

Grapevine Essex Update

Funding News—October 2018

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 June, had 112 attendees and raised £870.

At the Fun Walk in September, we had 18 volunteers from Grapevine Essex taking part in the sponsored walk at Barleylands Farm in Billericay. An amazing £977 was raised in sponsorship, and we'll find out in November at a special presentation evening, how much extra we'll receive from the Bonus Pot—which is a fund contributed to by local businesses.

We're delighted that the Broomfield Cottage Gardeners chose Grapevine as their Charity of the Year and have so far contributed over £400 to our funds. We've also just had news that we were successful in winning a grant of £2011 from The Morrisons' Foundation. This adds to the £2500 in donations we've already received this year.

The next fundraising event coming up is the Charity Quiz Night held at the Old Chelmsfordians' Club on 12th October. Up to 10 teams will battle it out to become quiz champions and hopefully raise more much needed 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 / Winter Update

Summer events were very popular again this year. 155 members and carers attended and over 700 individual places were booked!

There were many highlights this summer, with the mini-break to *Grosvenor Hall* being one to remember. The activities were excellent, the weather was warm and sunny and we all had a great time. We're looking forward to planning something quite exciting for next summer's residential event. Other great days out were the fishing trips, and the visits to the *Freemasons' Hall*, *Wimbledon*, *Lambourne End*, and the spectacular *Bat Out of Hell* West End show.



The Winter events start on 29th November with *Conjuring at the Court* at the Drayton Manor Hotel in Ealing.

We'll have a meal in the restaurant, followed by some extraordinary acts of magic and illusion from four different performers. Next is the *Grapevine Christmas Party* on 14th December, with live music from Ben—the Ultimate Michael Jackson tribute show. It's guaranteed to be a night to remember! On 16th December we'll enjoy a Dickensian Christmas at *Kentwell Hall*, followed in January by the *Blackmore Players' pantomime*; and in February we're off to the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch for *All Shook Up*—a hip-swivelling performance with romance, rock 'n' roll and Elvis songs—honestly you can't go wrong!

Bookings will be accepted with a completed booking form and payment instruction from end-October.



For people with learning disabilities

Colin Gooday Kindness Award

Earlier this year we were devastated when our beloved Treasurer Colin Gooday sadly passed away. Colin helped set up Grapevine Essex in 2012 with Jackie Holland, Vanessa Hellier, Mary Schultz and Peter Turrall. Without Colin's unfailing support and encouragement, Grapevine would probably never have been more than a dream...

To pay tribute to Colin and recognise the type of person he was, we have introduced a Kindness Award. This can be awarded to anyone—member, parent, carer or volunteer who displays exceptional kindness towards others. Nominations can be made at any time and the trustees will select the most deserving candidate each December.



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Dance Group

The Dance Group meet at Boswells School in Chelmsford on Monday evenings during term time from 7pm-8pm. There is an annual charge of £12 towards uniforms and a weekly fee of £5. The dancers perform regularly at The Boswells' Show and other festivals and events throughout the year. Details will be announced soon of an exclusive Dance Group outing that will take place in the Autumn.

Club Grapevine

Up to 60 members attend Club Grapevine events, with bowling and discos being among the most popular activities. Club is held on Tuesday evenings at Columbus College in Chelmsford and the weekly fee is £5 unless it's a special evening. Organised activities include Art and Craft workshops, visits from Animal Handling experts, Dance and Karaoke sessions and the ever popular bingo nights.