry. I had said you could have until 1st Dec to get tickets, but we are bringing this forward to 14th Nov as we have already sold 70+ tickets and have to get the food order in at M&S and check that we dont exceed the number of tables available to us at GF. Your last chance to buy will be at the AGM but it would really help if you actually did it now so that I can complete the table plans and check we have enough cutlery, plates and tiarras etc. I am confident that this will be a terrific, value for money night which we are prepared to subsidise to maintain the standards but with careful advance planning we can reduce this subsidy - it is your money we are looking after.

The early doors arrangement is that if you arrive 1830 to 1845 waving your ticket you will be allowed in without waiting. Then, the doors will close until 1900; during that period you will have to wait outside along with the GF patrons. If you haven't received a ticket yet, please contact me so I can check why not and remedy the situation.

Again, dress code is fluid - anything from Christmas jumpers to DJs welcome. We are providing top hats and tiarras - I have 100 so far but if we exceed that number I will get more. If anyone can provide raffle prizes we are always happy to accept them, but if you don't have anything then maybe you have something, in date, in your pantry that you could donate for the Christmas hampers. Please bring any contributions to the AGM or hand in in advance.

## OXFORD WAITS 16th DEC 19.00 at The Chestnuts

Please get your money in the bank for this Christmassy extrvaganza as there are final plans to put in place for this. Again you can collect tickets at the AGM



## TWIXMAS MYSTERY HOLIDAY 27th Dec

As yet there are no further details about this event other than there are still twin and double rooms available if anyone is interested. Some of you are awaiting confirmation of walk-in showers etc., but it is all in hand. Your official tickets and luggage labels won't arrive until about a week before the event and I will get them to you. If you need insurance you need to arrange that yourselves. I will be there to see you off on the day.

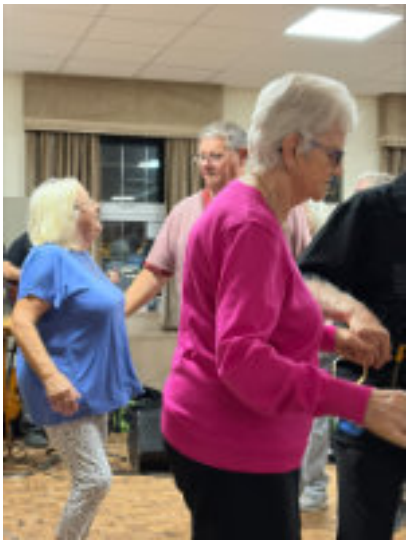


# OCTOBER BARN DANCE









Top left: Annette and Chris D doing, I think. Is that Roland in the background?

Top middle: the 2 Margarets forming into a set with the caller in the middle explaining.

Top right: Savino and Anne followed by Sue and Chris circling the set with Margaret and Cynthia bringing up the rear.

Left: Notice the concentration on Roy's face - or did I just tread on his toe?

Right: Jon, Cynthia, Sandra, Anna Marie, Sue, Chris, Annette & friend to name a few.



Based on the number of smiling facies, the volume of chatter and the photos, it seems everyone enjoyed their evening whether they danced or not. We sold the full 40 tickets for the event and accomodated people from the wait list as vacancies arrived so no one was excluded. As a result of the full numbers we were able to splash out on hot Pizzas which you all seemed to enjoy and we wasted very little. Geraldine - who rarely seems to go anywhere without a cake provided one and a bit like the feeding of the 5000 we made it go round everyone - thank you for our tasty morsels. The caller was - as last year- very good and gave us a mix of dances from a slow saunter to some real stepping out. Thank you to all who provided entertainment by joining in the dancing and especial thanks to those who didn't dance as it would have been mayhem if we had all got up.The musicians were excellent and provided entertainment for those who didn't dance. Perhaps we will do it again next year and try to find a larger venue. Thanks also to Alison who kept us all hydrated at the bar.



Thanks to members sending their pictures, Roy and I appear to be in every scene, dancing almost all of the dances.

On the left, new members, Alison and Mandy enjoying their first Evergreens' experience. Welcome to you both.

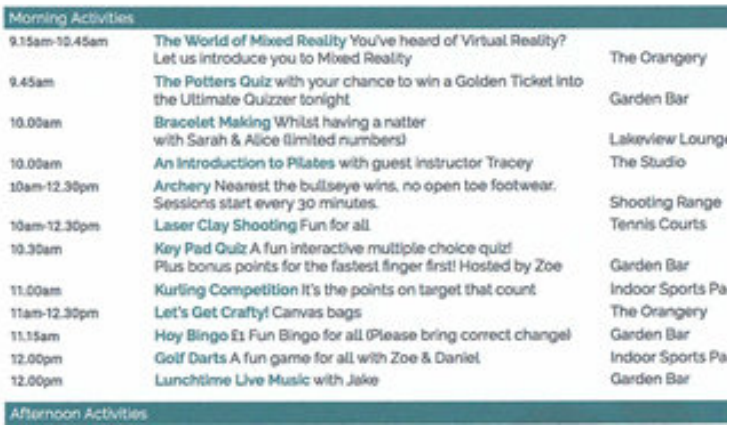
Right: David and Barbara, are both accomplished sequence dancers. They joined us to learn some new steps in a new dance genre.
They would love to welcome you back at their dance sessions - see the back page if you are interested.



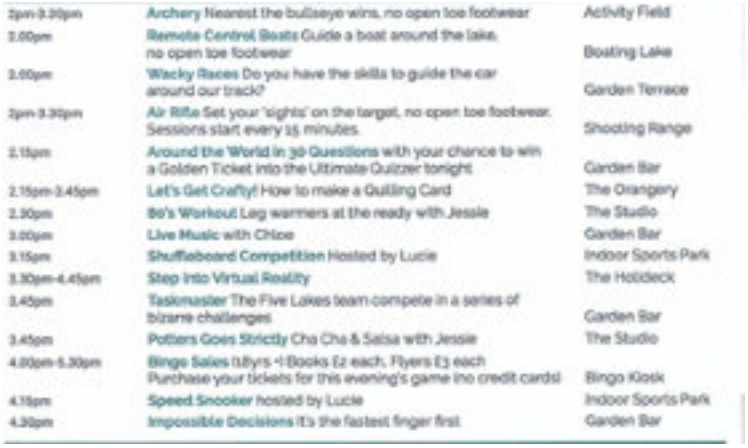
## POTTERS 5 LAKES activity holiday 24th May 2027 £619 pp all inc

We already have 27 deposit-paid members on this holiday with 5 on the wait-list for single rooms. You will need to join up with other singles or find a friend who will share with you as it is unlikely that I can get more single rooms and, if so it will be last minute - although I do ask every week. If you need help with this, then let me know and I will put you in touch with other singles. If you haven't already paid your deposit and had your room confirmed then you do not currently have a space. I am delighted to say that at this moment, it isn't a problem as we still have 10 places in twin and double rooms and a double plus available (£40 pp supplement) but these won't hang around for long so ring me and put your deposit in the account as POT and your name (bank details on the back page) Check out the Potters YouTube film or ask me to see the brochure.

POTTERS SAMPLE DAY PROGRAMME



| Morning Activities | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.15am-10.45am | The World of Mixed Reality You've heard of Virtual Reality? Let us introduce you to Mixed Reality | The Orangery |
| 9.45am | The Potters Quiz with your chance to win a Golden Ticket into the Ultimate Quizzer tonight | Garden Bar |
| 10.00am | Bracelet Making Whilst having a natter with Sarah & Alice (limited numbers) | Lakeview Lounge |
| 10.00am | An Introduction to Pilates with guest instructor Tracey | The Studio |
| 10am-12.30pm | Archery Nearest the bullseye wins, no open toe footwear. Sessions start every 30 minutes. | Shooting Range |
| 10am-12.30pm | Laser Clay Shooting Fun for all | Tennis Courts |
| 10.30am | Key Pad Quiz A fun interactive multiple choice quiz! Plus bonus points for the fastest finger first! Hosted by Zoe | Garden Bar |
| 11.00am | Kurling Competition It's the points on target that count | Indoor Sports Pa |
| 11am-12.30pm | Let's Get Crafty! Canvas bags | The Orangery |
| 11.15am | Hoy Bingo £1 Fun Bingo for all (Please bring correct change) | Garden Bar |
| 12.00pm | Golf Darts A fun game for all with Zoe & Daniel | Indoor Sports Pa |
| 12.00pm | Lunchtime Live Music with Jake | Garden Bar |
| Afternoon Activities | | |



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|---|---|---|
| 2pm-3.30pm | Archery Nearest the bullseye wins, no open toe footwear | Activity Field |
| 2.00pm | Remote Control Boats Guide a boat around the lake, no open toe footwear | Boating Lake |
| 2.00pm | Wacky Races Do you have the skills to guide the car around our track? | Garden Terrace |
| 2pm-3.30pm | Air Rifle Set your 'sights' on the target, no open toe footwear. Sessions start every 15 minutes | Shooting Range |
| 2.15pm | Around the World in 30 Questions with your chance to win a Golden Ticket into the Ultimate Quizzer tonight | Garden Bar |
| 2.15pm-3.45pm | Let's Get Crafty! How to make a Quilling Card | The Orangery |
| 2.30pm | Bo's Workout Leg warmers at the ready with Jessie | The Studio |
| 3.00pm | Live Music with CHloe | Garden Bar |
| 3.15pm | Shuffleboard Competition Hosted by Lucie | Indoor Sports Park |
| 3.30pm-4.45pm | Step Into Virtual Reality | The Hotdeck |
| 3.45pm | Taskmaster The Five Lakes team compete in a series of bizarre challenges | Garden Bar |
| 3.45pm | Potters Goes Strictly Cha Cha & Salsa with Jessie | The Studio |
| 4.00pm-5.30pm | Bingo Sales (Ubyrs +) Books £2 each, Flyers £1 each Purchase your tickets for this evening's game (no credit cards) | Bingo Kiosk |
| 4.15pm | Speed Snooker hosted by Lucie | Indoor Sports Park |
| 4.30pm | Impossible Decisions It's the fastest finger first | Garden Bar |

## COACH PARKING: COMMON SENSE PREVAILS

I am pleased to report that following many people's hard work and encouragement, we have a positive outcome on this. Councellor Beigel has confirmed that new signage has been ordered for the coach park at the Cross and it will shortly be available again as a pick-up/drop-off point for everyone in town complete with taxi rank and toilet facilities. Well done Evergreens for fighting this battle alongside Age Friendly Banbury.

## WHATS APP GROUP

This is an informal add-on to the official Evergreens event profile. I want to tell you that I have been very encouraged by the work that Peter Ridding has taken on in doing this as you must all know by now that modern technology is not my forte. There are a small number of members already signed up to this from the holiday on Hayling Island and it does seem to be plugging a gap for some members who like to keep in contact. Thanks to all who have signed up (even those who felt it wasn't for them), as it has given Peter the chance to trial this and discover what problems and opportunities it offers. I have been amazed at the professional approach that Peter is applying to this project as it is important that we keep everyone safe, so I will continue some involvement from the sidelines. A full list of rules will be available and please remember - as with everything else in Evergreens, nothing is mandatory. It's simply another opportunity to be in contact with other members, if you wish.
We will launch the WhatApp Group at the AGM. Thanks, Peter.

## SPICEBALL SPORTS AND SOCIAL HUB

Breaking news! We will shortly receive the new list of 50+ activities which will appear on the website as soon as it is released. There will be new activities for us, for example; squash and gym. On the basis of 'Use 'em or lose 'em', we urge you to give them a go so that they remain on Spiceball's programme.

If you have any feedback, let us know. We meet every 2 months with Centre Manager Graham Bleach, Duty Manager Chris, and also with gym staff to discuss how best Spiceball can meet Evergreens' needs.

# Cruise To Zebrugge & Rotterdam



The weather was good and the sea calm with lovely views to ponder.



Chris, Gina and Sandra gethering together for evening meal.



Mervyn, Laura, Angie and Phil flying the flag for Guardian Court. They were everywhere - making the most of it all.



CARRY ON CRUISING! Who'd have thought it would be so difficult to get through technology to book a cruise? Despite the odds, Roy managed to find an excellent bargain on Cunard and then landed himself helping everyone to complete forms etc. Many thanks to Roy for persistence and dedication. All Cruisers had a great time - as the comments and photos testify.

We've taken on board people's wishes to cruise again. After Christmas, we'll do some research on this and, possibly, a foreign holiday sometime next year too. It's a 'Watch this space' situation!







Left: Pete, Sue, Roy and Chris spent their time in Bruges viewing the sights from a horse and carriage which clip-clopped through the cobbled streets and dropped us right by a cafe. As if there wasn't enough food on board, some were tempted by Belgian chocolate tiramisu and a hot chocolate drink. The portions were huge but so was the bill. Never mind.

Above: We were all delighted when the entertainment manager announced that there would be a Q&A with Fishermans Friends. Who knew they had such strong Evergreen following? The following evening they were our lively and interactive. musical entertainment







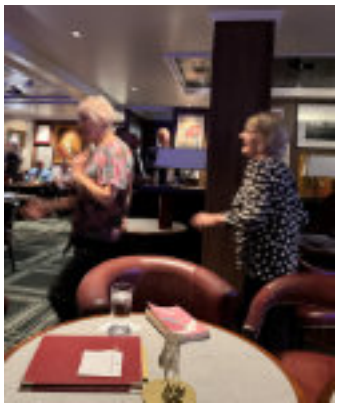
Laura, Mervyn and Chris went on the water to do their sightseeing in Bruges on one of the canal barges - not a slice of chocolate cake anywhere to be seen. Everyone did their own thing and seemed to enjoy it







Whilst not mandatory most of the group dressed for dinner in the restaurant each night before moving on to the evening entertainment. (A 60s Act, Fishermans Friends and a comedian and classical pianist). If these didn't take your fancy there were quizes, dancing, disco, karaoke. (well performed Phil) competitions, a night in the pub and much, much more. Something for everyone.





Left: Laura leeds Angie and everyone else in a conga around the bar once she had a few drinks and let her hair down.

Right: Afternoon tea each day proved to be a popular passtime guaranteed to spoil your appetite for dinner.

Left: Gina and Sandra doing some sort of sign language to Roy. They were by the lifeboat so I think they were gloating!

Right: Chris and Gerry all glammed up.

EARLY INTEREST

If there is sufficient appetite, we will be organising a holiday abroad in Oct/Nov 2027. If you are interested, put your name forward on the 'early interest list'.
In future, single rooms will be allocated on a rolling opportunity so if you miss out on one holiday you will get a chance on the next.
This will be managed by the committee.
Given the paucity of single rooms, sharing is the most reliable option.





## GF SOCIAL GROUP

You are only on the back page as that is the only place I could create a reasonable space. Every Wednesday there is a pop-up social gathering at GF around lunch time. They have a table at the back left and if you choose to turn up you are almost guaranteed that there will be an Evergreens gathering to join in. If you choose to you can have lunch but you don't have to as long as you buy a drink of any sort.This group is overseen by Jeff and Chris, two of our newer members and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for getting this going. It started small and seems to be becoming very popular and might suit those people who aren't keen to be out in the evenings. You do not have to be a GF member to eat there and the food is hot, good and reasonably substantial as well as inexpensive. Why not pop along some time?

## SUNDAY LUNCH AND WALK GROUP

Another social opportunity which is run by a different person each month. They select a suitable venue and arrange a walk to fit in with that. This is not to be confused with WALK and EAT which is organised by Shirley and Anne and has 2 different length famiiar walks to choose from and mostly takes place in the holiday months. We alsways take a £5 deposit for these so it should be easy to differentiate.

## LONDON OVERNIGHT THEATRE TRIP 6th April 2027

Lynette is organising this trip and is collecting names of those interested. The cost is £285 pp in a twin room and £350 for single rooms. There are no double rooms available. You spend the night at The Royal National Hotel and the price includes breakfast and theatre tickets to see Operation Mincemeat. We need to move on this quickly so if you are interested please contact Lynette now so she can arrange transport. Tel: 07907986268. Coach fee will be extra and will depend on the number going.

## EVERGREENS ARE THERE

Country and Western Dance. Last sunday of each month at The Banbury Bowls Club 7.30 £4. There are always Evergreens there and you are always welcome to join Roy and I if you are alone.

Ballroom and sequence dancing every Thurs afternoon at Kings Sutton Memorial Hall 1400-1600. Dave and Barbara are normally there along with other Evergreens.

Reminiscence group meets 1st Friday of each month1400-1530ish. £3 including refreshments at the Museum in the room by the cafe. Many Evergreens attending. Always a lively chat group.

Anne and Shirley's walk from the Mill in Banbury meeting on Tuesday at 10.30 and offers two different lengths of walk and the chance for a cuppa at the end. No charge but pay for your own drink. Runs throughout the year weather permitting.

Wellbeing Weds walk from Sainsburys at 1030. A bit more challenging but still very doable for most walkers. Strong shoes should be worn as there is some field walking.

**CALL MY BLUFF and AGM 13th NOV 1900 at THE CHESTNUTS. Free**

**TOP HATS AND TIARRAS PARTY 4th DEC 1645 at GF £15**

**OXFORD WAITS 16th DEC at The Chestnuts with a bar £15**

**TWIXMAS 27th DEC MYSTERY HOLIDAY price on application**

**JANUARY EVENT**

**Quiz night details next month**

**FEBRUARY EVENT**

**10 pin bowling and golf**

## FEB/MARCH HOLIDAY

Likely to be a soul and motown holiday. Details to follow. Text us if you might be interested.

## MARCH EVENT

A wintery walk, lots of chat and hot food.

Sara Carter who is one of our very longstanding members has asked me to notify you that she has moved to Highmarket House on North Bar due to ongoing health issues. It is a welcoming place and I am sure Sara would welcome visitors. They often run events open to the public too. Good Luck Sara hope to see you at some events still.

**Your Committee 2026**

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

**BANK DETAILS THE BANBURY EVERGREENS ACCOUNT 20434140 SORT 20.03.84**