

Hello everyone,

Being There

One of the most important roles of The Debenham Project is “being there” for those families and individuals who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives. But what exactly does “being there” for someone mean? Obviously, there is no job description and yet, I suggest, most of us have a strong sense of what it involves:

A listening ear, a helping hand, a relationship, keeping in touch, sharing problems, understanding, not judging, supporting, caring, etc.

For any one person, achieving this alone would be a challenge worthy of sainthood, but together, this should be and can be what the Project is all about.

Keeping in touch and letting people know about our groups and activities has always been a priority for the Project. Early on, the lovely Sam Cage was our carers’ liaison volunteer, phoning and chatting and letting people know what’s on. Then the very special Sam Forster took on the role. Over the period of the pandemic it fell to Sue and I and others to try to keep in touch by phone and e-mails and newsletters. But now that we are hopefully seeing a new beginning and the resumption of our groups and activities and other services, the equally wonderful Janice Romaniszyn has volunteered to become our latest “friendly voice on the phone”.



Janice has a career background in both the NHS (Intensive Care) and Social Services (Adult

Care). She was also one of the very first volunteers for the Confidential Telephone Helpline that we operated until it was superseded by the current county-wide service. Following that, she organised and ran "The Other Cross Green Lunch Club". She will "be there" to chat and to listen, to remind and to inform, and to be a contact that can ask for that extra bit of support that can make the difference.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for all the generosity and support that the Project continues to receive. Your support has ensured that we will be around for years to come. And don't forget that we offer transport for anyone who has difficulty in getting to a medically related appointment, and also we have wheelchairs for short or medium term loan.

With all my best wishes,

Lynden Jackson

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