



Hello everyone,

Last month I mentioned the new “Football Memories “ club being created by Steve Robbins and that Ipswich Town Football Club were generously hosting a trial at the end of April. **Well! It was a very special occasion indeed.** The Champions Lounge was filled with laughter and the buzz of people sharing their memories and reliving those hey days of Ipswich when the club, led by Sir Alf, and Sir Bobby, rocketed through the leagues to the very pinnacle of football achievement. The players were international stars and they still are – We can’t thank Allan Hunter, John Wark, and Bryan Hamilton, of that incredible period, for offering to come and get involved – just to see the faces when they suddenly realised who had come to meet and chat with them was a joy. I cannot really describe how it felt to be a part of it – it was a privilege. It also confirmed that there is no such thing as being unable to enhance the quality of life for those with serious memory problems and dementia – it often just needs someone like Steve with his passion for football to ‘unlock’ the memories and open up an animated discussion or a treasured recollection.

At the beginning of last month it seemed that spring had really arrived and summer was just around the corner, but as I write this I am by no means so sure. However, let us hope that it will be a “blooming June” especially on the 29<sup>th</sup> when we hold our The Debenham Project Garden Party. Each year Mike and Lyn Rouse have very, very generously hosted a garden luncheon for all those people who have been actively involved in the project over the previous year – family carers, those they care for, volunteers, support workers, donors, etc – and each year the sun has shone on a wonderful occasion. I am sure this time will be no different but with one change on this occasion – it will be “Afternoon Tea”, so I look forward to all the “summer hats and frocks”.

I have, in previous articles, talked about “The Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia“ with it’s aim to encourage communities to become “Dementia Friendly”. Well, at the beginning of May we received a request from the national “Challenge Team” for Debenham to become one of the first early-adopters of the scheme, and authorized to use it’s logo which you see above. We were also invited to present our project at a regional conference with Norman Lamb (Minister for Care) in Cambridge. It just goes to show that small communities can make a difference.

Finally, I can’t sign off without mention of the many generous donations that we receive – thank you so much.

With best wishes,

Lynden

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