



Hello everyone,

Now that we are well into Spring and looking towards Summer, things are beginning to get busy with events and outings.

In July this year, which is slightly later than usual, we are all looking forward to the annual Debenham Project Garden Party. This has, since the beginning of the project been very generously hosted by Lyn and Mike Rouse. It is a way to say thank you to all those who are part of the project's "family" – past and present family carers and those they care for, volunteers, donors, professional support workers, special friends, etc. - and who have helped to make this yet another successful year. It is always a wonderful occasion and this year we shall again be treated to luscious afternoon tea with entertainment – and the marquee makes it weatherproof!

However, before then, and on the "business" side of things, we are organising a major event to be held here in Debenham and supported by NHS Suffolk and Suffolk County Council.

"If it is not good enough for my mother, it is not good enough"

This one-day conference and workshop will explore Suffolk's innovative projects for dementia and elderly care support services and address the challenges facing the health and social care sector. The event will bring together health and social care professionals, service users and community leaders from across the county. The aims are to question, to inspire, and to create a vision for the provision of quality services that meet the needs of our county's ageing population. We are, particularly, inviting people who have personal experience of the impact of dementia (and/or "getting old") to take part in a debate with those who are responsible for the future of care and of its funding. It should be an interesting day. Alistair Burns and John Young, the National Directors of NHS England for dementia and the frail elderly, will be our guest speakers.

Finally, as ever, we are very grateful for an award of £1,000 from the Red Nose Day Community Cash Fund. This has been given to help us with the cost of our annual insurance which is approaching £2,000 – an unavoidable major expense in the running of a charity like ours and which last year accounted for about 25% of our annual expenditure.

Best wishes, Lynden

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

P.S. If you need to borrow our wheelchair, don't hesitate to ask.