



Hello everyone,

A New Horizon

It's been thirteen years since The Debenham Project came into being at a public meeting in Dove Cottage one rainy evening at the end of April. It took just over 5 months to launch it at another much larger public meeting at the beginning of October. Then, it just seemed to develop and evolve naturally into what it is today. Over the years it has offered its help and support to so many families and individuals – I have completely lost count of how many – doing what might appear to be simple and small things but which can make a big difference. And the huge number of those volunteers who, along the way, have helped make that difference is also beyond reckoning. The Project has shown what a wonderful caring community like Debenham can achieve. And we want it to continue doing so for many years to come – Only Even Better!

So, our trustees have initiated a programme to ensure that The Debenham Project not only survives well into the 30's but also responds to the challenges that the next 13 years will present. It will involve looking at every aspect of the Project – our groups, activities, events, and services – our volunteers and their recruitment, training, and support – our finances, funding and expenditure – our organization, its structure, and management – our resilience and ability to adapt - how we communicate – how we encourage referrals - those who we support – and so on. Especially, we want to ask as many people as possible, whether or not they are currently involved in the Project's activities, to give us their ideas and opinions. We hope to be able to complete the programme by the end of the year and share with you our vision of the future for The Debenham Project.

In the meantime, we will continue to do what we do best. We know that reaching out for help when you are struggling to cope is difficult but it can make such a difference. If you are concerned for yourself or someone you care for, please think about picking up the phone.

And a couple of dates: **Deb-Fest on June 11th at the Leisure Centre**. We shall be there to promote The Debenham Project and talk about what we do. **A Day at the Seaside at Felixstowe on July 31st** at The HUT on the beach with fish and chips lunch and rickshaw rides along the Front. (Joy Walton: 01728 860007).

Finally, many thanks to the family and friends of Joyce Dennison for further donations made in her memory, and also to New Four You for their generous donation.

With all my best wishes

Lynden Jackson

www.the-debenham-project.org.uk ; 01728 862003