



Hello everyone,

The Debenham Project is back in full swing after all the Christmas and New Year festivities. I believe that what makes the various things we do together – Food ‘n’ Friends lunches, CAMEO, Carers Club & Info Café, Fit, Club, the Telephone Support Line, Information and Advice, Debenham-on-Call, etc – special is the unconditional goodwill and support given by all our volunteers and professionals. Everyone in their own way just gets on with “doing their bit” without needing to be reminded. Of course there has to be some organisation, but the aim is to keep the burden of management and bureaucracy to the absolute minimum. By and large, the various bits of the project run themselves thanks to the leadership of the individual activities. So, when someone asks me - “Isn’t it a difficult job managing a community project with all these parts?” – my answer is “no, the key lies in letting our volunteers get on with it without poking my nose in, fully supporting them when they need some help, and making sure that when they want to do something special that might need a bit of extra money, it is there”. However, that does rather depend upon making sure that the project is both respected and financially secure, and that it has the active support of Suffolk County Council, the District Council, the NHS, Debenham Parish Council, and many other local, county, regional, and national organisations. That is my job and that of our trustees.

Whenever I am requested to talk visitors who come to find out about the project, or I am asked to give more formal presentations, at some stage they usually ask what has been important to our success. I almost always say that we heavily lubricate everything we do with chocolate cake - It invariably gets a good laugh. But, it is true. Offering good food and special cakes are very important in caring. So this month I would like to especially thank those who make cakes and other goodies, those who look after the lunch clubs, those who put on the tea and cakes in CAMEO and the Carers Club and Info Café (I have heard that the latter is becoming known as “The Cake Club” because of its great range of luscious cakes!), and those who are always there to serve refreshments. Thank you so much.

As always, we are so very grateful for all the donations that have been made and, especially, over the Christmas season.

With best wishes,

Lynden

For more information on The Debenham project please contact the **Project Phone Line:** 01728 862003 or visit our **Website:** www.the-debenham-project.org.uk