



Newsletter - February 2nd 2010

One year has closed and another has begun. From some fairly casual remarks in a meeting last February **The Debenham Project** has taken wings and is flying. It seems incredible that from such an insignificant start we have managed to capture the imagination of Suffolk. Don't think that this is just me trying to encourage you - I get feedback from all over that "Debenham is trying to do something for CARERS", that "it is UNIQUE" and that "it has an IDEA" which might just change the way we care for those who may have the symptoms of dementia and, in the longer term, for all who are frail and need the community's support. I know that we can do it, but to do so we will need every drop of your support. At the beginning of a new year what better pledge can we make but to "care for those who care"?

The cold spell has had its effect on the project with two group meetings having to be postponed due to the icy roads and pavements - but this was only a minor delay and we got off to a very successful start with the Info Café. We are looking forward to it's sister group - The Carers' Club - getting started and, hopefully, another Food 'n' Friends lunch club towards the end of March. Also, look out for posters and information about a 40's Tea Dance on April 3rd which will be raising funds for the project.

We have a lot of things beginning and, therefore, we are going to be raising the awareness of the project with carers. So if you can think of anyone who may benefit please tell them about the project and ask them to get in touch.

The goodwill of everyone continues and we were delighted to receive a donation of £50 from Ruth Boulton as a result of her sales of 2nd hand books for charity. We also received £263 from Kate Scott as a result of The Debenham Best Bits group's carol singing around the village and the Debenham Christmas Evening's entertainment in the Red Lion. We have also had a private donation for which we are very grateful. Many, many thanks.

On the management front I am delighted to announce that Mike Rouse and Gillian Shacklock have agreed to become trustees. Both have extensive experience of commercial and charitable business activities. I am also very pleased to say that The Debenham Project has now been given full charitable status. It has been a lot of work but now means we can claim the tax back on donations made under Gift Aid. It also "opens a lot of doors". Continued thanks to all in Debenham, the surrounding villages, the local authorities, and the charities for all their support.

If you would like to know more please see our display in the Post Office; ring 01728862003; call in at the Library Resource Centre; or visit www.the-debenham-project.org.uk where you can access all our newsletters, and much more.

Lynden