



Hello everyone,

I have mentioned before how kind and generous people in and around Debenham (and beyond!) are in supporting the project both in their time and with money. Last month was no exception. I was delighted to be invited by The Ufford Park Tuesday Golf Club to talk about the project and to receive a cheque for £1,400 – the result of their adopting The Debenham Project as their chosen charity for last year. We also collected a donation of £216 from Waitrose Community Matters in Ipswich. We are so grateful for these. It seems that, without asking, people just want to help as individuals or organisations - some smaller, some larger – often a cheque comes completely out of the blue, as from The Pettaugh Ladies Circle. Thank you indeed.

However, we know that funding the work we currently do, the initiation of new support services, and the development of our longer term aspirations will become increasingly difficult as further pressure is brought to bear on the local authorities and the NHS to make even more savings. We are already implementing and planning local fund raising activities. We now have an on-line facility for those who would like to help (<https://localgiving.com/charity/thedebenhamproject>), and we are exploring a Christmas / greetings card scheme that offers us a donation of 30% of sale price, and watch out for our presence at the “Christmas Shopping Evening” alongside “The Debenham First Responders” as a nominated local charity.

As you know, I like to tell you about how the success of the project has been recognised as an example which might help other communities to do something similar. We have been heard of well beyond Suffolk – last month I was invited to talk to a regional forum that reports directly to Minister for Health, and we have been asked to “tell our story” to an audience of key decision makers at a Westminster seminar. Whilst our clear focus is on helping those in Debenham and the surrounding villages, what we are doing is having an influence in both the regional and national debates.

Finally, I would like to thank Jeanie for coming to our Carers Club and Info Café and offering Hand Massage, Reflexology, and Aroma Therapy to family carers and those with dementia. Don't let anyone tell you that alternative therapies don't work!

If you would like to know more about The Debenham Project, please visit our website www.the-debenham-project.org.uk where you can access all our newsletters, and much more. If you are unsure how to contact us on the web please call in at **The Library Resource Centre**, Cross Green, Debenham and ask Maureen or one of her staff to help you. A range of leaflets are available at the **Post Office** and don't hesitate to call the **Project Phone Line** 01728 862003.

With my best wishes,

Lynden