

EVENTS

HOLIDAYS

NEWS



## Chocolate, Beer & Medieval Magic!

It was such a joy for me and Arlene to lead a trip to Belgium earlier this month and we really couldn't fail to enjoy the fabulous long weekend!

The sun shone on our happy group of more than 30 fun loving Spicers, who explored the beautiful historic cities of Bruges and Ghent, on our recent social break.

Our discovery of art, culture and Belgian 'joie de vivre' included a boat trip, a beer museum and even a chocolate museum! Best of all, there were just so many opportunities to laugh, bond and make amazing friendships as a group of like-minded travellers, who know how to make priceless memories together. Here is a [link to some photos on our Facebook page](#) to give you a flavour of the fun we had.

We do hope we will have the pleasure of your company on one of our future weekends. These include our [Stratford upon Avon Weekend](#); [Summer Ball Weekend in Warwickshire](#); [London Bank Holiday Social Weekend](#); [Amsterdam Social Break](#); [Call the Midwife & Chatham Social Weekend](#) and [Coventry City of Culture Halloween Party Weekend](#)! Click the links above for the full details but be warned that these trips fill up very quickly indeed. So do get your deposit in if you want to be there!

There is a wide range of weekends with Spice and a great programme of Holidays with Spice Escapes and there really is something for all tastes and budgets. Please use these links for [Spice Weekends](#) and [Spice Holidays](#)

Wherever your Spice membership takes you, we'll look forward to providing all the fun, friendship and festivities we can find along the way!

Steve



## Don't Miss Out on Jubilee Weekend!

Yes, we've got an extra special four day Bank Holiday Weekend coming up to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is a unique occasion, so don't waste the opportunity to pack in some extra, right, royal Spice fun!

If you like walking, on Thursday, Steve will be leading a walk from the Warwickshire village of [Tanworth in Arden](#). On Saturday, Richard is leading a classic walk around [Codsall and Chillington](#) whilst Rob will be showing us the delights of the [Harvington Hall and Drayton Pool](#) area on the Sunday.

Or if you prefer more social pursuits, there's the opportunity to enjoy a [Queen tribute night](#) in Tamworth; [Afternoon Tea at The Kitty Café](#) in Birmingham; or a night of pies and entertainment at the world famous [Pie Factory in Tipton](#)! We also have a special Jubilee visit to Wythall Transport Museum visit with an Optional Bus Ride! and a [Jubilee Treasure Hunt in Royal Sutton Coldfield](#) (where else!).

For a full list of these last minute opportunities, [click Here](#)



## Spice 'Monaco Nights' Summer Ball and Weekend

.. a sophisticated evening to remember ..

In the last bulletin we suggested you Saved the Date for our annual Summer Ball.

We have recently launched the prestigious event and bookings are going extremely well, in fact, we are already over half full!

The Ball is in the delightfully dreamy world of The Chesford Grange Hotel. It's an utterly gorgeous, 4-star, country house retreat in the heart of Warwickshire, Shakespeare's County. But what we have planned for you will also transport you to the intoxicating glamour of the Grand Casino, Monte Carlo!

As well as the usual Spice ingredients of great food and dancing, there will be a 'fun casino' to enjoy. What's more, there will also be the option to stay over for the party night or even make a weekend of it, enjoying the lovely grounds and spa facilities of this fine venue, together with the chance to discover the many world class attractions that Warwickshire and Stratford upon Avon has to offer.

The Ball is available as a party only, a party with accommodation or a weekend of partying, walking or social activities. Here are the links for the [party](#) and the [weekend](#)

Hope to see you there.

## Upcoming Events



### Remembering Sally Taylor

On April 30th, Spice lost a prolific and very precious member and friend who truly was the life and soul of many Spice holidays and celebrations. In her 10 years of membership, Sally packed in an enormous amount and made countless Spice friends all around the UK.

We will all remember Sally as a feisty lady who was unafraid to stand up for her convictions and to protect those who she held close. We also remember her as a gentle, caring person who was immensely fun to be around.

Sally was famously guarded about her age, so I shall not disclose it either. Indeed, on one famous occasion when she was taken ill in Italy, she wouldn't even disclose her date of birth to the Paramedics. That was so, very Sally!

To her, age was an irrelevance. She was very fit, very glamorous and worked well beyond retirement. Sally just wanted the good times to continue for her and for all those around her. And I'm sure she would be very disappointed

### Could You Find Time for Acorns?

Spice members have a reputation for caring for their community, so we often get approached when help is required.

This time, Acorns Children's Hospice charity shop in Shirley have been in touch as they are looking for new volunteers.

Acorns runs three hospices in the West Midlands looking after children with life threatening and life limiting illnesses and their families.

Their charity shops provide vital funding towards keeping these hospices open.

Acorns offer a wide range of volunteer roles, depending on your skills and interests. You could be serving customers or helping organize donations in the back of the shop or focusing on specific types of stock that you are already knowledgeable about.

To find out more, email Sarah Lloyd on [Shop.Shirley@acorns.org.uk](mailto:Shop.Shirley@acorns.org.uk)

that the cruelty of Cancer has finally taken her off the Spice dance floor.

Our deepest sympathies go to all her friends and family and in particular to her three sons who she adored.

Thanks to Richard Coulter for these lovely words

Spice have not been informed of funeral arrangements as yet.

or visit the shop at 230 Stratford Rd, Shirley, B90 3AG.

More information about Acorns and volunteering can also be found at [www.acorns.org.uk](http://www.acorns.org.uk)

[View all upcoming events](#)

## New events this week



### Discover a Hidden Jewel in Bournville

The latest in our series of free visits to unusual places of worship brings us to a little-known, church that is hidden away in a Birmingham suburb.

It's a spectacular, moving and totally unexpected find!

Yes, on Saturday 18th June, we have the chance for a small group to visit St Lazar's Serbian Orthodox Church, where we can marvel at its stunning decoration and learn the story behind



### Maxstoke Castle Walk & Open Day

For just one day each year, we are allowed inside this impressive C14th moated castle near Coleshill.

The house and gardens have been in the continuous ownership of the Fetherston-Dilke families for over 400 years and each year the family welcome Spice to their castle and allow us to leave our cars there while we enjoy an easy 5 mile ramble around the surrounding countryside.

it that sheds light on the turbulent politics of the Balkans and the role of the Cadbury family in meeting the needs of an exiled community.

It is not usually open to the public except for services and heritage open days but a cheeky email to The Very Reverend Father Nenad Popović has resulted in a private viewing – just for us.

So don't miss out! Click Learn More below

[Learn More](#)

The house and gardens are opened in support of local charities (pay on day) and teas, plants and other stalls are provided.

We offer the chance to visit the Castle (if you wish) and then enjoy an easy ramble. Afterwards, we can also discover the delightful Plough in Shustoke for a well-deserved drink.

Click Learn More below for more details

[Learn More](#)

[View all new events](#)

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