



Hello everyone,

Over the last few months we have developed a range of on-line support activities which include relaxation, exercise, nature and old-time singalong. Now we are launching a new music attraction called “By Special Request”. If you have a favourite song which has special meaning for you – a lovely memory of a place, or a time, or a person you will never forget, our brilliant Music Man – Stephen Mckie – has offered to record it just for you. All that’s needed is to e-mail me, phone me, or drop a note through my door with your song and a few words describing why you have chosen it. We have already had some advance requests, so don’t delay. And we want to include everyone in The Debenham project, from carers and those they care for, to lunch guests and other participants, through to volunteers, donors and anyone else. When we have enough, we will link them all into the “By Special Request” album. Every contribution will be a pleasure and I look forward to hearing from you all. And why not visit our website and enjoy Stephen’s “Singalong with The Debenham Project Songbook” concert which you will find on the On-line Resources page?

One thing that has been so very clear during this crisis is the importance of “the community”. What has been achieved by individuals and local groups has been amazing. So, as a member of the Suffolk Dementia Forum I am very pleased that they have set up an expert group to advise our NHS and Adult Care Services on how to involve communities and local groups in the provision of care. I hope that this may be the beginning of a new awareness of how critical the “High Street” is in delivering well-being, health and social care support. Be assured, Debenham is already playing its part.

I guess everyone is aware that the coming months are going to be financially very difficult for most charities. Age UK Suffolk has had to close and I fear that they will not be the only one. Many small to medium sized charities such as ours are struggling but we are, perhaps, more fortunate because we have enjoyed such wonderful support from our community. Nevertheless, the bills still keep coming in and we have financial commitments that we must honour. So, I am very grateful for all the generous donations that have appeared, unasked for, through our letterbox since Lock-Down in March. A big thank you to Angeline, the family and friends of Leonie Taylor, Jennie, Hair by Stephen Anderson, Lydia, Peter and Norma, the family and friends of Margaret Denny, Framsdon Fundraisers, and Websters. Together and in total they have helped the Project by more than £1400 & 10 delightful gift bags of chocolates – It means so much.

Finally, watch out for the posters advertising “**Afternoon Tea at Chesters**” - a special fund-raising garden event being organized by Nicola Tomlin and Sarah Hughes. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for a lovely day. And of course, it will be fully within the guidelines, and all precautions will be in place.

With all my best wishes,  
Lynden

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[www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk)