

Hi Everyone,

Corona Virus

As you can guess, I am concerned about what action we should take in respect of continuing or suspending our regular groups - Carers Club and Info Cafe, Fit Club, CAMEO, Lunch Clubs.

I have been monitoring the various reports from national and local sources and have discussed things with David Egan (Senior Partner at the Debenham GP Practice and executive member of the Ipswich and East Suffolk NHS Care Commissioning Group).

As of today, there have been only 3 confirmed cases in Suffolk. However, the number of positive diagnoses across the UK seems to be doubling about every 4 days, which very roughly would suggest that there might be between 100 and 150 in a month or so. The risk of anyone contracting the illness will, by then, still be statistically low but if the rate of infection continues to increase it will become very worrying, especially considering the age of most of our participants.

Locally, I understand the authorities are estimating that the peak of the epidemic will be in about 6 - 8 weeks i.e. in the first couple of weeks in May. Nationally, the government is seeking to delay and lessen the magnitude of the impact on population, and on the NHS and other emergency services. With the steps that it has proposed their estimate for when the peak of the epidemic will occur is mid-June. However, if their steps prove successful, there is also an associated cost: The overall period of the epidemic is likely to stretch further into the summer months.

Therefore the trustees of the Debenham Project have decided to suspend our group activities and meetings for at least the months of April and May (and possibly also June). Of course, It doesn't mean "shutting down" The Debenham project" - we will still try to provide all the other things we do eg transport, One-to-One, information and advice, etc.

In the meantime, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed through our website, Parish Magazine, e-mail, etc.

All my best wishes,

Lynden

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