



Hello everyone,

Debenham – Oh So Generous

It is a fact that The Debenham Project could not exist without the amazing support of our community throughout the past 13 years. That support has come in many forms from many local people and organisations in the form of volunteering, fund raising, recommending, donating and all that amounts to an abundance of goodwill. This month I want to talk a little about the money side of keeping the Project running. Roughly speaking, it cost about £8,000 a year.

We started the Project with a very generous gift from one of our trustees, a loan from another founder member, and a 1 year grant from Mid Suffolk District Council. We were an unknown quantity trying to do something completely new and that backing enabled us to get off to a great start. Thank you to them.

Most small charities struggle to find the funding to get, and keep, going. That we are still here today is a testament to the way the people of Debenham and our surrounding villages have taken us to their hearts and made sure that we have never been short of money to get on, grow and provide the dementia support that we set out to do. Thank you to them.

Although, we have received grants for special projects, and Mid Suffolk extended their initial financial support for another 2 years, our most important source of funding comes from local individuals and businesses that have made donations and organised fundraising events for our benefit. Over the years there cannot be many of our residents who haven't helped the Project make ends meet with a contribution dropped in a collection box, attending an event, participating in an activity, nominating us for a corporate donation, or made a private donation. Thank you to them.

This time I especially want to thank those friends of The Debenham Project who give up so much of their time in organising an event, and those that have carried out a personal challenge. And the latest gold star goes to Tammy King – owner of Simply Stylish and Ruby and the Angel. Last month, after all her preparations, she fell ill just before she was due to take part in "The Thames Walk Challenge". Happily she was better in time and, along with 80,000 other participants, completed the 25km challenge in less than 4 hours and raised an amazing £1,300 for the Project. Congratulations Tammy, you are a star! Thank you to you, Tammy.

With all my best wishes,

Lynden Jackson

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