



Newsletter – November 2nd 2010

It is a part of living in Suffolk that we feel the changing of the seasons. Autumn is well advanced with the leaves falling fast and “a nip in the air” morning and evening. Sometimes it seems all we have to look forward to is the cold and dark of winter but The Debenham Project continues to be a story of “Good News”, and especially this last month. However, more of that later.

Early in the month, our second Education and Awareness meeting was held at which Jacqui Martin, Chief Exec of Suffolk Family Carers, helped us to understand just how important it is for Suffolk to have organisations like SFC and The Debenham Project, but never to lose sight of the fact that personal contact and small things can make an enormous difference to someone who needs help. Our other speaker was Sue Nicholson. She has been instrumental in developing, for Suffolk, easier and higher quality access to all forms of health and social care information and advice – how the library service is not just about borrowing books, and CDs but an important contributor to those in need of support.

Our next meeting is on the 18th of November; please do try to come along when we shall welcome: **Alan Reynolds (Area Manager, Adult and Community Services for Suffolk County Council)** who will be talking about how the County is responding to the ever growing numbers of those with dementia – especially difficult in the present financial conditions. Our other speaker will be **Julia Dawson from The Alzheimer’s Society**. Julia is an old friend of the project – one of the wonderful professional outreach workers – the “front-line” - and so important to so many who are trying to cope with dementia.

Please watch out for the posters and invite anyone that you might feel would be interested – as usual, tea and coffee will be available.

It never seems to amaze me how kind and generous people are in giving their time, energy, and money in support of the project. This month especial thanks are due to Ruth and Jamie Monck-Mason for organising the concert by the Auer String Quartet at their home, Tawny’s Barn on the 3rd of last month. It was a truly wonderful occasion for the 75 of us in the audience – four extremely talented young (well one wasn’t quite so young!) Hungarian musicians demonstrated how, no matter the quality of our Hi Fi equipment, there is something very special about a live performance. The event raised £350 for the project – so many thanks Ruth, Jamie, the quartet and everyone who was there.

“Here is the really good news!”

The Mid Suffolk District Strategic Partnership has confirmed that they will be giving the project a substantial grant which will cover our core funding for the next two years. It is a great relief to have the security and comfort of not having to worry about money and for the project to be able to continue to develop. We are so grateful when all local authorities are having to make major savings as a result of the banking crisis. We are also so grateful for the private donations which show how much, within our community, people want to help with the project.

The Project's image continues to grow apace – we have recently taken part in an Anglia TV news programme and have also given a presentation to the Commission for health, housing and social care in South Essex. The presentation has yielded a donation for the Project.

Thinking ahead, as from January 2011 the newsletter will come out every two months – the Parish Magazine contributions will continue on a monthly basis.

As always, thanks to all in Debenham, the surrounding villages, the local authorities, and our partners 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.

With best wishes and kind regards

Lynden