

Dear friends,

Here we are again – how can we already be halfway through January? Christmas has come and gone, and we are at the start of another year. At least now we are heading towards February and it's starting to get a bit lighter in the evenings and the bulbs, especially the snowdrops, are starting to poke through. Spring can't come quickly enough for me.

Danie, Lindsay and I, together with the trustees, have been speculating about events and activities we might organise for you all this year, and especially how we might use some more of the transport legacy. Some of you have given us ideas about day trips – not too far away as too long in a coach doesn't work for everyone. If you have any ideas please let us know. As well as trips, we have the King's Coronation and running Square Hole Club for 10 years on 13th June to celebrate. We'll let you know what we come up with, but we'd also love to hear from you.

We've also been talking about the charity's finances. Many of you will know our wonderful treasurer Jill. She not only keeps all our accounts in order, but she is also one of our most committed volunteers, for which we are very grateful. Luckily she understands the money we bring in and the money we need to keep the charity running. As you probably know we have to raise every penny as we don't receive any statutory funding. So a decision was made at the December trustee meeting, due to the rising cost of rent for rooms etc. the £2 donation that you make at each activity you come to will be rising to £3 per person from 1st February 2023. We've thought long and hard about it and it isn't a decision we've come to lightly but one unfortunately we have to make. The last thing we want though is for anyone to feel excluded due to the price increase so please speak to one of us, in confidence of course.

We are hoping to bring in one or two speakers to the coffee mornings this year starting with an old friend Reg Burrells, a former local policeman who will come to the Bourne coffee morning on Wednesday 15th February, to advise us all on how to avoid doorstep crime and scams. Everyone is welcome. We will also have talks by our chairperson, Sarah Westwood, about the importance of making a will and Powers of Attorney – dates to be confirmed. If there is anything else you would like to know more about, please let us know and we will do our best to find a speaker.

Also coming up in February will be our Valentine's Day get together on 10th February, but I will let Danie to tell you all about that.

Because so many of you know my dad I will give you a little update – things have not been good since Christmas, but he is warm and comfortable in his bed with my cats to keep him company. At the moment it doesn't look as if he is going to make it to his 100th birthday in May but you never know - he is made of strong stuff so we will wait and see with everything crossed.

Hoping to see you all again very soon, Kate x

Bourne Coffee Morning

We've been really busy lately at the coffee morning, which is lovely to see you all.

We continue to meet at the **Bourne Corn Exchange** on the third Wednesday of the month, **10am - midday**.

The next few sessions are as follows: **18th January, 15th February, 15th March**.

Hope to see you there soon!

Stamford Coffee Morning

Stamford coffee morning continues to be a big a success with lots of you attending and creating a fantastic atmosphere and forming friendships. We meet at **Blackstone's** on the third Tuesday of the month **10am - midday**.

Our next few meetings are: **17th January, 21st February, 21st March**.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Deeping Coffee Afternoon

The new date for the coffee afternoon is the first Tuesday of the month **1.30pm - 3.30pm** at **The Deepings Community Centre**.

The dates for this are as follows: **7th February, 7th March, 4th April**.

I hope you can join us on these dates and as always drinks and biscuits are provided.

Singing Together

Singing Together continues to grow from strength to strength with the fabulous Tuneless Choir (Kenny and Linda) leading our sessions. A big thank you to them for providing the music and the props, and a great atmosphere for everyone attending.

The group has become quite large so we continue to use the **Function Room at the Danish Invader** and we meet on the first Thursday of the month **1pm - 3pm**.

The next few dates for your diary are: **2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April**.

Art for all

Art for all is currently fully booked, but this group continues to go from strength to strength. We meet at **Wake House** from **11am to 1pm every Monday**.

I do have a waiting list in place so if you would like to attend, I will put your name down and when a place becomes available I'll be in touch with you.

Art for all has now restarted after the Christmas break, it was lovely to see so many of you chatting away whilst creating your masterpieces.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi is run by Ray Pawlett from Ki-ways who has been running our classes for 10 years now and we are very grateful to him for running such a great class.

Unfortunately, this class is also at full capacity and again, a waiting list has started. If this is something you are interested in, please get in touch and I will add your name to the list and as soon as we have an opening, I will call you and invite you to attend a session.

Tai Chi has now restarted after the Christmas break, our first session back we shared our Christmas Cracker jokes whilst doing Tai Chi, we had lots of fun and we look forward to seeing so many of you again.

Social Events

We really hope you enjoyed the Christmas Meal at The Sugarmill. Kate, Lindsay and I thoroughly enjoyed our meals, and we hope you did too.

We are hoping to book in with them for this year's Harvest Lunch and Christmas Meal, but we'd like your input..... What did you think of the food? Was it good value for money?

We'd like to know what you think and if there are any adjustments or suggestions you have about The Sugarmill and the organisation of the meal itself. Please get in touch with us to provide any feedback.

Valentine's Dance

The Valentine's Dance is fast approaching, it will be held at the **Danish Invader** on **10th February 1.30pm - 4.30pm** with sandwiches and other goodies being provided by the Danish Invader.

The cost for this event will be **£5 per person**, please let me know if you would like to attend at any of the regular groups.

When booking your place for the Dance, I will need to know if you have any dietary requirements.

Unfortunately, we're unable to place any names on the list until the £5 has been paid, this will be the procedure for all social events from now on.

We hope that you can join us at the Valentine's Dance, lots of laughter, fun and of course dancing so make sure you've got your dancing shoes on!

We've come to the end of another newsletter now. We look forward to seeing you at any, or all, of the upcoming activities or groups.

Remember, if you would like to talk to Danie, Lindsay or Kate our numbers are below. We are happy to do a home visit if that suits you better or we could meet in our office in Bourne – whatever works best for you.

Take care, Danie, Lindsay and Kate xxx

Kate Marshall Dementia Specialist – 07867635611/ kate.marshall@dementiasupportsouthlincs.co.uk

Danie Reeves Support Worker – 07539243563/ danie.reeves@dementiasupportsouthlincs.co.uk

Lindsay Ford Support Worker- 07904740110/ lindsay.ford@dementiasupportsouthlincs.co.uk

Telephone: 01778 426756 **Email:** info@dementiasupportsouthlincs.co.uk

Website: www.dementiasupportsouthlincs.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1162277

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