



Hi everyone,

I guess many you will have noticed an increased amount of tv and radio adverts and media coverage devoted to dementia and its impact on the individuals and families having to live with it. Quite rightly, dementia should be recognised as the single most serious concern for the health and wellbeing our older generation. However, investment in seeking effective cures and treatments is woefully small compared with that of other major diseases such cancer, and coronary illness. So, it is vital that every opportunity is taken to raise awareness and drive home the message that tackling dementia must be the number one priority. Nonetheless, until such cures and treatments become available (and affordable) we must do all we can to support family carers and those they care for to cope and manage in the best way possible. And that is what charities and community projects like ours are all about.

It is of little use in “advertising” the very significant negative impact dementia has, and will continue to have, on the lives of so many families and individuals here in Debenham and the surrounding area unless we can offer hope that having a diagnosis of dementia is not “the end of life” with little to look forward to but stress and heartache. Fifteen years of involvement in The Debenham Project has shown me just how much difference the right sort of support can make towards continuing to live, day by day, a positive and full life. Over the coming months (and years) we will be promoting all that the Project can do to help make that happen. Come and see us outside the Co-op on August 16th, or at DebFest on September 7th. Of course, there would not be any of this without our wonderful community. So, I will just finish by saying “Thank You” to the family and friends of Margaret Willerton, and to Pam Vinten-Phipps and The Black Barn Singers for their very kind donations. And to the Debenham Co-op for promoting and supporting us through their Community Fund.

As ever, if you know of someone who may need a bit of help caring for a loved one, friend or neighbour, please don't hesitate to mention The Debenham Project to them.

With all my best wishes,

Lynden

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www.the-debenham-project.org.uk of