



Hello. It has been a bit of a quiet month, after all that happened last month – really more of a “getting on and doing” month.

Apart from the regular activities, clubs and lunches, things have been going on to ensure that we will be secure for the long term. We are already funded for the next couple of years – and grateful thanks to Mid Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership and our many donors – but we would like to be able to plan for the long term without having to worry about whether we will be able to continue our development of more and better support and services. I have enormous confidence that, despite the need for savings in the local authorities and the NHS, that it will all work out.

The second Dementia and Memory Clinic will be on the 10th May in the morning at Dove Cottage. We believe that this will make a big difference to carers, and those they care for, who are going through a very emotional and stressful period. By providing a local and familiar setting with a friendly and social atmosphere we can show that there is care and support here for them when they need it and that there will always be someone to talk to, advise them, and put them in touch with the “right” person – a helping hand. The first clinic was very successful. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from a little advice, information or support please do call me (or just drop in).

By the way, we have purchased, with the help of a very generous donation, some equipment for the clinic – a portable examination couch and a folding wheelchair – for use at Dove cottage. Gradually, we shall acquire other useful “bits and pieces”. Should anyone need to borrow the chair or anything else for a short while please contact me.

Although the Debenham Project is not a campaigning organization there have been a couple of areas of concern which have prompted us to comment to the recent County Council consultations. Firstly, with regard to the Council’s plans to leave the provision of residential care to the private sector, our concern is that this may lead to the closure of smaller local homes in favour of much bigger schemes located in and around the larger towns. This will significantly discriminate against rural communities such as ours. Secondly, in respect of the decision to minimize the County’s financial support of our library, we are concerned that there has been no recognition of the library as

an important and visible professional partner to the project, and also that their staff is involved in far more than “books and DVDs”. We hope that, whatever the outcome, the County Council will feel able to give financial support to activities which encourage stronger and more supportive rural communities.

On May 4th we have our second “special” Carers’ Club afternoon where, apart from the usual tea, chocolate cake, and chat, we will have a “return visit “ from our reflexologist Jean Parnell, and a new professional – Zoe George – who will be helping with “exercise and fitness needs” for carers of those with symptoms of dementia and those they care for.

Finally , times are hard and are going to be difficult for a number of years – we are luckier than many but the authorities are having to make many hard decisions. I am always so grateful to say “thanks to all in Debenham, the surrounding villages, the local authorities, and our partners for all their support”. We have continued to receive private donations towards the work of the project. It is difficult to report each one as they deserve but, make no mistake, each shows us the care that the giver feels for those whom the project seeks to help – thank you.

If you would like to know more please see our display in the Post Office, ring 01728862003, call in at the Library Resource Centre or visit www.the-debenham-project.org.uk where you can access all our newsletters, and much more.

With best wishes and kind regards

Lynden