



Hello everyone,

As I write this, it is summer at last, the swallows are back and there are nightingales in the trees beyond the primary school. We are especially looking forward to our Annual Garden Party hosted very generously by Mike and Lyn Rouse. It is the way we can say thank you to everyone who has been involved in the project over the past year.

The work of The Debenham Project has been, and continues to be, financed in many different ways – individual grants from the local authorities and charitable funding organisations, private donations from local individuals and organisations, and events put on by local groups such as Pam Vinten’s concert entitled “Song Cycles for May, where the proceeds were given to the project – thank you so much. Applying for grants can be very time consuming because each fund has its own criteria and there is great competition. Last month we were delighted to given £1,000 by Sports Relief, especially as it is to go towards the cost of our annual insurance – getting money for this sort of basic core expenditure is nigh on impossible as most funders want to see their money paying for new projects and initiatives – that’s great but we still have to finance the everyday running costs which in our case amount to about £8,500 each year. So that is why we are so very grateful for all those in Debenham and the surrounding area who quietly donate to the project in whatever way, and those who help us fundraise – thank you so much.

On the fundraising front, it is the Street Fair on the 29th and it will be the occasion of the grand opening of the first and only “**Debenham’s Pop-Up Department Store**” – something special for everyone – a range of goods unrivalled in the history of Debenham’s pop-up establishments – stocked through the generosity of our shops and businesses - it is not to be missed.

Also, if you are a member of our local Co-op you can donate your “divvy” to the project. You simply use your membership card as normal but ask for the dividend to be given to The Debenham Project – Number **609313**. To always have the number at hand please affix a sticker with it onto your card. Thank you.

Finally, with the sunshine here and hopefully to stay, it is a pleasure for us to be able to take a walk through Debenham’s lovely streets and country lanes. So if you know someone who cannot get out without help, or has great difficulty in walking, what about borrowing our wheelchair and inviting them to join you for a stroll.

With best wishes,

Lynden

Phone 01728 862003 or visit our **Website:** www.the-debenham-project.org.uk