



Hello everyone,

Now that summer has come we are all looking forward to the Debenham Project Garden Party at the end of this month. Each year since the start of the project Lyn and Mike Rouse have so very generously hosted a wonderful event in their glorious garden. It is not only our way of celebrating another successful year, but also of thanking everyone - past and current carers, those they care for, other participants, volunteers, etc. – who are the life blood of the project. I like to think of it as a grand “family get-together” with all the trimmings, and each time it proves just how lucky we are to be able to enjoy such a special occasion.

However, this year it will be a particularly special party as 2019 is the 10th anniversary of the The Debenham Project. Although it was certainly one of the very first community-based dementia projects, the first rural dementia friendly community, nationally recognised as a model of best practice in dementia support, and recipient of a number of awards, **its most important achievement** of all is that “it has done what it says on the tin” – it has provided practical and emotional support to those families and individuals in our community who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives.

It seems fitting that this achievement should be marked in some significant way which looks forward to the next 10 years. Several ideas are being explored with the aim of presenting them at a “10 Years On” community event this October which will echo the public meeting which launched the project back in October 2009. Watch this space!

Finally, we are so grateful for all your donations and support throughout the year, and please remember that we can receive donations via the Co-op (just ask for your dividend to be given to **609313**) and on-line using the button on the home page of our website (below). Also don't forget, we have wheelchairs for loan if you need one for a few days.

With all my best wishes

Lynden

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