

PENKRIDGE PHONENIX CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of the Penkridge Phoenix Club Newsletter.

As we approach the festive season and the end of another busy year, the days may be getting colder, but you will always find a warm welcome at Phoenix.

The Committee extends a warm welcome to both longstanding and new Members. Our mission is to enrich lives, nurture friendships, and ensure everyone feels truly valued. With an exciting calendar of activities, lively social evenings, and memorable excursions, there is always something to take part in. If you know someone who would relish becoming a Phoenix Member, why not invite them along to one of our friendly monthly Coffee Mornings, where they will be most welcome. Joining is easy, and new Members are welcome throughout the year. There has never been a better time to get involved! Membership has been extended for those 45 years of age and over.

We are delighted to bring you all the latest updates, upcoming 2026 Events, and highlights of the past 6 months. We hope you enjoy reading

this edition and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anna Evans
Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

An impressive list of events and activities have been organised and taken place successfully over the last 12 months, with some new and old favourites. For these, we must thank, but not exclusively, Members of the committee. They give their time freely, not only on the day of the event, but beforehand in taking bookings, collecting money and co-ordinating with venues, coach companies, artists, and often a ream of other helpers, to make sure things run smoothly on the day or evening. There is much more organisation involved which goes on behind the scenes, than many people realise.

At the AGM, Margaret Edwards, Elizabeth Rosenfelt, and Margaret Kirkland chose not to continue as committee Members. All three have given good service in planning and organising various activities, and we thank them for that. We have now been fortunate in co-opting two new Committee Members Christine and Bill Jackson. We look forward to their input, not only with helping and organising events, but bringing a

fresh perspective and innovative ideas to what we do and how we do it.

By the time you read this, the Christmas Lunch will be upon us, an entirely new venture this time, which we hope will be successful and appreciated.

Looking forward, we are already preparing for an equally exciting programme for next year. There will be more of the ever-popular variety evenings, more quiz and games events, together with outings including, we hope, a mystery tour and another short hotel and coach holiday, all of which will be well-publicised and open for bookings at the appropriate time.

So, after what I hope and trust will be an enjoyable and Happy Christmas for you all, we look forward to welcoming you to a New Year of Phoenix fun and joy.

Mike Smith
Chair

Mike is now taking bookings for the Hotel and Coach holiday to Melrose in Scotland. 23rd – 27th May 2026. Luxury coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast. Two excursions including a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia. **OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS** £400pp

Contact Mike for further information.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WARWICKSHIRE STEAM RAILWAY

In June, Members travelled to Broadway where they sat back and enjoyed a leisurely afternoon on board the GWSR heritage railway connecting Broadway to Cheltenham Racecourse. The 29-mile round trip saw glorious views westwards of the Vale of Evesham, the Malvern's and Wales, and eastwards the Cotswolds.



A flash back to the olden days of steam! A scenic journey through rolling hills and beautiful countryside on the volunteer run Gloucester Warwickshire Steam railway. Afterwards we finished the day walking down the main street in Broadway with its unique shops and ended the day with an afternoon tea in a cosy quaint tea room.

Val Corbett
Organiser

PENKRIDGE PHOENIX WALKING GROUP



We are a lively, friendly bunch of people who meet every Tuesday at 10:30am and walk around 4 – 4.5 miles starting from various location. We always stop halfway for a coffee break and a choccy bar.

The start points for the walks are usually within a 30-minute drive from Penkridge, however, it may be a bit further especially in the summer. We encourage Members to car-share where possible when travelling to the start locations.

A lot of the winter walks will be on the Chase or local Paths. We walk on several types of public footpaths including fields, tracks and lanes and walks may involve styles and mud so appropriate footwear is a must.

There are regularly 15 to 20 of us walking in the group and Members are encouraged to lead walks, however, it isn't mandatory.

We pride ourselves with the friendships that have been created

over the years and gladly welcome new Members to the group.

Some of us following the walks, carry on to the nearest Pub for lunch (that's what we do it for really!!). All are welcome to join in with that as well.



We keep everyone updated about group activities through WhatsApp or email, and the schedule of upcoming walks is distributed every quarter.

If you fancy enjoying some light outdoor activity that is paired with good company, good camaraderie, and cheerful conversation, why not come along and join us?

Contact Derek or Sue Green.

Derek Green
Walk Co-Ordinator



AFTERNOON TEA & SHUFFLEBOARD



This year, when discussing the annual Afternoon Tea event that takes place in August, the committee decided to shake things up a bit! We swapped the usual venue for the PMH by added a new twist, with a thrilling game of Shuffleboard. Excitement buzzed in the air as the shuffleboard was unveiled and set up for the very first time, kicking off a session brimming with friendly competition and lots of laughter. Of course, no afternoon would be complete without scrumptious treats, and this year's spread was truly mouth-watering. A huge thank you to Trish and her team for their hard work and delicious food and to the helpers who organised the Shuffleboard. It was an afternoon to remember, combining tasty delights and new experiences in perfect harmony!

Trish Hugill
Organiser

HALFPENNY GREEN VINEYARD



In September, Members enjoyed a captivating, guided tour of the Vineyard at Halfpenny Green, led by a knowledgeable guide who brought its rich history of the wine-making process to life. The experience was elevated with a delightful wine tasting, followed by the indulgence of a freshly baked cream scone and a comforting cup of tea in the afternoon. Some Members chose to luncheon in the restaurant whilst others headed for the bespoke shops and the onsite deli that sold a myriad of mouth-watering produce including homemade pastries and savouries and of course wine from the Vineyard.



Diane Causer
Organiser

DOUG PARKER MUSIC & LAUGHTER SHOW



Local comedian Doug Parker, celebrated for his razor-sharp wit and squeaky-clean observational humour, took to the stage at the PMH in October. His supporting musical maestros Steve Ashcroft and Martin Lewis entertained us with music from the sixties and seventy's. Doug, although he is a cracking comedian, surprisingly, had a good singing voice as he sang along with the lads. Doug was on form as usual, delivering a side-splitting evening of comedy.

Val Corbett
Organiser

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

The Annual Quiz night in November was well supported. Although Jordan our Quiz Master had succumbed to making the questions a little easier, however, he was really strict with the answers! Halfway through the evening we stopped for

a refreshing cup of tea and light supper which was most welcomed.

Prizes were awarded to the triumphant quiz team, while the valiant team in last place received consolation prizes to ease their wounded pride. The tension in the room was gripping as the final scores were announced. Scores were so close, you could practically hear the calculators sweating!

It is hoped that we can encourage more Members to support this event. You don't have to be an 'egg head' to take part!

Anna Evans
Organiser

We were a team of 5 and what a fun night we had at the Phoenix Quiz Night, held at the Haling Dene Centre. The comradery in the room was full of anticipation, although some of the questions went over our heads.

We were delighted to actually win first prize of a bottle of Prosecco each.

A big thank you to the organisers for the night and supper. Off course not forgetting the quiz master Jordan.

Cheers from Rodger and his 'Team'.

Joy Riley



SIGNING UP FOR EVENTS

We recognise that circumstances may change and aim to ensure the process is as straightforward as possible for everyone. You can register your interest and make payments for forthcoming events at our monthly Coffee Mornings, held on the second Thursday of each month. If it is easier, you're also welcome to ring the event organiser directly to add your name to the list.

The lists are to note who has expressed interest in a particular event. To confirm your place, we kindly request that full payment is made at the next Coffee Morning. If payment is not received within this period, we may have to offer your place to another Member to ensure everyone has a fair opportunity to participate. Rest assured, we will check with you beforehand.

As associated costs involved in organising events increase year on year, we must ensure ticket prices reflect this. Costs such as coach travel, entrance fees, room hire, food etc of which must be paid in advance and are not refundable to the Club. For this reason, we may not always be able to offer a refund if you need to cancel or do not turn up. However, if you find you are unable to attend an event you have paid for, you are more than welcome

to return your ticket to the organiser. If they can resell your ticket, we will be delighted to refund your money. Please do not pass on your ticket to someone else. We need to ensure everyone attending an event are a member and that we have a list of attendees in case of an emergency.

Since bank charges represent a significant expense for the Club, paying by Bank Transfer is a more cost-effective option. You can do this if you have on-line banking facilities on your mobile or laptop/computer. You will need the details below. Please use the name or date of the event as the payment reference to enable the Treasurer to track your payment.

Thank you for your understanding and support - it is what helps us keep our club activities going strong.

Name of Business: Penkridge
Phoenix Club

Sort code: 30-98-00

A/c No: 02702887

Ref: e.g. Xmas lunch or 13.12.25.
(date of the event)

