

Penkridge Phoenix Club Newsletter

June 2025

Celebrating Our Adventures and Looking Ahead

Dear Members,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, it is time to reflect on the wonderful moments we have shared, the adventures we have embarked on, and the exciting plans awaiting us. This newsletter captures highlights from the past six months, previews future events, and shares insights from our valued members.

Chairmans Report

Half-way through the year already, and what an interesting year it is turning out to be.

A new venue for the Big Breakfast proved popular, and our first Mystery Tour was a roaring success, with everyone returning without a clue where they had been but suitably entertained and refreshed. I am sure it will not be our last!

Another new venture this year has been the 4night, 5-day holiday which took 31 of us to Ilfracombe. As the organiser, it would not be appropriate for me to comment, but you may see some evidence of what people thought of it elsewhere in this newsletter and on the website. Suffice as to say I am encouraged to be already planning another one for next year.

There is the usual mix of events planned for the rest of the year, but a couple with some interesting new twists. We have had to dispense with the Kurling Kit, which had provided many fun-filled evenings over the years. But you will get chance to try out the new game of Shuffleboard in August. A re-vamped Afternoon Tea will be held in the Peace Memorial Hall, and will feature a game of Shuffleboard, followed by what has become an impressive spread of refreshments at tea-time. The traditional Christmas Lunch will also be quite different this year. Again, in the Hall, we will have a two-course full Christmas Lunch, prepared and

served by outside caterers, followed by entertainment by a trio of singers to serenade us with some old-time favourites.

Things are happening too “behind the scenes,” as it were. The former Federation of the Stafford area Phoenix Clubs has now been disbanded as it no longer played a useful role. Each of the individual clubs will maintain contact with each other, and we have received our share of the Federation’s funds which were split between the clubs.

We constantly look at costs of running the club and one of the areas under scrutiny at present is the bank account. Our current bank seems to go on increasing charges for the services it offers, and we are very keen to take steps to minimise these. We already make payments to our suppliers by direct bank transfer as much as possible.

We could cut our bank costs considerably by using direct transfer to make payments into the club of annual subscriptions and charges for events and will be looking at this seriously. Also, the committee will be examining the current Constitution over the summer to make sure it is up to date and fit for purpose and will present any changes to the AGM in October.

So, all in all, interesting times. Watch this space!

Keep up to date by use of the online newsletter and website, which are quickly becoming the preferred means of communication. Visit the website by copying the link below into your browser or scanning the QR code with your mobile camera and clicking the link.

Stay updated with all our news and events from there.

<https://penkridgephoenix.org.uk/>



Your feedback counts

Over the past six months, Phoenix has been buzzing with activity. Here are some of the memorable excursions and social events we have enjoyed.

Buddy Holly Tribute Act and 50's Rock n Roll Evening - February

The hall was filled with Rock n Roll, and everyone danced all night. Due to its success, Paul will return in February 2026 for another 50's Rock n Roll night, this time with wine and cheese included.

We enjoyed a night of entertainment with a Buddy Holly tribute act. He was an excellent act and was enjoyed by all. Not only were we singing along but many were dancing too.

The tables were decorated with attractive tea lights and added to the ambiance. My companion (not easily impressed) said it was the best night he had had for a long time a sentiment echoed by many.

Well done the committee for organising such an enjoyable evening.

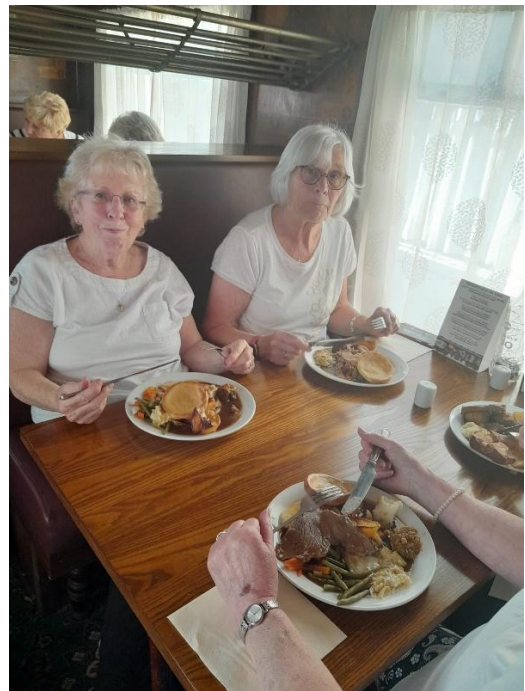
Diane Causer

Mystery Tour & Lunch - April

What a mystery to keep until the coach arrived at Bridgemere garden centre where members spent time looking around the gardens and shops and enjoying a coffee in the restaurant before making their way to the Spot Gate Inn for Sunday lunch.

I had an enjoyable morning at Bridgemere Garden Centre. We then went on to the Spot Gate Inn for Sunday lunch eaten in unusual surroundings of a railway carriage. The food was good. The day out was well organised, and the weather was sunny. What more could you ask for !

Denise Jones



I thoroughly enjoyed the Mystery Tour outing. Loved walking around Bridgemere gardens and shops then on for a lovely meal at the Spot Gate Inn. Totally different atmosphere eating in a railway carriage. A great day out, can't wait for another mystery tour.

Janette Bristow



February '25 Buddy Holly Tribute & 50's Rock & Roll

Short Break to Ilfracombe - May

Mike was the organiser of the short break. The Penkridge Phoenix members were joined by members from other Phoenix groups in the area, allowing the group to have exclusive use of the coach. The break was very successful and enjoyed by all. The committee will be looking to organise something similar for next year.

"We were pleased to be offered the chance to join Mike's tour to Ilfracombe with Alpha Tours. An excellent driver and good coach arrived on time at Penkridge and helped achieve early arrival at the (Alpha) hotel. The Hotel itself was well positioned; well-staffed for the most part and was comfortable and spacious despite there being ongoing work which detracted from the views from the rooms in some cases. A good variety and quality of food was available at breakfast and dinner and very efficiently served. Evening entertainment was good. The local tour to Minehead and Exmoor villages was well planned, and there was a free day to explore locally. Many thanks to Mike for his initiative, planning and organisation throughout!"

John Prescott, Hayward Phoenix

Walsall Leather and Stourbridge Glass Museums - June

At the Leather Museum, the guide explained why Walsall became the centre of the leather trade in this country. The guide demonstrated the saddle making processes that earned the town it's nickname 'The Saddlers'. The group learned about various skins and how they are processed into leather.



May '25 Walsall Leather Museum



The Glass Museum is located inside a glass cone and highlights the history of glass making in Stourbridge. It features a vast collection from the globally significant Stourbridge Glass Collection. The experienced guide walked the group through the galleries, highlighting the gems in the vast array of historical glass, from ancient Egypt to the Cameo glass that made Stourbridge famous throughout the world. The group watched an amazing and contemporary artist demonstrate glass blowing and viewed some of the artist's work.



May '25 Short Break to Ilfracombe

"Well, what an interesting day Walsall leather museum which had examples of different leathers on display. A bit of history of where and why the trade started in Walsall. The various processes of producing the leather to make some lovely products, the most interesting of which and what Walsall is well known for, 'The Saddles.' There is more processes involved in producing the right saddle for comfort for the horse and rider than you would imagine.

The glassware at Stourbridge Glass Museum was pretty good too. The various designs of glass and decoration was incredible. How designs have changed and improved on over the centuries was pointed out. Altogether a well organised trip. Thanks to Val & Anna for organising the trip.
Sue & Derek Green



June '25 Guided tour of the glass museum



Future Events

The second half of the year promises more opportunities for fun, learning, entertaining and relaxation. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

17th July

Visit to Chester & Boat Cruise

Tickets on sale – June £28

Margaret Kirkland 07484 765409

20th August

Strawberry Afternoon Tea and Shuffleboard

Peace Memorial Hall

Tickets now on sale - June £10

Trish Hugill 07519 313193

18th September

Halfpenny Green Winery Tour, Wine Tasting and Cream Tea

Tickets on sale - June £28

Diane Causer 01785 713364

9th October

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Peace Memorial Hall 10.30am

24th October

Doug Parker & Friends

Peace Memorial Hall

Tickets now on sale - August £14

Val Corbett 07774 658738

21st November

Quiz Night

Haling Dene Centre 7pm

Tickets on sale – September

Anna Evans 07944 616597

29th November

Visit to Worcester & Christmas Market

Tickets on sale – September £25

Trish Hugill 07519 313193

12th December

Christmas Lunch with Entertainment by the Bluebird Belles

Peace Memorial Hall 1pm

Tickets on Sale – September £29

Mike Smith 07711 295272

20th February 2026

50's Rock and Roll with Wine & Cheese

Peace Memorial Hall

Tickets on Sale - December

Weekly Phoenix Clubs

Walking Club – Every Tuesday 10.30am

Various locations

Dere Green 01785 714164

Art Club – Every Thursday 10 – mid-day

Haling Dene Centre

Ann Barlow 01785 714128

Badminton - Every Thursday 4 – 5 pm

Penkridge Leisure Centre

Paul Waterfield 01922 414158

Monthly Phoenix Clubs

Cuppa Club - Last Wednesday of the month

2 – 4pm Halting Dene Centre

Val Corbett 07774 658738

Coffee Mornings - Second Thursday of the

Peace Memorial Hall 10.30 am.

Meet up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and participate in a free raffle. Purchase your tickets for future events.

Anna Evans 07944 616597

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9th October 2025 10.30am

The AGM will be held at the October Coffee Morning. The Chairman and Treasurer will present their Annual Reports and members can ask questions. The Membership may be asked to vote on amendments to the Constitution, together with any other matters affecting the Club.

The committee is actively seeking new members. We are particularly interested in individuals who bring fresh ideas, have a passion for organising events, or can assist other committee members with their initiatives.

If you have a few spare hours and are interested in contributing to our team, please contact Anna Evans (Secretary) to obtain a nomination form.

My name is Trish Hugill and I have been a Phoenix member for about 13 years.

Recently the committee were looking for new members and as this was coinciding with me finishing work, I decided to step outside of my comfort zone and put myself forward to join it.

The reason I decided to do this was that I felt it would help keep my mind active by helping to organise events and come up with new ideas. I also thought that it would be an ideal opportunity to meet new people.

I'm really pleased that I made the decision to put myself forward as I really enjoy it and have made to feel welcome.

Closing Thoughts

As we move forward, let us continue to cherish the connections we have built, embrace new adventures, and make lasting memories. Thank you for being part of Penkridge Phoenix.

Our members are the heart of the club, and their voices help shape its future.

Please let me have your feedback on the activities you participate in on a regular basis. Also, let us know what you have enjoyed about the excursions you have been on. Let us know what your interests are and the kind of excursions and events you would like to do. If you have any photographs we can use on the Website and Newsletter, please send them to me via email, WhatsApp or text.

Have an idea for upcoming excursions and events for 2026, please let us know.

Anna Evans
Editor