

Press Release

For immediate release

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Jo Churchill MP is hosting an Older Persons' Information Fair in Bury St. Edmunds

Taking place in the Apex on Friday 1st December 10:30AM-1:30PM, Jo Churchill MP is hosting an Older Persons' Information Fair in Bury St. Edmunds. This is a helpful community event, with the specific aim of providing **information** to older people, on a range of issues

Ultimately it provides an opportunity for would-be service-users to meet service-providers operating in the area. As well as service-providers and community groups, we have invited those who can provide one-off provision of information, such as advice around well-being, health, safety and crime (e.g. scam) prevention.

We're allocating each organisation a space in which to have a display - posters, leaflets and any props to explain the group's vision and activities. Attendees can tour the stalls and mingle around the various activities going on.

Naturally, the 'stalls' will be interesting and fun. For example, we will have a 'tech corner' giving hands-on tech advice (provided by **Realise Futures**) as well as some scam prevention roleplay (organised by **Suffolk Trading Standards** and their counterparts). It's also possible that this could become a chance to match people up with some well-suited volunteering opportunities.

The organisations attending cover a range of issues: support networks, health, transport, clubs, advice, befriending schemes, arts, older persons' fitness, gardening schemes, police and fire safety, adult learning groups, volunteering networks, and of course the **Rural Coffee Caravan** that connects individuals and organisations in some of our rural locations... and we are looking forward to seeing the new caravan!

Jo hosted a similar event last year in Stowmarket, which was a real success. We want to achieve the same warm, comfortable, accommodating atmosphere as last year to make the event welcoming for all, but especially those attending alone; we will have a free refreshments on offer (kindly provided by Sodexo, Apex's caterers), so come and join us for a 'cuppa'.

"We had a great event in Stowmarket last year, bringing people and providers together. The event in Bury is building on this success of informing everyone about where help and advice is available, as well as some of the fun things going on in and around Bury. Loneliness and isolation is a growing issue in society and this is a chance for people to enjoy a drink and a chat", Jo Churchill MP said.

The organisers would like to stress that **every** member of the community is welcome to attend; attendees can be sure of a warm greeting and that their presence is valued.

ENDS

Notes for editors

- The events page specifically for the stall holders can be found at:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/older-persons-information-fair-hosted-by-jo-churchill-mp-tickets-38579346865>
- Information about Jo Churchill MP's event last year in Stowmarket can be found at:
(1) <https://www.jochurchill.org.uk/news/jo-churchill-mp-host-november-older-persons-information-fair-stowmarket>; and
(2) <https://www.jochurchill.org.uk/news/jo-churchill-mp-information-fair-fantastic-help-older-persons>
- The organisations who, thus far, we are hoping will attend include:

Adult Care Services (Suffolk County Council)
Age UK
Art Branches
Avenues Advice and Advocacy Service
Blue Badge Scheme (Suffolk County Council)
Bury St Edmunds U3A (University of the 3rd Age)
Citizen's Advice Bureau
Dementia Action Alliance
Driving Miss Daisy
Fit villages, Suffolk Sport (Suffolk County Council)
Green Light Trust
Healthwatch Suffolk
MEARS Group - Meet and Mingle
National Trust
National Garden Scheme
One Life Suffolk
Realise Futures - providing a tech advice corner
Rojo
Second Chance Stroke Club

Stowmarket Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society
Stowmarket U3A (University of the Third Age)
St Nicholas' Hospice Care
Stroke Support Group
Suffolk Careline
Suffolk CCG ()
Suffolk Family Carers
Suffolk Fire and Rescue
Suffolk Mind
Suffolk Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
Suffolk SSAFA
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
The Rural Coffee Caravan
The Voluntary Network
Theatre Royal
'Top Time', Bury St Edmunds Library
Upbeat Heart Support Group
Warm Homes Healthy People (Suffolk County Council)
West Suffolk Hospital Breathing Clinic
West Suffolk Voluntary Action for the Blind

(and others)

- *We also hope to organise for a local choral group to perform during the course of the morning.*
- *Cakes are likely to be provided by West Suffolk College, although this is not confirmed.*

- Photo of Stowmarket event attached.

Contact for the event:

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Photo of the stowmarket event:

