

Grapevine Essex Update

News—October 2017

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the Grapevine outings.

So far this year we've had two successful fundraising events. The Barn Dance which was held at Chelmsford Social Club in May, had nearly 100 attendees and raised £635.

The Fun Walk saw 10 volunteers taking part in the sponsored walk at Barleylands Farm in Billericay. An amazing £1300 was raised in sponsorship, plus another £674 from local businesses who donated to a Bonus Pot.

Earlier this year Grapevine received £1000 from the Aviva Community Fund and £160 from the Billericay Lions Club. We just heard recently that we were successful in winning a grant of £4000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The next fundraising event coming up is a Quiz Night held at the Old Chelmsfordians Club on 6th October. Up to 10 teams will battle it out to become the quiz champions and hopefully raise some more funds to support Grapevine activities and events.

We would like to thank all of our supporters and volunteers for their very generous donations and hard work on our behalf.

Summer Review

Summer events were hugely popular again this year. 176 members and carers attended and over 700 individual places were booked! Demand for some outings was so great that we had an extra 35 members on the waiting list. There would have been more if we hadn't managed to reserve an additional 40 places to join Bollywood Elvis at the Indian Nights restaurant!



The mini-break to Bowles Rocks was the highlight of the summer. The facilities and activities there were the best we've enjoyed so far and everyone had a fantastic time.

The Winter events will start on 3rd November with a live performance of the classic comedy thriller The Ghost Train; the Grapevine Christmas party will be held on 1st December with music from the amazing Beavers. Still on a spooky theme, our next trip out will be to see the hilarious Young Frankenstein at The Garrick Theatre. Other events include a Dickensian Christmas at Kentwell Hall, followed in January by a George Michael tribute act, and Beauty and the Beast by the Blackmore Players. Bookings will be accepted with a completed booking form and payment instruction from mid-October.



Members' Feedback Survey

We would be grateful if members and carers could take part in the online survey. This will help to shape our future events programmes, highlight any negative or positive views and help to keep our standards high. Click or enter this link into your browser to access the survey: <https://goo.gl/u5AYSf>

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Grapevine Essex Dance Group

Dance Group members were sad to say goodbye to Claire Lucas and Peter Turrall who have hung up their dancing shoes after over 20 years dedicated service to the Dance Group. The Group has gone from strength to strength in recent years and remains under the guidance of dance teacher Jean Hunter. However, we are delighted that Vanessa Hellier has taken over the management of the group, together with support from long-standing volunteers Lynne Zwink, Gail Roberts and Lesley Caldon.

The Dance Group meet at Boswells School on Monday evenings during term time from 7pm-8pm. There is an annual charge of £12 towards uniforms and a weekly fee of £6 (no transport) or £10 (with transport). Contact Vanessa Hellier for more information (contact details above).

We are very sorry to announce that two Grapevine members sadly passed away this summer. Michael Scott was 45, he loved dancing to Michael Jackson and had a wicked sense of humour.

Michael Geeves was 52 and was a very warm and friendly gentleman, who loved to get involved with everything.

Both will be missed very much by their families, their many friends and the Grapevine team.

