

# Grapevine Essex Update

## Funding News—Autumn 2019

So far this year we've held two successful fundraising events. The **Barn Dance** which took place at Chelmsford Social Club in March, and raised £1200.

At the **Fun Walk** in September, 18 volunteers took part in the sponsored walk at Barleylands Farm in Billericay. An amazing £800 was raised in sponsorship money. The event is run by local MP John Baron, and we'll find out at a special presentation evening in November how much extra we'll receive from the Bonus Pot—which is a fund contributed to by local businesses. Last year an additional 65% was added to the funds we collected.

The next fundraising event we have coming up is the **Charity Quiz Night** held at the Old Chelmsfordians' Club on 29th November (postponed from 11 Oct). Up to 10 teams will battle it out to become quiz champions and hopefully raise lots of money to support Grapevine activities and events.

Grants totalling £4440 have been received from Aviva, The Rank Organisation; The Hedley Foundation; The Edward Gostling Foundation; Barchester Health and the Rainham Gospel Hall Fellowship. Many smaller individual donations have added up to £1325.

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. 163 members and carers attended and over 720 individual places were booked! There were so many highlights and much excitement around the two residential minibreaks: a sailing adventure trip to the Isle of Wight; and for less active members - a relaxing break in Suffolk. Other great days out included the trips to Brands Hatch; Clacton Summer Show; 9 to 5 the Musical and belly dancing at Ziyaret Mediterranean Restaurant.

The Winter programme begins on 24th November with a Christmas event at **Blenheim Palace** celebrating Alice in Wonderland, followed by the Grapevine **'80s themed' Christmas Party** on 14th December. A tour of the **ITV Daytime TV Studios** takes place on 20th December, with **Robin Hood and his Merry Men** starring Diversity on 31st December. **Cinderella**—the panto by the **Blackmore Players** will be in January and in February we're back at the Cliffs Pavilion for **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** starring Joe McFadden (Strictly winner). Bookings will be accepted from the end of October.



For people with learning disabilities

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## Dance Group

The Dance Group rehearse 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. An exclusive Dance Group outing to see **42nd Street** is planned for November.

## Club Grapevine

Up to 60 members attend Club Grapevine on Tuesday evenings during term time, with bowling and discos being among the most popular activities. Club G is held at Columbus College in Chelmsford and the weekly fee is £5 unless it's a special evening. Organised activities include Art and Craft workshops and hilarious performances from Tickled Pink Productions.

### Colin Gooday Kindness Award

This Award was introduced to pay tribute to our much loved Treasurer Colin, after he sadly passed away in 2018.

Candidates for the Award can be anyone within the Grapevine family—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 in December.**

